

#### STATE OF HAWAII BOARD OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2360 HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96804

## **Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

Friday, February 26, 2021 9:30 a.m. Via Videoconference Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211

## Senate Bill 270, Senate Draft 1, Relating to Education

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education ("Board") appreciates the intent of SB270 SD1 but has comments. SB270 SD1 would require the Board and Department of Education ("Department") to use Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund ("ESSER funds") moneys to offset any budget reductions that would result in the reduction of personnel who are subject to a collective bargaining agreement and who are employed at the school level.

While the Board supports proposed legislation that preserves funding and resources for student learning at the classroom level, the Board has concerns with the Legislature directing the Board how to allocate federal funds, especially because the Board and Department, as the State Educational Agency and Local Educational Agency, are accountable for the proper expenditure of such funds.

Rather than directing the Board and Department on how to expend non-recurring federal funds, it is more suitable for the Legislature to determine how much general funds it can appropriate to maintain as many resources at the classroom level as practicable. Governor David Ige recently proposed to give back approximately \$123 million in general funds to the Department following the Council on Revenue's revised revenue projections. The Legislature could ensure as minimal impact to the classroom level as possible by appropriating these previously unavailable general funds as necessary or going a step further and restoring the Department's base budget.

Additionally, the Board already authorized the Department to expend a portion of the ESSER II funds at its most recent meeting on February 18, 2020 and after considering a

significant volume of testimony from the public, including teachers. The Board authorized the Department to expend a portion of ESSER II funds as necessary to provide charter schools with their pro rata share, to cover shortfalls in the current fiscal year for the teacher differentials and school food services programs, and to cover the teacher differentials program in Fiscal Year 2022. The Board determined these critical areas need these federal funds now.

The Board appreciates the Legislature's eagerness to join the public conversation along with Hawaii State Teachers Association about the best use of the ESSER funds. The Board directed the Department to return to the Board for further discussions on the use of any remaining relief funds when Congress passes another round of expected federal relief funds and when this Legislature passes the state biennium budget. We look forward to working in concert with the Legislature to ensure adequate funding and resources for student learning at the classroom level, including for our most vulnerable students who are economically disadvantaged, English learners, or receiving special education services.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.

Very truly yours,

Catherine Payne

Chairperson, Board of Education

Chairperson, 2021 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAI'I EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER



STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

P.O. BOX 150 HONOLULU. HAWAI'I 96810-0150 CRAIG K. HIRAI

ROBERT YU DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

#### **WRITTEN ONLY**

TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 270, S.D. 1

February 26, 2021 9:30 a.m. Room 211 & Videoconference

### **RELATING TO EDUCATION**

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 270, S.D. 1.

S.B. No. 270, S.D. 1, appropriates an unspecified amount from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund moneys received by the State from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Public Law 116-136, 2020, and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law 116-260, to offset any budget reductions that are identified or proposed by the Department of Education (DOE) and the Governor that would result in the reduction of personnel who are subject to a collective bargaining (CB) agreement pursuant to Chapter 89, HRS, and who are employed at the school level, including any budget reduction that results in a layoff, furlough, or pay reduction; requires the Board of Education (BOE) and Superintendent of Education (Superintendent) to certify in writing that the BOE, Superintendent, and DOE agree to the conditions established by this measure, including that the funds appropriated shall be used for only salaries and

wages of officers and employees who are subject to a CB agreement and are employed at the school level; and provides that moneys from the appropriation shall lapse at the end of the fiscal biennium.

B&F has concerns with the findings on page 2, lines 19-21, which states that "[t]he legislature declares that it does not support any attempts by the superintendent to seek a waiver from the Secretary of Education." Guidelines for the "Maintenance of Effort" provisions set forth in Public Law 116-260 have not been established as yet. As such, it would appear premature to prohibit a request for a waiver from the Secretary of Education if a waiver would be deemed necessary given the State's fiscal situation.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



# STATE OF HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2360 HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96804

**Date:** 02/26/2021 **Time:** 09:30 AM

**Location:** CR 211 & Videoconference **Committee:** Senate Ways and Means

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0270, SD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates elementary and secondary school emergency relief

fund (ESSER funds) moneys received by the State from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Public Law

116-136, 2020, and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law 116-260, to offset any budget reductions that are identified or proposed by the department of education and the governor that would result in the reduction of personnel who are subject to a collective bargaining agreement pursuant to chapter 89. Hawaii Revised statutes, and

who are employed at the school level, including any budget reduction that results in a layoff, furlough, or pay reduction.

Requires the board of education and superintendent of education to certify in writing that the board of education, superintendent, and department of education agree to the conditions established by this measure, including that the funds appropriated shall be

used only for salaries and wages of officers and employees who are subject to a collective bargaining agreement and are employed at the school level. Provides that moneys from the appropriation shall lapse at the end of the fiscal biennium. (SD1)

# **Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully offers comments on SB 270, HD 1, which would direct the Department's use of all unexpended Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) grant funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Education.

This measure does not address the Department's 2021 Legislative priorities and instead seeks to direct all ESSER funds to be used only for salaries and wages of educational officers and employees who are subject to a collective bargaining agreement and are employed at the school level. While this is a laudable objective, there are alternative means by which to achieve that end while also addressing other important needs. The Department's top three priorities for this year are:

- 1. The restoration of the \$100.2 million cut to the base budget;
- 2. Retaining and maximizing federal relief funds to stabilize public schools; and
- 3. Exploring with state leaders opportunities to secure a predictable, equitable, and stable source of K-12 funding. <a href="https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/DOE%20Forms/budget/HIDOELegislativePriorities202">https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/DOE%20Forms/budget/HIDOELegislativePriorities202</a> 1-21.pdf.

This proposal would preclude the use of these funds for other unmet needs required to support public school students during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which is the primary intent for the federal education relief funds implicated in this measure. The Department has been reporting on a monthly basis its use of the first award of \$43.4 million of ESSER funds: <a href="https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ConnectWithUs/Organization/Budget/Pages/CARES-spending-reports.aspx">https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ConnectWithUs/Organization/Budget/Pages/CARES-spending-reports.aspx</a>.

If enacted, this measure would require the Department to cancel existing encumbrances and retract allocation balances for these funds. This would halt the provision of vital resources for schools, including connectivity for students to access the internet off-campus; health and safety measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and address the security issues that have been exacerbated by the limited use of school facilities; staff training to support the transition to new ways of teaching, learning, and student support in the current educational landscape; and the acquisition of an improved on-line learning platform to increase the capacity for virtual curriculum and instruction.

The Department submitted a proposed plan for the use of the second award of \$183.6 million of ESSER II funds to the Hawaii State Board of Education (Board) for review and approval: <a href="https://boe.hawaii.gov/Meetings/Notices/Meeting%20Material%20Library/02182021">https://boe.hawaii.gov/Meetings/Notices/Meeting%20Material%20Library/02182021</a> GBM Boar d% 20Action%20on%20Department%27s%20Plan%20for%20Federal%20Funds%20in%20the% 20New%20COVID-19%20Relief%20Package%20and%20Annual%20Spending%20Bill.pdf. On February 18, 2021, the Board approved the Department's use of funds in the current fiscal year to provide charter schools with a pro-rata share, to address the School Food Service shortfall in the current fiscal year, and to fund the teacher differential for the current and upcoming fiscal year.

If this measure is enacted, there will not be sufficient funds available to provide charter schools with a pro-rata share and the Department will be required to seek Emergency Appropriations (not introduced) for state general funds to meet the largely non-recurring expenses for:

- \$32.5 million for the teacher differential:
- \$21-25 million for the School Food Service program;
- \$25.9 million for shortfalls that include unemployment insurance, workers compensation, and licensing and maintenance for information technology systems;

In addition, general fund support will also be needed for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 for the following:

• \$48.6 million for personalized learning supports to address students' academic needs that

have been exacerbated by the pandemic;

- \$7.5 million for additional purchases of student computer devices; and
- \$15 million for health and safety measures.

Rather than engage in this type of incremental decision-making to address the financial needs of public schools, the Department would respectfully request a more holistic approach to budgeting to ensure there is a coherent financial plan to support the needs of the public school system for the balance of this year and both years of Fiscal Biennium 2021-2023. This would require an indication on what course of action will be incorporated into the Legislature's financial plan with regards to the current year shortfalls and into HB 200 (the measure introduced as the vehicle for the Executive Branch Biennium Budget), if this is known at this time

In addition, to provide for a holistic and coherent financial plan to support the public school system, the Department would respectfully request an indication from lawmakers on their interpretation of the maintenance of effort requirement associated with these ESSER funds. Per the federal guidelines, "Under the [Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations] Act, a State that receives ESSER II funds must maintain support for elementary and secondary education and higher education in FY 2022 based on the proportional share of the State's support for elementary and secondary education and higher education relative to the State's overall spending averaged over FYs 2017, 2018, and 2019": <a href="https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/01/Final ESSERII Factsheet 1.5.21.pdf">https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/01/Final ESSERII Factsheet 1.5.21.pdf</a>. The Department also notes that in the draft proposal moving through Congress for the next COVID Relief measure, this same requirement on the "State's support" is included and will also apply to FY 2023.

The unexpended balance of ESSER funds would likely be insufficient to off-set the school-level portion of the \$141 million per year cut contained in the Governor's Budget Request that is currently before the Legislature. The inability of the federal funds to cover the shortage this measure seeks to address is exacerbated by State procedures requiring employee fringe costs paid from non-general funds to be passed on to the non-general fund source. The current rate for budgeting purposes is 52.83%: <a href="https://budget.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/FM-21-03-Approved-FBR-for-FY-20-and-Revised-Interim-FBR-for-FY-21.pdf">https://budget.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/FM-21-03-Approved-FBR-for-FY-20-and-Revised-Interim-FBR-for-FY-21.pdf</a>. It may be worthwhile to note that during the Great Recession when federal stabilization funds were allocated to the Department and the University of Hawaii to bridge the gap in general fund support, the Legislature included in the Executive Biennium Budget Bill, Act 162, SLH 2009 the following provision that waived this requirement:

"Section 162. Provided that for the use of Federal Stabilization funds the Department of Education and the University of Hawaii shall not be required to pay fringe benefit costs to the Department of Budget and Finance."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at <a href="https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org">www.hawaiipublicschools.org</a>.





Corey Rosenlee President Osa Tui Jr. Vice President Logan Okita Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck Executive Director

#### TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

RE: SB 270. SD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2021

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee

The Hawaii State Teachers Association <u>strongly supports SB 270</u>, <u>SD1</u>, relating to education funding.

This bill instructs the DOE to comply with "with the provisions of the federal Education Stabilization Fund as set forth in sections 18006, 18008, 315, and 317 of the CARES Act in order to receive and expend CARES Act and CRRS Appropriations Act moneys." Furthermore, the DOE must use the CARES Act and CRRS Appropriations Act, "to offset any budget reductions that have been identified or proposed by the department of education and the governor that would result in the reduction of personnel who are subject to a collective bargaining agreement executed pursuant to chapter 89, Hawaii 20 Revised Statutes, and who are employed at the school level, including any budget reduction that results in a layoff, furlough, or pay reduction."

Time is of the essence. The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) was able to work out a compromise with the Department of Education to delay the Teacher Assignment and Transfer Program (TATP) until March 8th. More than 1,000 DOE employees have been told that their positions have been eliminated at their schools. Using a combination of the additional \$123 million added back to the DOE budget, the \$174 million from the COVID Relief Stimulus Bill, and the remainder of the CARES Act, it is HSTA's position that the BOE can eliminate all layoffs, furloughs, and any pay cuts.

Originally the cut to the DOE was \$264 million, with the DOE actually planning for a \$164 million cut. Using the Governor's \$123 million added back to the DOE, the first step is to apply a \$100 million of the money to \$100 million that was never cut in the first place, and using the remainder, \$23 million, to defray any school level cuts.





Corey Rosenlee President Osa Tui Jr. Vice President Logan Okita Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck Executive Director

As part of the \$164 million cut to the DOE budget, \$132 million was school level cuts to EDN100 and EDN150. \$23 million of the Governor's \$123 million should be applied to these cuts, which restore 17% of their cuts.

At the last BOE meeting Assistant Superintendent Hallett shared that the original cuts amounted to approximately \$74 million in labor savings from layoffs, which was based on 1316 employee positions, including 798 teachers. By using the \$23 million, it would leave only \$51 million from the stimulus would be needed to avoid layoffs.

The Governor's budget has restored \$146 million in labor savings or a reduction of 50% the previous budget, using this projection the DOE could avoid pay cuts for its employees at \$64 million a year. At this time, however, the reductions of pay cuts has not been provided to HSTA.

Sections 315, of the federal stimulus bill(HR133) states, "shall, to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus."

In Connecticut's Governor in issuing directions to the local education agencies stated, LEAs "[s]hall continue to employ or restore to employment if already laid off, and pay school staff who are directly employed by the local or regional board of education, including but not limited to teachers, paraprofessionals and other support staff, cafeteria staff, clerical staff and custodial workers, to the greatest extent practicable."

A legal opinion based on that order stated, "The intent behind the Order is clear; school districts should seek to maintain their employees as best they can."

Actions need to happen as soon as possible in order to avoid potential long term losses of teachers and other employees and to protect the long term impact to our keiki.

HSTA also believes this is a stop gap measure until Biden's 1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan passes sometime in March. If the same formulas are used Hawaii's DOE could see close to \$450 million. For these reasons, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks this committee to **support** this bill.



Committee on Ways and Means Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

February 26, 2021

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members,

This testimony is in **support of SB 270 SD1**, which appropriates ESSER funds moneys received by the State from the CARES Act, Public Law 116-136, and the CRRSA Act, 2021, Public Law 116-260, to offset certain budget reductions that are identified or proposed by the DOE and the governor that would result in the reduction of personnel who are subject to a collective bargaining agreement pursuant to HRS Chapter 89 and who are employed at the school level, including any budget reduction that results in a layoff, furlough, or pay reduction. The bill requires the BOE and Superintendent to certify in writing that the BOE, Superintendent, and DOE agree to the conditions established by this Act, including that the funds appropriated shall be used only for salaries and wages of officers and employees who are subject to a collective bargaining agreement and are employed at the school level. The bill also requires that moneys from the appropriation shall lapse at the end of the fiscal biennium.

Throughout the discussions at the BOE on budget reductions and the use of federal funds, HE'E has strongly advocated that along with ensuring health and safety for all, a top priority of the DOE should be maintaining quality instruction in the classroom. This means that positions at the school level, and in particular, in the classroom, should be maintained. Teachers and staff in the classroom are closest to our students and have the greatest influence and impact on our students. Therefore, we suggest that page 4, line 17 read as follows: "level in the classroom;" (Proposed language is underscored.)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support represents a 75% consensus or more of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura HE'E Coalition Director



Academy 21

American Civil Liberties Union

After-School All-Stars Hawai'i

Alliance for Place Based Learning

\*Castle Complex Community Council

\*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS

Coalition for Children with Special Needs

Education Institute of Hawai'i

\*Faith Action for Community Equity

Fresh Leadership LLC

Girl Scouts Hawaii

Harold K.L. Castle Foundation

\*HawaiiKidsCAN

\*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance

\*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice

\*Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists

Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars

\*Hawai'i Charter School Network

\*Hawai'i Children's Action Network

Hawa'i Education Association

Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition

\* Hawai'i State PTSA

Hawai'i State Student Council

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

Hawai'i P-20

Hawai'i 3Rs

**Head Start Collaboration Office** 

It's All About Kids

\*INPEACE

Joint Venture Education Forum

Junior Achievement of Hawaii

Kamehameha Schools

Kanu Hawai'i

\*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council

Keiki to Career Kaua'i

Kupu A'e

\*Leaders for the Next Generation

**Learning First** 

McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds

Native Hawaiian Education Council

Our Public School

\*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning

\*Parents and Children Together

\*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i

Special Education Provider Alliance

\*Teach for America

The Learning Coalition

**US PACOM** 

University of Hawai'i College of Education

Voting Members (\*) Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.



# SENATE BILL 270, SD 1, RELATING TO EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 26, 2021 · SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE · CHAIR SEN. DONOVAN DELA CRUZ

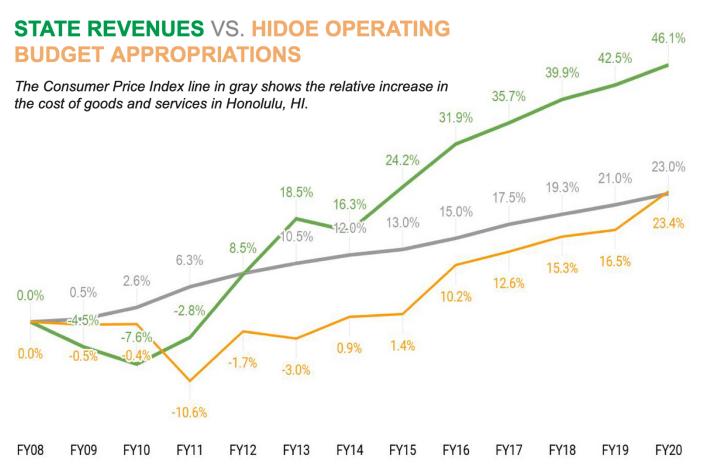
**POSITION:** Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus <u>supports</u> SB 270, SD 1, relating to education, which appropriates elementary and secondary school emergency relief fund (ESSER funds) moneys received by the State from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Public Law 116-136, 2020, and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law 116-260, to offset any budget reductions that are identified or proposed by the Department of Education and the governor that would result in the reduction of personnel who are subject to a collective bargaining agreement pursuant to chapter 89, Hawai'i Revised statutes, and who are employed at the school level, including any budget reduction that results in a layoff, furlough, or pay reduction; requires the Board of Education and Superintendent of Education to certify in writing that the Board of Education, Superintendent, and Department of Education agree to the conditions established by this measure, including that funds appropriated shall be used only for salaries and wages of officers and employees subject to a collective bargaining agreement and are employed at the school level. Provides that moneys from the appropriation shall lapse at the end of the fiscal biennium.

We desperately need to sustain funding for public education. As it has for years, the Aloha State is suffering from a chronic teacher shortage crisis, which could be exacerbated by proposed cuts

to the Hawai'i Department of Education's budget amounting to more than 10 percent. Approximately 700 teacher positions remain on the chopping block, according to the Hawai'i State Teachers Association, even after Gov. David Ige injected \$123 million into the DOE's budget. Additionally, we continue to lose approximately 50 percent of new hires after five years—the number of teachers exiting the teaching profession has spiked by over 80 percent since 2010.

Prior to the pandemic, the Hawai'i Department of Education saw its budget grow at a pace that was much slower than the rate of increase for general fund revenue. From FY2008 to FY2020, the DOE's budget grew by 23.4 percent, keeping pace with the escalation in the state's cost of living. Yet, general fund revenue grew by 46.1 percent, nearly double the growth reflected in the DOE's budget. This proportional disparity must be rectified, so that our schools and students don't lose out on critical resources or learning opportunities.



Education must be a top priority for our state. Hawai'i's public schools are entirely funded at the state level, leaving our education system vulnerable to state funding shortages. Thankfully, federal funding has been made available under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds established by the CARES Act and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRS Appropriations Act) that will help. Yet, these programs require states to assure that they will maintain support for education programs during fiscal years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 by meeting certain benchmarks.

Specifically, the DOE must comply with the "maintenance of effort" provisions of the federal Education Stabilization Fund as set forth in sections 18006, 18008, 315, and 317 of the CARES Act in order to receive and spend CARES Act and CRRS Appropriations Act funds, which call for employees who are subject to a collective bargaining agreement to continue to receive their pay; funding for public education to be maintained at the same levels as in fiscal years 2017, 2018, and 2019 for those funds that are part of the CARES Act, and at a proportional level for the CRRS Appropriations Act; and for school staffing levels to be maintained to the greatest extent possible.

We cannot accept furloughs, layoffs or pay cuts as a solution to our state's budget shortfall. We should not balance our budget on the backs of the educators upon whom our learning system depends. Our keiki's and our community's future depends on our resolve.

Kris Coffield · Chairperson, Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus · (808) 679-7454 · kriscoffield@gmail.com

# SB-270-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 9:58:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

I strongly support the Senate's position of preventing the funds to be spent by the current superintendent's plan.

Although the Board of Education discussed and voted on their direction to the superintendent, it is still necessary to guard these funds.

This bill puts teachers FIRST! It needs to continue to be teachers first.

My notes from the BOE meeting listed these priorities the BOE directed to the superintendent for use of these funds

- 1. Pay the differentials for Special Education, Hard to fill, and Native Hawaiian language through 2022.
- 2. Restore all teachers positions
- 3. Protect teachers from any potential pay cuts, layoffs and furloughs.
- 4. \$9M to charter schools
- 5. Support funding in food services to pay the bills

Due to the restoration of \$123M funding cuts, funds were sent back to the schools to revise their budgets. The superintendent did not say that guidance and direction were provided to the principals to restore ALL positions. Additionally, the superintendent stated that Weighted School Formula changed to a 1% reduction from 99%.

Everything remains to be seen. Locking in the BOE, DOE and superintendent into a certification in writing will be the only way the Senate can hold them accountable.

However, knowing these funds are already available for expenditure, by the time this bill gets to the governor, the money will have been spent.

So I highly support the following paragraph as protecting the funding as the Senate (and House) have illustrated.

"The funds appropriated shall not be released to or expended by the department of education unless the board of education and superintendent of education certify in writing that the board, superintendent, and department agree to the conditions set forth in this Act and that the funds shall only be used for salaries and wages of department of education officers and employees who are subject to a collective bargaining agreement executed pursuant to chapter 89, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and who are employed at the school level;"

# SB-270-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 12:22:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

### STRONGLY SUPPORT

These funds need to be used to ensure that our educators and staffs are taken care of. There are budgeted items that should not have any access to these funds, SBA, Tutoring from the Continent, Biased/racist on line programs to name just a few. Community safety and salaries should be #1.