

Testimony in Support of HCR 116 and HR 121

House Committee on Education; Hearing of 3/23/23, 2 pm, Conference Rm. 309 - URGING THE "COMMITTEE ON WEIGHTS TO RECOMMEND, AND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT, A WEIGHTED STUDENT FORMULA THAT GIVES GREATER CONSIDERATION TO SMALL AND REMOTE SCHOOLS."

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten & Committee Members,

Please accept my testimony in strong support of the above-referenced measure. Two schools, Waiahole Elementary in Northern Ko`olaupoko and Ka`a`awa Elementary School in the adjacent moku of Ko`olauloa, are excellent examples of schools that will benefit from this measure if "greater consideration" is supported. The two schools support rural and somewhat remote areas on the long Windward Coast with each providing a unique perspective on education. The former is embedded in a vibrant agrarian community; the latter with strong affiliations with the coastal and marine environment. Facing their financial challenges squarely, they are – together – collaborating to maximize the different experiences that each can offer, to each other and to other schools in the Kahuku/Castle Complex and beyond.

Please consider moving these two measures forward.



Mahalo, John L. Reppun

Lifetime Windward resident; Agricultural Lot tenant in Waiahole

jreppun@keyproject.org

(808)277-8686

HR-121

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 10:34:47 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/23/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frederick Reppun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure. As a graduate of a small, rural school (Waiahole Elementary), and now a professional in the field of education, I can attest to the difficulty of fully staffing these types of schools. I can also attest to the value that small, rural schools bring to the entire state, due to their innovations in curriculum, attention to social and emotional wellbeing, and community engagement. Small, rural schools should be given special consideration in the weighted student formula for both the challenges they face and the benefits they provide to the State.

HR-121

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 11:17:42 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/23/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shane Kumashiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RE: In support of HR121

My name is Shane Kumashiro, School Counselor and Student Services Coordinator (SSC) at Waiahole Elementary School. I am in support of HR121, which urges the committee on weights to recommend, and the Board of Education to adopt, a weighted student formula that gives greater consideration to small and remote schools. I have been part of Waiahole Elementary's staff for the past 10 years and it has been wonderful being a part of such a small school and community. As a small school, we can meet the needs of all our students and provide them a quality education. However, funding for a small school has always been an issue each and every year. The current weighted student formula makes it a challenge to ensure we are properly funded to operate a school with enough teachers and staff.

I am in full support to reevaluate the weighted student formula to give greater consideration to small and rural schools to ensure we can continue to operate and provide the best education to all of our students. I am available if you have any further comments or questions. Please feel free to contact me at (808) 239-3111 or email at shane.kumashiro@k12.hi.us.

Sincerely,

Shane Kumashiro
Waiahole Elementary School
School Counselor/Student Services Coordinator (SSC)



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Cynthia Wong, Waiāhole Elementary School Educational Assistant

Regarding: H.C.R. 116/HR 121

Resolution Title: Urging the committee to recommend, and the board of education to adopt, a weighted student formula that gives greater consideration to small and remote schools.

I am writing to express my strong support of HCR116/HR 121, which urges the Department of Education to reevaluate and revise the current weighted student formula to account for the diseconomies of scales associated with small schools.

Waiāhole Elementary and Ka'a'awa Elementary are small, rural schools in windward O'ahu. Yet, because our schools have smaller budgets from smaller enrollments, our teachers and administrators must take on multiple jobs and responsibilities. They do so tirelessly and without complaint because that is what is necessary to keep the school running smoothly, and to keep the campus welcoming to community and families.

Unfortunately, for small schools in Hawai'i, this is not an isolated reality. Many neighbor island schools, especially in rural communities, are also small schools. And this set-up is not sustainable.

Every one of our schools needs an operating budget that makes them whole. Without one, administrators are forced to choose between positions or opportunities for students. Our schools cannot maintain a steady course and direction when their budgets are in flux.

Small schools are absolutely cherished by their communities. They serve a critical and vital role in the well-being of their respective communities. Sustainable, stable funding is what these schools need. It is also what our students deserve.

Ensuring all of our small schools in Hawai'i will have the funding they need is an important step towards ensuring that every child in Hawai'i has equitable access to a quality public school education. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony

Mrs. Cynthia Wong
Waiāhole Elementary School
Educational Assitant



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kristel Yoshimura, Waiāhole Elementary School SASA

Regarding: H.C.R. 116/HR 121

Resolution Title: Urging the committee to recommend, and the board of education to adopt, a weighted student formula that gives greater consideration to small and remote schools.

I am writing to express my strong support of HCR116/HR 121, which urges the Department of Education to reevaluate and revise the current weighted student formula to account for the diseconomies of scales associated with small schools.

Waiāhole Elementary and Ka'a'awa Elementary are small, rural schools in windward O'ahu. Yet, because our schools have smaller budgets from smaller enrollments, our teachers and administrators must take on multiple jobs and responsibilities. They do so tirelessly and without complaint because that is what is necessary to keep the school running smoothly, and to keep the campus welcoming to community and families.

Unfortunately, for small schools in Hawai'i, this is not an isolated reality. Many neighbor island schools, especially in rural communities, are also small schools. And this set-up is not sustainable.

Every one of our schools needs an operating budget that makes them whole. Without one, administrators are forced to choose between positions or opportunities for students. Our schools cannot maintain a steady course and direction when their budgets are in flux.

Small schools are absolutely cherished by their communities. They serve a critical and vital role in the well-being of their respective communities. Sustainable, stable funding is what these schools need. It is also what our students deserve.

Ensuring all of our small schools in Hawai'i will have the funding they need is an important step towards ensuring that every child in Hawai'i has equitable access to a quality public school education. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony

Ms. Kristel Yoshimura
Waiāhole Elementary School
SASA



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Chriselda Lopes, Waiāhole Elementary School SHA

Regarding: H.C.R. 116/HR 121

Resolution Title: Urging the committee to recommend, and the board of education to adopt, a weighted student formula that gives greater consideration to small and remote schools.

I am writing to express my strong support of HCR116/HR 121, which urges the Department of Education to reevaluate and revise the current weighted student formula to account for the diseconomies of scales associated with small schools.

Waiāhole Elementary and Ka'a'awa Elementary are small, rural schools in windward O'ahu. Yet, because our schools have smaller budgets from smaller enrollments, our teachers and administrators must take on multiple jobs and responsibilities. They do so tirelessly and without complaint because that is what is necessary to keep the school running smoothly, and to keep the campus welcoming to community and families.

Unfortunately, for small schools in Hawai'i, this is not an isolated reality. Many neighbor island schools, especially in rural communities, are also small schools. And this set-up is not sustainable.

Every one of our schools needs an operating budget that makes them whole. Without one, administrators are forced to choose between positions or opportunities for students. Our schools cannot maintain a steady course and direction when their budgets are in flux.

Small schools are absolutely cherished by their communities. They serve a critical and vital role in the well-being of their respective communities. Sustainable, stable funding is what these schools need. It is also what our students deserve.

Ensuring all of our small schools in Hawai'i will have the funding they need is an important step towards ensuring that every child in Hawai'i has equitable access to a quality public school education. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony

Mrs. Chriselda Lopes
Waiāhole Elementary School
SHA