



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

**Date:** 02/13/2023

**Time:** 03:10 PM

**Location:** CR 229 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 0692 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to support wide-ranging initiatives for student success.

**Department's Position:**

The State of Hawaii Department of Education (Department) strongly supports Senate Bill 692 as it supplements the Department's base resources. These new resources align with the following areas of concentration:

High-leverage initiatives

The appropriations in this bill address the priority needs of the Department to manage ongoing challenges including:

- **Workforce Readiness and Innovation:** There is an increasing demand for highly skilled and qualified employees in Hawaii's emerging business and industry sectors. The Department will equip students with the tools and experiences necessary to encourage student learning, allowing them to explore viable career pathways to better position themselves as attractive candidates for the developing high-skill, high-wage, in-demand, and future-focused jobs of current and emerging industries in Hawaii.
- **Middle-Level Education:** Students in middle school are at a critical point in their educational journey as they are susceptible to challenges in transitioning from one school to another (elementary school to middle school and the anticipated transition from middle school to high school) and adolescence. Statewide and national assessments for middle grades demonstrate academic challenges. The Department

will incorporate middle school strategies to support students' academic growth and social-emotional learning to enable a successful transition into adolescence and high school.

- **Secondary Math:** Statewide and national assessments, as well as feedback from colleges and employers, show that students continue to struggle with mathematics in middle and high school, even before the pandemic. The Department will have a statewide focus on secondary math to develop the foundation for numeracy and mathematical concepts necessary for students to be successful in middle and high school. These mathematical foundations will assist students in their postsecondary endeavors (i.e., work, community, civic engagement, postsecondary education, and vocational training) and allow them to positively contribute to society upon exiting high school.
- **Vulnerable Populations:** Outcomes for certain student groups are persistently below the statewide levels of performance and the pandemic exacerbated these "achievement gaps." The Department will provide differentiated and targeted support in the classroom, school, and community to improve educational outcomes and advance equity for student groups experiencing persistent achievement gaps (e.g., Pacific Islanders, Native Hawaiians, English learners, and students with disabilities). This includes, but is not limited to, increasing the capacity of current staff to provide appropriate, culturally responsive assistance to struggling students; hiring qualified support staff; improving and increasing specialized student services statewide; and supporting language translation of more materials.
- **K-12 Alignment:** To continue to deliver a cohesive kindergarten-to-Grade 12 educational program, the Department will revisit and refine the alignment of the K-12 curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The aligned curriculum will further facilitate coordinated teaching and learning throughout students' educational journey.
- **Recruitment for School-Level Positions:** Recruiting and retaining school-level positions continue to be a challenge. The Department will implement new recruitment tactics and streamlined user-friendly hiring processes to fill needed teacher and support staff positions.
- **Leadership Development:** Recruiting and retaining qualified educational leaders (principals, vice principals, state and complex area educational officers, and teacher leaders) is also a challenge. The Department will develop shared leadership and implement responsive capacity-building practices to recruit and retain leaders at all levels in the Department.

The appropriations requested in this bill align with and support our ability to carry out the Department's mission by seeking predictable and reliable funding for our schools and system.

The Department is requesting that the appropriations in this measure be blanked out before being passed on to the next committee as the Department is still working with the Governor and the Department of Budget and Finance on the budget which would determine the appropriate amounts to be included in this measure.

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

**SB-692**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 2:29:19 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/13/2023 3:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marion K A Kapuniai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**SUPPORT ONLY WITH AMENDMENTS WHICH INCLUDE,**

**"THE HAWAII STATE CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION, THE STATE AUTHORIZER FOR ALL CHARTER SCHOOLS",** everywhere in this document.

**Per the Hawaii State Constitution, ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS SHALL BE SUPPORTED WITH EQUAL FUNDING AND SERVICES.**

Thank you, M Kapuniai

**SB-692**

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 9:26:31 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/13/2023 3:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support any and all education funding for the DOE to elevate education n support of all students