

STATE OF HAWAI'I BOARD OF EDUCATION P.O. BOX 2360 HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96804

House Committee on Education

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 2:30 p.m. Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309

Measure: SB3207 SD2 Relating to Education

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education ("Board") is in strong support of Senate Bill 3207 SD2.

Ten years ago, Act 90, SLH 2014, increased the salary cap of the superintendent of education and required that the superintendent be subject to an annual performance evaluation, based on outcomes determined by the Board, and which are in alignment with other employee evaluations within the Department of Education.

However, these changes are scheduled to be repealed. As a result, beginning July 1, 2024, if statute is not amended, the current \$250,000 cap will revert to the previously set amount of \$150,000, and the statutory requirement for an evaluation of the superintendent will be eliminated.

The Board respectfully offers the following:

- If current statutory language is not made permanent, there will be impacts on future contracts with the superintendent and hindrances to future recruitment.
- If current statutory language is not made permanent, there will be impacts on the salaries of the deputy superintendents, assistant superintendents, and complex area superintendents, which cannot exceed that of the superintendent, pursuant to statute.

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• The Board has utilized an annual evaluation process to review the superintendent's performance against a set of approved targeted goals and would like to continue with this process.

This version of the bill would conform to the stated requests of the Board. It reaffirms that the Board shall establish the superintendent's salary, removes the cap, deletes the sunset provision that would have resulted in adverse impacts to many of the top Department leaders, and retains the annual performance evaluation based on outcomes determined by the Board.

We request the Committee's consideration to advance this measure. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 8:20:19 PM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosemarie Jauch	Pursuit of Happiness Kauai	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This 2nd revision of this bill removes HDOE Superintendent salary cap entirely! I strongly oppose ANY raise at all AND a cap at Mr. Hayashi's current salary.

I have followed Mr. Hayashi since his appointment by Governor Ige. At the time he made more than the Governor who appointed him and he still does.

Mr. Hayashi is not about education. He is about the control of the revenue stream it generates. The per pupil is up to \$18K per student. Instead of a raise he should be forced to resign.

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

Rosemarie Jauch

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 1:53:04 PM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Subr	mitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gar		On behalf of Aloha Freedom Coalition and Hi- Children's Health Defense	11	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

On behalf of these organizations, we strongly oppose any measure increasing the salary or, removes any accountability for the chair of the DOE. It is unconscionable to consider a pay increase in times where there is a substantial shortfall in resources.

In addition, current pay has already exceeded the reasonable scale for this position. If, there is to be any additional resources for DOE administrators it should be allocated at the individual school level.

please reject this proposal.

thank you,

Gary Cordery

<u>SB-3207-SD-2</u> Submitted on: 3/11/2024 12:31:41 PM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Reyes Oda	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

OPPOSE OPPOSE OPPOSE

As this bill moved through the Senate, every single piece of testimony besides the ones from the Board of Education and the Complex Area Superintendents **OPPOSED** this measure. The senators and representatives should wonder why. Why do the Board of Ed and Complex Area Superintendents support this? Why do regular people: citizens, parents, teachers, whoever is submitting testimony oppose this? Please have that discussion and try to figure it out.

If the legislature wants to discuss attracting top-tier talent to work for our government, we have a medical doctor for a governor who is only paid around \$185,000. We need top-tier talent for more positions than just the DOE superintendent. There are many government positions worthy of this same discussion. Simultaneously, the legislature and Board of Education need to be good stewards of taxpayer money. The Board of Education does not answer to the taxpayers nor do they answer to the legislators. The same Board of Ed tried to max out the Superintendent in December 2023 in the middle of his contract when his pay was locked in for 3 years. Don't trust them to make decisions on salary for the superintendent. Taxpayers deserve better than this and you are our only defense. The only thing we can do as citizens is provide testimony and we have. Let that count for something.

VOTE NO ON SB3207!!

<u>SB-3207-SD-2</u> Submitted on: 3/8/2024 11:44:42 AM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this Bill.

Submitted on: 3/8/2024 12:11:47 PM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L Toriki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

Our legislature has demanded hawaii government agencies cut their annual operating budgets by 10 - 15% in order to fund future arbitration awards to union members for covid hazard pay. There is even talk of suspending the future stadium plans due to this future mega shortfall.

However, this bill would remove the salary cap for Superindentant of Education, resulting in possible pay well over \$300K. A quick google search will show that our Superintendant is already paid well within a competitive salary range. Paying the Superintendant more \$\$ is not going to solve our State's failing education system. This bill has political favors written all over it.

Submitted on: 3/8/2024 12:49:22 PM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cari Sasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our public school system is failing and this bill wants to remove the salary cap for the superintendent. \$250K is more than adequate salary for this performance. If there is excess money for the DOE, please use it for the kids and their education!

Submitted on: 3/8/2024 2:23:22 PM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
CHESTER LUM	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony opposing this bill.

The salary proposed is excessive considering the average Hawaii family's income who sends their children to public school.

Testimony on SB3207 is overwhelmingly in opposition and the will of the people should be followed.

SB3207 should be tabled.

Once again, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony opposing this bill.

Submitted on: 3/8/2024 4:05:44 PM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. The Superintendent is already overpaid! In a time when families are struggling to put food on their tables and the schools need repairs and there's a shortage of teachers, I find it ludicrous that this bill is even being introduced! Shame on you people! The greed is astonishing! Kill this bill!

<u>SB-3207-SD-2</u> Submitted on: 3/8/2024 4:16:40 PM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill SB3207 SD2.

Thank you,

Teri Kia Savaiinaea

Submitted on: 3/8/2024 6:12:45 PM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larry Duclayan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to Hawaii SB3207

Subject: Senate Bill 3207 – Superintendent Salary Increase

To the Honorable Members of the House Committee on Education:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 3207, which seeks to increase the salary of the Hawaii Department of Education Superintendent without imposing a salary cap. As a concerned citizen, I believe this proposal is ill-advised and warrants careful reconsideration.

1. Context and Comparison:

- <u>The current salary of the Hawaii Department of Education Superintendent stands</u> <u>at \$240,00012</u>. This figure already places the superintendent among the highestpaid state employees.
- Let us compare this to other high-level state government positions:
 - **Governor of Hawaii**: The governor's salary is \$165,048 as of 2021, which is the 15th highest among all states3.
 - Lieutenant Governor: The lieutenant governor receives \$162,5523.
 - Attorney General: The attorney general's salary is also \$162,5523.

2. Justification for a Salary Cap:

- **Fiscal Responsibility**: In a time when state budgets face scrutiny, it is essential to exercise fiscal responsibility. Allocating excessive funds to any single position undermines prudent financial management.
- **Comparable Roles**: The superintendent's responsibilities, while significant, do not surpass those of the governor or attorney general. The superintendent oversees education, while the governor manages the entire state.
- **Equity and Fairness**: A salary cap ensures equity across state government roles. It prevents disproportionate compensation for specific positions, maintaining fairness and consistency.
- **Public Perception**: Exorbitant salaries for public officials can erode public trust. Citizens expect their tax dollars to be used judiciously, especially during challenging economic times.
- 3. **Recommendation**:

- I urge you to reject SB3207 and maintain the superintendent's salary within reasonable bounds.
- Consider implementing a salary cap that aligns with other high-level state positions.
- Prioritize the needs of our students and educators over individual compensation.

In conclusion, let us uphold transparency, fiscal prudence, and fairness by opposing SB3207. Our educational system deserves effective leadership, but not at the expense of responsible financial stewardship.

Mahalo for your time and attention on this matter.

Sincerely,

Larry Duclayan

Submitted on: 3/8/2024 11:37:17 PM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emerson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This has corruption written all over it. Removing salary cap, without even raising pay for teachers and putting the keiki first. This is just plain out wrong, over looking sexual assult and violence at kapolei high school. Our schools are at an all time low. And you think you deserve a raise.

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 12:04:35 AM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Loree Jean Searcy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

I do not believe that salaries should not have a cap esp where this dept of education position is concerned! His salary is already to high! Taxpayers do not want to give up their hard earned money for him.

I oppose

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 8:18:48 AM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kelly morgan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I specifically oppose the removal of the salary cap of Superintendent of Education. A Superintendent of Education salary should be capped.

If salary is based on "performance reviews" this leaves an obvious opportunity to bribe said superintendent of education to carry out the agendas of those in control of review for monetary gain. Not having a cap is unethical and should be opposed.

<u>SB-3207-SD-2</u> Submitted on: 3/9/2024 9:14:05 AM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiulani Bowers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill. The DOE superintendent does not deserve an increase in pay whatsoever

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 5:14:48 PM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert k	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I AM OPPOSE of SB3207 SD2, Being a superintendent does mean you are a ceo of anything and there for does not mean you are allowed unlimited pay!! Anyone in the DOE should be doing their job because their doing for our kids NOT TO GET RICH!!! As welll all that expected luxury pay could go to paying our teachers a better salary which in return the state of hawaii would have more teachers to teacher our children. I dont see any reason for a superintendent or anyone in the DOE to even recieve the current 300k paycheck. That should be knocked back down to 250k. Tell me what type of lifestyle is so bad on a 250k salary. Anyone who supports this bill is disgusting and should be removed from office!!!

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 5:40:35 PM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support giving the Board of Education a blank check to determine the pay of the Hawai'i Superintendent of Education.

The current Hawai'i Superintendent of Education (\$240,000) already is the highest paid unelected bureaucrat that makes more than our elected Governor of Hawai'i (\$184,860). I think we all can agree the Governor has 3-5x more responsibility than the Superintendent of Education, and I don't believe any unelected state bureaucrat should have a salary greater than the elected Governor.

Addressing the current Superintendent of Education, since this cap will take effect upon approval. I'd like to remind you of some of the concerns I have with approving this increase due to substandard performance.

- 1. Just last year the Board of Education deferred a pay raise.
- 2. Reported that 12% of Hawai'i public schools have faulty fire alarm systems.
- 3. Lapsed \$465 million CIP funds school construction projects across the state, that will delay and possibly jeopardize funding for new classrooms, play courts and athletic facilities, with another \$1.2 billion that will lapse by 2026 if not used.
- 4. A week before schools opened, school bus service was terminated to 10 schools on Oahu and 4 on Kauai due to bus driver shortages, which resulted in the Governor issuing an emergency proclamation.

I would also recommend an amendment to make the effective date July 2025, when the current Superintendent of Education's current contract expires.

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 12:22:51 PM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Kama-Kimura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please note I stand in strong opposition to this Bill SB3207 regarding the compensation for the Superintendent of Education.

Currently the salary is capped at \$250,000, that already looks pretty good to me and others.

Initially it was requested to raise that cap to \$350,000! a possible \$100,000 raise!!! Then it was reduced to a \$50,000 max raise, now it is to be changed to no cap, no limit? But to be left to the discretion of the Board of Ecduation!

At \$250,00 that is already more than what the governor makes! and has any thought been given to the already struggling Hawaii tax payer?

In support of this bill/version was the Board of Education, surprise! In opposition were numerous individuals (I counted 59) aka tax-payors!

I ask that you do not pass this bill.

Respecfully, Rita Kama-Kimura

<u>SB-3207-SD-2</u> Submitted on: 3/10/2024 1:59:59 PM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chanara Casey Richmond	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Chanara Casey Richmond, oppose SB 3207

<u>SB-3207-SD-2</u> Submitted on: 3/10/2024 4:42:34 PM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tania victorine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

You don't deserve anymore raises while our keiki doesn't even have school buses.

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 1:16:34 AM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martin Choy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB 3207 SD2, because the previous caps on the salaries were exorbitant, but the complete removal of all caps is unheard of and puts an unnecessary burden on taxpayers in a time when prices are high in Hawaii's economy.

When you are trying to solve the homelessness problem, it will exacerbate more possible homelessness.

<u>SB-3207-SD-2</u> Submitted on: 3/11/2024 4:35:41 AM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

<u>SB-3207-SD-2</u> Submitted on: 3/11/2024 5:27:02 AM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Caiazzo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jessica Caiazzo, and I strongly oppose SB3207 giving the DOE superintendent a potential 100k annual pay raise to 350k. This bill is negligent and outlandish. I am concerned about the proposed salary increase for the Superintendent of Education, emphasizing potential fiscal strain, lack of alignment with economic conditions, or the need for more transparent and justifiable compensation policies.

This bill is not specifically about Keith Hayashi but he is the current Superintendent. When he was in his position less than a year and tried to give himself a 10k pay raise to the max 250k I found very suspect then he asked in a meeting at the BOE to keep his salary a secret. Red flag. This is the man that refused hundreds of emails collected and printed in a matter of days that the DOE's office ignored. With years of no communication or emails and building was shut down due to Covid-19. Then when opened to the public, would not meet anyone and if you enter the public building with no appointment (you couldn't get an appointment) with sheriffs. He has used government resources to hide. He even wasted tax payers dollars to protect himself from a private meeting with myself, Jessica "Priya" Caiazzo. With several officers on ATVS, sheriffs, private security and shut down an old school turned into a DOE building. This meeting has rules (we will include in post). Come alone, and no recording to a female arriving to all males and a gated facility all to cancel that meeting.

We talk about performance. This superintendent who had to hire two new deputy superintendents at 192k each on top of his already one. This showed me lack of competence, and how does that fit into the budget? How about we pay teachers more, get better lunches, better infrastructure, produce a better staff that continues to fail the DOE office.

Morally this bill is wrong and a disservice to the Keiki, the teachers, and the government schools please oppose SB3207.

-Jessica "Prius" Caiazzo

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 5:58:05 AM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose this bill, are you guys announcing budget cuts for the school education but you guys have money to give people making six figures a raise that's insane. You guys are looking more and more corrupt with all these crazy decisions you keep making

<u>SB-3207-SD-2</u> Submitted on: 3/11/2024 8:17:22 AM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Absolutely OPPOSE SB3207

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 8:47:03 AM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB3207 SD2.

\$350k was too high

SD1 at \$300k was too high

SD2 at unlimited is insane.

\$100k I believe is still to high based on DOE performance rankings.

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 8:47:43 AM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoe Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB3207 SD2.

\$350k was too high

SD1 at \$300k was too high

SD2 at unlimited is insane.

\$100k I believe is still to high based on DOE performance rankings.

<u>SB-3207-SD-2</u> Submitted on: 3/11/2024 9:32:16 AM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ralph Sherman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The current person in this position should be fired. The limit to the salary for this position should be no more than \$150,000.

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 10:56:57 AM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy R Ajimine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSED as written. Fiscally irresponsible and NO checks and balances.

Amend to have (e.g.): "Salary to be proposed by the Board of Education based upon semi-annual performance evaluations and employee survey processes AND approved by _____ (an independent non-B/DOE body that represents the state finance/parents/students/taxpayers).

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 1:30:20 PM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Cordery	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Appose SB 3207!

This is absolutely disgusting that such a proposal is even being made! Really? No cap on on Superintendent of DOE or any Government official for that matter! Did you forget that you work for we the people? People in Hawaii are struggling to get by in our state as we have the highest cost of living in the US and you want the tax payers to pay a salary that has no accountability! NoOOOOO!

<u>SB-3207-SD-2</u> Submitted on: 3/11/2024 2:11:10 PM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suyong Nazuroza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposed. The Bill was admended two times, and in the end they left it to the Board of Education. Basically that just means a "oh you guys can do whatever you want" which also makes the people view the Board of Ed and Gov just irresponsible. They lack the ability to question any of them. Keith Hayashi earns at least \$240,000 a year. He has been a Superintendent for at least less than two years. Yet The Board of Ed said to raise that pay before his contract was up.

I see no point in supporting this, if this is how our people, teachers, students, staffs even are being treated in the matter. as if nothing matters to them as long as someone else does it.

SB-3207-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 3:46:47 PM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
R. L. Souza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Ola Souza and my testimony is in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB 3207 SD2.

One need only rewind two short weeks through local headlines to find four instances of first degree terroristic threatening on Maui public school campuses, and a vile sex assault against a special needs student at Washington Intermediate School on O'ahu. As a mother of a student enrolled at Kalani High School I can tell you I was also alerted to another terroristic threatening case just last Thursday at that school.

These are the conditions that parents -- forced to work to support their families amid the highest tax burden, highest housing costs, and second highest cost of living in the nation -- must subject their children to, praying as they do each day that they will make it safely through their day.

And for these abysmal conditions, this body is considering rewarding the State Superintendent with a blank check for his salary. The notion that one of, if not THE highest, paid positions in the state AS IS should be gifted with an open ended bill outside of the scrutiny of the public you serve is outrageous.

Our teachers, our classrooms and our students are languishing is substandard environments, while the one responsible for the oversight of those conditions is rewarded with a yet unspecified pay increase that at one point was offered at north of \$300,000 a year.

Pass this bill and I assure you that you will answer to your constituents for it in the upcoming election.

I strongly urge you ... HOLD THIS BILL.

SB-3207-SD-2

LATE

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 4:45:20 PM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Rogers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A cap on salary is needed - and warranted. Stop hiding your nefarious acts from us. You are losing taxpayers and people are leaving in droves - who do you think will be paying for all your debts?

<u>SB-3207-SD-2</u>

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 6:33:57 PM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry Murakami	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-3207-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 9:42:16 PM Testimony for EDN on 3/12/2024 2:30:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carina	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is outrageous! No accountability...how awful! Do not agree to remove all the caps for budgeted salary. This decision would be unjust to the already fragile education system that has already been deteriorating. Please vote to improve the education and not agree with this bill that would threaten the improvement of the education system here in America.