



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

Date: 03/21/2024

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution HCR 0170 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT
:
EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL AND PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL IN THE STATE,
FROM KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE TWELVE HAS A CERTAIN
NUMBER OF MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on HCR 0170.

In order to comprehensively address the behavioral and mental health needs of students, the Department has strategically established a range of positions dedicated to providing support and intervention. These positions encompass a diverse array of roles and responsibilities, each tailored to address specific aspects of students' well-being and development. Specifically, the Department has established the following positions to address the behavioral and mental health needs of students:

School Counselors - 677
Behavioral Health Specialists (BHS) - 306
Clinical Psychologists - 53
School Psychologists - 94
Social Workers/Human Services Professionals - 82
Total established positions = 1,212

Of the 1,212 established positions, approximately 90% are filled. This equates to 1,086 Department behavioral and mental health staff who provide indirect and direct services to students. Additionally, to enhance the Department's workforce, it has partnered with Hazel Health and Hawaii Keiki to deliver supplementary behavioral and mental health services statewide. Therefore, the Department has the capacity to address the needs of its 167,649 public school students with a current ratio of 1 provider

to 154 students, which is well below the recommended ratio of 1 to 250 students. Furthermore, the Department is proactively involved in assessing and implementing activities for system improvement.

Additionally, to maintain the current workforce and attract future personnel, the Department seeks to ensure that the current §453D-1 exemption, which waives the licensure requirement for state employees, is respected.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for HCR 0170.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



CATHY K. IKEDA
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1100, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: House Concurrent Resolution 170/House Resolution 149
DATE: March 21, 2024
TIME: 2:00 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
FROM: Ed H. Noh, Ed. D., Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to provide **COMMENTS on HCR 170/HR 149** which urges the Department of Education to ensure that each public school and public charter school in the State, from kindergarten through grade twelve, has a certain number of mental health professionals.

Though the Commission appreciates the inclusion of public charter schools in this resolution; notwithstanding, we defer to the Department of Education on this matter.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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March 21, 2024

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

House Concurrent Resolution 170/House Resolution 149 – Urging the Department of Education to Ensure That Each Public School and Public Charter School in the State, From Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve has a Certain Number of Mental Health Professionals

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Concurrent Resolution 170/House Resolution 149 – Urging the Department of Education to Ensure That Each Public School and Public Charter School in the State, From Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve has a Certain Number of Mental Health Professionals.

Providing mental health services to students in public school and public charter schools will help them successfully navigate mental health challenges they may encounter and minimize the impact on their educational experience.

Thank you for considering our position.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

HCR-170

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 5:29:53 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alice Kim | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support this bill.