

**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION**
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Testimony of Warren Haruki
Chairperson, Board of Education
Chairperson, 2024 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee

House Committee on Education
Thursday, March 21, 2024
2:00 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309

Measure: HCR38 / HR27

Measure Title:

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT A POLICY RELATING TO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS TO GUIDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

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

The Board of Education (Board) respectfully offers **comments** on HCR38 and HR27.

The Board appreciates the intent of these resolutions to meet the unique needs of our students and families by expanding the community school strategy. We recognize that expansion of the community school model requires both position and funding resources, as it does with the Department's current implementation of these programs. As such, we would like to have further discussions with the Department about adequate resourcing, among other things, as we look into adopting a policy.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.



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 0038 REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT A
:
POLICY RELATING TO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS TO GUIDE THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT
THE STATE.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) provides comments on HCR 38. The resolution requires that the Department "use the policy adopted by the Board of Education to guide the expansion of community schools programs to additional campuses."

The Department recognizes the value of the "community schools" model as defined by the Learning Policy Institute. This model includes an integrated approach to academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement. The Department implements the Hawaii Community Schools Framework, which is based on the Community Schools Forward Framework and adapted by the Hawaii Afterschool Alliance and Ceeds of Peace. The Hawaii After-school Alliance provides training and technical assistance to Department schools implementing the community schools model.

Currently, the Department has 25 schools implementing the full-service community schools model. Additional schools are implementing components of the community school model to provide wrap-around services for their school communities as determined by their unique needs. To accomplish this, the community school model requires the support of school staff, teachers, families, and communities. Creating these partnerships and valuable relationships enrich students and their surrounding communities.

Through the Department's continuous school improvement planning process, schools conduct a needs assessment to identify areas of need. The Department suggests allowing schools to use their needs assessment and academic plan to determine the need to implement the community schools

model or other community-based programs that are targeted to meet their distinctive needs. Based on the school level needs assessment, schools can determine the type and amount of federal, state, or private foundation resources that will be committed to implementing the community school model.

The Department supports the community schools model. However, the Department believes that school communities should determine the supports that meet the needs of their students, based on their needs assessment. The Department does not believe that the community schools model should be mandated for all schools.

The Department defers to the Board of Education as to the development of a Board policy.

¹Community Schools Forward (2023). Framework: Essentials for community school transformation.

<https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/project/community-schools-forward>

²Hawaii Community Schools Framework (2024).

<https://www.hawaiiafterschoolalliance.org/community-schools.html>



March 19, 2024

House Committee on Education (EDN)
March 21, 2024 at 2:00 pm
Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR38/HR27

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

Ceeds of Peace appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of HCR38**, requesting the Board of Education to adopt a policy relating to community schools to guide the establishment of additional community schools throughout the state.

Ceeds of Peace is a non-profit organization based in Hawai'i whose mission is to raise peacebuilding leaders. As a Lead Agency, Ceeds of Peace currently employs Community Schools Coordinators at four Title 1 public elementary schools: Blanche Pope Elementary, Hānaunau Elementary, Mountain View Elementary, and Wai'anāe Elementary.

Over the past few years, our project has served a total of 1,766 individuals (1,266 students; 500 adults including educators, family, and community-based service organizations). By leveraging existing community resources and strategic partnerships, community schools offer wide-ranging support, including mental health services, family and community engagement opportunities, and partnerships with health centers.

With equitable and accessible education at its core, the overarching goal of our community schools project is to increase academic achievement and social emotional resilience, by strengthening community partnerships, family involvement, and wrap-around services to meet the unique needs of students and families. Research has shown strong evidence for community schools, demonstrating improved attendance and student achievement.¹ Furthermore, an Albuquerque study has shown a \$7 Return on Investment for every \$1 invested in a full-time community school coordinator salary.²

¹ https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR3245.html

² https://www.communityschools.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/11/ROI_Coordinator.pdf

Ceeds of Peace urges you to support this resolution that would encourage the growth of the community schools movement in Hawai'i, and organize our resources towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Please contact Executive Director Ashleigh Loa at (808) 202-1211 or ashleigh.loa@ceedsofpeace.org if you have any questions.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashleigh Loa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ashleigh Loa
Executive Director

Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance

1776 University Avenue, WA1-102
Honolulu, HI 96822



House Committee on Education
Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

March 21, 2024

Conference Room 309

RE: Support of HCR 38 / HR 27

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

The Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance supports HCR 38, which would request the Board of Education to adopt a policy relating to community schools to guide the establishment of additional community schools throughout the state.

In Hawai'i, full-service community schools are innovative, thriving hubs of learning in which partnerships and collaboration create a'o aku, a'o mai, reciprocal relationships between learners and place, content and context, and schools and communities.

Community schools is a proven, time-tested strategy that can bring forth short term results like improving family engagement and attendance and decreasing behavioral referrals. It is also proven to show long term results like closing the achievement gap, improving academic scores and graduation rates.¹

There are currently 25 community schools in Hawai'i across four islands that are mobilizing their community partners, families, students, and school staff to ensure that all students thrive in their school community. Each school has a Community School Coordinator who facilitates the co-creation of innovative strategies and are building a system of support to address the barriers students and families face. These innovative strategies fall under the following key practices:

- Collaborative leadership, shared power, and voice;
- Expanded, enriched learning opportunities;
- Rigorous, community-connected classroom instruction;
- Culture of belonging, safety, and care;
- Powerful family and student engagement;
- Integrated systems of support; and
- Grounded in Hawai'i.²

¹ Maier, A., Daniel, J., Oakes, J. & Lam, L. (2017, December). *Community Schools as an Effective School Improvement Strategy: A Review of the Evidence*. Learning Policy Institute.
https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/media/137/download?inline&file=Community_Schools_Effective_REPO_RT.pdf

² Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance. (n.d.). *Hawai'i Community Schools Framework*.
https://www.hawaiiafterschoolalliance.org/uploads/2/8/4/2/28427169/hawai%E2%80%98i_cs_framework_24.pdf

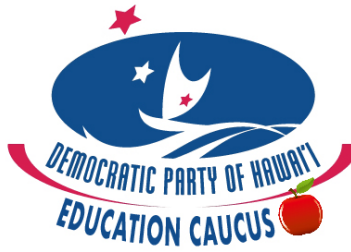
The needs and assets assessments completed by our current Community School Coordinators reveal the deep need to have more resources and support organized to address our students' academic needs, family engagement, and the root causes of chronic absenteeism.

Schools should not be tackling these challenges alone. This is why community schools are needed more than ever as Community School Coordinators can help to leverage the already existing assets and resources available within their school community to remove barriers to learning and accelerate equitable outcomes in health, education and employment.

We urge you to support this resolution that would encourage the growth of the community schools movement in Hawai'i and organize our resources towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Masutani
Program Director
Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance
hawaiiafterschool@gmail.com
www.hawaiiafterschoolalliance.org



HCR 38/HR 27, REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT A POLICY RELATING TO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS TO GUIDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE STATE

MARCH 21, 2024 · EDN HEARING

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports** HCR 38/HR 27, which requests the Board of Education to adopt a policy relating to community schools to guide the establishment of additional community schools throughout the state.

Policymakers should promote education programs that deliver wraparound care for students and deal with educational “inputs” that impact student success, like poverty and access to healthcare. An example of such a program is the community schools model of education, which as noted in Hawai'i's Consolidated State Plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act, is a research-based strategy for school improvement that emphasizes high-quality teaching, culturally relevant curricula, wraparound student supports, positive disciplinary practices and restorative justice, parent and community engagement, and inclusive school leadership.

In prioritizing student wellness, community schools have been shown to increase learning growth and graduation rates, while decreasing behavioral referrals and chronic absenteeism. In New York City, for example, community schools that highlight mental health counseling and consistent family outreach have seen chronic absenteeism rates fall by 7.8 percent as of 2017, with graduation rates rising 4.8 percent. Engaged learners are more like to acquire the skills necessary

to become active citizens and productive members of the workforce. Additionally, since even the most affluent and well-adjusted children face challenges in their maturation processes, guaranteeing that schools have the resources to respond to childhood pressures and trauma with compassion and sensitivity may make the difference between sending a student to college or losing them to social threats, like substance abuse or our state's prolific sex trade.

As the National Education Association states, "Community Schools transform traditional public schools into neighborhood hubs that mobilize students, staff, families and community members to reimagine education and co-construct a shared vision for their school and community. Community Schools are developed with the understanding that every community is different." Community schools rely on integrated student supports, expanded and enriched learning opportunities, active family and community engagement, and collaborative leadership to strengthen educational outcomes. Currently, 25 community schools exist in our state.

25 Community Schools in Hawai'i

O'ahu	Hawai'i Island	Moloka'i	Lāna'i
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Barbers Point ElBlanche Pope ElDole MiddleHawai'i School for the Deaf and BlindKaimukī HighKe'elikolani MiddleNānākuli High & InterOlomana SchoolWai'anae ElWai'anae HighWaimānalo School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Hōnaunau ElKa'u High & Pahala ElKealakehe ElKealakehe InterKohala ElKohala HighKohala MiddleMountain View ElNa'alehu ElPāhoa High & InterWaikōloa ElWaimea El	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Maunaloa El	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lāna'i High & El

Kris Coffield · Chairperson, DPH Education Caucus · (808) 679-7454 · kriscoffield@gmail.com



March 20, 2024

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Pacific American Foundation
C/O 111 Hekili Street Suite A 170
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

Phone: (808) 664-3027
www.thepaf.org

House Committee on Education
Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair
Hawaii House of Representatives

RE: Support of HCR 38 / HR 27

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

My name is Herb Lee, Jr., President & CEO of the Pacific American Foundation (PAF), a Native Hawaiian serving non-profit organization since 1993. Our mission is to “improve the lives of all Pacific Americans through service with dignity, courage, humility, and competence.”

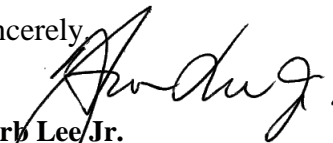
The Pacific American Foundation supports HCR 38, requesting the Board of Education to adopt a policy relating to community schools to guide the establishment of additional community schools throughout the state.

PAF has been an early participant in the execution of a community school model in Olomana and Waimanalo Schools. Community Schools are a *time-tested strategy* for connecting students to the supports they need to thrive. They are a proven school improvement strategy, focused on student-centered teaching and learning that better serves the holistic needs of all students and their families.

Hawaii is the greatest community classroom on the planet! We have the ability to fully utilized its resources both in and out of school every day. Covid -19 impacts have had a devastating impact on school attendance and learning. This strategy helps to pull all of the resources of one’s community to create a new and unprecedented learning environment embedded in Hawaii’s rich and vibrant culture.

Please support this resolution that would encourage the growth of the community school’s movement in Hawai‘i and organize our resources towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Sincerely,



Herb Lee Jr.
President & CEO
Pacific American Foundation

*Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to
tineg for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.*

LATE

To: House Committee on Education
Re: **HCR 38 / HR 27 – Requesting the Board of Education to adopt a policy relating to community schools to guide the establishment of additional community schools throughout the state**
Place: Hawai'i State Capitol & Via Videoconference
Time: March 21, 2024, 2:00 PM

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in **SUPPORT of HCR 38 / HR 27**. This resolution requests the Board of Education to adopt a policy to guide the establishment of additional community schools throughout the state.

Community schools are public schools that act as neighborhood hubs to provide services and support that fit each community's needs. They are developed with the understanding that every neighborhood is different and ensure that families, students, and community members have a say in deciding what will work best for their students.¹

Research has found that well-implemented community schools correlate with positive results for children and families, including improvements in student attendance, graduation rates, behavior, and achievement.²

The number of community schools has been growing rapidly across the nation. There are currently thousands of community schools across the country, including 25 in Hawai'i. In our state, community schools are hubs of learning in which partnerships and collaboration create reciprocal relationships between learners and place, content and context, and schools and communities.³

It makes sense for the Board of Education to adopt a policy regarding community schools and their growing importance in our state.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please pass this resolution.

Thank you,

Nicole Woo
Director of Research and Economic Policy

¹ <https://www.nea.org/student-success/great-public-schools/community-schools>

² <https://www.childtrends.org/publications/full-service-community-schools-are-critical-investments-for-children-and-families-in-poverty>

³ <https://www.hawaiiafterschoolalliance.org/community-schools.html>

LATE

HCR-38

Submitted on: 3/21/2024 8:16:54 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Melody Young	CARES	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

CARES testifies in strong support.

HCR-38

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 2:00:25 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HCR 38, HR 27 REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT A POLICY RELATING TO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS TO GUIDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

FOR HEARING ON Thursday March 21, 2024

FROM:

Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.
46-255 Kahuhipa St. Apt. 1205
Kane'ohe, HI, 96744
Tel. 808.247.7942

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

But urging caution to avoid excessive expenditures on bureaucracy

In July 1992 my wife and I retired from our teaching careers in Boston and moved permanently to Kane'ohe. As educators one of the first things we did after unpacking was go to Kane'ohe Public Library to find books and other information about Hawaii's history and multicultural diversity. We saw a brochure on the checkout desk advertising the courses available for Fall semester at Windward School for Adults, which held classes on weekday evenings at Kalaheo High School. We were delighted to enroll in a beginners' course in Hawaiian language on Monday and Wednesday nights (Kumu Allison Ledward), and another course on Hawaiian history and culture on Tuesday and Thursday nights (Kumu William "Pila" Lau). Thereafter we continued to study Hawaiian language at more advanced levels on Monday and Wednesday nights with the same instructor, Kumu Allison Ledward, for three years. Nearly all our fellow students were ethnic Hawaiian parents of children attending Hawaiian language-immersion schools, who very kindly and generously helped us assimilate into local folkways -- for them it was far easier to learn Hawaiian language than it was for us, because they already had the advantage of growing up in a society where Hawaiian language and pidgin were commonplace in everyday life; so for us the courses required considerable homework to memorize vocabulary, phrases, and sentence patterns which often substitute for grammatical rules. It was a joy to participate in these classes; and I have continued to study Hawaiian history and culture, and

practice the language, to now, 30 years later (although some political opponents might prefer I had not!).

We were also pleased to see that Windward School for Adults offered courses helping people earn a GED diploma; learn U.S. history and other topics needed for the citizenship exam; a course which people wishing to be certified as public school substitute teachers were required to pass; as well as recreational courses in guitar, Japanese language, etc.

About a decade later we were sad to see that Windward School for Adults, and many similar schools elsewhere, were being discontinued and any surviving courses were then consolidated and offered at far-away locations such as McKinley High School. I doubt we would ever have taken the valuable courses we took if they had not been offered in Kane'ohe/Kailua -- traveling to far-away McKinley at night would have been not only inconvenient but would also have taken us away from the environment where we wanted to be immersed and away from the people who had become our neighbors and friends, who guided us to become aware of local events and activities of interest.

While I support this resolution to (re)establish such community schools throughout the state, I also recommend that a way must be found to avoid excessive expenditures on bureaucracy. Windward School for Adults had its own "Principal" who, if I recall correctly, had the same salary and status as a daytime Principal of an entire school with many hundreds of children, some of whom were unruly or had special needs; along with dozens of teachers, secretaries, guidance counselors, etc. working under the rules of a labor union.

HCR-38

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 8:19:59 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Maki Morinoue, and I support HCR 38, which would request the Board of Education to adopt a policy relating to community schools to guide the establishment of additional community schools throughout the state.

As a fourth-generation kama'aina I didn't have the choices our young children have today. At the same time, as a parent, what we have is still not enough. We are finally coming into a time where we see, hear, and feel the native Hawaiian language being spoken and passed down and indigenous practices in kilo kilo and tending to the land as vital lessons learned that our DOE system doesn't nourish. With so many malahini moving from the US continent, they are quickly occupying opportunities that our community has worked hard for our own children. My child, being one of them, is unable to have a choice within charter schools. We must nourish more opportunities for our marginalized community because our DOE system really is not nourishing the development of project-based, critical-thinking, culturally grounded, and future-forward citizens. I have taken community organizing and parent-teacher organizational roles to support our public schools and see how our DEO is corrupt and lacks vision.

I urge you to support this resolution to encourage the growth of the community schools movement in Hawai'i and organize our resources towards the success of learners, families, communities, and thoughtful critical thinkers.

Mahalo for this opportunity,

Maki Morinoue
Holualoa, Hawai'i Island

96725

House Committee on Education
Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

March 21, 2024
Conference Room 309

RE: Support of HCR 38 / HR 27

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

I support HCR 38, which would request the Board of Education to adopt a policy relating to community schools to guide the establishment of additional community schools throughout the state.

I believe that community schools will make a positive impact for families and their children in both the schools and community. The community schools strategy is to connect families and children to the necessary resources needed for youth to be successful in school and become contributing citizens in our communities. It is important that we support this initiative to see positive, lasting growth in our communities as we look towards the future of our children.

I urge you to support this resolution that would encourage the growth of the community schools movement in Hawai'i and organize our resources towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Sincerely,

Reynold Fernandez

House Committee on Education
Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

March 21, 2024
Conference Room 309

RE: Support of HCR 38 / HR 27

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

I support HCR 38, which would request the Board of Education to adopt a policy relating to community schools to guide the establishment of additional community schools throughout the state.

As a Community School Coordinator, it is a way to set students, families and the community up for success to be involved and bring them to the table to identify their needs. Community Schools hub involve social service, community development, community engagement and health services to the students and family. With Community School on Campus, a parent was able to get help from an organization to apply for the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

I urge you to support the resolution that would encourage the growth of the community schools movement in Hawai'i and organize our resources towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Sincerely,
Evelyn Barut

House Committee on Education
Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

March 21, 2024
Conference Room 309

RE: Support of HCR 38 / HR 27

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

Ernestine Belaski- Epstein, supports HCR 38, which would request the Board of Education to adopt a policy relating to community schools to guide the establishment of additional community schools throughout the state.

I am the Community Schools Coordinator out at Wai'anae Elementary. In the past two years, we have established a partnership with Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center to bring in the first DOE Elementary level School Base Health Clinic. We have established a resource center and a community hub to help our families and community members in need. Our goal is to create an epicenter where students and their families can feel supported and decrease the rising number of chronic absenteeism by providing the resources they need right in their own schools. Without the support of the DOE, Community Schools in Hawaii are at risk of closing and the trust that has been built in these communities will be lost. Students and families will feel unsupported and left behind once again.

Our community has seen many programs come and go over the years. Programs that use Wai'anae to receive funding that our community never sees. Please do not let this amazing concept go away. Communities need reassurance that we will not go away like many others have.

I humbly urge you to support this resolution that would encourage the growth of the community schools movement in Hawai'i and organize our resources towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Sincerely,



Ernestine Belaski-Epstein
Community Schools Coordinator
Wai'anae Elementary School
808-308-1459