



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

Date: 03/23/2026

Time: 01:00 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: EDU/LBT

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB1676, HD1, RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes an Artificial Intelligence in Education Task Force to develop guidelines and recommendations for the use of artificial intelligence in state public education. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) agrees with the Legislature on the value of establishing statewide guidance, safeguards, and supports for the responsible integration of artificial intelligence as outlined in HB 1676, HD1, and supports this measure.

While the Department welcomes collaboration with the University of Hawaii, Hawai'i P-20, and other educational stakeholders, we respectfully note that the Department is already actively executing the goals of this task force on an operational level. Because artificial intelligence technology evolves at a rapid pace, the Department has opted to integrate AI readiness into our existing structural frameworks rather than wait for a multi-year task force to issue recommendations.

Currently, the Department is preparing teachers and students for AI integration through the following immediate actions:

- **Curriculum & Standards:** AI literacy is being directly embedded into our Computer Science education through the adoption of the CSTA K-12 Standards (specifically the "Impacts of Computing" core concept), and we are actively preparing for the 2026 CSTA standards revision, which will expand on AI skills.
- **Career Pathways:** The Department has already established a specific CTE Artificial Intelligence Program of Study to provide rigorous, career-aligned technical training.
- **Professional Development:** Our professional development strategy centers on high-impact in-person sessions and the AI in Education and Computer Science Professional Development Summits, where our most significant collaborative work occurs. To ensure continuous support, these live experiences are supplemented with an AI Readiness Toolkit for administrators and asynchronous resources that provide flexible, foundational learning for all staff.

- **Classroom Pilots:** The Department is currently piloting enterprise-level AI tools—such as MagicSchool AI and Gemini for Google Workspace—in protected environments to safely evaluate their impact on reducing teacher workload and supporting personalized learning.

While the Department is happy to participate in the proposed task force as a member, we believe our current operational, standards-based approach provides the immediate agility needed to keep our schools future-ready.

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



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education

and

Senate Committee on Labor and Technology

March 23, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

By

Debora Halbert

Vice President for Academic Strategy

University of Hawai'i System

HB 1676 HD1 – RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

Chairs Kim and Elefante, Vice Chairs Kidani and Lamosao, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports HB 1676 HD1. This measure establishes a task force, facilitated by Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education, to develop essential guidance and recommendations regarding artificial intelligence (AI) in our state's public education system.

UH concurs with the amendments in the HD1 that expand the membership and representation of the task force. This expansion ensures that a diverse range of voices and perspectives will inform the state's strategy. We anticipate that the task force will address several pivotal areas, including data privacy, academic integrity, student empowerment in AI literacy, and the productive use of AI by educators.

UH respectfully notes that the state of AI technologies and products are quickly evolving and rapidly becoming complex and highly sophisticated offerings. The challenging work of the task force will likely require resources over and above the voluntary time contributed by individual task force members and invited participants; the task force will require funding to ensure the task force can complete its work to fully address the complex issues of AI adoption and recommend controls to ensure the safety of our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1676 HD1.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



MAKALAPUA ALENCASTRE, ED. D.
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: HB 1676 HD1 RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
DATE: March 23, 2026
TIME: 1:00 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education & Committee on Labor and Technology
ROOM: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
FROM: Ed H. Noh, Ed. D., Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Mercado Kim, Chair Elefante, and members of the Committees:

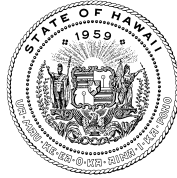
The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 1676 HD1** which establishes an Artificial Intelligence in Education Task Force to develop guidelines and recommendations for the use of artificial intelligence in state public education.

The Commission appreciates the efforts of the Legislature to proactively address the complexities of artificial intelligence and how it will be used effectively in the scope of education. The inclusion of a charter school voice within the task force will help elevate best practices for all public schools. The recent opening of an AI and Data Science-based charter school emphasizes the need for and importance of the task force.

The Commission is prepared to work with the Legislature and agencies identified in the proposed task force in support of the passage and implementation of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

CHRISTINE M. SAKUDA
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
LUNA 'ENEHANA

STATE OF HAWAII'Ī | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII'Ī
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ

OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES | KE'ENA HO'OLANA 'ENEHANA

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

Testimony of
CHRISTINE M. SAKUDA
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
TO THE

SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND LABOR AND TECHNOLOGY
Monday, March 23, 2026

HOUSE BILL NO. 1676 HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Chairs Kim and Elefante, Vice Chairs Kidani and Lamosao, and members of the committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on H.B. 1676 H.D. 1.

The Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) **supports** this bill to establish an Artificial Intelligence in Education Task Force to develop guidelines and recommendations for the use of artificial intelligence in state public education.

The CIO or a designee will be pleased to take part in the AI in the Education Task Force led by the University of Hawai'i (UH).

We believe that providing technological training in our schools is critical to developing the skills our young people need to enter the workforce and be qualified for high paying tech jobs. This would also provide stability for young people just starting out in life to be able to afford to stay in Hawai'i.

UH has been a big supporter of ETS in many ways over the years including our Hawai'i Annual Code Challenge (HACC) competition which inspires students, amateurs and professionals to help modernize state services and strengthen Hawai'i's local tech community.

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



The Senate Committees on Education and Labor and Technology
Monday, March 23, 2026
Room 229
1:00 PM

RE: **HB 1676 HD1, Relating to Artificial Intelligence**

Attention: Chairs Donna Mercado Kim and Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chairs Michelle N. Kidani and Rachele Lamosao, Members of the Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA), the exclusive bargaining representative for all University of Hawai'i faculty members across Hawai'i's statewide 10-campus system, **strongly supports HB 1676 HD1.**

We recognize that artificial intelligence holds significant potential to reduce educator workload while presenting complex challenges regarding privacy and equity. We commend the legislature's proactive approach to establishing statewide guidance and safeguards for its responsible integration into our educational systems.

Appreciation for Faculty Representation. UHPA strongly supports and appreciates the HD1 amendments that specifically designate a seat on the Artificial Intelligence in Education Task Force for the University of Hawaii Professional Assembly. Furthermore, because the HD1 draft now houses the task force administratively within the University of Hawai'i rather than the Department of Education, faculty representation is more vital than ever. We appreciate the Committee's recognition that statewide AI guidelines must reflect the unique realities of higher education. As the frontline practitioners responsible for implementing these tools across diverse fields, faculty members must have a voice in establishing the professional development guidelines and evaluation frameworks that will govern their work. Unlike K-12 education, higher education requires a flexible approach where faculty retain the autonomy to determine how AI tools are best utilized within their specific disciplines.

UHPA supports the passage of HB 1676 HD1.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Fern'.

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly

University of Hawaii
Professional Assembly

1017 Palm Drive ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-1928
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HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Education
Committee on Labor and Technology

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 23, 2026


H.B. 1676, H.D. 1 — RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports H.B. 1676, H.D. 1, which establishes an Artificial Intelligence in Education Task Force to develop guidelines and recommendations for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in public education.

We value the amended composition of the task force, as it brings a broader range of expertise and lived experiences to this work that will serve public school students from grades pre-K through higher education. These perspectives are essential to developing AI instructional frameworks, standards, and professional development tools that are both rigorous and equitable, and they help ensure that the unique needs of rural and neighbor island communities are not overlooked.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of H.B. 1676, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,


Randy Perreira
Executive Director



Chair Kim
Vice Chair Kidani
Senate Committee on Education

Chair Elefante
Vice Chair Lamosao
Senate Committee on Labor and Technology

Monday, March 23, 2026
1:00 PM

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1676 HD1 RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Finance,

The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission was first created through Act 106 in 2018, “to advise the governor and legislature on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets concerning the youth of the State.” The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission’s Legislative Committee on Education is in strong support of HB1676 HD1.

As students, we are already living in the age of artificial intelligence. AI tools are shaping how we study, write, and access information. The question is not whether AI will be in our classrooms; it already is. The question is whether we will guide its use with intention, equity, and strong safeguards.

HB1676 strikes that balance. AI has the potential to personalize learning, reduce educator workload, and expand access for rural and neighbor island communities where resources can be limited. For students across Hawai‘i, especially outside of O‘ahu, technology can help close long-standing opportunity gaps. But without guardrails, AI can also deepen inequities. Biased algorithms can reinforce discrimination. Weak data protections can put student privacy at risk, and overreliance on automation can undermine the human relationships that are essential to learning.

This bill responsibly addresses those concerns. Establishing a task force that includes students, educators, Native Hawaiian education specialists, and data privacy experts is crucial to the future of our students. As youth commissioners, we strongly support student representation; we are the ones directly impacted by these tools, and our voices deserve to be part of the decision-making process. We also support the procurement standards requiring transparency around data privacy, training datasets, bias mitigation, and auditability. If AI tools are going to shape our education, they must meet clear ethical and

equity standards. HB1676 creates a thoughtful, accountable framework to ensure AI strengthens our schools rather than harms them. On behalf of the Hawai'i State Youth Commission, I respectfully urge you to pass HB1676. Let's ensure that innovation in our classroom reflects Hawai'i's values of equity, responsibility, and care for our students.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,
Hawai'i State Youth Commission
hawaiistateyc@gmail.com



HOUSE BILL 1676 HD1, RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

MARCH 23, 2026 · EDU/LBT HEARING

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports** HB 1676 HD1, relating to artificial intelligence, which establishes an Artificial Intelligence in Education Task Force to develop guidelines and recommendations for the use of artificial intelligence in state public education.

Artificial intelligence is already deeply embedded in educational settings nationwide. During the 2024–2025 school year, surveys found that approximately 85 percent of teachers and 86 percent of students reported using AI tools for educational purposes, including tutoring support, feedback generation, and lesson preparation. Despite this widespread adoption, most students receive little to no formal instruction on how these tools function, their limitations, or their ethical implications. Without intentional literacy education, students are left to navigate AI independently, increasing the risk of personal misuse and academic harm.

When implemented thoughtfully, AI can offer meaningful educational benefits. Research indicates that AI-supported learning tools can personalize instruction, provide immediate feedback, and support multilingual learners and students with diverse learning needs. Educators also report that AI can reduce administrative burdens, allowing teachers to devote more time to instruction and

student engagement. Emerging academic research further suggests that AI can serve as a learning scaffold when paired with clear pedagogical guidance and student literacy frameworks.

At the same time, the risks of unregulated or poorly understood AI use in classrooms are well documented. The Brookings Institution and other education researchers warn that excessive reliance on generative AI may contribute to “cognitive off-loading,” where students substitute AI-generated outputs for independent reasoning, writing, and analysis, potentially undermining long-term skill development. Studies also highlight concerns about academic integrity, student data privacy, algorithmic bias, and unequal access to high-quality AI tools, which may exacerbate existing educational inequities if left unaddressed.

These concerns are especially relevant in Hawai‘i, where cultural context, linguistic diversity, and local values must be reflected in educational policy. Research emphasizes that AI systems developed without cultural grounding can fail to serve Indigenous and local communities effectively, particularly in language preservation and culturally responsive instruction. This bill recognizes that reality by emphasizing culturally relevant instruction and educator training, ensuring that AI integration in education aligns with Hawai‘i’s unique social landscape.

Preparing students for the future workforce also requires proactive engagement with AI literacy. University of Hawai‘i Economic Research Organization reports suggest that AI is more likely to augment, rather than replace, skilled labor in the islands, increasing demand for workers who possess critical thinking and technological fluency. Providing students with foundational AI literacy in high school strengthens college and career readiness while empowering students to responsibly use emerging technologies.

This measure recognizes both the promise and the perils of artificial intelligence in education. By creating a forward-thinking working group to evaluate the impact of AI on our school system, it helps ensure that AI serves as a tool for learning, rather than a threat to educational integrity.

Contact: educationcaucusdph@gmail.com · 808-679-7454

R.Kana'iaupuni Gomes
rkgomes@gmail.com

March 20, 2026

Representative Andrew Takuya Garrett and Co-Sponsors (Representatives Terez Amato, Luke Evslin, Jeanne Kapela, and Ikaika Olds)
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Support for H.B. 1676 H.D. 1 – Relating to Artificial Intelligence

Dear Chair [Chair's Last Name], Representative Garrett, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing as a private citizen and Hawai'i resident to express my strong support for H.B. 1676 H.D. 1, which establishes an Artificial Intelligence in Education Task Force to guide the responsible use of artificial intelligence in our public schools and public institutions of higher education.

Artificial intelligence is already changing how students learn and how teachers teach, with tools that can personalize instruction, reduce administrative burdens, and expand access to resources for rural and underserved communities. At the same time, there are serious concerns about equity, privacy, bias, and the risk of weakening essential human relationships in the classroom. H.B. 1676 H.D. 1 acknowledges both the promise and the risks and takes a thoughtful, measured approach to planning for AI in education.

Strengths of the Bill

I especially appreciate that the bill brings together a broad group of stakeholders, including representatives from the Department of Education, the University of Hawai'i, teachers' and employees' unions, independent and charter schools, and the State Chief Information Officer. The requirement to invite students, civil rights and data-privacy experts, Native Hawaiian education specialists, and technology and cybersecurity professionals ensures that the task force will hear from the people most affected by and knowledgeable about these systems.

The bill directs the task force to develop clear statewide guidance on how AI should be used as an instructional tool, with recommended human-in-the-loop practices so that educators remain central to teaching and learning. It also calls for strong data-privacy and vendor-transparency standards, including disclosure of training data, bias testing, and audit provisions, which are essential to protect students and educators in Hawai'i. The focus on digital equity for rural schools and campuses in Hawai'i, Maui, and Kaua'i counties is particularly important, because students outside urban Honolulu deserve the same safe access to innovative tools and opportunities.

In addition, H.B. 1676 H.D. 1 recognizes that educators will need ongoing support by including professional-development guidelines and a framework for evaluating student learning outcomes in AI-supported classrooms. These elements will help ensure that AI is used to enhance, not undermine, high-quality education and culturally responsive teaching in our public schools and universities.

Recommended Amendments to Strengthen the Bill

At the same time, I respectfully urge the Committee and the bill's sponsors to address several weaknesses in the current draft so that this important measure can be implemented effectively:

1. Amend the Effective Date

The current effective date of July 1, 3000 effectively prevents the bill from taking effect. I recommend amending Section 4 to an earlier, realistic effective date—such as **July 1, 2026**—so that the task force can begin its work promptly while still providing agencies time to prepare.

2. Specify the Appropriation Amount

Section 3 currently contains an unspecified appropriation amount ("the sum of \$___ or so much thereof as may be necessary"). To ensure the task force can meet, coordinate statewide stakeholders, and produce quality guidance and standards, I recommend inserting a **clear appropriation amount** that covers staffing support, community engagement, and necessary travel for members, particularly those from neighbor islands.

3. Require Implementation of Task Force Recommendations

While the bill gives the task force a strong mandate to develop guidance and standards, there is no explicit requirement that the Department of Education, University of Hawai'i, or vendors actually adopt and implement these recommendations. I recommend adding language **directing these agencies to use the task force's guidance in their procurement, implementation, and oversight of AI tools**, and to report back to the Legislature on their implementation progress.

4. Explicitly Include Parent and Community Representation

The task force membership appropriately includes students and expert voices, but community and parent perspectives are not specifically mentioned. I recommend **explicitly authorizing or directing the chair to include representation from parents and community organizations**, particularly those serving Native Hawaiian, rural, and other historically underserved communities, so that lived experiences and family concerns are fully reflected in the task force's work.

Conclusion

With these targeted changes, H.B. 1676 H.D. 1 can move from a conceptual framework to a practical, enforceable roadmap for the safe and equitable use of artificial intelligence in Hawai'i's education system. The bill already offers a strong foundation; tightening the effective date, appropriation, implementation language, and community representation will help ensure that students, families, and educators across all islands see real benefits and meaningful protections.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of H.B. 1676 H.D. 1, and for your leadership on this emerging and complex issue. I respectfully urge you to pass this measure with the recommended amendments.

Sincerely,

R.Kana'iaupuni Gomes

HB-1676-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 8:10:19 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Ball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this legislation as both an educator and a concerned parent.

With aloha,

David Ball

Waiālae-Kahala