



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

**Date:** 02/25/2026  
**Time:** 02:00 PM  
**Location:** 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE  
**Committee:** FIN

**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 (AI) as outlined in HB 1676, HD1, and supports this measure.

While the Department welcomes collaboration with the University of Hawai'i, 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 AI 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  
House Committee on Finance  
February 25, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Debora Halbert

Vice President for Academic Strategy  
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1676 HD1 – RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

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.



The House Committee on Finance  
February 25, 2026  
Room 308  
2:00 PM

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

Attention: Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, 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,

Christian L. Fern  
Executive Director  
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly



**Chair Todd**  
**Vice Chair Takenouchi**  
**House Committee on Finance**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2026**  
**2:00 PM**

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1676 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 Education legislative committee is in strong support of House Bill 1676.

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.

H.B. 1676 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.

H.B 1676 does not rush implementation. Instead, it 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 H.B. 1676. Let's ensure that innovation in our classroom reflects Hawai'i's values of equity, responsibility, and care for our students.

As youth commissioners, we believe stu

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

The Hawai'i State Youth Commission  
hawaiiistateyc@gmail.com

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

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FOR: HB 1676 HD1 RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE  
DATE: February 25, 2026  
TIME: 2:00 P.M.  
COMMITTEE: Committee on Finance  
ROOM: Conference Room 308 & Videoconference  
FROM: Ed H. Noh, Ed. D., Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee:

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 committees and agencies identified in the proposed task force in support of goals of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



**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  
House of Representatives  
Committee on Finance

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 25, 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

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Wednesday, February 25, 2026

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

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee, 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 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.

**HB-1676-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 7:37:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

1676 HB RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.