

**HB-1896-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 8:24:23 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hannah Loyola	Hawaii Department of Education	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Community Schools framework has been instrumental in strengthening the Kohala Complex schools with families and the community we serve. I request that you support this bill as it will help secure funding for us to continue to be Community Schools in Kohala.

Thank you for your consideration.



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

**Date:** 03/03/2026

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** FIN

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB1896, HD1, RELATING TO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to support community schools. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

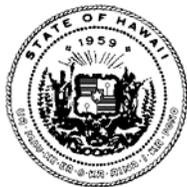
The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 1896, provided its passage does not adversely impact the priorities established in the Board of Education's approved budget.

The Department recognizes community schools as one of several effective strategies for fostering community and family engagement. Currently, these programs exist in approximately 22 Department schools. These models are established at the discretion of individual campuses, as school leaders are best positioned to identify the specific resources and partnerships necessary to support their unique student populations.

Community schools adopt a "whole child" approach, integrating high-quality educational opportunities with robust community partnerships. Successful implementation relies on the synergy between school staff, families, and local stakeholders. These relationships not only enrich the academic experience but also strengthen the surrounding community.

Should the Legislature be inclined to pass this measure, we respectfully request that it supplement, rather than displace, existing departmental priorities. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA  
Office of the Director  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

March 1, 2026

TO: The Honorable Representative Chris Todd, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1896 HD1 – RELATING TO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS.**

Hearing: March 3, 2026, 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of the measure, defers to the Department of Education, and provides comments. DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not reduce or replace priorities identified in the executive budget.

DHS shares the same vision through school-based family resource centers, a component of community schools. Community schools build trusted relationships with students and families that improve student achievement, and well-resourced family resource centers have been shown to reduce reports of child abuse and neglect.

Family resource centers use a multigenerational, strengths-based, and family-centered approach. Families may access services in a place they are comfortable in that reflects and is responsive to the community's needs and interests. Services are generally offered at no or low cost and aim to build communities of peer support and increase social connections. Schools, families, and communities benefit from these models that support student learning, reduce chronic absenteeism, and strengthen communities.

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



# ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

## Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Nathan Murata, Dean  
College of Education

and

Vassilis Syrmos, PhD  
Interim Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

#### HB 1896 HD1 – RELATING TO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony offering comments on HB 1896 HD1 Related to Community Schools. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa believes community schools can be a vital extension of the typical school day. We also believe that community schools can support families and students by enriching learning opportunities, extending classroom instruction, and providing an integrated system of support for students.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Education remains committed to working in strong partnership with the Hawai'i State Department of Education to support educators, strengthen student success, and advance collaborative initiatives that benefit our public school communities statewide.

Thank you for allowing us to testify on this measure.



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**Osa Tui, Jr.**  
President

**Logan Okita**  
Vice President

**Cheney Kaku**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Andrea Eshelman**  
Executive Director

## TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAI'I HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**Item: HB 1896, HD1 – Relating to Community Schools**

**Position: Support**

**Hearing: Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 2:00 pm, Room 308**

**Submitter: Osa Tui, Jr., President - Hawai'i State Teachers Association**

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

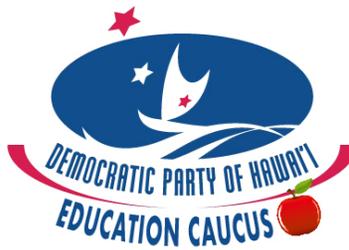
The Hawai'i State Teachers Association **supports** H.B. 1896, HD1 which provides funding to support the implementation and sustainability of community schools across our islands. This strategy transforms schools into community hubs where educators, families, and partners collaborate to ensure every student can thrive.

Community schools address the root causes of learning barriers by integrating academic achievement with essential support for student health and well-being. By establishing key practices such as expanded learning opportunities and integrated systems of support, this model fosters a culture of belonging and safety for both students and staff.

Research highlights a significant return on investment for this approach, showing improved attendance, higher graduation rates, and increased teacher retention. The inclusion of dedicated community school coordinators is essential for aligning resources and translating community needs into effective action.

We urge the committee to pass this measure to provide the funding necessary to strengthen our school communities and support the "whole child" through these vital partnerships.

Mahalo.



## **HOUSE BILL 1896, HD1, RELATING TO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

MARCH 3, 2026 · FIN HEARING

**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports** HB 1896, HD1, relating to community schools, which appropriates funds to the Department of Education to support community schools.

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

<b>O'ahu</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Barbers Point El</li><li>• Blanche Pope El</li><li>• Dole Middle</li><li>• Hawai'i School for the Deaf and Blind</li><li>• Kaimukī High</li><li>• Ke'elikolani Middle</li><li>• Nānākuli High &amp; Inter</li><li>• Olomana School</li><li>• Wai'anae El</li><li>• Wai'anae High</li><li>• Waimānalo School</li></ul>	<b>Hawai'i Island</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hōnaunau El</li><li>• Ka'u High &amp; Pahala El</li><li>• Kealakehe El</li><li>• Kealakehe Inter</li><li>• Kohala El</li><li>• Kohala High</li><li>• Kohala Middle</li><li>• Mountain View El</li><li>• Na'alehu El</li><li>• Pāhoa High &amp; Inter</li><li>• Waikōloa El</li><li>• Waimea El</li></ul>	<b>Moloka'i</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maunaloa El</li></ul> <b>Lāna'i</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lāna'i High &amp; El</li></ul>
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**Contact: [educationcaucusdph@gmail.com](mailto:educationcaucusdph@gmail.com) · 808-679-7454**

**HB-1896-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 4:33:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Nishimoto	Ceeds of Peace	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Committee on Finance  
Representative Chris Todd, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

February 27, 2026

RE: Support of HB 1896

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

My name is Scott Nishimoto, and I am the Executive Director of Ceeds of Peace. On behalf of Ceeds of Peace, I'm submitting testimony in strong support of HB 1896 HD1, which would appropriate funds to the Hawai'i Department of Education for community schools.

Ceeds of Peace is honored to serve as the lead partner agency for seven community schools statewide: Pāhoā High & Intermediate, Hawai'i School for the Deaf and Blind, Hōnaunau Elementary, Ka'ū High & Pāhala Elementary, Wai'anae Elementary, Mākaha Elementary, and Nā'ālehu Elementary. These schools serve some of Hawai'i's most historically underserved communities, where families face high levels of poverty, trauma exposure, and barriers to accessing health and social services.

Our community school coordinators have consistently gone above and beyond their job descriptions — connecting families to basic needs, coordinating academic supports, hosting healing-centered and culturally grounded programs, and building trust with partners who provide mental health care, tutoring, housing support, food access, and more. They are often the first to notice when a student is struggling and the bridge that connects that child to the right resource at the right time. Without stable and dedicated community school coordinators, these essential supports would not exist.

For these reasons, Ceeds of Peace strongly urges you to support HB 1896 HD1, which would sustain Hawai'i's community schools movement and ensure that learners, families, and communities continue to have access to the wraparound supports they deserve. This investment is not only urgent — it is transformational.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Scott Nishimoto  
Executive Director, Ceeds of Peace

Date: March 3, 2026

To: Representative Chris Todd, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: House Bill 1896 HD1, Relating to Community Schools

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Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide cross-sector collaborative designed to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest children and their families. ECAS partners work to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources, and improve programs to support our youngest keiki.

**ECAS supports House Bill 1896 HD1 which would appropriate funds to support community schools.**

Our organization recognizes the impacts that are possible when a school focuses on the development of the whole child. When a student's academic experience is tailored to support not only their academic performance, but also their health, well-being, cultural identity, and more, they thrive.

Community schools achieve these outcomes through a variety of school characteristics including strong family support as well as close relationships between the school, its students, their families, and the greater community. Working closely with their respective communities and community coordinators, these schools are able to effectively identify the critical needs of their student bodies.

This is a proven approach that consistently results in improved academic performance, increased family engagement, and higher graduation rates.

For these reasons, ECAS supports House Bill 1896 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**HB-1896-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 8:28:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alice Luck	The He'e Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The He'e Coalition supports this bill for community schools. The evidence base for the value of community schools is clear and He'e Coalition is supportive of dedicating resources for our community schools and the expansion of the effort to additional schools.

## Bridging the Gap: How One Community School Coordinator is Strengthening the Bond Between Families and Kohala High School

### Piha Me Ka Pono Impact Story

On a typical school day, you will probably see Liza Dela Cruz Monsalve, Community School Coordinator with Piha Me Ka Pono program, greeting students, faculty, and 'ohana (families) with a warm smile as she walks through the Kohala High School campus. Whether she's chatting with parents at drop-off, handing out flyers, or connecting with community partners, Liza is a constant bridge between school and community.

Kohala High School has an average student population of 220 students, with the two largest represented ethnic groups being Native Hawaiian (37%) and Filipino (29%)<sup>[1]</sup>. Through Piha Me Ka Pono, Liza works closely with the school to increase family engagement and reduce absenteeism.

As a proud alumnus of Kohala High School who moved to Hawai'i at 16 years old, she understands the challenges of navigating a new school environment and overcoming language barriers. "A lot of the parents come to school, and they feel intimidated to speak to anyone or interact with each other," she shares. "Engaging with the parents help them feel comfortable to approach staff members and get involved with their children's journey through high school."

Liza's approach to increased family engagement is hands-on. She works with the school staff to hand out event flyers on and off campus, and shares information about events with Kohala Mountain News. She is also the creator and moderator of a Kohala High School group on the Team Reach app, sharing announcements and resources to the school community. The community and students have grown accustomed to her friendly and welcoming presence around campus and at school events.

One of her most impactful initiatives was an attendance incentive program. In the 2024-2025 school year, students who were on track each quarter to be below the chronic absenteeism rate at the end of the year had their name submitted into a drawing to win a PlayStation 5, provided by PIDF and thanks to Liza's efforts. She also met with families of students with continued absences to problem-solve barriers to attendance. Kohala High School's daily attendance rate went from 87% to 90%. This school year 2025-2026 PIDF donated a Nintendo Switch 2 for another incentive for a student with a perfect attendance.

Her efforts have not gone unnoticed. The Kohala High School graduating class of 2025 honored Liza and Piha Me Ka Pono in their graduation ceremony. In a statement from Kohala High School they shared,

1. Kohala High School, [Hawai'i Academies](#)

*“The Partners in Development Foundation (PIDF) has been an invaluable and integral part of Kohala High School and the broader Kohala community. Their efforts have consistently strengthened the relationship between the school and the community, fostering meaningful connections that have made many events and initiatives possible. Their dedication does not go unnoticed and is deeply appreciated by all.*

*Through Liza's efforts, our school has received impactful donations from PID, including iPads for teachers to enhance instructional support and bleachers for our football games. She has also provided vital classroom and art supplies, helping to ensure students have the tools they need to succeed and feel a sense of pride.*

*Beyond these contributions, Liza has built strong relationships with families, attending school community council meetings, visiting homes, and coordinating EL family nights, making her a trusted and integral part of our community. She also worked directly with the vice principal to help students in the attendance boot camp reflect on their own attendance barriers and write clear goals for success. Her work has been a driving force in creating an environment where students feel supported, valued, and excited to come to school.*

*We are truly grateful for the continued support of Partners in Development and hope they are able to carry on their invaluable work in the years to come.”*

Through trust and genuine care, Liza isn't just connecting families to Kohala High School; she's building a stronger community for generations to come. That is why Community School is very important and should continue because it helps a lot of students, parents, and community to build a strong relationship.



March 3, 2026

The Honorable Representative Chris Todd, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Hearing on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.,  
Via VideoConference, Conference Room #308

**Regarding HB No. 1896, HD1, "Relating to Community Schools"**

Dear Chair Todd and Vice Chair Takenouchi and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

We ask that you **strongly support HB1896** to appropriate funds to the Department of Education to support community schools.

**Partners in Development Foundation** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that inspires and equips families and communities for success and service, using timeless Native Hawaiian values and traditions. Since 1997, PIDF has served more than 171,000 people in over 75 communities across the state ([www.pidf.org](http://www.pidf.org)). PIDF has a strong record of managing complex, multi-year federal and state grants with measurable results in early childhood education, family engagement, and youth justice. PIDF continues to step to the frontline to meet the ever-changing needs of our low-income, remote, and rural families and communities, including operating a COVID quarantine hotel to keep families safe and healthy during the pandemic, to supporting families displaced by the Maui wildfires to heal and rebuild, to continuing to support and strengthen our most vulnerable children, youth and families as they navigate increasing living costs, unemployment, and loss of federal resources.

Partners in Development Foundation's Piha Me Ka Pono program partners with 8 Hawai'i DOE schools, providing Community School Coordinators to support the school's staff, students, families and surrounding community. From reducing chronic absenteeism through innovative methods like a walking school bus, to bringing opportunities like the national Amazing Shake Competition to middle schoolers, and sourcing basic necessities for high schoolers to attend school ready to learn, the Community School Model has made schools a safe and welcoming environment that Hawai'i's youth are excited to be in.

It is vital that this critical work provided by not only Partners in Development Foundation but the many other nonprofit organizations in our state continue to be supported through sufficient resources to impact the children and communities of which we serve. **We ask that you support HB 1896, HD1 so that Hawai'i's community schools can continue building stronger, healthier communities.**

On behalf of Partners in Development Foundation and our many nonprofit partners serving tirelessly in our state, mahalo nui loa for your consideration of this request.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shawn M. Kana'iaupuni'.

Shawn M. Kana'iaupuni, PhD  
President and Chief Executive Officer

To: House Committee on Finance  
Re: **HB 1896 HD1– Relating to Community Schools**  
Hawai'i State Capitol room 308 & Via Videoconference  
March 3, 2026, 2:00 PM

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Respected Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! (HCAN), I am providing testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 1896 HD1**, which appropriates funding to expand and strengthen community schools across Hawai'i. This investment represents a strategic approach to improving student outcomes, supporting families, and strengthening communities statewide.

Community schools integrate academics, health and social services, youth development, and family engagement into a single, coordinated framework. When schools are equipped to partner with families and community organizations, students are better positioned to attend regularly, engage meaningfully in learning, and thrive academically and socially. For many of Hawai'i's keiki, barriers to learning are not confined to the classroom. Housing instability, unmet health needs, food insecurity, and limited access to enrichment opportunities all influence educational outcomes. Community schools help address these barriers holistically so educators can focus on teaching and students can focus on learning.

Importantly, community school models strengthen family engagement and create trusted relationships between schools and the communities they serve. These partnerships are particularly critical in Hawai'i, where culturally responsive and place-based approaches are essential to meeting the diverse needs of students and families across islands and communities. Expanding community schools is an investment in educational equity and long-term student success.

This bill also represents a smart fiscal investment. Coordinated school-community partnerships reduce duplication of services, improve efficiency, and maximize the impact of existing public and private resources. By supporting dedicated coordination and infrastructure, the Legislature can help ensure that schools have the capacity to sustain partnerships that produce measurable outcomes.

HCAN believes that every child deserves access to a school environment that supports their full development. Community schools move Hawai'i closer to that vision by aligning education, health, and family supports in a way that reflects the realities facing students today.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please **PASS HB 1896 HD1**.

**TO: The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair House Committee on Finance** Hawaii State Capitol 415 S. Beretania St. Honolulu, HI 96813

**BILL: HB 1896 – Relating to Community Schools**

**TESTIFIER: Michelle Barber**

**POSITION: SUPPORT AND COMMENTS**

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

I am writing to you today as the Principal of Waikoloa Elementary and Middle School to express my strong support for HB 1896, which seeks to appropriate funds to the Department of Education for the implementation and sustainability of community schools in Hawaii, provided its passage does not adversely impact the priorities established in the Board of Education's approved budget.

At Waikoloa, we see firsthand that a student's success is inextricably linked to their health, well-being, and sense of belonging within their community and 'aina. HB 1896 recognizes that schools are more than just academic centers; they are hubs where staff, families, and community partners work in reciprocity to help every child thrive.

The community schools strategy outlined in this bill is vital for several reasons:

- **Integrated Support Systems:** It moves us away from fragmented services and toward a coordinated effort that leverages existing community resources toward shared goals.
  - At Waikoloa this has meant coordinating many efforts to increase student attendance and overall success including: Food Basket distribution for our families in need, School Based Health Center mobile unit so that students can get the medical care that they need while at school to break down transportation barriers, weekly visits to our low income housing sites with our Bilingual School Home Assistant to engage with families and build a bridge between home and school, and so much more.
  - On the other side of the spectrum, our community coordinator has been vital is our ability to put on an Amazing Shake competition where community partners work with us to improve students' professional skills like poise under pressure, the ability to think on their feet, be problem solvers and so much more. This has provided opportunities for some of our students to compete on the global level in Atlanta, GA. For some of them, it was their first trip outside the state of Hawaii. This could not have been possible without the support and organization of our community coordinator.
- **Addressing Chronic Absenteeism:** By fostering stable relationships and meaningful family engagement, this approach creates the necessary conditions for learning and directly addresses the root causes of barriers to attendance. We began implementing the

community school strategy three years ago and it has helped us to reduce our chronic absenteeism rate from 41% to 32%.

- **Proven Return on Investment:** Research cited in this bill shows that for every dollar invested in a community school coordinator, there is a return of approximately \$7.11 in net benefits. I personally visited the New Mexico school district to learn more about how to make this successful in Waikoloa and came back with many ideas which have helped our school to make improvements and allowed us to engage with 90% of our families last school year.
- **Collaborative Leadership:** This bill empowers families and students as co-designers of solutions, ensuring that our school culture is built on trust and shared power.

The appropriation of **\$2,152,500** for fiscal year 2026-2027 will provide the technical assistance, evaluation, and administrative support necessary to make this vision a reality across our islands. This investment will yield long-term dividends in the form of higher graduation rates, increased teacher retention, and improved academic achievement.

I respectfully urge your committee to pass HB 1896 to ensure our schools have the tools to support the "whole child" and strengthen the fabric of our communities.

Mahalo for your dedication to the keiki of Hawaii and the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,



Michelle Barber

Principal - Waikoloa Elementary and Middle School

House Committee on Finance  
Representative Chris Todd, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

March 2, 2026

RE: Support of HB 1896 Relating to Community Schools

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

Kaimuki Middle School's Kīpuka Garden Hui supports HB 1896, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Education for the planning and implementation of community schools.

**A Kīpuka of Aloha 'Āina in Urban Honolulu** Kaimuki Middle's Kīpuka Garden is a living example of how the community schools model can transform traditional academics into meaningful contributions to our community. The challenges in our community include:

- Low levels of student school engagement (as measured by DOE Panorama data)
- Counselors and teacher report increase in student misbehavior
- Degradation of Maunalua Bay, Waikiki, and Ala Wai marine ecosystems
- Climate-enhanced storms, flooding, sea-level rise, and erosion in shoreline areas

This bill works to establish DOE funding to hire a **community school coordinator** to align the efforts of the school with those of our community. We envision this to be a dedicated district, complex, or school-level staff member who could serve as a bridge between community partners (like Mālama Maunalua, Aloha Tree Alliance, KCC, etc.), businesses (Keep It Kaimuki, businesses, etc), and families, and organize learning opportunities towards shared community goals. School administrators and teachers are overextended and at capacity. A dedicated DOE coordinator could focus on relationship building with community partners and assist school administrators to organize school staff and bridge them to community partners. The Community School Coordinator also helps the community understand and navigate the DOE system, and leverage longstanding relationships with both the schools and community to more effectively and efficiently achieve community initiatives.

I believe in this model because it describes the type of work that has led to the success of the Kaimukī Voyager Center and Kīpuka Garden. Coordinators help facilitate listening sessions between the school and community to strategically identify and prioritize shared challenges. They build the "beloved community" (Aunty Puanani style!) by designing and hosting gatherings at the school. They mobilize resources (grants, donations, professionals, guest speakers) so teachers and students can engage in solving real-world challenges in their community. Currently, this work is done by teacher volunteers on top of their existing responsibilities. We wish to systemetize this so all schools could benefit from aligned and cohesive partnerships towards shared goals.

**What we've accomplished through the Community Schools Approach** Kaimuki Middle School is a living example of a budding community school movement within a traditional DOE

middle school. We brought the expertise of 38+ local practitioners to our school and wrote grants that funded the Kīpuka Garden, Voyager Center, Climate Conscious Inquiry, science fair investigations, and Learning Celebrations. We also used grant funds to coordinate school-wide professional development workshops in project-based learning and culinary safety, while purchasing supplies for teachers to implement new 'āina-based curriculum.

Here are some metrics that exemplify the meaningful experiences created by the community schools approach:

- **Core Mission and Leadership:** Rooted in Hawaiian culture and multicultural inclusion, the program fosters a sense of belonging for all students. Under the long-standing leadership of Principal Frank Fernandes, the program has expanded from serving 130 students to over 500, including significant participation from English Learner (EL) and Special Education (SPED) classes.
- **Facility and Learning Space Improvements:** The recent installation of a 20x20 shade tent has doubled the available shade for outdoor learning, significantly increasing the capacity for outdoor instruction and community gatherings.
- **Cultural Integration and Literacy:** Students engage in place-based learning through the Mo'olelo and Murals project, which integrates art and science to document the history of Kaimukī and Lē'ahi. Students also learn the Oli Kīpuka Kaimukī to stay rooted in the significant wahi pana (special places) of their community.
- **Environmental Impact and Sustainability:** KMS is currently in its fifth year as a NOAA Ocean Guardian School. The program has successfully diverted over 4,500 lbs of cafeteria waste through composting and processed 4,000 lbs of invasive limu from Maunalua Bay to support garden health.
- **Student-Led Initiatives:** The program hosts active after-school opportunities including the Aloha 'Āina Club (farm-to-table cooking), the Aloha Vibes Club (lei making and community gifting), and a Young Entrepreneurs Program where students develop and sell value-added garden products.
- **Community Engagement:** The garden serves as a hub for quarterly community workdays involving families, alumni, and local partners, with upcoming 2026 milestones including the construction of a dryland lo'i kalo and a community-wide Lei Celebration.

As the co-founder of Kaimuki Middle School's Voyager Center and Kīpuka Garden, I urge you to support this bill. It would allow more schools to adopt the community schools model and organize the resources in their community toward the success of learners, families, and communities. If you'd like to learn more about our program, we are happy to host site visits and provide student videos and evidence of the positive impacts of our community school efforts.

With gratitude,

Lianna Lam

**EL Coordinator, Science Teacher, NCBT**

[Kaimuki Middle Kīpuka Garden](#)

631 18th Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i, 96816

Email: [lianna.lam@k12.hi.us](mailto:lianna.lam@k12.hi.us)

Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance  
1776 University Avenue, WA1-102  
Honolulu, HI 96822



House Committee on Finance  
Representative Chris Todd, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

March 3, 2026  
Conference Room 308

RE: Support of HB1896, HD1

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

The Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance supports HB1896, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Education for community schools.

In Hawai'i, a community school is a place where school staff, families, students, and the community work together to help every child thrive.

Community schools are 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.<sup>1</sup>

There are currently 22 community schools in Hawai'i across three 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 is 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; and
- Integrated systems of support.<sup>2</sup>

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'

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<sup>1</sup> 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](https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/media/137/download?inline&file=Community_Schools_Effective_REPO_RT.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> 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](https://www.hawaiiafterschoolalliance.org/uploads/2/8/4/2/28427169/hawai%E2%80%98i_cs_framework_24.pdf)

whole child and 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 bill that would ensure our current schools can continue to support their students and families and create the necessary support within the DOE to lead the state's community school efforts.

Sincerely,

Paula Adams  
Executive Director  
Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance  
hawaiiafterschool@gmail.com  
[www.hawaiiafterschoolalliance.org](http://www.hawaiiafterschoolalliance.org)

House Committee on Finance  
Representative Chris Todd, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

March 2, 2026  
RE: Support of HB 1896

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Victoria Timmerman, and I have worked in the education field for 13 years. I am also the Principal Investigator and Project Director of the Hawaii Statewide Family Engagement Center. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 1896, which appropriates vital funding to the Department of Education for community schools. With nine years of professional experience in family engagement, I have seen firsthand that these schools are not just an educational model, but a necessary fiscal investment in our communities.

Community schools maximize the impact of state funding through:

- **Integrated Wraparound Services:** By acting as hubs for healthcare and social services, these schools make it easier for families to access support in one location, reducing barriers to student attendance and achievement.
- **Family Resource Centers:** These centers build the trusting, collaborative home-school partnerships that are essential for long-term school improvement.
- **Economic Support for Working Families:** By offering extended hours and reliable childcare, this bill directly supports Hawai'i's working parents while expanding learning opportunities for students.
- **Inclusive Governance:** These schools empower parents through shared leadership, ensuring that educational resources are directed where they are most needed by the community

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB 1896 to ensure the sustainability of this movement and the continued success of our learners and families.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,  
Victoria Timmerman, Ph.D.

**HB-1896-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 3:44:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Seonaid Uebelhardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 27, 2026

I am Seonaid Uebelhardt, the Community School Coordinator with Waikoloa Elementary and Middle School.

I support HB 1896 that supports community schools in Hawaii.

Our school is now in its third year of being a community school. The impact it has had is invaluable to our students, their families, our school administration & staff along with the community and the community partners we collaborate with. Our students and families benefit from food distributions which assist in lessening food insecurities in their homes. Our school personnel benefit from the additional resources and connections made available through the efforts of the Community School Coordinator position. This position also provides outreach to address the chronic absenteeism common in many communities. The reduction of chronic absenteeism has a positive impact on higher testing scores and gainful strides in learning/retention.

Please support HB 1896 so my school and other community schools in Hawaii can continue this vital work that supports our keiki and their ohana.

To: **House Committee on Finance** Representative Chris Todd, Chair, Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 3, 2026

**TIME:** 3:00PM

**LOCATION:** House conference room 308, via video conference

**Committee:** EDN, FIN

**BILL: HB1896 HD1, Relating to Community Schools-**Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to support Community Schools

**TESTIFIER(S): Adria Medeiros, Principal Mountain View Elementary School**

**POSITION: SUPPORT AND COMMENTS**

Aloha Representative Chris Todd, Chair, Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair,

My name is Adria Medeiros, and I serve as the principal of Mountain View Elementary School in the Ka‘u-Kea‘au-Pāhoa Complex Area on Hawai‘i Island. I am writing in strong support of HB1896 HD1, which appropriates funding to support the implementation and sustainability of community schools in Hawai‘i.

As a public school leader, I see daily that academic achievement is deeply connected to the well-being of our students and their families. Schools cannot operate in isolation if we truly want children to thrive. The community school framework recognizes that success comes from strong partnerships, coordinated supports, and meaningful engagement with families.

At our school, we are actively working toward becoming a community school. We currently fund our own community school coordinator - a position we have prioritized because we see the impact firsthand. Our coordinator serves as the liaison between the school and community partners, aligning resources, facilitating communication, and helping ensure that supports are responsive to the needs of our ‘ohana. Rather than operating in silos, our partnerships are coordinated and intentional. This has strengthened family engagement, increased access to services, and deepened trust between home and school.

However, sustaining this work requires stable funding and infrastructure. HB1896 HD1 would provide critical support to scale and sustain these efforts across Hawai‘i. A dedicated coordinator and structured community school model help ensure that expanded learning opportunities, integrated supports, and family partnerships are not dependent on short-term grants or individual capacity, but embedded in a sustainable system.

This approach reflects our local values. In Hawai‘i, schools are centers of community. A model grounded in collaboration, shared voice, and pilina honors that truth and creates the conditions necessary for improved attendance, stronger school culture, and long-term student success.

I respectfully urge your support of HB1896 HD1 as an investment in both our students and the systems that support them.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Medeiros", is enclosed in a light gray rectangular box.

Adria Medeiros

Principal, Mountain View Elementary School

House Committee on Finance

Representative Chris Todd, Chair

Representative Henna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

March 02, 2026

RE: Support of HB 1896

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

I, Trish Papalimu, support HB 1896 which would appropriate funds to the Department of Education for Community Schools.

As a current Community School, we host a School-Based Community Health Center as well as a Family Resource Center which I have the privilege of being the Director of alongside my role as the Community Schools Coordinator.

Through Community Schools work and our Family Resource Center, we support other schools in the community like Ho'okena Elementary, Konawaena Complex, Ke Kula o 'Ehunuikaimalino, Kupa'a Homeschool Academy, and the University of Hawai'i-Palamanui. Honaunau Elementary is the only school considered a "Community School" on this list. We provide necessities they need if we have them in stock and ensure they receive it by picking up/delivering if need be. These same schools also support us as well, building reciprocity and solid relationships.

Community Schools bridge that gap between school and community. We support school functions and outside community events. We provide opportunities for cultural learning, activities, and values. We uphold not just the standards and values given to us to follow by the DOE and the organizations we work for, but of our kupuna...our ancestors...all those who have laid the foundation upon which we stand.

A "community school" is more than just being a school IN the community. The role of the coordinator holds deep value as well as we meet our families where they're at, which is not always on campus. This ensures that we, as pillars in our community are seen. Our in-community efforts let our families know that they are seen as well and that whatever they're facing, we'll figure it out together.

Community Schools should not be something that needs a "seat" at this table. It should be the "meal" that we are all eating and getting fulfilled from. Let's also remember that when we eat, we feed everybody. That means staff, students, families, and community. Our work as a Community Schools Coordinator continuously tills the soil...keeping it healthy so our people can thrive. Growing sustenance and building relationships that will produce bountiful crops. Our work is rooted in the teachings of our ancestors (PAST), encased in the bark of our families, our trunk

serving as all the organizations who support us (PRESENT), and perpetuated by branching out and serving others (FUTURE) with the faith the when those leaves fall (depicting life's experiences), they'll return to the soil and feed that same TREE OF LIFE. That is the cycle of Community Schools and the work that we do. We're not just servicing families and sending them on their way. We're building familial relationships which require a deep sense of trust and respect. We create safe spaces and in turn, these families become extended families. CARING for one another through the generations.

We're all hungry to continue this work of Community Schools across the pae 'aina so let's lay the spread out on the table and E.A.T. (Engage-Activate-Transform)!

I urge you to support this bill that would sustain the Community Schools movement in Hawai'i and organize our resources towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Trish Papalimu, Ceeds of Peace  
Community Schools Coordinator  
Family Resource Center (FRC) Director  
Honaunau Elementary School, South Kona

**HB-1896-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 9:45:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joseph Passantino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a middle school principal serving a high-needs community, I strongly support HB 1896. Every day, my team works tirelessly to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of students who face significant challenges outside of school. We need policies that provide practical support, flexibility, and resources so we can focus on teaching and learning. HB 1896 recognizes the realities principals face and helps remove barriers that distract from our core mission. Our students deserve stable, well-supported schools led by empowered educators. This bill moves us in that direction, and I urge lawmakers to pass HB 1896 for the sake of our children.

**HB-1896-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 11:10:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lauren Peiler	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

**House Committee on Finance**

**Representative Chris Todd, Chair**

**Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair**

**March 2nd, 2026**

**RE: Support of HB 1896**

**Aloha Committee Members,**

**My name is Lauren Peiler & I am the Community Schools Coordinator at Princess Ruth Ke’elikolani Middle School. I am writing in strong support of HB 1896, which appropriates funding to the Department of Education for community schools.**

**The Community Schools framework has had an inspiring & transformative impact on the students, families & staff at Princess Ruth Ke’elikolani Middle School. I’ve had the amazing opportunity to see firsthand how systems of support have been created to have a positive, lasting impact on our students & families. Our FREE resource support services would not have been possible without the teamwork, collaboration & trusting relationships of our community partners. Our students & families are receiving a higher level of care/support by having access to a food pantry, clothing closet, hygiene station, government support services, and Hawaii Keiki Nurse.**

**I kindly ask that you please support HB 1896 as this will help our school communities continue to nourish & grow, as well as create thriving haumana in Hawaii.**

**Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to share my testimony with you.**

**Me ke aloha,**

**Lauren Peiler**

**HB-1896-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 9:49:23 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Savelio Makasini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Dear House of Finance,**

**My name is Savelio Makasini, and I support HB 1896 which would appropriate funds to the Department of Education for community schools.**

**I serve as a Community School Coordinator and have been a part of the Community Schools program for a couple months. Within that time frame, I have been able to get our Family Resource Center up and running at Kaimuki High School with the help of our admin, teachers and families. Our official opening was on the 18th of February! Research shows that family engagement and students' success will improve with 'Ohana Centers like this one. With this bill, we can sustain the work that has been put in, and continue to foster growth and success with families and students.**

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

**Sincerely,**

**Savelio "Nuki" Makasini**

House Committee on Finance  
Representative Chris Todd, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

March 2, 2026

RE: Support of HB 1896

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

My name is Evelyn Barut, community school coordinator at Dole Middle School and I am writing in strong support of HB 1896, which appropriates funding to the Department of Education for community schools.

At Governor Sanford B. Dole Middle School, I have seen firsthand how the community school model strengthens attendance, family engagement, and student achievement by aligning school staff, families, and community partners around shared goals. Through meaningful community partnerships, family engagement has increased significantly, particularly at school events and in our Ohana Center, where we operate a food pantry to support families in need.

Families also receive health services through the Hawaii Keiki Nurses program. Access to these essential resources allows families and students to focus on consistent school attendance and academic success. These supports remove barriers that might otherwise prevent students from thriving.

If this bill passes, it will help Dole Middle School and its community sustain the progress they have worked so hard to achieve in both academic performance and family engagement. Continued investment will ensure that this strategy can expand to benefit even more students and families.

I urge you to support HB 1896 to sustain the community schools movement in Hawaii and to better organize our resources around the success of learners, families, and communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Barut

Community School Coordinator



**HB-1896-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 7:54:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Heidi Ilyavi	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

My name is Heidi Ilyavi, and I serve as the Community School Coordinator at Waimea Elementary School. I am writing in strong support of HB1896.

In my role, I work at the intersection of education, family engagement, and community partnership. Every day, I see firsthand how students thrive when schools are resourced not just as places of instruction, but as hubs of community support.

Through partnerships and coordinated efforts, we have been able to address critical needs at Waimea Elementary. With the support of The Food Basket and dedicated community friends and volunteers, we established regular food distributions serving families who face food insecurity. These distributions ensure that our keiki come to school nourished and ready to learn, while also supporting the well-being of entire households.

We have also created a school garden that provides hands-on learning opportunities, strengthens cultural connection to ‘āina, and promotes healthy eating habits. The garden is more than an educational tool—it is a living classroom that teaches responsibility, sustainability, and community stewardship.

Additionally, I have successfully applied for and secured funding on behalf of the nonprofit organization I work with, Partners in Development, to bring additional resources and programming to our school community. These funds have helped expand services, strengthen partnerships, and respond flexibly to emerging needs.

However, this work depends on sustainable support. Community schools require consistent coordination, relationship-building, and funding to maintain and expand programs that address food security, enrichment, family engagement, and student wellness. HB1896 represents an investment in a proven model that strengthens not only schools, but entire communities.

By supporting HB1896, you are supporting:

- Increased food security for families
- Expanded enrichment and hands-on learning opportunities
- Stronger partnerships between schools and community organizations
- Improved student attendance, engagement, and overall well-being

As someone working directly with students and families, I can confidently say that the community school model works. It transforms schools into centers of opportunity and stability. I respectfully urge you to pass HB1896 and continue investing in the success of our keiki and communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Respectfully,

Heidi Ilyavi

Community School Coordinator

Waimea Elementary School

Partners in Development

**HB-1896-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 6:59:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bryan silver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of funding for after school programs. As a teacher and coach of robotics, my programs run exclusively after hours. The amount of good that comes from students being engaged in healthy activities after school hours and involved in the community is immeasurable. Help us to keep the lights on and the community growing.

Bryan Silver

Kalani High School

2025 Hawai'i State Teacher of the Year

Date: February 28, 2026

To: House Committee on Finance  
Representative Chris Todd, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
And members of the Committee

From: Douglas Imig, PhD  
2381 Aina Lani Place  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
Dougimig73@gmail.com

Re: Support for HB1896 which would appropriate funds to the Department of Education for Community Schools

Good morning. I am writing to express my strong support for passage of HB1896, which would strengthen the development of community schools to support student success across Hawai'i.

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. Community Schools are an investment in children, families, and our shared future. Quality Community Schools support higher student achievement and graduation rates and lead them to become contributing members of society by increasing opportunities for ALL students.

Community Schools work in partnership with community organizations, families, and other agencies to advance student outcomes by integrating student supports, active family and community engagement, collaborative leadership practices, and expanded and enriching learning time. Educators may work with partners such as local companies, nonprofits, and higher education institutions to offer students real-world projects that make learning more relevant and engaging. They build connections that can open the door to future opportunities.

The community schools strategy brings funding and resources into schools that would otherwise not be available to them, resulting in an impressive "return on investment" to the government support provided. A research study of community schools in New Mexico found that each \$1 invested in a Community Schools Coordinator returns approximately \$7.11 in net benefits. Kids and families do better when communities work together. More public funding can ensure that ALL students and families benefit from the holistic framework that Community Schools offer--including urban, suburban, and rural communities. It is also a great way to address the needs of parents and students who need specialized support--such as children with disabilities and English language learners.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB1896 which would provide critical infrastructure support to Hawai'i's community schools.



**HAWAII APPLESEED**  
CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of the Hawai‘i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Support for HB 1896 – Relating to Community Schools  
House Committee on Finance  
Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 2:00PM

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

**Hawai‘i Appleseed supports HB 1896**, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Education for community schools and a program manager position.

Public schools are one of the most critical community-oriented institutions we have as a society. The community schools movement seeks to intentionally integrate schools into their surrounding communities, giving parents, families, and other members of the community a place to learn and connect with one another. This is absolutely critical in a time where so many are socially isolated, and political differences have driven wedges into nearly every corner of society.

Community Schools partner with community organizations, families, and other agencies to advance student outcomes by integrating student supports, active family and community engagement, collaborative leadership practices, and expanded learning time. Educators may work with partners such as local companies, nonprofits, and higher education institutions to offer students real-world projects that make learning more relevant and engaging. They build connections that can open the door to future opportunities.

Furthermore, this strategy is crucial for building community disaster resilience, as seen during the global COVID pandemic. Community Schools are able to mobilize their community in times of uncertainty or hardship, through well-established partnerships built on trust. These partnerships can often ensure that basic needs, and other necessities are still available to those who need them.

Please support this bill to sustain the community schools movement in Hawai‘i and organize our resources towards the success of students, families, and communities.