



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

**Date:** 02/05/2026

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** EDN

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB2565, RELATING TO TEACHERS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to provide monetary awards to educators who are recognized by the legislature, during education week, for their accomplishments, excellence in teaching, leadership, and service.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2565, which appropriates funds to the Department to provide monetary awards to educators recognized by the Legislature for their accomplishments, excellence in teaching, leadership, and service.

The Department respectfully suggests the following change to bill language to provide clarity as to how the monetary award is intended to be distributed.

Amend lines 12-17 to read:

"Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to provide public school educators that are recognized by the legislature, during education week, in demonstrating excellence in teaching, leadership, and service with a one-time monetary award increase of five thousand dollars in their salaries for each the year of recognition, subject to available funds."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2565.

**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 2565 RELATING TO TEACHERS  
DATE: February 5, 2026  
TIME: 2:00 P.M.  
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education  
ROOM: Conference Room 309 & Videoconference  
FROM: Ed H. Noh, Ed. D., Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony that **SUPPORTS THE INTENT of HB 2565** which provides educators recognized by the Legislature during Education Week with a monetary increase of \$5,000 in their salaries for each year of recognition.

The Commission humbly requests that the Committee consider amending this measure by including public charter school teachers.

The Commission supports any initiatives that assist with attracting and retaining high-quality educators as well as elevating and recognizing those educators that provide exemplary service and instruction to our public school students.

The Commission is available to work with this committee, the DOE, and our public charter schools in moving this legislation forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



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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 EDUCATION

**Item: HB 2565 – Relating to Teachers**

**Position: Support with amendment**

**Hearing: Thursday, February 5, 2026, 2:00 pm, Room 309**

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

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

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports with a suggested amendment** H.B. 2565 which establishes a \$5,000 monetary increase in salary for educators recognized by the legislature during Education Week for demonstrating excellence in teaching, leadership, and service.

While we strongly support this measure, we request that it be amended to ensure equity across our public education system. We ask that the committee include language confirming these awards are available to all public educators, **including those in public charter schools.**

High-quality educators are essential to the wellbeing of Hawai'i's keiki and communities. This legislation supports ongoing efforts to attract and retain these professionals while formally acknowledging their success. Addressing teacher recognition in this manner is a critical component of ensuring access to high-quality learning opportunities for all students across the state.

Providing a financial award for exemplary performance demonstrates a clear appreciation for the efforts of educators. H.B. 2565 serves as a practical tool for recognizing those who demonstrate exceptional leadership and service in their profession.

HSTA urges this committee to pass this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**HB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:52:32 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
M. Leilani DeMello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I KĀKO‘O this bill. Our teachers should be recognized and rewarded for their excellence. All teachers, regular DOE AND charter schools alike.

Mahalo,

M. Leilani DeMello

‘Ōla‘a, Puna, Hawai‘i

**HB-2565**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 10:24:18 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry Oppose

2565 HB RELATING TO TEACHERS.