

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
EDUCATION

Tuesday, April 7, 2026
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 13, HOUSE DRAFT 1
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND STATE PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION TO COLLABORATE WITH THE
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOP A
STUDENT CORAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.

House Concurrent Resolution 13, House Draft 1 requests the Department of Education and State Public Charter School Commission to collaborate with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to develop a Student Coral Stewardship Program that assists with public education, outreach, and reef-safe sunscreen awareness at state beaches. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The Department agrees that improving public education and awareness regarding reef-safe practices can help protect coral reefs. A Student Coral Stewardship Program that assists with public education, outreach, and awareness of reef-safe practices is a great way to provide students with increased knowledge and hands-on experience with marine stewardship.

The Department would be happy to collaborate with the Department of Education and State Public Charter School Commission in the development of this program. The Department can provide information on the status of Hawai'i's coral reefs, key issues and threats facing them, and recommendations for reef-safe practices.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HCR-13-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 4:55:14 PM

Testimony for EDN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
steven hyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe this was the will of the queen to support the Hawaiian people and should only be granted to children with at least 1/8 Hawaiian blood which I have

mahalo nui loa

HCR-13-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 11:40:51 PM

Testimony for EDN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

13 HCR REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION TO COLLABORATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOP A STUDENT CORAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.



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

Date: 04/07/2026

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: EDN

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HCR13, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION TO COLLABORATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOP A STUDENT CORAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.

Purpose of Bill: Requesting The Department Of Education And State Public Charter School Commission To Collaborate With The Department Of Land And Natural Resources To Develop A Student Coral Stewardship Program.

Department's Position:

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the opportunity to testify on HCR 13 HD1 and offers comments.

HCR 13 HD1 requests that the Department of Education and State Public Charter School Commission collaborate with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to develop a student coral stewardship program focused on public education, outreach, reef-safe practices, and sunscreen awareness.

While the Department supports the intent of this measure and recognizes potential benefits to students and the community, the Department respectfully suggests that DLNR is better positioned to lead the development of a voluntary student coral stewardship program given their expertise in coral science and outreach education and as outlined in the original HCR 13. The Department is willing to be a participant in the workgroup and welcomes partnerships with DLNR and others.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.