



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:** 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE  
**Committee:** FIN

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB3332, HD1, RELATING TO STATE-FUNDED TRAVEL.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires reports on travel taken by certain state agencies and for the reports to be submitted to the money committees of the Legislature. Sunsets 6/30/2028. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on SB 3332, SD 1, HD 1. This measure requires each state agency to submit annual reports of its state-funded travel to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and to the House Committee on Finance. The requirement would be repealed on June 30, 2028.

The Department is cognizant of the current higher than usual degree of economic and fiscal uncertainty in which this measure is being considered and shares the goal of careful prioritization of expenditures in light of this uncertainty.

The measure requires the following information on the reports submitted:

1. Identification of all travelers by position number;
2. The number of trips approved for each position;
3. The purpose and location of each trip;
4. A brief explanation of how each trip advanced the priority of the state function;
5. Certification that remote participation alternatives were evaluated and determined to be insufficient; and
6. Total cost of each trip, including airfare, lodging, transportation, registration, per diem, and any other related travel expenses.

The Department captures much of this information on paper forms, which would have to be converted into a digital format with the information being captured and compiled into an electronic report. Other information may have to be entered manually, such as position number, into the requested report. This process will take additional staff time and possibly additional costs to complete.

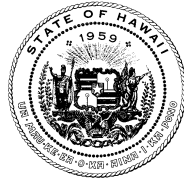
The purpose of the measure is to "emphasize efficiency, accountability, and

resourcefulness in the use of public funds during austere fiscal times . . ." As such, the Department would note that concerns with the fiscal outlook for the State were communicated in writing to school and complex area leaders in the past year, and the Department's travel guidelines already encourage the use of teleconferencing and webinars in place of travel when feasible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 3332, SD 1, HD 1.

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



STACEY A. ALDRICH  
STATE LIBRARIAN  
Ke Po'o Hale Waihana Puke Moku'āina

STATE OF HAWAII  
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM  
'OIHANA HALE WAIHONA PUKE AUPUNI O KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII'  
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN  
44 MERCHANT STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
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**House Committee on Finance**  
**April 7, 2026, 2:00p.m.**  
**State Capitol, Room 308**

**SB 3332 HD1 – Relating to State-Funded Travel**

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

The Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS) offers **comments** on SB3332 SD1 which requires reports on travel taken by certain state agencies and for the reports to be submitted to the money committees of the Legislature. Sunsets 6/30/2028.

The HSPLS operates 51 branch libraries on six islands, and has over 450 employees statewide. While branch library staff focus on providing services to the public, almost all other necessary support office staff are located on Oahu where approximately 50% of the public libraries are located. Rather than having additional permanent support staff on all neighbor islands, it is more efficient to have HSPLS support staff fly to neighbor island locations on an as-needed basis.

The HSPLS appreciates the intent of this measure to control work-related travel during a period of fiscal uncertainty. As noted in our earlier testimonies, HSPLS travel is primarily due to the lack of specialized support staff on the neighbor islands and therefore a blanket moratorium would undermine HSPLS' ability to provide library services statewide. The HD1 will now create additional administrative reporting requirements in order for HSPLS to address operational needs at our neighbor island libraries.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB3332 HD1 and for your continued support of the Hawai'i State Public Library System.



The House Committee on Finance

April 7, 2026

Room 308

2:00 PM

**RE: SB 3332 SD1 HD1, Relating to State-Funded Travel**

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, **supports SB 3332 SD1 HD1**.

**Appreciation for Removing the Travel Moratorium.** We extend our appreciation to the prior committee for removing the state-funded travel moratorium and arbitrary trip caps proposed in earlier draft. A rigid, "one-size-fits-all" ban would have severely hindered the University's core mission, as academic research, professional development, and extramural funding heavily rely on the ability to attend and present at professional conferences. We thank the prior committee for recognizing that travel approvals are fundamental management decisions that must be based on operational needs, rather than broad statutory mandates.

**Support for Administrative Accountability.** UHPA has always supported the Legislature's goal of ensuring fiscal responsibility. The SD1 HD1 draft achieves this by replacing the moratorium with a practical annual reporting requirement. Mandating that state agencies, including the University of Hawai'i, submit reports detailing travel justifications, costs, and the insufficiency of remote alternatives establishes rigorous accountability and transparency. This approach allows the Legislature to effectively monitor expenditures without micromanaging day-to-day operations or sacrificing our workforce's effectiveness.

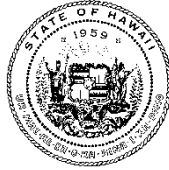
By restoring management flexibility while mandating strict reporting, this measure ensures that our university personnel can continue their vital professional activities while remaining fully accountable to the public. **UHPA supports the passage of SB 3332 SD1 HD1.**

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern  
Executive Director  
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly

**University of Hawaii  
Professional Assembly**

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



**BONNIE KAHAKUI**  
ADMINISTRATOR  
**DAYNA OMIYA**  
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I**  
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TESTIMONY  
OF  
**BONNIE KAHAKUI, ADMINISTRATOR**  
**STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON  
FINANCE

April 7, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

SENATE BILL 3332, SD1, HD1  
RELATING TO STATE-FUNDED TRAVEL

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 3332, SD1, HD1.

The State Procurement Office (SPO) appreciates that House Draft 1 of this bill incorporates our recommendation of removing the state-funded travel moratorium as our current rules require justification of travel expenses and alignment with state priorities. Our existing rules allow agencies to evaluate travel requests individually to ensure that critical activities such as professional development, training, and collaboration are not disrupted.

Current policies emphasize cost-effective travel and encourage remote participation whenever practical. At the same time, policies recognize that engagement with peers is vital for professional growth.

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