

Date of Hearing: March 27, 2008

Committee: Senate Education

LATE

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: H.B. 2971, HD1, SD1, (SSCR2973), Relating to Education

Purpose: Requires the department of education to implement recommendations of the online learning task force. (SD1)

Department's Position: The Department strongly supports this bill and requests the Legislature's support in accepting the online task force's recommendation. Should funds be available beyond the Board's priorities, we request initial funding of \$1.5 million annually over the three years of expansion. Providing \$4.5 million implementation funding over three years creates the necessary momentum to develop a sustainable growth model. If funds are not appropriated, the DOE will implement the recommendations as far as possible with current funds.

Online learning is the strategic vehicle that makes possible the transformation of the Department of Education into a 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning institution. It provides a flexible, alternative environment for our students. It is the catalyst for the delivery of education and training throughout the P-20 landscape, as well as workforce development for Hawaii. The DOE requests that a section be added to repeal this statute June 30, 2013.