

Date of Hearing: March 18, 2008

Committee: House Education/Higher Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: H.C.R. No. 162 (HR 135), Urging Congress to pass legislation requiring full funding of the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Purpose: To urge Congress to pass legislation requiring full funding of the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports H.C.R. No. 162 (HR 135). When the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was enacted in 1975, Congress made a commitment to fund 40% of the educational costs of students with disabilities. The reauthorization of the IDEA in 2004 authorized specific funding levels allowing an increase in federal funding to increase from 18% in 2004 to 40% by 2011. Unfortunately, however, funding levels have never matched the amounts specified and have actually declined dropping to an estimated 17.2% for the 2008 fiscal year. The remainder of the educational costs is covered by state funds. As the average per pupil expenditure continues to increase, the federal funding should also coincide with the authorization levels in the IDEA. The Department supports H.C.R. No. 162 (HR 135).