

Date: 03/09/2010

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2567, SD1 (SSCR 2573) Relating to Education

Purpose of Bill: Requires the DOE to approve one set of teaching materials, that are consistent with the Race to the Top fund selected criteria, to be used by all public schools, except upon approval of a waiver; require standards-based curriculum to include the set of teaching materials; collaborate with certain organizations to select and approve the set of teaching materials; and report findings to the legislature.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (DOE) supports SB 2567, SD1. The DOE, along with 48 other states and two territories, is committed to the adoption of the National Common Core Standards (NCCS) which is consistent with the federal government's Race to the Top fund criteria. Upon adoption of the NCCS by the Hawaii State Board of Education, the DOE will require the use of school-based curriculum which will include teaching materials that are aligned to the NCCS, except upon approval of a waiver submitted by a public school to the department. Appropriate levels of funding to support school purchase of the teaching materials are requested.

The DOE will initiate a collaborative effort with the Joint Venture Education Forum and the Department of Defense Education Activity toward selection and approval of a standard set of teaching materials for all of Hawaii's public schools. In addition, the DOE will submit a report of findings and recommendations, including recommended legislation to the 2011 legislature.

Linda Lingle
Governor



Vanelle Maunalei Love
Executive Director

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FOR: SB2567 SD1, Relating to Education
DATE: Tuesday, March 9, 2010
TIME: 2:30 p.m.
COMMITTEE(S): Education and Higher Education
ROOM: Conference Room 309
FROM: Maunalei Love, Executive Director

Testimony on S.B. No. 2567 S.D. No. 1

Chairs Roy Takumi and Jerry Chang,
Vice Chairs Lyla Berg and Mark Nakashima,
and Members of the Committees:

Aloha,

I am Maunalei Love, executive director of the Hawaii Charter School Administrative Office (“CSAO”). I want to thank the chair and the entire committee for the time and effort being spent to remedy the issue of adequately providing needed resources to all public schools by positioning Hawaii to compete for federal grants, including the Race to the Top. The CSAO supports providing all of Hawaii’s students the educational opportunities that will enable them to succeed.

While we support the intent of this bill to provide Hawaii’s public school students with the best educational opportunities possible by ensuring Hawaii’s competitiveness for federal grants, we cannot support this bill’s approach because it would inhibit the autonomous ability of charter schools in providing instruction, even with the waiver language. This bill is problematic because it seeks to standardize curricula statewide and charter curricula, by its very nature is individualistic and unique (e.g. under project based instruction). Nor do we believe that a standardized curriculum is the goal of the federal government as enunciated in the Race to the Top.

Transparency, accountability, and successful outcomes (as often embodied in charter schools) are what are encouraged by the Race to the Top and other federal incentive grants. For these reasons, we cannot support this bill. If the committees find it necessary to pass this bill, we request that **charter schools be excluded from this new requirement** for the reasons listed above.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.