

SCR77

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A
STATEWIDE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TO
ASSIST THE COMPLEX AREAS IN CREATING
ENDOWMENTS TO BENEFIT HAWAII'S PUBLIC
SCHOOLS.

EDU, WAM

Date: 03/23/2012

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SCR 077 REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TO ASSIST THE COMPLEX AREAS IN CREATING ENDOWMENTS TO BENEFIT HAWAII'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Purpose of Bill: Requests the Board of Education and Department of Education to establish a statewide resource development program to assist the complex areas in creating endowments to benefit Hawaii's public schools.

Department's Position:

The Department agrees a statewide resource development program that assists in the establishment of substantial endowments with effective support and organizational training for the benefit of Hawaii's public schools will be beneficial. With that said, the Department will begin an internal review of available supports and resources for subject program. The Department looks forward to this unique opportunity to collaborate with the Hilo High Foundation, Farrington Foundation, and Kahuku.org.



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**TESTIMONY FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 77, RELATING TO
PUBLIC SCHOOL ENDOWMENTS**

**Senate Committee on Education
Hon. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

**Friday, March 23, 2012, 1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

Honorable Chair Tokuda and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 150 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of, with proposed amendments for SCR 77, relating to public school endowments.

As this resolution's preamble states, Hawaii's public school system has never been—and, perhaps, never will be—funded to the extent that the needs of its administrators, teachers, and students are perfectly accounted for. Fundraising organizations, which typically take the form of non-profit groups, are one way of offsetting a portion of the financial burden, however, as they provide valuable financial support and grant sharing for classroom resources, as well as schoolwide student learning programs. The Ko'olauloa Educational Alliance Corporation (KEAC), affiliated with Kahuku High School, is an excellent example of how “endowment” programs can work to better student opportunities. Since its inception during the 1996-1997 school year, KEAC has facilitated the employment of Japanese language students as interpreters at Hilton Turtle Bay, conducted assessments of work-skills needs within the Ko'olauloa community, instituted an e-Entrepreneurship program to teach students how to manage a business (via kahuku.org, the school store), and received grants of \$25,000 from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation to provide venture capital for students with promising entrepreneurial ideas and \$186,000 from the Workforce Investment Act to implement “Step Ahead,” a youth employment training program. Additionally, the group returns 80 percent of the proceeds received on kahuku.org purchases of student produced, Kahuku-themed merchandise to Kahuku High and Intermediate.

That said, we respectfully request that all references to “kahuku.org” that appear in this resolution be replaced with the designation “Ko'olauloa Educational Alliance Corporation.” While Kahuku.org is one of many successful projects undertaken by KEAC to assist the Kahuku community, it is but one venture operated under KEAC, the official designation of the 501(c)(3) to which this resolution refers.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this resolution.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director
IMUAlliance