

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

SHAN TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

FREDERICK D. PABLO
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

JOSHUA WISCH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

To: The Honorable Clift Tsuji, Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Business

Date: Tuesday, February 5, 2013
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 312, State Capitol

From: Frederick D. Pablo, Director
Department of Taxation

Re: H.B. 1368 Relating to Education

The Department appreciates the intent of H.B.1368 and provides the following information and comments for your consideration.

H.B. 1368 increases the general excise tax (GET) tax rate to 5% and dedicates twenty per cent of total GE tax revenues to a special fund for public education. The 5% rate is effective after December 31, 2013.

The Department defers to the Department on Budget and Finance in regards to the merits of such an increase and allocations to a special fund. Changing the retail rate of GET from 4% to 5% is a significant undertaking for the Department that would require changes to the forms, instructions, and computer programming. The Department believes that it can make the required changes to comply with the effective date set forth in this bill provided that certain types of gross receipts are not carved out from the retail rate. In its current form, this bill does not carve out gross receipts subject to the retail rate of 5%.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Legislative Director

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 1368, RELATING TO EDUCATION

House Committee on Economic Development and Business

Hon. Clift Tsuji, Chair

Hon. Gene Ward, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 5, 2013, 9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

Honorable Chair Tsuji 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 the intent of, with proposed amendments for HB 1368, relating to education.

In many ways, Hawaii's education system is in a state of disrepair. Local teachers face the highest cost of living in the country—over the past five years, Hawaii has an ACCRA value that typically fluctuates between 160 to 165, giving teachers a COL-adjusted income of \$31,854 per year, roughly \$4,000 below the next-to-last ranked state (Maine), according to statistics compiled and released by the U.S. Census Bureau. Similarly, Hawaii was recently ranked second-worst in a Center for Budget and Policy Priorities ranking of per-pupil spending cuts, with Hawaii cutting \$1,175 in per-pupil spending between FY 2008 and FY 2012, adjusted for inflation. To put a fine point on the plight of educators, approximately 50 percent of local teachers flee our state's classrooms every five years—the highest attrition rate in the the nation—because of low teacher pay and miserly working conditions (Hawaii spends less on capital improvement projects, per pupil, than any other state in the country, too). Thus, we applaud all efforts to funnel money toward our children's future.

At the same time, the general excise tax is widely considered to be the most regressive local tax, disproportionately impacting the state's most impoverished residents, who spend the majority of their income on day-to-day living expenses. As you are well aware, the excise tax “pyramids,” affecting and compounding all

transactions in the production chain, driving up consumer prices by far more than a penny-per-dollar (as a one-cent increase implies). We also note that, while Section 6 of this bill directs 20 percent of all general excise tax revenue to be deposited into a special account for the DOE, “which amount shall be in addition to and not substituted for moneys otherwise appropriated to the department,” nothing in the bill prevents lawmakers from appropriating fewer funds to the department in subsequent years or ties departmental appropriations to inflation or COL adjustments. Thus, we're left wondering what would happen if, in future years, lawmakers are faced with crippling budget deficits or economic crises, like the ever-increasing unfunded pension liability that now looms ominously over the state's credit rating. Would legislators simply appropriate less revenue to the DOE, displacing any “additional” GET revenue toward other cost items? In fact, might this be prudent in certain years? And what guarantee can lawmakers make that additional departmental revenue will result in higher teacher salaries, the prime concern of teachers currently protesting the lack of an equitable contract?

That said, we agree with the impetus of this bill, which is to generate additional revenue for education and, hopefully, educators. With that in mind, should the bill be deemed fit for passage as sound fiscal policy, we offer the following amendments to make the bill's imposition of a GET increase less regressive and better target generated revenue toward the measure's stated purpose. To begin, we urge the committee to direct GET revenue for higher teacher pay by **amending Section 6 of this bill to read: “§237-31 Remittances. (a)** All remittances of taxes imposed by this chapter shall be made by money, bank draft, check, cashier's check, money order, or certificate of deposit to the office of the department of taxation to which the return was transmitted.

(b) The department shall issue its receipts therefor to the taxpayer and shall pay the moneys into the state treasury as a state realization, to be kept and accounted for as provided by law; provided that:

(1) The sum from all general excise tax revenues realized by the State that represents the difference between \$45,000,000 and the proceeds from the sale of any general obligation bonds authorized for that fiscal year for the purposes of the state educational facilities improvement special fund shall be deposited in the state treasury in each fiscal year to the credit of the state educational facilities improvement special fund;

(2) A sum, not to exceed \$5,000,000, from all general excise tax revenues realized by the State shall be deposited in the state treasury in each fiscal year to the credit of the compound interest bond reserve fund; ~~and~~

(3) A sum from all general excise tax revenues realized by the State that is equal to one-half of the total amount of funds appropriated or transferred out of the hurricane reserve trust fund under sections 4 and 5 of Act 62, Session Laws of Hawaii 2011, shall be deposited into the hurricane reserve trust fund in fiscal year 2013-2014 and in fiscal year 2014-2015; provided that the deposit required in each fiscal year shall be made by October 1 of that fiscal year."

(c) Notwithstanding subsection (b), beginning on July 1, 2013, the additional revenues generated and collected from the increase in general excise tax rates imposed by sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 of Act __, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, shall be deposited into the teacher recruitment and retention special fund established under section 302A- __.

In conjunction, we encourage the committee to **replace the current contents of Section 9 of this bill with the details of a "teacher recruitment and retention special fund," to be established as follows: §302A- Teacher recruitment and retention special fund. (a) There is established within the state treasury a special fund to be known as the teacher recruitment and retention special fund to be administered by the department of education, into which shall be deposited general excise tax revenues as provided by section 237-31(c).**

(b) No less than fifty percent of the moneys allocated to the special fund in each fiscal year shall be reserved for use by the state of Hawaii to pay for collective bargaining agreements made with bargaining unit (5) consistent with chapter 89. The moneys in the special fund may also be used by the department of education for programs and grants or purchases of service consistent with chapter 42D that support or provide professional development for teachers. Moneys in the special fund shall be used for the following:

(1) New or existing collective bargaining agreements; or

(2) New or existing professional development programs.

Moneys in the special fund shall not supplant any other moneys previously allocated to collective bargaining agreements and professional development programs.

(d) The department of taxation shall submit an annual report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session providing the following:

(1) An accounting of the receipts of, and expenditures from, the special fund;

(2) Recommendations on how to improve professional development for teachers; and

(3) Recommendations on how to improve teacher recruitment and retention.

To make the GET increase proposed by this bill less regressive, we humbly request that you **double the basic standard deduction amounts enumerated in HRS 235-2.4 in the following manner:** Section 235-2.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows: "(a) Section 63 (with respect to taxable income defined) of the Internal Revenue Code shall be operative for the purposes of this chapter, subject to the following:

(1) Sections 63(c)(1)(B) (relating to the additional standard deduction), 63(c)(1)(C) (relating to the real property tax deduction), 63(c)(1)(D) (relating to the disaster loss deduction), 63(c)(1)(E) (relating to the motor vehicle sales tax deduction), 63(c)(4) (relating to inflation adjustments), 63(c)(7) (defining the real property tax deduction), 63(c)(8) (defining the disaster loss deduction), 63(c)(9) (defining the motor vehicle sales tax deduction), and 63(f) (relating to additional amounts for the aged or blind) of the Internal Revenue Code shall not be operative for purposes of this chapter;

(2) Section 63(c)(2) (relating to the basic standard deduction) of the Internal Revenue Code shall be operative, except that the standard deduction amounts provided therein shall instead mean:

(A) [~~\$4,400~~] **\$8,800** in the case of:

(i) A joint return as provided by section 235-93; or

- (ii) A surviving spouse (as defined in section 2(a) of the Internal Revenue Code);
 - (B) ~~[\$3,212]~~ \$6,424 in the case of a head of household (as defined in section 2(b) of the Internal Revenue Code);
 - (C) ~~[\$2,200]~~ \$4,400 in the case of an individual who is not married and who is not a surviving spouse or head of household; or
 - (D) ~~[\$2,200]~~ \$4,400 in the case of a married individual filing a separate return;
- (3) Section 63(c)(5) (limiting the basic standard deduction in the case of certain dependents) of the Internal Revenue Code shall be operative, except that the limitation shall be the greater of \$500 or such individual's earned income; and
- (4) The standard deduction amount for nonresidents shall be calculated pursuant to section 235-5."

Additionally, we urge the committee to **expand the tax credit allowable under HRS 235-55.6, expenses for household and dependent care services, as follows:** Section 235-55.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows: "(a) Allowance of credit.

(1) In general. For each resident taxpayer, who files an individual income tax return for a taxable year, and who is not claimed or is not otherwise eligible to be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer for federal or Hawaii state individual income tax purposes, who maintains a household which includes as a member one or more qualifying individuals (as defined in subsection (b)(1)), there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter for the taxable year an amount equal to the applicable percentage of the employment-related expenses (as defined in subsection (b)(2)) paid by such individual during the taxable year. If the tax credit claimed by a resident taxpayer exceeds the amount of income tax payment due from the resident taxpayer, the excess of the credit over payments due shall be refunded to the resident taxpayer; provided that tax credit properly claimed by a resident individual who has no income tax liability shall be paid to the resident individual; and provided further that no refunds or payment on account of the tax credit allowed by this section shall be made for amounts less than \$1.

(2) Applicable percentage defined. For purposes of paragraph (1), the term "applicable percentage" ~~[means twenty-five per cent reduced (but not below fifteen per cent) by one percentage point of each \$2,000 (or fraction~~

~~thereof) by which the taxpayer's adjusted gross income for the taxable year exceeds \$22,000.] means:~~

Adjusted gross income Applicable percentage

<u>\$0 through \$22,000</u>	<u>50%</u>
<u>\$22,001 through \$24,000</u>	<u>48%</u>
<u>\$24,001 through \$26,000</u>	<u>46%</u>
<u>\$26,001 through \$28,000</u>	<u>44%</u>
<u>\$28,001 through \$30,000</u>	<u>42%</u>
<u>\$30,001 through \$32,000</u>	<u>40%</u>
<u>\$32,001 through \$34,000</u>	<u>38%</u>
<u>\$34,001 through \$36,000</u>	<u>36%</u>
<u>\$36,001 through \$38,000</u>	<u>34%</u>
<u>\$38,001 through \$40,000</u>	<u>32%</u>
<u>\$40,001 and over</u>	<u>30%</u>

We also believe that the committee should **consider increasing the income tax credit for low-income household renters per:** Section 235-55.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows: "(c) Each taxpayer with an adjusted gross income of less than \$30,000 who has paid more than \$1,000 in rent during the taxable year for which the credit is claimed may claim a tax credit of ~~[\$50]~~ **\$100** multiplied by the number of qualified exemptions to which the taxpayer is entitled; provided each taxpayer sixty-five years of age or over may claim double the tax credit; and provided that a resident individual who has no income or no income taxable under this chapter may also claim the tax credit as set forth in this section."

Finally, we encourage the committee to **double the refundable food credit under HRS 235-55.85 as follows:** Section 235-55.85, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows: "(b) Each resident individual taxpayer may claim a refundable food/excise tax credit multiplied by the number of qualified exemptions to which the taxpayer is entitled in accordance with the table below; provided that a husband and wife filing separate tax returns for a taxable year for which a joint return could have

been filed by them shall claim only the tax credit to which they would have been entitled had a joint return been filed.

Adjusted gross income	Credit per exemption
Under \$5,000	[\$85] <u>\$170</u>
\$5,000 under \$10,000	[75] <u>150</u>
\$10,000 under \$15,000	[65] <u>130</u>
\$15,000 under \$20,000	[55] <u>110</u>
\$20,000 under \$30,000	[45] <u>90</u>
\$30,000 under \$40,000	[35] <u>70</u>
\$40,000 under \$50,000	[25] <u>50</u>
\$50,000 and over	0"

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of the intent of, with proposed amendments for this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director
IMUAlliance

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2013 10:54 AM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: captainjamie@hawaii charterboat.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/1/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jamie Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have to work on February 05, 2013 and therefore will not be able to attend this meeting. However, I would like it noted that I am in support of HB 1368.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2013 1:12 PM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: jjflash007@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM*

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/1/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jack Little	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

HB1368

Testimony in support

I urge you to support HB1368. Our State has cut every possible ounce of fat from the Education budgets. Hawaii has one of the lowest per capita tax rates in the U.S.. It is time that we raise our revenues and begin to address the problems of substandard school buildings and resources. We cannot continue as we are presently; additional funds are necessary to even begin to solve our many school related problems. This cannot wait. Please support passage of this bill.

Patti Pinto

PO Box 830

Keaau, HI 96749

pintonian@hotmail.com

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2013 2:02 PM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: lauer@hawaiiintel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/1/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suzanne Lauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a mother of a State of Hawaii elementary teacher I support this legislation. Education of our children should be a top priority. One reason our public schools fall so far behind our private schools is money. Money for salaries, text books, computers, classroom supplies and furniture, and building maintenance. We must invest in our future by funding education today.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2013 2:29 PM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: epasalo@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM
Attachments: Testimony.doc

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/1/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ervin Pasalo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

I have been teaching for the Department of Education for seven years and I am getting paid less now than when I first started. I have a Doctorate Degree in Education but still don't make enough to pay off my student loans and rent. All I am asking is for a little funding so that teachers can get a fair contract. I never thought I'd feel so underappreciated as a teacher. I joined this profession to make a difference in the world, but it is hard to do when it's my own life that is struggling. Please find the funds to improve education. If not for teachers, then at least for the keiki of Hawaii.

Testimony for Hearing on HB 1368 on Tuesday February 5, 2013

February 1, 2013

Dear Representative Tsugi, Representative Ward, and esteemed members of the Economic Development and Business Committee,

My name is Mark Adato, and I am a 4th year teacher at James Campbell High School in Ewa Beach. Although being a teacher in Hawai'i is the most fulfilling, meaningful, and important job I've ever had, I am currently looking for another place to work for next year. I have to make the decision between staying in this job that I have finally become good at after 4 long years with a steep learning curve, or moving to another job where I can actually afford to buy a house and start a family someday in the near future. I think it is ridiculous that I have to make that decision, but I am lucky enough that I have the flexibility in my youth to do so. Thousands of other teachers that work here in Hawai'i don't have that flexibility, though, and are suffering under the conditions that we are forced to endure. I have friends with families who have had to take on second jobs, move in with relatives, or have left the field entirely. Looking at the difference between how much teachers in Hawai'i are paid, and how much teachers in other parts of the country with similar costs of living, there is anywhere from a \$20,000 to \$90,000 difference in salary. Is it any wonder why more than half of the teachers who work here leave within the first 5 years?

The state has set public education as one of its lowest fiscal priorities and, as a result, Hawai'i teachers rank 50th in the country in terms of comfort level. Increasing teachers' salaries is an expensive proposition because of how many of us there are. But guess what? Our classrooms are still overly crowded and we still don't have enough educators to teach all of our children. I have personally only had two classes out of the 24 that I have taught which did not break the fire code in terms of max bodies in the room. What does that tell us? There are a lot of kids out there that need teachers! Instead of continuing to stretch our education resources to an even more ineffective level, funds for education need to be increased. We have set a precedent that has landed Hawai'i as the 4th worst public education system in the country. Many factors, including teacher retention, need to be addressed.

In the meantime, I'm sure a well-meaning, under-qualified young teacher will take my spot and, with a few years of experience, become as effective a teacher as I have become after my long road. Of course by then, they'll be looking for another job as well.

Aloha,
Mark Adato

To Whom It May Concern:

The quality of education offered in a community, has a direct correlation to a number of important social factors. Statistics reflecting crime, teenage pregnancy, drug use, and domestic violence all exhibit reverse correlations to the quality of education that is provided in that area. The quality of schools, and most importantly the teachers that work at there, play quite possibly the most important role in fostering healthy and productive communities. This is even truer in low-income communities. In accepting the mediocrity of the public school system in Hawaii, our leaders are jeopardizing not only our kids ability to read novels, write paragraphs, and solve equations, but the prospects of them living fulfilling and successful lives; of the prospects of our community members learning to work with others, respect differences, and protect the environment.

There is not a profession on Earth that accepts compliments and warm hearted gestures as adequate forms of compensation for hard work. Yes teachers have summers and holidays off. Their contract hours end at 3:00 p.m., and they even get to wear tennis shoes to work! Believing that these characteristics are all that define the teaching profession is as ludicrous as believing that all politicians' due is giving uplifting speeches and attend fundraising dinners. In failing to investigate the realities of a given profession, one can easily under appreciate the intensity of a job and all that it demands.

My days don't start at 8:00 am. They don't end at 3:00 pm. My days start at 5:50 am when my alarm goes off. I drive to school in the dark so that I can open my classroom by 7:00 am. Just like any businessman planning a presentation, let alone 4 hours of presentation, we teachers like to review and tweak our lessons. We like to find ways of making lessons more powerful and inspirational to the point where students aren't just learning how to pass the HSA, but learning how to think and feel like responsible adults. As an inclusion special educator, every single second of a period is spent walking, talking, grading, or on my knees teaching. Every single second. I spend my lunches tutoring students, giving lunch detention, or discussing ways we can overcome their feelings of depression. My room during lunch is usually filled with students who need to make up assignments, quizzes, and tests as they know that there isn't some magical period for make up work.

I receive a planning period during 4th period. This is meant to serve an 80 minute block where I can grade papers, plan lessons, and call parents. My planning period is often taken by professional development and other school-wide duties. In the afternoon, I attend anywhere from 1 to 4 IEP meetings/PTC meetings a week. These meetings last roughly 1 hour and begin at 2:30. When the clock strikes 3:00 pm., I then have time to think about the next day's lesson, the stack of ninety, four page essay tests I need to grade, or the list of parents I need to inform of their child's low grade. While I do admit I have a few hours to work out and eat dinner each day, my days usually end sometime around 10:00 pm. I close my computer or put away the stack of papers, and climb into bed.

I could go on for hours discussing ways in which my job is harder than you realize. I do not expect the leaders of this state to know or care about my difficult job specifically. I just hope they have the decency to start investigating the trials of the teaching profession by visiting classrooms. I hope they have the decency to visit low-income schools on a day that is not full of photo shoots or ground breaking ceremonies. I hope this not because I am bitter and want to make a statement. I hope this because by building a greater understanding of our work, our leaders will see how badly we need great teachers. Great teachers, like great anything, need the incentives to be great. And our students deserve great.

Yours truly,

Thomas Carroll

Student to teacher ratios in Hawaii are ridiculous. Have you ever been on a plane or in a movie theater where there was a teenager that couldn't sit still or keep quiet? How about the mall or at the grocery store and you see a teenager talk back or give attitude to a parent or employee? What about kids that litter when there are trash cans within steps? Have you ever used the term, "kids are so different today, we would've never gotten away with that"

Now imagine these types of kids with behavior problems also having problems originating from being hungry, don't want to be in school, that read, write and compute mathematics at a level well below their current grade, not using English as their primary language, living with foster parents, having learning disorders, being bullied, raging hormones and the list goes on.

Imagine now having 40 of these types of students per period. For many teachers including myself, we do not need to imagine because it's our reality. My largest class has 40 students and my average per period has 37 students.

Many teachers find this teacher to student ratio overwhelming. The classroom sizes in Hawaii are unacceptable. One teacher for 40 students at a time is insufficient. The teaching profession in Hawaii has a 65% turn over rate that the state cannot keep up with causing the classroom sizes to keep growing. The state has been relying on people off the street that do not have any teaching credentials. The cause of this high turn over rate is due to the salary that Hawaii teachers are paid. For students, this is a losing situation. Students today have a horrible learning environment. Among a long list, students have to wait a long time and at times do not get the help they need because there are too many students in class.

How can teachers be fully effective when they are trying to split their time over hundreds of students? The answer to that question is, we cannot and we need your help.

Teachers in Hawaii cannot afford to make a living on a teacher's salary without having a second job or without being on welfare. That is a sad reality knowing that all highly qualified teachers have EARNED at MINIMUM a Bachelor's Degree in a specific area of Education where many teachers have EARNED a Master's Degree and or a Phd. This is wrong and needs to change.

By passing this bill, you can be that change that Hawaii's education needs and you will truly impact the lives and education of each current and future student. By passing this bill the state will be able to retain quality teachers causing the turn over rate to be lower, resulting in smaller classroom sizes that would grant teachers quality time to spend in educating all the children of Hawaii.

Tracie Koide

Math Teacher
James Campbell High School

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2013 6:13 PM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: Japanese_wannabe@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/1/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arnel Abendanio	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I believe that our children is our future and without education our future will be in jeopardy. As a high school senior seeing the younger generation being less disciplined and less involved in school activities is sad. Teachers help change the children's lives by becoming a mentor and helping them not only through there classrooms but also with the time spent even after the children have moved on.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2013 7:20 PM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: walliswahine@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/1/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Wallis	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support raising the GET tax rate to help fund education. The leaders of tomorrow's Hawaii are in the classroom now, isn't that worth investing in? I would also support raising the property tax on property valued above \$250k.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2013 7:24 PM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: karen.canada@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/1/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Canada	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am total support of this bill. I am just one of the 13,000 public school teachers that will have to leave at the end of this school year if something is not done. I have a masters degree and have been deemed "highly qualified". If this state does not value me or my qualifications, I WILL move to a state that will!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2013 8:05 PM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: Ersmith30@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/1/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erich Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Teacher pay is pathetic in Hawaii. I made more money 5 years ago teaching in the Midwest. Housing costs are about a third of what they are here.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2013 8:39 PM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: oscarramiscal@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/1/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Oscar Ramiscal	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in full support of HB1368. Here is why I ask that you consider moving the bill forward. I endured the last teacher strike of 2001 and we cringed when we needed to make up for loss learning time on the part of students. This generation of students have multiple learning styles; this tends to pose challenges in the classroom where a more demanding educational system requires almost ALL students to be proficient. Times have changed yet the value of the teaching profession by those who fund the resources to support our students and teachers has decreased. Our collective efforts to instruct to 21st century teaching paradigms, attend numerous professional development sessions, and incur out-of-pocket expenses to provide a decent learning environment for our students have been personal investments with minimal dividends. Adding to the woeful situation is the sacrifice by teachers to take a 10% paycut in these economic times, yet we see other professionals getting way more favorable salary increases. Please bring back the respect and honor that our profession begs you to help restore; it is your support that will attract new teachers and retain our dedicated teachers. It is you that will assist in ensuring that our educational system has a chance at getting more secured funding. It is you that will pave way for greater benefits than a transportation system that only benefits this island. It is you that will be remembered as supporters of our children and by teachers. Thank you for considering my testimony. Respectfully, Oscar Ramiscal - Campbell High School teacher.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2013 9:11 PM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: Ncsugano@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/1/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jari Sugano	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing in support of our teachers in the DOE. Please support our hard working and dedicated public school teachers!! They are essential to improving the future and outcomes of Hawaii's children. Aloha.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2013 9:39 PM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: christinah001@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM*

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/1/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christina Ham	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2013 10:21 PM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: pstanfield@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM*

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/1/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patty Stanfield	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 02, 2013 3:39 AM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: kailuakeiki2003@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
karen beale	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The schools are in dire straits. I am a teacher in Waimanalo. We need to make a living wage so we don't have to work 2-3 jobs to pay our rent. We want to spend the time creating productive lessons for the students. We are not volunteers. I LOVE my job but made much more money as a waitress. Please vote for this bill. Keep experienced teachers who understand Hawaii's special KIDS!!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 02, 2013 8:49 AM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: nicolennyoshida@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
nicole yoshida	Individual	Support	No

Comments: support education!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 02, 2013 8:59 AM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: kellymaeshiro@college.harvard.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly Maeshiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear legislators, I am writing in support of HB 1368. As I believe the teachers themselves have made the compelling case already, I shall be brief. That our teachers are among the lowest paid in the nation is something which should be nothing less than alarming to us, and that anyone, including teachers, have to receive food stamps to keep their families alive, seems to me morally obscene. Moreover, it does not seem prudent that the state should be cutting back on spending--much less on social spending--in the middle of an economic recession, not least when the Department of Education employs some 13,000 teachers, a substantial amount. If it is aggregate demand which is lagging behind normal levels, then it ought to be stimulated, and the solution is quite straightforward: we know from basic economics that government spending has a greater stimulative effect than tax cuts, for which the multiplier effect is minimal. I believe there is a time for frugality, and I believe there is a way to be frugal, neither of which is met in this instance, when I should think fiscal responsibility means spending rather than cutting the education budget. If I might make one last request, it is simply that you weigh and consider the effects of legislative actions, considering especially its effects on those most in need, for it is too often those most in need who are hit hardest in times of economic hardship, and too often they are the same ones without a voice in the matters which most affect them. I simply ask that you consider them in your deliberations. I should also hope that whatever it is you decide, it is decided with as lucid thinking as possible, considering carefully the advantages and disadvantages for different people, as what might be desirable for one group of people is almost always undesirable for another. I understand these are difficult matters to decide on, and I do not intend to make them seem so simple. Yet I trust they are not too complex for an open-minded and cooperative community of people--teachers, citizens, lawmakers, etc.--to decide wisely. I wish you the best in your continued deliberations. Sincerely, Kelly Maeshiro

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 02, 2013 10:00 AM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: bluedkf@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danielle Fujii	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Schools need funding for many reason. Here's 3: 1. So they can teach their students from books that don't fall apart and aren't 10+ years out of date. 2. They need to have computers/technology to prepare their 21st century learners. 3. They need fully functional libraries with certified librarians to teach important research skills as well as promote reading.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 02, 2013 11:25 AM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: shanae.hatchell@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shanae Hatchell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill because the Hawaii public school system needs money for infrastructure, technology, supplies and salaries.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 02, 2013 1:51 PM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: matty_dr@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Rossman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Matthew Rossman, and I live on the Big Island of Hawaii. I am a father and an Elementary School teacher for the Department of Education for Holualoa School. My wife is a math teacher for Kealakehe High School. Please consider this bill to help Hawaii's keiki to grow into the helpful citizens we want them to become. We need more funds earmarked for education...for quality teachers, for mental health professionals and counselors, even for children to feel like they are going to school to a safe campus with adequate toileting. This bill will help the children to feel successful in day to day classroom activities, and in turn it will help build a better Hawaii.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 02, 2013 3:13 PM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: coreyrosenlee@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM
Attachments: HB 1368 Testimony.doc

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Corey Rosenlee	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Hawaii is in an educational crisis and we need to fix it.

I am a teacher at Campbell High and I've taught in classrooms reaching over 95 degrees. I've also had to teach classes with more than forty students. Putting forty students in a 95 degree classroom is morally wrong.

In order to improve working conditions, I've had to buy fans for my classroom out of my own pocket. This is a reality for most teachers who spend hundreds, if not thousands of dollars of their own money to provide students who come to school without supplies or even food these essentials for learning.

Recently Farrington High School's auditorium roof collapsed. If it had been just two hours later, hundreds of students would have been in the auditorium. For years Farrington's auditorium was scheduled for repairs, but there was no money. On average, our schools are 65 years old and require millions of dollars in backlogged repairs. Will it take a tragedy to occur before this state acts?

Teachers in Hawaii are the worst paid in the nation based on comfort level and cost of living. The fallacy that is often made regarding salaries is comparing state to state. Hawaii is the only statewide school district. In Illinois there are districts that pay teachers more based on cost of living (like Chicago where average teachers make 69-89% more than Hawaii teachers) and districts where you can buy a house for \$50,000. When you compare Hawaii to other districts with similarly high cost of living, the reality of how poorly Hawaii teachers are paid is apparent. Research shows the most important thing in a student's education is teacher quality. But in Hawaii we look for bargain basement deals. A beginning teacher in Hawaii can earn as little as \$31,000 a year, which qualifies a family of three for food stamps.

What happens when you put a well educated person in a hot, crumbling room and underpay them? They leave. Hawaii has up to 1600 teachers leave a year and 56% leave every 5 years, making it the highest teacher turnover rate in the nation. There are so many vacancies that the state can't get enough teachers. Last year 40% of teachers were emergency hires, meaning they lack specific qualifications to become a teacher. Some of these become great teachers, but after a few years they get frustrated too and leave. How can we focus on children if we don't focus on the people teaching them? Are you willing to accept the cheapest bargain to be your child's teacher? We are protesting so that every student, rich or poor, gets a quality education.

There is a solution for the problem, HB 1368 called the Penny for Education Act. This would raise the GET by one cent per dollar and provide a source of money to really improve education in Hawaii. I can already hear the complaints. You can't raise taxes, so why not cut taxes instead and cut the education budget by 500 million? But there will be a consequence; our buildings will start falling down, teachers' salaries will be cut to the point that they will be the worst paid in the nation, and many will decide to leave. We won't have enough teachers, so we will hire people without teaching degrees. The people of this state will be enraged. They would demand action. So Representatives, this is why we are here today. We are here because we are focusing on the children of Hawaii and want all of them to get a good education. I ask for you to pass HB 1368 "The Penny for Education Act"

Teacher Salary Comparison

		HI Public Schools	DC Public Schools		NYC Public Schools		Chicago Public Schools	
	Degree	Salary ¹	Salary ²	% more than HI	Salary ³	% more than HI	Salary ⁴	% more than HI
Lowest Pay	BA	\$31,094	\$51,539	66%	\$45,530	46%	\$47,268	52%
	MA	\$44,303	\$54,975	24%	\$51,425	16%	\$50,542	14%
Average (15 year teacher)	BA	\$46,620	\$75,816 - \$81,724	63% - 75%	\$73,636	58%	\$78,566	69%
	MA	\$50,350	\$87,431 - \$95,366	74% - 89%	\$79,531	58%	\$81,937 (\$95,000 after strike)*	63% (89%)
Highest (experience + advanced degrees)		\$75,212	\$106,540	42%	\$100,049	33%	\$89,680 (\$103,000+ after strike)*	19% (37%)

Notes:

- Lowest pay information from <http://doe.k12.hi.us/personnel/teachersalarieschedule2012-2013.pdf>
 Lowest pay BA degree information is for teachers without a teaching credential as outlined on the Teacher Salary Schedule. In comparison, lowest pay for the other districts in the chart are for teachers with a degree and teaching credential. Lowest pay for Hawaii teachers with a BA and teaching credential is \$41,022.
 Average and highest salary information from http://connections.hsta.org/otheruploads/2007-09_10mo_Salary_Scheds.pdf
 All salary information includes 5% total pay reduction
 Average salary information based off of step 12 (assumes one step increase every two-year contract term starting from step five)
 Highest class requires a doctoral degree (PhD or EdD)
- All salary information from <http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/About+DCPS/Career+Opportunities/Teach+in+Our+Schools/Compensation>
 Highest class requires a PhD or MA + 60 credits
 Salary schedule awards annual step increases
- All salary information from <http://schools.nyc.gov/nr/rdonlyres/eddb658c-be7f-4314-85c0-03f5a00b8a0b/0/salary.pdf>
 Highest class requires MA + 30 credits and at least 22 years of experience
 Salary schedule awards step increases per semester of satisfactory teaching after five consecutive semesters. Schedule also awards salary increments based on longevity (at 5,10,13,15,18,20,22 years).
- Lowest pay information from https://hrportal.cps.k12.il.us/cs/cpseppr2/psfileproc/V_804f23b4-af3c-44e9-8eb1-e3f0043298d0/Teachers_Salary_Schedules_2011-12.pdf
 Salary is based on a 38.6 week year and does not include a seven percent pension contribution paid for by the BOE
 Highest class requires a doctoral degree (PhD or EdD)
 After strike information from http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-09-23/news/ct-met-cps-salary-schedule-0923-20120923_1_teacher-contract-salary-schedule-chicago-teachers-union
 *The Chicago Tribune article does not mention if the amounts given are the total compensation (including pension) or base salary.
 Highest salary information after strike is not available. The above mentioned website lists \$103,000 as the upper limit for an average teacher with their MA or higher. Presumably, the salary cap is above this amount given additional years of experience.

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 02, 2013 5:30 PM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: bfattman@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Flatt	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Legislature cannot keep creating mandates without creating the funding. Also, teachers need more money plain and simple.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 02, 2013 6:22 PM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: rbhawaii@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rb	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is a wonderful idea! Only 58% of the revenue collected from the GET is actually paid by Hawaii citizens. 42% is paid by tourists. When you consider that almost half of the revenue from the GET is going to come from people who do not live here, do not use our schools at all, and don't contribute to stewardship of the aina in any way, while they use and abuse it, I think raising the GET makes a lot of sense.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 02, 2013 7:15 PM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: evanmower@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

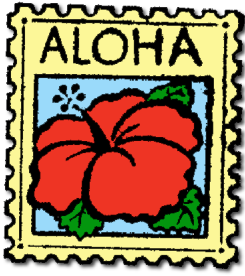
Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Evan Mower	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need to support education for our future!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



Holly J. Huber

1519 Nuuanu Ave #154 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
(808) 554-7692 • hollyjhuber@gmail.com

TO: House Committee on Economic Development & Business
Hearing on February 5th in room 312 @ 9:00 AM

FROM: Holly J. Huber

DATE: February 3, 2013

RE: In support of HB1368
Relating to Education – GET Penny for Education

I support HB1368 and urge you to pass this important funding measure for public education.

I have operated a small business in Hawaii for 20 years and I think a penny for education funded through the GET is a good investment.

Public education in Hawaii has been underfunded for too long. Our schools and our teachers deserve the direct funding that this bill provides.

Please vote in YES on HB1368.

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 9:51 PM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: lbaniaga@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorna Baniaga-Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My children deserve a quality education but not with the great sacrifice of hard working and dedicated teachers. The State of Hawaii needs to start taking more responsibility to make sure the schools and those who make a difference are taken care of. Passing this bill will be a step towards that responsibility.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

First of all, I would like to thank you for giving this bill a chance to be heard. I am cognizant of the fact that asking for more funding for education by increasing the General Excise Tax is an unfavorable request.

While I could go on and fill pages with details about the difficulties I deal with on a daily basis as a teacher at the largest high school in the state and data regarding the various issues our public education system faces, I choose to share a short synopsis instead.

I am a proud graduate of McKinley High School who voluntarily returned to school after 13 years as a DVM in order to earn the credentials necessary to become a Highly Qualified Secondary Science Teacher. Fortunately, I was offered a position in the same district where I earned my MEdT and now mentor over 180 students in different sciences. As part of the faculty at the high school with the honor of having the largest student population, it has been a challenge to conduct laboratory sessions in a regular classroom. With 15 teachers in the science department, there is very limited funding for laboratory supplies and equipment. This year's budget is three hundred dollars. When divided by the number of students in my classes, it amounts to about \$1.60 per student. Understandably, the number of hands on activities done during the course of the year is limited.

This is not to say that we are lacking in all areas at Campbell. Saber Hall, the newest building on the campus, is an example of how far we have come in classroom design. I appreciate my Promethean interactive white board and the individual remote response units that come with it. I am grateful that there are student laptops that can be shared by the teachers on the floor as some schools are forced to do with much less.

If the setting were ideal, there would be 24 students in an air conditioned, science classroom with a separate lab area. Every student would have a laptop they could access while they engaged in inquiry based learning and increased their skills as ethical users of modern technology.

Please help this vision become a reality by supporting HB 1368.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Michelle Hatami

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 7:28 AM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: lonepoethelloyou@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM*

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Kay Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 7:28 AM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: carson.hilda@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM
Attachments: testimony.doc

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hilda Carson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

I am a second year teacher at James Campbell High School in Ewa Beach, Hawaii. I support HB 1468 because I am spending large sums of money out of my own pocket to subsidize classroom lessons. Last year, I spent \$1556 for supplies. I have the receipts to support this amount. This year, the amount is at least the same. Furthermore, I have been without printer ink for my classroom printer since December. The economic crisis that the state of Hawaii finds itself in is reflected in my students' abilities to bring supplies to school; therefore, I must purchase additional supplies for their use. I sincerely hope you will support HB 1468 because we need more supplies in the classroom and I cannot keep purchasing these items. It is creating a financial burden on me and I know there are hundreds of other teachers in the same position.

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 7:53 AM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: louie1676@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM
Attachments: Mark Andrus Testimony support for HB1368.doc

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Andrus	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

I have been working in the Department of Education(DOE) for over a decade now and there have been improvements that helped Hawaii students to perform better academically. In efforts to continue this momentum the state should look at factors that may have hindered more academic growth for our children. These factors include: retaining teachers, improving the quality of teachers, and educational resources. All of these factors rely heavily on funding for improvement. This bill will help in funding these areas to improve education in Hawaii.

For the time I have been in the DOE, teacher retention has always been poor. This negatively impacts student learning, because the new teacher will have to adjust to the culture of the school. This can take up to 3 years for teachers to feel comfortable in teaching their students. Another way this impacts student learning is the new teacher will have to get comfortable with the different programs that are being implemented at the school. Therefore the focus of the new teacher is not how to better teach the student but how to implement the programs correctly to do their job. Another reason why we need to work on teacher retention is the cost of bringing in a new teacher. The new teacher will have to be trained in the new academic programs. The cost of this includes the cost of the training and the cost of a substitute teacher. Also, a new teacher absorbs a lot of resources on any campus due to making adjustments to adequately equipping the new teacher and also the school adapting to the new teacher's current inadequacies.

Improving the quality of teaching in Hawaii is an area that will always need improving. I embrace the fact that a teacher needs to be evaluated to ensure our students are getting a quality education. The state must look at all factors when evaluating a teacher and their effectiveness. Through a fair evaluation system the likelihood of a quality teacher will be increased, but you must retain that quality teacher. Therefore, incentives need to be given to teachers that meet the standards of a quality educator. Linking the evaluation system with an increase in pay, I feel would be an effective way to improve education in Hawaii. Another way to improve education would be to entice the best college graduates to the field of teaching. One way to do this is to increase the salaries of Hawaii teachers. In other areas of the United States salaries of teachers dwarf the salaries here in Hawaii. This is definitely putting our children at a disadvantage to rest of the nation. Especially, when the cost of living in Hawaii is one of the highest. Therefore this bill would help to provide the revenue that is needed for such funding.

Another area where this bill would help our children's education is with the current resources that are schools are allotted. I teach in one of the hottest places on Oahu. Trust me, air conditioning is a need during the months of July, August, September, April, and May. It is tough teaching students when you are constantly sweating and feeling uncomfortable. Also, upgrading facilities so that student's can feel proud to come to school would be another great way we can improve the quality of education. Some schools in our area have wonderful facilities, but shouldn't every school have wonderful facilities? In this day and age, all Schools should have the

newest technological devices. This is to ensure students are equipped for their future, which will require the use of such devices in their work and everyday life. Also, it is hard to hold students attention these days, but I have seen technology at our school improve the engagement of our students. Devices such as ELMOs, smart boards, Promethean boards, laptops, and having internet access have definitely helped to positively impact our students' education. I know that the DOE would like to do several of these items mentioned, but currently are unable to do so due to lack of revenue. This bill could help alleviate that problem. Therefore, I support this bill because it will help the DOE improve the quality of education in Hawaii.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS

DATE: Tuesday, February 5, 2013
TIME: 9:00 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 312, State Capitol

RE: Public Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1368 Relating to Education.

Monday, February 4, 2013

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express STRONG SUPPORT for HB1368 that “Increases the General Excise Tax and Use Tax for certain, specified services and commodities by one percent. Directs the realizations of twenty percent of such taxes to the Department of Education for the operations of the Department under state law.”

As a professional and small business owner, I understand the value of education and its beneficial effect on our society in the present and future. As a taxpayer, I am willing to pay the additional GET, as long as the revenue is earmarked for teachers, students, and improvement of our state’s public education system and facilities.

Please vote “YES” and support the passage of HB1368.

Sincerely,

Mitch Kahle
1519 Nuuanu Ave., #154
Honolulu, Hawaii 96187
524-4040

HB1368

Testimony of Support

I support this bill to fund education and actually believe all or most of this additional funding should be allocated toward education. As a teacher with a masters degree in Education, I am poorly paid and have had to move myself and 3 young sons into my grandparent's tiny home in order to make ends meet for us. On top of this, as a biology teacher, I have had to purchase many supplies out of pocket in order to give my students the hands-on learning that some of them require.

Many students endlessly complain about the lack of resources available and the extent of heat in the classroom in the afternoons. In my large classroom, I have 2 wall mounted fans and have also purchased a total of 4 stand up fans for the classroom (the stand up fans were out of pocket), all of which are now not in working order.

I spend many hours outside of my paid work day, grading, advising, tutoring, planning, chaperoning, and more grading and planning. I have even had my sons ask me why I don't have time for them...to be able to get them to sports practice, be available for their award assemblies, or to be there to just hang out.

Having just had a new baby, I am drowning in medical expenses that are all too new to me. I worked a normal job (not a career) when I had my two other children and having become a "professional" I would have assumed that I would be taken cared of on a different level. However, I have had to pay way more for my health care premiums and because of the increases, I have had to also increase my out of pocket co-payments. Now, not only do I have a huge chunk of money extracted from my paycheck for the medical coverage that my family and I need, but I still am in debt trying to cover the co-payment expenses that came along with childbirth.

I happen to love my career and I think I'm really good at it. Although I am passionate about what I do daily, I am coming to a point in life where, without proper pay, benefits, and resources for the students, I am going to have to continue to look into other career options. Please support this bill for the sake of all of our keiki on the islands.

April Hosino
James Campbell High School
Biology and Medical Biotechnology Teacher
HOSA Advisor

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 11:01 AM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: jensarpi@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1368 on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM

HB1368

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for EDB on Feb 5, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jen Sarpi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a School Counselor and a mother of 5 children in the State of Hawaii, I support this bill. I believe that there are many factors that affect the education that our children receive here in Hawaii. Some of the factors that I place at the top of that list are: quality teachers, solid curriculum, technology resources, an adequate environment, and well equipt support staff. In order for the State to hire and retain quality teachers, teachers need to be receiving a fair salary and benefits package, which has not been provided to them and has become increasingly worse in the last couple of years. Teachers also need to have time to prepare lessons and need to be provided with professional development opportunities. These opportunities have been cut or reduced in recent years due to the budget cuts. Teachers also need to have access to a quality curriculum. All too often I see teacher photo copying whatever materials they can find to use with the students since there is not money available for text books. I don't think we are giving our children a chance at succeeding when we are not able to provide them with appropriate curriculum due to the budget. I have seem technology be used to the benefit of my children. There are many good websites that teach children reading and math skills. However, the license to those websites need to be paid for by the school, and the schools need to have enough computers to allow the children to access the websites. All too often, despite this being an age of technology where many children have unlimited access to the internet on their phones, they still do not have enough computers in the school for the children to fully access this type of learning material. I believe that in order to optimize our childrens' learning, we need to provide an adequate envirionment for them to learn in. I have worked in several schools that either don't have air conditioning or they can't afford to fix the air conditioning when it breaks down. If I am too hot to work and concentrate effectively, then I am sure that the students experience the exact same thing. If we want our children to succeed in Hawaii's public schools, we need to provide them with an adequate learning environment. I have also seen in many schools that our support staff is streached way too thin. There are often not enough VP's, counselors, curriculum coordinators, etc. to support the school in reaching it's goals. When this is the case, the staff has to prioritize and work on only the areas of greatest need. It makes it diffult to take a proactive approach towards learning at school. Since there are so many deficits in Hawaii's education system, I believe that this bill is needed in order to begin to address these areas of need. This will allow us to retain excellent teachers, have a good curriculum, provide an appropriate environment, have needed technology resources and provide students with the supports that they deserve and need. Please invest in education and our childrens' future.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing , improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

TO: Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Business

FROM: Natalie Iwasa, CPA
Honolulu, HI 96825
808-395-3233

HEARING: 9 a.m. Tuesday, February 5, 2013

SUBJECT: HB 1368 Relating to Education - **OPPOSED**

Aloha Chair and Representatives,

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on HB 1368, which would increase the state general excise tax (GET) by 25%. I oppose this bill and ask you to vote "no."

While the GET is a tax on businesses for the privilege of doing business in the state of Hawaii, businesses pass that cost on to consumers. It has been reported that certain sectors of the economy have improved, but our economy is still not healthy. Rather than increase taxes, please reduce fraud and waste.

Please vote "no" on HB 1368.