



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/03/2014

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2473 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes an Education Innovation Grant Program to provide teachers with resources to implement innovation initiatives aimed at increasing student academic achievement.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education supports the intent of HB 2473. However, we are concerned that this worthy grant initiative places additional responsibilities and workload on the complex area superintendents and, as it directly impacts the CASs, we feel their perspective and input should be sought.

The Department also appreciates the funds to offset administrative costs incurred by CASs and respectfully requests clarification on the proposed cap of one per cent.

Further, we are grateful for the appropriation as the Department does not have the means to support this initiative under our budget appropriation, and would like to ensure that this does not replace or adversely impact our priorities set forth in our Supplemental Budget request.

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2473

February 3, 2014

RELATING TO EDUCATION

House Bill No. 2473 establishes the Education innovation grant program within the Department of Education (DOE) with the intent of providing teachers with the resources to implement innovation initiatives to help increase student academic achievement. This bill also creates the Education innovation grant fund which proposes to fund this program.

While the Department of Budget and Finance does not take any position on the policy of the Education innovation grant program, as a matter of general policy, the department does not support the creation of special funds which do not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Special funds should: 1) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries of the program; 2) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; 3) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining; and 4) why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process. In regards to this bill, it is difficult to determine whether the special fund will be self-sustaining.



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

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 2473, RELATING TO EDUCATION

House Committee on Education

Hon. Roy M. Takumi, Chair

Hon. Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

Monday, February 3, 2014, 2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Honorable Chair Takumi and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 175 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of, with proposed amendments for House Bill 2473, relating to education.

In 2011, the National School Supply and Equipment Association released a report stating that public school teachers spent \$1.33 billion of their discretionary income on supplementary school supplies and instructional materials during the 2009-2010 school year, an average of \$356 dollars per teacher. Though less than previous years in which a report was issued, that number, when broken down, nonetheless amounts to \$170 for supplies and \$186 on instructional materials not provided for by the Departments of Education. Moreover, NSSEA attributes the drop not to increased classroom funding, but the impact of the recent recession upon educators' discretionary income levels.

The trend is, if anything, worse in Hawaii, which has consistently ranked at or near the bottom in national cost-of-living studies and 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. Similarly, Hawaii has the highest ACCRA value in the country, typically hovering between 160 and 165, leading to our state being ranked last, year after year, in teacher salaries adjusted for cost-of-living, with the average teacher making a COL-adjusted income of \$31,854 per year, roughly \$4,000 below the next-to-last state on the list (Maine), according to statistics compiled and released by the U.S. Census Bureau. Pay cuts (including teacher furloughs and DLWOP days), rising health care costs, adjusted insurance co-pays, and the loss of the state's \$1,690-per-special-education-teacher classroom supply fund have all aggravated the financial burden borne by teachers' pocketbooks. In a recent survey conducted by HSTA, 47 percent of respondents cited personal expenditures

between \$250 and \$500 each year on classroom supplies, with many claiming expenditures in excess of \$1,000. Not surprisingly, these same teachers have called upon HSTA—and lawmakers—to take action to lighten their financial load.

This bill would establish an Education Innovation Grant Program to provide teachers with resources needed to implement initiatives aimed at increasing student achievement. Recognizing that teachers know better than anyone what does and does not work in the classroom, this measure would empower complex area superintendents, assisted by a committee of teachers, to evaluate applications for and award funds to teachers who have developed sustainable ideas for increasing learning growth that, if viable and successful, could be exported to multiple schools or the public school system at large. Though this measure does not wholly address the problem of teachers' classroom expenditures, it does provide educators with a funding stream for forward-thinking projects that would otherwise be subsidized out-of-pocket or not at all.

That said, we note that the bill does not currently delineate how teacher committees are to be formed or managed. Similarly, while the bill is intended to empower teachers to evaluate prospective applications, it vests decision-making authority with the complex area superintendent, potentially leading to situations in which the superintendent's will overrides the committee's recommendation (for example, with money being steered disproportionately toward STEM projects at the expense of the humanities). To ensure that assessments are conducted by those working at the front lines of the modern educational environment and experiencing current work conditions, and minimize the possibility of applications being turned down for political or personal reasons, we encourage you amend page 1, lines 17 and 18 through page 2, lines 1-6 to read: “(b) Each complex area superintendent **shall establish a** committee of teachers within the complex area **to** accept and evaluate education innovation grant applications, considering each applicant's demonstrated ability to sustain the proposed initiative beyond the life of the grant. Education innovation grants shall be awarded by each complex area superintendent **based on the committee's recommendation** and subject to available funds in the education innovation grant fund, established under section 302A-C.”

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

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director

ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 10:22 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: sherrianwitt@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2473 on Feb 3, 2014 14:00PM*

HB2473

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sherrian witt	Witt Counseling Service	Support	No

Comments:

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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To: EDNtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2473 on Feb 3, 2014 14:00PM*

HB2473

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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