

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi  
Acting Director

Research (808) 587-0666  
Revisor (808) 587-0670  
Fax (808) 587-0681



LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU  
State of Hawaii  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 446  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Written Comments

## HCR95

### **REQUESTING A STUDY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF DIVIDING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION INTO TWO OR MORE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES AND THE EFFECTS OF SUCH A DIVISION ON THE STATE'S PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM**

Comments by the Legislative Reference Bureau  
Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Acting Director

Presented to the House Committee on Education

Monday, March 17, 2014, 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 309

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon Chair Takumi and members of the Committee, thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written comments on H.C.R. No. 95, Requesting a Study on the Feasibility of Dividing the Department of Education into Two or More Local Educational Agencies and the Effects of Such a Division on the State's Public Education System.

The purpose of this measure is to request that the Legislative Reference Bureau:

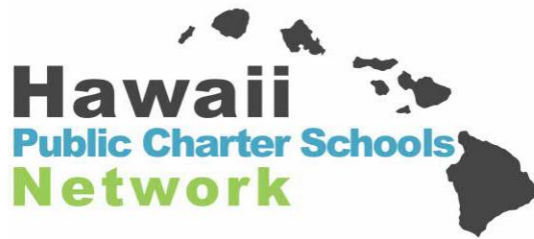
- (1) Study the feasibility of dividing the Department of Education into two or more local educational agencies and the effects of such a division on the State's public education system, including the potential gain or loss of federal moneys for education; and
- (2) Submit a report of the study to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2015.

While the Legislative Reference Bureau takes no position on this measure, we submit the following comments for your consideration.

As written, the measure requests that the Bureau "study the feasibility of dividing the Department of Education into two or more local educational agencies and the effects of such a division on the State's public education system, including the potential gain or loss of federal moneys for education." However, other than the specific criteria of determining the potential gain or loss of federal moneys for education, the measure does not indicate what other criteria should be considered when determining whether dividing the Department of Education is feasible. In addition, the Department of Education may possess information on this issue that may not be readily available or accessible to the Bureau, especially in the timeframe provided to conduct the study. Consequently, it may be advisable to include a request in the measure that requests that the Department of Education assist the Bureau by providing any information the Bureau may need to accomplish this task. If the Committee determines that this study is necessary, we request that further clarification be provided and the request of the Department of Education's assistance be included to ensure that the Bureau will be able to include information in the report that will be useful to the Legislature.

In all other respects, the Bureau believes that the services requested under this measure are manageable and that the Bureau will be able to provide the services in the time allotted; provided that the Bureau's interim workload is not adversely impacted by too many other studies or additional responsibilities, such as conducting, writing, or finalizing other reports, drafting legislation, or both, for other state agencies, task forces, or working groups that may be requested or required under other legislative measures.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide written comments.



Hawaii State House of Representatives  
Committee on Education

DATE: Monday, March 17, 2014

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 309, Hawaii State Capitol

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno and members of the House Education Committee,

Re: HCR 95/HR 69 – Support

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on HCR 95/HR 69. HPCSN supports these measures to request a study on the feasibility of dividing the Department of Education into two or more local educational agencies and the effects of such a division on the state's public education system.

Charter schools and their governing boards have asked over the years if it was possible for Hawaii's charter schools to be one LEA or their own LEAs. States with charter school laws across the nation have passed such laws. These measures would guide us through this discussion.

Mahalo for your support of Hawaii's public school students and charter schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Finnegan". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lynn Finnegan  
Executive Director