



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

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator David Y. Ige, Chairperson
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chairperson

Wednesday, February 26, 2014
10:30 a.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211

Testimony of Don G. Horner, Chairperson

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2806, Relating to the Department of Education
Superintendent's Salary**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. The Board of Education SUPPORTS SB 2806.

The current salary for the Superintendent of Education has not been adjusted since 2001. The current salary is well below national norms.

The proposed increase of the salary cap from \$150,000 to \$250,000 is based upon a comprehensive review of similar positions and responsibilities.

The current Superintendent's contract expires June 30, 2014. If the current salary of \$150,000 was adjusted for inflation the current salary would be \$199,995. This salary adjustment would be dependent on a rigorous performance evaluation.

The Superintendent oversees in excess of 20,000 full-time employees and a larger number of part-time employees. The Department of Education is accountable for in excess of \$2.4 billion of federal and state expenditures. The ability to recruit and retain effective educational leadership has a direct impact on the quality of education for approximately 180,000 students within our state. The quality of education leadership cannot be underestimated as we have seen tremendous achievements within the last three years under current leadership.

- Test scores have reflected steady improvement.
 - Hawaii was the only state to experience across-the-board increases in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)¹ scores in its last administration.

¹ NAEP is the largest national assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas including but not limited to math, reading and science.

- Math and reading proficiency rates for the state's 8th graders on NAEP have climbed 30% and 23% in math and reading respectively.
 - Hawaii State Assessment (HSA) scores have increased 8% in both subjects over the past three years.
 - Achievement gaps between high-needs and non high-needs students have narrowed 19% in the last two years.
- Students are better prepared for college and career.
 - 1247 more students took Advanced Placement exams last year than in 2010, an increase of 36%.
 - There was a 7% increase in the graduation rate over the past three years, meaning that 809 more students graduated in 2012 than in 2010.
 - The class of 2011 enrolled in college at a rate 3% higher than the class of 2011 when measured 16 months from completing high school.
 - Fewer of the students entering college require remediation--as the remediation rate for DOE students at the University of Hawaii has declined 14% over the past three years.
- Efforts in the Zones of School Improvement (ZSI) are paying off.
 - In 2011, 12 of 18 ZSI schools were in federal restructuring status, and most recently in our new Strive HI index all but three have moved into the Continuous Improvement category that denotes minimal need for intervention.

Any future increases for the Superintendent will include a component for pay for performance.

Lastly, the proposed adjustment reflects the fact that in 2010, the Hawaii State Legislature approved HB 2434 increasing the Superintendent of Education's salary to \$250,000 which was subsequently vetoed.

The supporting data is attached.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2806.

Comparative data based on Consumer Price Index (CPI), student enrollment, salary distribution

	Current	CPI (avg. 2.4%)	Mean minimum scheduled salary (Enrollment 25,000 or more)	75th Percentile (Enrollment 25,000 or more)
Superintendent	\$150,000.00	\$199,994.77	\$226,651.00	\$260,000.00

*Source: National Survey of Salaries and Wages in Public Schools 2010-2011 by the Educational Research Service.

Ranking of the 15 largest school districts in the United States

Ranking	School District	Salary	Additional Compensation
1	New York City Public Schools	\$250,000.00	
2	Los Angeles Unified School District	\$330,000.00	Car/driver, bonus if student and graduation rates rise
3	Chicago Public Schools	\$250,000.00	
4	Miami-Dade County Public Schools	\$275,000.00 - \$320,000	
5	Clark County School District (Las Vegas, Nevada)	\$250,000.00 bonus up to \$20,000	Life insurance; \$4,000 after hours pay; 31 days vacation, car allowance
6	Broward County Public Schools (Fort Lauderdale, Florida)	\$290,000.00	\$77,800
7	Houston Independent School District	\$300,000.00	
8	Hillsborough County Public Schools (Tampa, Florida)	\$257,958.00	
9	Hawaii Public Schools	\$150,000.00	
10	Orange County Public Schools (Orlando, Florida)	\$230,000.00	
11	Fairfax County Public Schools (Fairfax, Virginia)	\$292,000.00	Deferred comp \$15,000
12	Palm Beach County School District (Palm Beach, Florida)	\$225,000.00	
13	Gwinnett County Public Schools (North Atlanta, Georgia)	\$387,934.00	\$18,000 transportation allowance; retirement supplement
14	Dallas Independent School District	\$328,000.00	Up to \$75,000 per annum-performance bonus, up to 3 professional memberships, student based incentive \$125,000, retention incentive \$50,000, travel expenses for District business, \$500 car allowance in lieu of mileage, cell phone \$250, term life ins. \$500,000, \$10,000 moving expenses, \$6,000 transition expenses, \$1,000,000 liability insurance
15	Wake County Schools (Raleigh, North Carolina)	\$275,000.00	\$16,500 for retirement, \$1,100/per day up to 10 consulting days, provide security if appropriate

*The table ranks 1st, the largest public school system, New York City Public Schools with a student population of 1,036,053 through the 15th largest public school system, Wake County Schools with a student population of 149,508.



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Wednesday, February 26, 2014

10:30 a.m.

Conference Room 211

**RE: RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SUPERINTENDENT'S SALARY –
SENATE BILL 2806**

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gary Kai and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Business Roundtable. The Hawaii Business Roundtable fully supports Senate Bill 2806 that increases the Department of Education Superintendent's salary cap.

As the leaders of their businesses, the members of the Hawaii Business Roundtable employ thousands of Hawaii's citizens, many of whom are graduates of Hawaii's public school system. These leaders fully understand the complexity of running a large enterprise with thousands of employees. The Superintendent of the Department of Education manages one of the largest enterprises in the State of Hawaii and has over 20,000 employees. Most importantly, the Superintendent leads an organization that is responsible for the education of over 180,000 of our children here in Hawaii.

The members of the Roundtable feel very strongly that the current salary cap is not consistent with the duties and responsibilities of the position and is not in alignment with Education Superintendents' across the country. Superintendents of school districts of similar size earn well in excess of \$200,000. A competitive salary structure is needed to help assure that our children's education is being entrusted to effective leadership.

The statute governing the superintendent's salary has not been amended since 2000 and we think that an adjustment is long past due. We agree that amending the current salary cap for the superintendent of education would provide the board of education with the authority and latitude to establish the salary of this leadership position commensurate with various factors, including the breadth of responsibilities and duties of the position, the experience and skills the individual brings to the position and the job performance of the individual. Adjusting the salary cap would also provide the board of education with the flexibility it needs to attract and retain individuals to support a strong statewide public education system.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Gary K. Kai, Executive Director
Hawaii Business Roundtable



KANEOHE
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February 24, 2014

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
and Members, Committee on Ways and Means
The Senate
Twenty-Seventh Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: SB 2806 RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SUPERINTENDENT'S SALARY**

Kaneohe Ranch strongly supports SB 2806. As a member of Hawaii Business Roundtable, I know firsthand that high quality public education is critical to attract and grow jobs in Hawaii. I am encouraged by the recent gains in K-12 student learning that have moved our state from the bottom in the nation to nearing the middle of the pack. Getting to this point has taken hard work and steady leadership.

Investing in leadership provides among the best returns for us as a state. Passage of this bill will allow the Board of Education greater latitude to exercise its judgment as Hawaii's education policy body in setting the State Superintendent's salary.

I would underscore the justification associated with the bill. The current salary cap of \$150,000 is not consistent with the duties and responsibilities of the position, nor in alignment with national norms. The majority of superintendents serving school districts of 25,000 or more students – of which our district is seven times larger – make \$260,000 on average.

Over the years, considerable and appropriate public discussion has ensued with regards to the salaries of high profile public employees. In my opinion, public school reform is so critical that the Superintendent of Schools should be among our highest paid public employees. However, I recognize that this decision is best left to the Board of Education, as the entity tasked with overseeing the performance of Hawaii's public schools. I call on the Legislature to give the Board the flexibility needed to recruit and retain outstanding talent into this critical position.

Respectfully submitted,

H. Mitchell D'Olier
Chair



Wednesday, February 26, 2014
10:30 AM
Conference Room 211

TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON WAYS AND MEANS

RE: SB 2806– Relating to Department of Education Superintendent’s Salary

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Witt, Executive Director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 students statewide.

HAIS is in strong support of SB 2806 to increase the salary cap of the Department of Education Superintendent’s Salary.

As a long-time educational administrator, I can identify with the demands required of the job of Superintendent. I believe that we should adjust our priorities to reflect the high value of education and compensate individuals appropriately so that we may attract the high quality leadership needed for our public school system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.