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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

RE: HB 2267, HD1 - RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2016

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 2267, HD1**, relating to technology in schools, **with suggested amendments.**

In the Information Age, technology is a critical tool for learning. From iPads to eBooks, technological innovation has changed the face of education. It is natural, then, that the delivery of educational content should take advantage of digital innovations to streamline delivery and cut costs, especially for academic texts.

To quote a recent Digital Book World article, “eBooks are not books.” They’re software. Accordingly, they do not need to be bought in bulk to provide access to every student, nor do they wear out over time. Without physical storage limitations, eBooks allow schools to create more dynamic, creativity-driven classrooms. Moreover, eBooks can be easily integrated with audio and visual media to enhance the learning experience in ways that traditional textbooks cannot.

That said, the use of digital texts relies on high-speed internet service, something that many schools lack. Thus, we encourage you to amend this measure by revising the definition of curricular materials in Section 2 to read: “Curricular materials” means any systematically organized material designed to provide a specific level of instruction in a subject-matter category, including textbooks, instructional materials, library books, equipment, computer software, digital content accessed through a computer or other electronic medium, digital content available through an internet-based provider of course content, internet bandwidth, or supplies used in a particular course of study.”

As technology advances, so must our content delivery. Thus, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support and amend** this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: derasm2016@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2267 on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Monday, March 28, 2016 9:12:40 PM

HB2267

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deanna Rasmussen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha! I am writing to ask that you please support HB 2267 relating to technology in schools. This bill defines curricular materials to include both printed and digital material. It requires textbook manufacturers to make a digital format of the textbook available for use in public schools. This bill also clarifies that money for curricular materials can be used for digital formats and appropriates funds. I have served as an elementary school teacher for students who speak English as a second language for over 20 years. My students come from Korea, Japan, China and other countries. Computers are essential for them to successfully integrate into Hawaii schools and to be successful in life. Supporting digital learning in public schools will most help students whose families would not otherwise be able to afford the technology that is creating a gap in between them and learners from more affluent families. Please support this bill. Deanna Rasmussen Honolulu, 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.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: pcsteve2016@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2267 on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Monday, March 28, 2016 9:24:10 PM

HB2267

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Tokita	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support HB 2267. I am the parent of a student at a Pearl City middle school. I am also the owner of a small business that employs nearly a dozen people. I graduated from Pearl City High School and the University of Hawaii. As a parent, employer and resident of Hawaii, I am very aware that access to digital learning is important. It means opportunity for my child and, more importantly, children across the state. I see private schools providing laptops, tablets and extensive technology in the classrooms. That is creating a disparity between public school students and those who attend private schools. I also see that employees who apply to work with me come equipped with a variety of skills ranging from virtually "no" computer skills to those who are very well equipped for the digital age. I believe that support for technology is essential for all of Hawaii. Please advance this bill. Mahalo for your consideration.

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March 29, 2016

To: Senator Tokuda and Members of the Senate Ways & Means Committee

Re: HB 2267

I am writing to support HB 2267. My name is Virginia Young and I have been a public school teacher for more than 15 years.

Digital learning is an *absolute must* for today's workforce -- and our students are falling behind when competing with others who have tablets, laptops and updated curriculum readily available. I have been giving serious thought to spending \$500 of my own money to purchase a laptop -- and over the years I have contributed my personal resources when the school's have been lacking.

My high school students are bright, willing and hard working. But they can't begin to have a fighting chance in the world we live in now, let alone tomorrow, without the tools and resources necessary to excel.

I'm writing to express my personal support for HB 2267.

Please strongly consider passing this measure and providing funding for digital devices in public schools.