



HAWAI‘I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER TESTIMONY

Presented by Jim Shon, Director
Hawai‘i Educational Policy Center
March 4, 2015

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Wednesday, March 4, 2015 1:30 Room 308 AGENDA #2

RE HB 811 HD 1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

HEPC APPRECIATES LEGISLATIVE INTEREST EDUCATIONAL POLICY
HEPC does not have a sustainable source of funding within the University. However, in the past the excellent work of graduate students has provided an energetic, professional, and highly motivated “staff” for the center. A fully operative HEPC with funds to hold conferences, provide more timely and in-depth research for policy makers, and generate an annual Status of Education report would require approximately \$150-200,000. This bill is a very modest contribution to that goal. Our most recent calculation for the two graduate positions would be approximately \$45,000.

HEPC believes this bill serves two purposes: first, to support graduate students, many of whom struggle with the cost of attendance and future debt. Second, to create a form of sustainable staff for the center. HEPC would have no objections to this approach.

In the last year, our Ph.D. student, Ms. Shannon Hillman, has made significant contributions to HEPC studies on English Language Learners, UH tuition issues, UH student views on tuition, school empowerment, and other issues. In addition, she also manages the HEPC web page.

HEPC focuses on public educational policy that is data driven, research based, and thoughtfully implemented. Generally, we try to avoid advocacy. In order to assist you in addressing the subject of this bill, please see the following summary of HEPC.

What is HEPC?

The Hawai‘i Educational Policy Center (HEPC) is an independent policy research organization created in 1999 by the College of Education at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa.

The Research Corporation of the University of Hawai‘i (RCUH) serves as the fiscal body for HEPC and administers funds on its behalf. The responsible UH administrator is the Dean of the College of Education. While RCUH serves as the administrative home for HEPC, it

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<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/hepc/>

cannot accept funds directly. Supporting funds for HEPC are transferred to RCUH as they become available. In past years HEPC received funding from the College of Education and contracts from agencies seeking to use its services. Currently, HEPC does not have a sustainable source of funds or contracts.

HEPC's Mission

- Provide timely, concise, relevant and objective policy briefs, reports, articles, studies, forums, and workshops that reflect the needs and requests of Hawai'i policy makers.
- Become a trusted partner with policymakers in efforts to understand, nurture, improve, and adopt the best and most appropriate policies for our life-long learners in Hawai'i.

HEPC Assumptions

- There are numerous educational studies, theories and information that need to be analyzed and evaluated for quality and application to Hawai'i's situation, policies and practices.
- There are important information and research gaps that need to be filled.
- HEPC can make a difference in Hawai'i's education system. Through a network of researchers, educators and institutional collaborators, HEPC complements existing efforts and provides timely and targeted information to assist lawmakers, administrators, and educators in their educational decision-making.

How Does HEPC Serve Policymakers?

Works with policymakers to identify what information they need.

Reviews, collects and distributes information on existing research on issues relevant to Hawai'i.

Provides concise, objective, independent analysis of research.

Provides timely, targeted, interpreted data, briefings and testimony for policymakers.

Maintains a website with links to cutting-edge research and policy.

Commissions a range of policy briefs, articles, studies and reports that generate new knowledge and insights that inform policy decisions.

Conducts, facilitates, and participates in educational forums and workshops.

Initiates research on emerging and enduring issues that affect the quality of schools and the quality of learning.

Recent Policy Work

In the last year, HEPC has produced policy studies on English Language Learners, A Voters Guide to the Con Am, University of Hawai'i tuition issues, and school empowerment. A current initiative centers on civic and citizenship education.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this brief overview of HEPC, and to support our graduate students.

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HEPC TESTIMONY
February, 4th, 2015
House Committee on Finance
Shannon Hillman, HEPC Educational Researcher

RE: HB 811 HD1, Relating to the University of Hawaii.
Appropriates moneys for two full-time time equivalent graduate assistant positions at the Hawaii educational policy center at UH

HEPC SUPPORTS THIS BILL

Discussion:

At present HEPC provides data, policy analysis, briefs, and reports on current legislation and issues as well as a host of other services that are distributed to policy and decision makers as well as educators at all levels. Its aim is to service those in need, in particular legislators, by providing objective analysis and research.

Despite the amount of information that is created by HEPC annually, it currently only employs one part time (.5) Educational Researcher, and heavily relies on analysis and other such input on educational issues from expert volunteers in Education and Legislative fields. If HEPC was provided with more staff, it is expected that the amount of output would triple, as well be provide such information to legislators in a more timely fashion to keep up with the policy/research cycle.

In addition to contributing to the knowledge of policy and decision makers, these new graduate positions would assist the College of Education in its goals to aid its graduate students in financial assistance. The Educational Administration department as well as the Policy Studies specialization within the COE currently has no graduate assistants. These departments currently serve many of the islands teachers, who wish to further their careers into leadership roles, such as principals and other such positions.

To hire 2 Graduate Assistants, at Step 6, would cost approximately \$45,000 for annual wages.

Sincerely,

Shannon Hillman,
PhD Candidate, UHM
Educational Researcher
HEPC



Date: Tuesday March 4, 2015

Time: 1:30pm

Place: Conference Room 308

To: House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Re: Support of HB 811 HD1 Relating to the University of Hawai'i

My name is Michelle Tigchelaar, and I am writing on behalf and as the President of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) Graduate Student Organization (GSO). The GSO represents the approximately 5,000 graduate students at the UHM campus. I am writing in support of HB 811 HD1, which appropriates moneys for two full-time time equivalent graduate assistant positions at the Hawai'i educational policy center (HEPC) at the University of Hawai'i.

HEPC provides research and analyses to UH and the State of Hawai'i that can aid them in making data-driven decisions. For example, HEPC recently conducted a student survey on student tuition, debt, and cost of living in Hawai'i. The study showed that financial reasons increasingly drive students' decisions to leave the university. This kind of information is crucial for the state legislators and UH administrators who set the university's budget and tuition levels. Funding two graduate assistant positions at HEPC will therefore add support to this important research center, while at the same time providing additional funding and learning opportunities to two graduate students.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB811 HD1.

Sincerely,

Michelle Tigchelaar
UH Mānoa Graduate Student Organization, President

Email: mtigch@hawaii.edu

Phone: (808) 724-1392

RE HB 811 HD 1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Wednesday, March 4, 2015 1:30 Room 308 AGENDA #2

Edward J. Shultz

Interim Chancellor, Hawaii Tokai International College

Speaking as a former professor and dean at the University of Hawaii and currently as the interim chancellor of Hawaii Tokai International College (HTIC) , I urge your committee and ultimately the legislature to approve HB 811 HD 1.

The work of Hawai'i Educational Policy Center (HEPC) benefits the entire state, affording all levels of educators excellent analysis of timely issues and how these issues impact education in the State of Hawaii. As many of you know HTIC is a small private college and lacks the resources to carry out studies that HEPC routinely carries out. In short, HEPC's contributions impact private education as well public.

HEPC is also an excellent training ground for future educators. By enabling graduate students to serve on the staff of HEPC, a number of goals are achieved. Not only does this enable future educators financial help in obtaining their degrees, but also becomes an important training ground for them as professionals in the field.

This particular proposal, modest in its request for financial support, will reap significant benefits to many parties and greatly enhance our understanding of current issues facing education.

Thank you.

**Personal Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance**

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

1:30 pm Room 308

**by
Donald B. Young**

RE: HB 811 HD 1 Relating to the University of Hawai'i

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the committee.

My name is Donald Young. I am Dean of the College of Education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I was formerly Director of the Hawai'i Educational Policy Center, however today I am submitting personal testimony in support of HB 811.

The Hawai'i Educational Policy Center (HEPC) is an independent policy research organization created in 1999 to provide timely, concise, relevant, and objective policy research briefs and studies that reflect the needs of Hawai'i's policy makers. HEPC has completed numerous studies, sometimes at the request of the legislature, on a variety of issues in education from pre-school through higher education. In this regard, HEPC has made a difference in education at all levels.

Importantly, HEPC provides a unique learning experience for graduate students interested in educational policy making, analysis, and impact. The College of Education offers PhD degrees in numerous specializations, including policy studies. Doctoral students in these programs bring high levels of expertise to their advanced studies, but often lack the financial resources necessary to complete their studies in a timely manner.

Funding graduate positions under HB 811 will have several effects. First, it will provide necessary resources for HEPC to continue its mission of providing timely research-based information for decision making at a time when resources for supporting HEPC are scarce. Second, funding will provide graduate students financial resources to support their education while learning about and contributing to policy study work in Hawai'i. Previously the excellent work of graduate students has provided an energetic, professional, and highly motivated "staff" for the center. For these reasons, I urge your support of HB 811.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 811.

Testimony for Public Hearing

Mary Chang

1811 East West Road Honolulu,

HI 96848

COMMITTEE ON Finance

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 4th, 2015

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 308

RE: HB 811 HD1 Relating to the University of Hawaii

Position: **In Strong Support**

Dear Members of the Committee on Higher Education:

I am writing to testify **in strong support** of HB 811HD1. As a current University of Hawai'i student, I consider the intent and scope of HB 811 to be a beneficial contribution to our educational community. Hawai'i Educational Policy Center (HEPC) conducts research that is critical to understanding the impact of educational endeavors and programs. They have a broad scope of work including research on issues related to Common Core, early learning, STEM, tuition, among many others that are relevant not only to students but the public as well. They conduct research within a broad range of levels as well, such as K-12 and higher education.

Support for two new graduate assistant positions would help HEPC not only sustain research in its current areas of interest but also more robustly encourage and support new initiatives such as exploring civic education in Hawai'i. It would also be an excellent way to support graduate students (financially and experientially) to complete their studies by providing them opportunities to analyze and learn about a wide range of educational issues and policy-making.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this bill, and continue to help HEPC pursue its mission.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Mary Chang

March 3rd, 2015.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 8:09 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: anthony_orozco@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB811 on Mar 4, 2015 13:30PM

HB811

Submitted on: 3/2/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 4, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Anthony Orozco | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments: Waste of funds.

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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