

SB1056

Measure Title: RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Report Title: Department of Education; Education; Teachers; Incentives; Loan Repayment (\$)

Description: Establishes an incentive program that provides for incremental loan repayment for teachers serving in high need areas of Hawaii for up to ten years. Also establishes scholarship grants for students pursuing post-secondary degrees in the field of education through the department of education.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: EDU, WAM

Introducer(s): KIDANI

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
1/28/2015	S	Introduced.
1/28/2015	S	Passed First Reading.
1/28/2015	S	Referred to EDU, WAM.
2/5/2015	S	The committee(s) on EDU has scheduled a public hearing on 02-09-15 1:15PM in conference room 229.

S = Senate | H = House | D = Data Systems | \$ = Appropriation measure | ConAm = Constitutional Amendment



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

Date: 02/09/2015
Time: 01:15 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 1056 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes an incentive program that provides for incremental loan repayment for teachers serving in high need areas of Hawaii for up to ten years. Also establishes scholarship grants for students pursuing post-secondary degrees in the field of education through the department of education.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of S.B. 1056. However, the Department has concerns about the bill as drafted.

The proposed program structure is complex and, as a result, administratively burdensome given the Department's current systems and staffing. The Department anticipates the establishment and maintenance of the program would require substantial monetary resources to fund the incentives and administer the program, whether out-sourced to a third party administrator or staffed by additional Department employees.

The Department defers to the Department of Taxation and Office of the Attorney General with

respect to the taxation and legal issues, respectively, referenced in the bill.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Wil Okabe
President
Joan Kamila Lewis
Vice President
Colleen Pasco
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

DATE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015

RE: S.B. 1056 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Michelle Kidani, Honorable Vice Chair Breene Harimoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports S.B. 1056**, relating to education.

HSTA is the exclusive representative of more than 13,500 public and charter school teachers statewide. As the state affiliate, of the 3.2 million members of the National Education Association, one of HSTA's main priorities is the need to attract and retain the best and brightest to Hawaii's public education system.

The bill before you allows for an incentive program that provides incremental loan repayment for teachers serving in high need areas in Hawaii. HSTA believes this is a good first step in recognizing the importance of teachers as one of the pillars of our community. When teachers find it difficult to repay their college loans, they will look elsewhere to live and work. Oftentimes, it means moving to the mainland. We already have a yearly shortage of teachers and must look for ways to recruit and retain them. This bill provides one possible way to do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of S.B. 1056**.