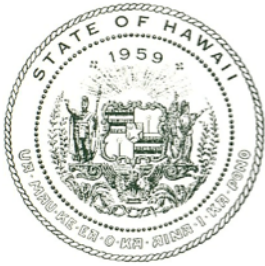


HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

SHERRY CAMPAGNA
CYD HOFFELD
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JUDY KERN
AMY MONK
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March 22, 2016

LATE

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

From: Cathy Betts
Executive Director
Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Support, SCR 110/SR 76

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SCR 110/SR 76. Title IX, renamed the “Patsy Takemoto Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act”, prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in the administration of any education program receiving federal financial assistance. Additionally, Title IX aims to prevent sexual harassment, sexual assault, discrimination against pregnant and parenting students, and the use of stereotypes and other barriers to limit a person’s access to a particular field of study or career.

Under Title IX, all school districts, colleges, and universities receiving federal financial assistance must designate at least one employee to coordinate their efforts to comply with and carry out their responsibilities under Title IX, or a Title IX coordinator. Each school is required to publish their respective Title IX coordinator’s contact information in the school’s notice of nondiscrimination, typically found in any bulletins, announcements, publications, catalogs, application forms, or other recruitment materials. The Title IX coordinator’s contact information should also be prominently posted on a school’s website. These practices not only serve students; they also serve parents and employees of a school and provide notice of important federal rights and remedies under the law.

Title IX has been instrumental in increasing educational opportunities for women and girls and fostering equality between men and women. Increased opportunity starts from a young age, and all young men and women should know they deserve an education free from hostility or discrimination. SCR 110 and SR 76 request our DOE to affirm its commitment to uphold the tenets of Title IX. The Commission strongly supports this resolution and respectfully urges this Committee to pass these resolutions.

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YWCA Laniākea
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To: Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair
Honorable Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

From: Noriko Namiki, Chief Executive Officer
YWCA of O'ahu

Re: SCR 110/SR76 – Requesting the Department of Education to Affirm its Commitment to Uphold the Tenets of Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972- SUPPORT

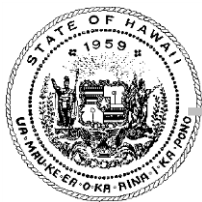
Wednesday, March 23, 2016, 1:15 p.m. -- Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 229

Good afternoon Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto, and members of the committee. On behalf of YWCA O'ahu we thank you for the opportunity to share our testimony in support of SCR110 and SR 76.

YWCA strongly supports the enforcements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which protects individuals from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. We urge the committee to support SCR110 and SR76, which calls for improved access to Title IX resources, wider distribution of Title IX policies and procedures, increased Title IX staff and resources and regular training on Title IX policies and resources to staff and students in our public schools.

This resolution highlights, enhances and underlines the Department of Education's commitment to Title IX compliance and ensures equality and safety for students and employees of Hawaii's public schools.

Thank you for your consideration.



LATE

HAWAI'I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

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March 23, 2016
Rm. 229, 1:15 p.m.

To: The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
The Honorable Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

From: Linda Hamilton Krieger, Chair
and Commissioners of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission

Re: S.C.R. 110/ S.R. 76
(Companion Resolutions H.C.R. 137/H.R. 89)

The Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai'i's laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state funded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawai'i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5.

S.C.R. 110 requests the Department of Education to affirm its commitment to uphold the tenets of Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972.

The HCRC supports S.C.R. 110. The resolution supports the intent and requirements of Title IX to eliminate sex discrimination in education, including adoption of grievance procedures. Additional protections for students are vitally needed.

Teachers and other adult employees in our public schools are protected from discrimination and have greater protection under Title VII and Chapter 378, Part I, H.R.S., against sexual and other discriminatory harassment than minor students.

Students do not have those protections under state law. Greater enforcement of Title IX, providing for protection against discriminatory harassment in publicly-funded educational institutions would help protect students from discriminatory harassment. HCRC supports and applauds efforts to increase accessibility to Title IX resources, and provide training and resources which will help students be free from harassment.

For these reasons, the HCRC encourages the Committee to pass S.C.R. 110/S.R. 76.