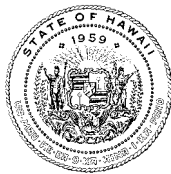


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



WESLEY K. MACHIDA
DIRECTOR

LAUREL A. JOHNSTON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

TESTIMONY BY WESLEY K. MACHIDA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 180
AND HOUSE BILL NO. 182

February 3, 2017
2:00 p.m.
Room 309

HB 180: RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING

HB 182: PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES VII AND X OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO AUTHORIZE THE LEGISLATURE TO ESTABLISH A SURCHARGE ON RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT PROPERTY AND VISITOR ACCOMMODATIONS TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

House Bill No. 182 proposes to amend the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to authorize the Legislature to establish a surcharge on residential investment property and visitor accommodations in order to fund quality public education. To implement the constitutional amendments, House Bill No. 180 amends Chapter 302A, HRS, and establishes an education surcharge on residential investment property and visitor accommodations, specifies the uses of the surcharge for public education, sets the amount of the surcharge to be collected by the counties, and establishes the Quality Education Special Fund.

The Department of Budget and Finance offers the following comments on these bills. Under the Hawaii Constitution, the State has total responsibility for many functions that are performed by or shared by local governments in most other parts of the United States. These include the public school system, libraries, public welfare, and jails, etc.

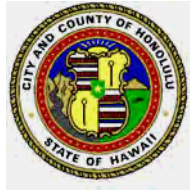
The counties' major areas of responsibility and expenditure are for primarily property-related services, such as police and fire protection, waste disposal, water and sewer facilities, streets and parks.

Because of this division of responsibilities, the Hawaii Constitution appropriately assigns to the counties the exclusive use of real property taxation. Using the property tax to fund a State function as proposed in these bills represents a fundamental departure from the current constitutional structure of functions and revenue sources.

In addition, as a technical matter regarding House Bill No. 182, the applicable article and section that should be referenced is Article VIII, Section 3, of the Hawaii Constitution. Article VIII, Section 3, relates to the taxing power of the counties. Article VII, Section 3, relates to the Tax Review Commission.

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

ROY K. AMEMIYA, JR.
MANAGING DIRECTOR

GEORGETTE T. DEEMER
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2017; 2:00 PM

TO: THE HONORABLE ROY M. TAKUMI, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE SHARON E. HAR, VICE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

FROM: ROY K. AMEMIYA, JR., MANAGING DIRECTOR
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON HB180, RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING

The City and County of Honolulu (City) submits comments on HB180, which establishes an education surcharge on residential investment properties and visitor accommodations for the purpose of funding public education. The City is profoundly aware of the burdens of taxation and will need to consider the implications for taxpayers in setting the real property tax rates. The tax on real property is the primary source of revenue for City services.

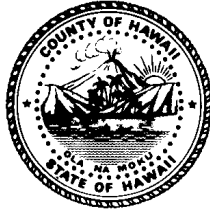
The City has a significant shortage of affordable rental housing. While this measure only imposes an additional surcharge on residential investment properties and visitor accommodations, this will have a substantial impact on the affordable rental housing market. Landlords will pass this additional cost onto tenants through the form of increased rent. While the City recognizes the need for and supports the increase of additional funds for the State's public education, the City is deeply concerned that this measure will do so at the expense of the affordable rental housing market.

The proposed additional responsibilities of administration and collection of these surcharges imposed upon the counties will be a tremendous burden. The five percent of gross proceeds may be insufficient to offset the additional costs in terms of personnel, computer system modification and other requisite costs.

It appears that the counties were not consulted on this proposal which resulted in incorporating data requirements and definitions that do not exist within the City's property tax records. To utilize data collected and valuations established for real property taxation purposes as the basis for imposing this surcharge is an improper use of the information.

The City urges this committee to consider this measure's impact on affordable rental housing and the additional burdens imposed on the counties. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy., Bldg. C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

Dear Chair Takumi and members:

As a former teacher myself, I fully appreciate the efforts of this Legislature to properly fund education. However, I cannot support HB 180, and must speak against it.

Effect on Real property tax. The County of Hawaii, as is true of the other counties, has little or no control over its revenue except in one area, real property taxes, and the County relies overwhelmingly on real property taxes to fund its operations. The burden of that tax can be heavy for many residents, but since it is virtually the only tool we have, we use it the best we can.

A surcharge on residential investment properties would obviously limit County options and make it even more difficult to balance our budgets. Therefore, we have to jealously guard this taxing authority, and ask that you not breach this line of authority.

Effect on TAT. Given our County's limited resources, we are fortunate that the Legislature has seen fit to allow the counties to share in the TAT. That has been a great help, and we thank you for it.

However, this source of revenue is under constant pressure, and even this session the Legislature will be asked to increase the counties' share of TAT so that we can better serve our constituents and visitors. The TAT pie can only be divided into so many pieces, and a surcharge on visitor accommodations, even

for the most noble of purposes, will obviously limit what can be raised and spent elsewhere.

Please do not deprive the counties of this needed source of revenue, by dividing the pie even further.

Respectfully,

Harry Kim
Mayor



Board of Directors:

House Committee on Education

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action Supports HB 180

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Cade Watanabe

Dear Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee,

My name is Anne Frederick and I am the Executive Director for the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA). HAPA is a statewide environmental, social and economic justice organization. HAPA engages over 10,000 local residents annually through our work.

From October through December of 2016 HAPA and several of our partners held a series of input gathering forums across the islands called the People's Congress. Over 800 people attended forums on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui and Hawai'i Island to discuss the most pressing issues facing their communities. The chronic underfunding of our public schools was one of the top concerns and priorities raised by residents across the state.

I am writing in strong support of HB 180 and related bills to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Respectfully,

Anne Frederick, Executive Director
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (H.A.P.A.)



HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM
A S S O C I A T I O N

Testimony of

Mufi Hannemann
President & CEO
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

House Committee on Education

House Bill 180: Relating to Education Funding

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Har and members of the Committee on Education, mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony on behalf of the more than 700 members of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association.

HLTA opposes House Bill 180, which proposes to establish a surcharge on residential investment properties and visitor accommodations to help fund our public education system. As much as we support improving upon our state's education system we must take into consideration the tax burden our visitor industry already bears.

Our respectful opposition is based on the following reasons:

Higher Taxes/Fees Hurt our Ability to Compete. In recent years, the state permanently raised the Transient Accommodations Tax, to the point where guests now pay a TAT of 9.25 percent. Coupled with the General Excise Tax, guests pay a 13.41 percent tax on the Neighbor Islands and 13.96 percent on O'ahu. Hawai'i has reached the point where high business costs and tax rates make it increasingly difficult for business to be profitable and competitive, both domestically and internationally.

Tourism Already Is the State's Revenue Producer. In its most recent report, the Hawai'i Tourism Authority stated, "Tourism is the largest single source of private capital for Hawai'i's economy." The HTA went on to note that tourism accounted for 190,000 jobs, that visitor spending last year totaled \$15.6 billion, a new high, and that the state's tax take was \$1.82 billion. Of that sum, TAT revenues alone accounted for nearly \$447 million for the state's coffers last fiscal year.

But the hospitality industry is not an infinitely prosperous, infinitely taxable entity. Lower-priced destinations and long-haul airline flights make travel to other locales easier and cheaper, and Hawai'i must remain competitive in our pricing in order to protect our value and appeal in the eyes of travelers.

TAT Revenue to the General Fund. More than half of Transient Accommodations Tax revenue now goes to the General Fund. While the TAT was established to promote and market the visitor industry, it has since become a major source of revenue for purposes other than originally intended. We would



HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM
A S S O C I A T I O N

surmise that public education may be already receiving a share of TAT revenue through its General Fund budget allocations.

Uncollected Revenue. The state government is not collecting Transient Accommodation and General Excise taxes on transient vacation rentals. The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association has gone on record as supporting legislation that would ensure a level playing field for all visitor accommodations, from the traditional hospitality businesses to the alternative accommodations offered online. There are an estimated 25,000 alternative accommodations in the Hawaiian Islands competing with hotels, resorts, timeshares, and bed-and-breakfasts, except that the majority of them are most likely avoiding our 9.25 percent Transient Accommodations and General Excise taxes. Rather than outlaw these transient vacation units, or raise the TAT, the state government should collect the millions of dollars in taxes now being avoided.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association continues to oppose raising taxes and leveraging extra fees on the visitor industry.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



The House of Representatives
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

To: Rep. Roy Takumi, Chair
Rep. Sharon Har, Vice Chair

Date: February 3, 2017

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 309
Hawaii State Capitol

RE: House Bill 180, Relating to Education Funding

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Har and Members of the Committee:

Rental By Owner Awareness Association (RBOAA) is a Hawaii non-profit corporation founded in 201, representing over 1000 members. Our mission is to provide Hawaii property owners with information to help them comply with the applicable State and County regulations, support the Hawaii economy by offering visitors choice in accommodation, and to advocate for the rights of Hawaii vacation property owners. RBOAA members provide transient vacation rentals in full compliance with existing tax and county regulations. RBOAA fully supports full enforcement of existing regulations.

RBOAA must **OPPOSE** the bill.

1. The structure of the surcharge on visitor accommodation is administratively burdensome.

The tax would much better be collected through the Transient Accommodation Tax filing rather than by setting up a whole new tax collection system(s).

The nightly rate charged for transient vacation rentals fluctuates throughout the year based on demand, which will further complicate the administration of this surcharge.

2. The bill must be clarified to confirm that vacation rental properties are not subject to both the residential investment surcharge as well as the visitor accommodation surcharge. The definition of residential investment property must be amended to clarify that the definition does not include transient accommodation.

2 | HB 180 RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING

3. Some, if not all, counties already charge a higher property tax rate on properties being used as transient vacation rentals.

	Owner	Resort Hotel Zone
CC Honolulu	\$ 3.50	\$ 12.90
Maui	2.70	8.71
Kauai	3.05	8.85
Hawaii	6.15	10.85

This tax will add an onerous burden on to property owners already taxed at a higher rate. To be clear, transient accommodation owners do not object to the current property tax structure.

4. There are a significant number of bills under consideration by the House and by the Senate which increase taxes imposed on vacation rental properties.

The State of Hawaii is economically dependent on tourism and should not take measures which make it unduly uneconomic for tourists to visit the state. In other words, do not kill the goose which lays a golden egg.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

Neal Halstead
President,
Rentals by Owner Awareness Association



Date: February 3, 2017

Time: 2:00 pm

Place: Conference Room 309

To: Senate Committee on Education

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Re: Support for HB180 and, Relating to Education

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. The Graduate Student Organization of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (GSO) supports the passage of HB180 to increase funding for public schools.

As graduate students, we are highly invested in the quality of education not just at our university, but in our local communities. Many graduate students at UH Mānoa were once students in Hawai‘i’s Department of Education, and today, current students in the public-school system are often our children or future students. Teachers are integral members of our community. They build the foundation for equality and prosperity for our future generations, and prepare our keiki for life, careers, and continued learning in higher education. Investments in public education are the foundations for a just and prosperous future. Investing in our teachers and providing them with professional pay that reflects their value will help to lower the high teacher turn-over rates, allowing teachers to be able to focus their energy on their students. And ultimately, we feel these bills will help Hawai‘i reach its goal of having 55% of its citizens receiving a college education by 2025.

Providing access to a quality education is a bedrock principle of the GSO. For these reasons, we respectfully ask that you pass HB180.

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Testimony to the House Committee on Education**Friday, February 3, 2017****2:00 p.m.****Conference Room 229**

**RE: HB 180, RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING, AND
HB 182, PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES VII AND X OF THE
CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO AUTHORIZE THE
LEGISLATURE TO ESTABLISH A SURCHARGE ON RESIDENTIAL
INVESTMENT PROPERTY AND VISITOR ACCOMMODATIONS TO
INCREASE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Har, and members of the committee:

My name is Gladys Quinto Marrone, CEO of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii.

BIA-HAWAII is in opposition to HB 180 which would establish an education surcharge on residential investment properties and visitor accommodations for the purpose of funding public education. BIA-Hawaii is also in opposition to HB 182 which proposes to amend the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to advance the State's goal of providing a quality education for the children of Hawaii by authorizing the legislature to establish, as provided by law, a surcharge on residential investment property and visitor accommodations.

The purpose of these bills is to address the chronic underfunding of public schools undermines the state's goal of providing a quality education to all of Hawaii's children. Insufficient education funding results in delayed repairs to school facilities, overheated classrooms, higher class sizes, a lack of adequate classroom supplies, elimination of arts and career and technical education courses, budget cuts for special education and English language learner programs, and an increasing number of vacant teacher positions statewide. It is necessary to develop a new means of funding Hawaii's public education system to ensure that the State will be able to prepare children to meet the social and economic demands of the twenty first century.

The bills propose to implement a constitutional amendment permitting the legislature to establish a surcharge on visitor accommodations and residential investment properties to fund the most urgent needs of the department of education, including recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers, lowering class sizes, improving special education staffing and resources, and growing the number of career and technical education and arts courses offered statewide.

According to information from the Department of Education's website, the Department of Education operates Hawaii's public schools on a \$1.9 billion budget comprised primarily of state funds (81 percent), as well as federal, special and trust funds. Hawaii is 17th in the nation for per-pupil spending.

The bill proposes to create a revenue stream for the DOE based on assessing residential units used for rentals. The bill also proposes to assess visitors on a per-person basis. The bill does not state an amount necessary to address the current needs of the DOE but merely creates a revenue source for funding existing and future programs.

While we strongly support the efforts to provide quality public education in our state, we are concerned that the responsibility to fund this effort will be shifting from the overall general tax paying public to renters of residential units in Hawaii and visitors to our state. We are also concerned with the cavalier approach to create new assessments, or taxes on activities with no nexus to the end-user.

If public education is a priority in our state, then it should be funded by the general tax payers through appropriations from the legislature. Based on these concerns, BIA Hawaii is not in support of HB 180 and HB 182.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our input on this important legislation.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Education
Friday, February 3, 2017 at 2:00 P.M.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol**

**RE: HOUSE BILL 182 PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES VII AND X OF
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO AUTHORIZE THE
LEGISLATURE TO ESTABLISH A SURCHARGE ON RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT
PROPERTY AND VISITOR ACCOMMODATIONS TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR
PUBLIC EDUCATION
AND
HOUSE BILL 180 RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING**

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **strongly opposes** HB 182, which proposes amendments to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to advance the State's goal of providing a quality education for the children of Hawaii by authorizing the legislature to establish, as provided by law, a surcharge on residential investment property and visitor accommodations.

The Chamber also **strongly opposes** HB 180, which establishes an education surcharge on residential investment properties and visitor accommodations for the purpose of funding public education.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,600+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The package of bills proposes to implement a constitutional amendment permitting the legislature to establish a surcharge on visitor accommodations and residential investment properties to fund the department of education, and then a statutory mechanism to implement the program. The statutory bill proposes two new taxes, one on residential investment property and one to assess visitor stay on a per day basis.

While we strongly support the efforts to provide quality public education in our state, we are concerned that there is no clear amount designated as a sufficient amount of funds for education. We are also concerned with the approach to create new assessments, or taxes on activities with no nexus to the end user or, worse, taxes one group of residents and not others. On taxing residential investment property, the resident renter will likely pay the tax. Hawaii has approximately a 55%+ homeowner rate. That would suggest that about 40-45% of all residents



living in the state are renting. This would create an unfair tax burden on renters and increase the cost of housing for all residents, which this bill in part tries to address for teachers. As far as we can tell, resident homeowners would not be affected by this tax. This appears to be an unfair targeted tax and could create a further economic divide between homeowners and renters. A renter in a \$400,000 valued residential property could be affected by this tax to the amount of an additional \$1,400 per year. For someone renting the average home value or \$760,000 the tax could be over \$4,100 each year. Even though there are exemptions for certain types of residential units, it could skew the marketplace and adversely affect the rental market. It is also unclear on a practical level how these exemptions will be monitored and enforced. We are not sure the Superintendent is the best lead enforcement person even with the help of the state and county director of finance. In addition, the resources by the state and county to administer and enforce this new law are not addressed in the bill. Furthermore, the new administrative burden by homeowners may again negatively affect the marketplace.

For the tax on tourism, there is already a 13.75% tax rate on transient accommodations. We think the per-day tax could hurt tourism and damage further investment by transient accommodation owners into Hawaii's properties. It will also place an additional and complicated burden on transient accommodation operators as they will have to track and report on two different types of accommodation taxes. Transient accommodation companies already provide huge tax revenues to the state in TAT, GE and the income taxes for the thousands of jobs that they provide in our state.

Lastly, we also have other issues with the bill. It does not guarantee (nor can any language) that the additional tax revenues will be used only for the department of education. Second, the bill does not state what the hundreds of millions of dollars in additional taxes will accomplish. Lastly, we have concerns on the larger issue of raising taxes to fund a program. As we mentioned there are many important programs that the state funds, but doing this could set a dangerous precedent for other programs with constituencies to come in for further tax increases.

We ask these bills be deferred. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our input on this important legislation.



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 Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Corey Rosenlee
 President
Justin Hughey
 Vice President
Amy Perruso
 Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
 Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
 EDUCATION

RE: HB 180 - RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2017

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
 HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports HB 180**, relating to education funding.

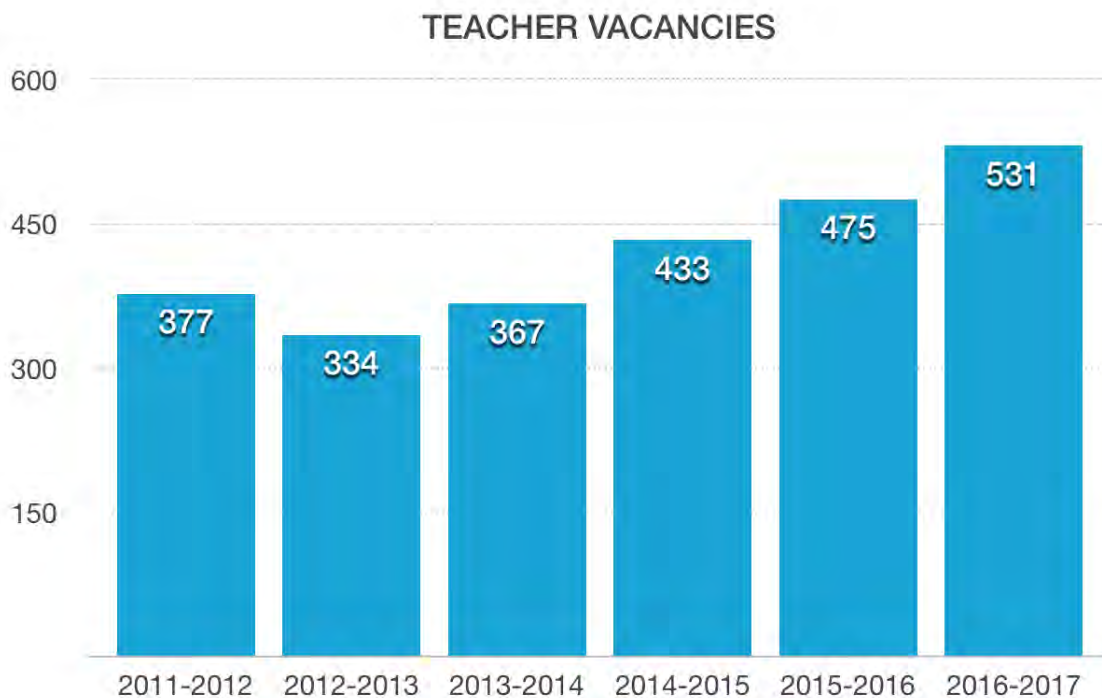
Hawai'i shortchanges its public schools. While our state's per-pupil spending of \$11,823 ranks 17th in the nation when compared to other states in raw dollars, comparison with school districts of similar size and demographics yields different results. Mainland districts with high costs of living are typically urban and averaged with with rural districts experiencing lower costs of living in statewide analyses. When comparing school districts of similar size, Hawai'i, the nation's only statewide school district, ranks 227th in per-pupil funding *before* adjusting for cost of living. A comparison of spending per pupil in America's largest school districts shows the following:

DISTRICT	Wash. D.C.	New York City, NY	Boston, MA	Pittsburgh, PA	Cincinnati, OH	Detroit, MI
AMOUNT	\$26,661	\$25,061	\$22,762	\$22,600	\$22,157	\$18,361

Hawaii's major private schools, on the other hand, average \$15,173 in per-pupil spending. When Catholic schools, subsidized by the Roman Catholic Diocese, are removed, private school spending jumps to nearly \$19,173 dollars per student, sans endowment funds that further boost private school baselines. As Punahou President Jim Scott revealed in 2014, "The real cost of our education per student is \$26,000,"

with the school's endowment standing then at \$235 million and fundraising operations generating an additional \$12-\$15 million each year.

At the same time, we are facing a teacher shortage crisis. Insufficient funding has led to a teacher shortage crisis. From 2011 to 2014, the DOE suffered an average of 359 unfilled vacancies per year. Yet, departmental data showed 531 vacancies for the 2016-2017 school year, a 45 percent increase from the 2013-14 school year.



While many factors influence teachers' decisions about whether or not to remain in their classrooms, low salaries are undoubtedly a primary driver of teacher turnover. In an analysis performed by HSTA, Hawai'i's beginning teacher salaries were found to be approximately \$4,000 lower than average, while our state's highest salaries are roughly \$15,000 lower than average. We found that the biggest salary disparity encapsulates teachers with 10 to 20 years of service, whose salaries are \$15,000 to \$20,000 lower than their counterparts in comparable districts. When comparing the



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Corey Rosenlee
President

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Vice President

Amy Perruso
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

overall average of teacher salaries adjusted for cost of living, both nationwide and in comparable districts, Hawai'i teachers are the lowest paid in the nation.

By levying a surcharge on residential investment properties and visitor accommodations, we can raise over \$500 million each year for education without placing an unfair financial burden on local residents. We can create class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, expand whole child education to include career and technical education and the arts, increase resources for special needs students, and provide professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

At the same time, we can make Hawai'i more affordable. Over the past two decades, the pricing of housing in the islands has skyrocketed. Townhomes have increased nearly 400 percent since 2001, with the average cost of a single-family home now exceeding \$720,000. According to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, foreign nationals pay roughly 64 percent more than Hawai'i residents for homes, with luxury apartment buildings being built in Kaka'ako advertising prices that, in some cases, average to over \$3 million per unit. Our state's high cost of housing and renting is driven by real estate speculators using the islands as their personal Monopoly board. In levying a surcharge on investment properties and incentivizing low-income rentals, we are not only advancing our children's future, but ensuring that they aren't priced out of paradise.

The time for talking about the problems in our school system is over. It is time to act. To build the schools our keiki deserve, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



Hawaii
Children's Action Network
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

February 2, 2017

To: Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Committee on Education

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **HB 180 – Relating to Education Funding**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309, February 3, 2017, 2:00 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support HB 180 – Relating to Education Funding.

As one of the lowest rated school districts for spending per student, Hawaii needs to find new ways to increase funding for education. This bill provides an option to increase funding without increasing the tax burden on Hawaii residents. This additional funding for education can lead to better results in test scores, school completion, college attendance, and job opportunities for students.

For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that the committee pass this bill.

HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education. Last fall, HCAN convened input in person and online from more than 50 organizations and individuals that came forward to support or express interest for a number of issues affecting children and families in our state that resulted in the compilation of 2017 Hawai'i Children's Policy Agenda, which can be accessed at <http://www.hawaii-can.org/2017policyagenda>.



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council

919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101

Honolulu, HI 96814

Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129

email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov

February 3, 2017

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

Ms. Martha Guinan, *Chair*
Ms. Dale Matsuura, *Vice Chair*
Dr. Patricia Sheehy, *Vice
Chair*
Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Vice Chair*

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta
Dr. Robert Campbell, *liaison
to the military*
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman
Ms. Annette Cooper
Ms. Gabriele Finn
Mr. Sage Goto
Ms. Valerie Johnson
Ms. Bernadette Lane
Ms. Kaili Murbach
Ms. Stacey Oshio
Ms. Kau'i Rezentos
Ms. Charlene Robles
Ms. Rosie Rowe
Mr. James Street
Dr. Todd Takahashi
Dr. Daniel Ulrich
Mr. Steven Vannatta
Mr. Gavin Villar
Dr. Amy Wiech
Ms. Jasmine Williams
Ms. Susan Wood

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff
Susan Rocco, Staff

Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Committee on Education
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 180 and HB 182 - Relating to Education

Dear Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee,

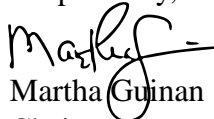
The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **supports the intent** of the above bills to increase funding for public education in Hawaii.

Hawaii serves a smaller percentage of students with disabilities compared to the entire student population than the national average--10.4% compared to 12.9% for most states--which may indicate that we are not identifying and serving all students who are eligible for special education services. Those who are served have experienced lackluster progress and a growing achievement gap with their non-disabled peers. Hawaii also serves significantly fewer children in the general education classroom contrary to IDEA mandates for placement in the least restrictive environment.

To address these inequities will take additional resources, including higher teacher pay to attract more qualified teachers to the field, smaller class sizes to encourage greater inclusion and specialized services and supports to meet the unique learning needs of these students. An enhanced funding stream for public education would benefit ALL children in Hawaii, including those who are most vulnerable to academic failure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important legislation. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me.

Respectfully,


Martha Guinan
Chair


Ivalee Sinclair
Legislative Committee Chair



February 3, 2017

TO: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
REPRESENTATIVE ROY TAKUMI, Chair Education Committee
REPRESENTATIVE SHARON HAR, Vice-Chair Education Committee

FR: American Resort Development Association (ARDA) Hawaii
Blake Oshiro, Acting Executive Director

RE: House Bill 180 Relating To Education Funding - **Oppose**

House Bill 182 Proposing Amendments To Articles VII And X Of The Constitution Of The State Of Hawaii To Authorize The Legislature To Establish A Surcharge On Residential Investment Property And Visitor Accommodations To Increase Funding For Public Education – **Oppose**

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Har and Members of the Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the proposed Constitutional Amendment and the statutory counterpart bills. On behalf of the American Resort Development Association (ARDA) Hawaii, the time share association, we respectfully **oppose** these bills.

While the discussion and policy decisions about the proper level of funding for public education is an important one that has been ongoing for several years, the approach taken in these bills seeks to have one sector of the economy bear that burden. This is an unfair targeting of one industry to be taxed. While this does not necessarily mean ARDA-Hawaii supports a large broad-based tax increase, it is much more reasonable for our community to engage in policy discussion on the amount and source of education funding. Moreover, these proposals single-out one area and type of property and property owners/users to have to pay these fees for services and programs which do not have a direct nexus to the surcharge that is sought to be imposed.

Our tourism industry remains state's top economic driver. Unfortunately, our other important economic driver, the military support and spending, is also tenuous and uncertain due to changes at the federal level in the past few years including sequestration, the elimination of earmarked appropriations or "pork-barrel" projects, and loss of congressional seniority. This compounded by an uncertain and yet to be determined approach by the new federal Administration. As such, additional targeted fees or taxes on our visitor accommodations has the potential to drag down our tourism market momentum and inhibit Hawaii's continued cost-competitiveness as a sought-after tropical destination.

It is for these reasons that ARDA-Hawaii must respectfully oppose these bills. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 309
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2017 AT 2:00 P.M.**

To The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair;
The Honorable Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Education Committee

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF HB180 TO ESTABLISH A SURCHARGE ON
RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT PROPERTY AND VISITOR ACCOMODATIONS
TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Aloha, my name is Pamela Tumpap and I am the President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, serving in this role for over a decade. I am writing share our opposition to HB180.

While we strongly support public education, we don't believe adding a tax to residential investment property and visitor accommodations is the answer. One of our concerns with the tax on residential investment property is that it would likely be paid by resident renters. There is already a limited quantity of rental properties and rents are extremely high here. We fear that many local renters would not be able to afford the rent increase that could be caused by this additional tax and recognize that we have to balance solutions for all residents and recognize that renters make up over one-third of all Hawaii residents.

In regards to the tax on visitor accommodations, we believe there should not be another tax in addition to the transient accommodations tax that is already in place and considerable. This could greatly harm our visitor industry that has to compete with locations around the world and could drive Hawaii visitors to other markets. The visitor industry is not only very important to our state economy, it is critical to Maui's economy, especially with the recent closing of HC&S.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this matter and therefore ask that this bill be deferred.



Mahalo for your consideration of our testimony and we hope you will support a deferral.


Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap

Pamela Tumpap
President



 | 808-733-7060
 | 808-737-4977

 | 1259 A'ala Street, Suite 300
Honolulu, HI 96817

February 3, 2017

The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair
House Committee on Education
State Capitol, Room 309
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: H.B. 180, Relating to Education

HEARING: Friday, February 3, 2017, at 2:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee.

I am Myoung Oh, Director of Government Affairs, here to testify on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its 9,000 members. HAR **strongly opposes** H.B. 180 which establishes an education surcharge on residential investment properties and visitor accommodations for the purpose of funding public education.


The bill proposes to create a revenue stream for the Department of Education based on assessing residential units used for rentals. The bill also proposes to assess visitors on a per person basis but does not state an amount necessary to address the current needs of the DOE, and thereby creates a revenue source for funding existing and future programs.


While we continue to recognize the importance of education, we are concerned that the responsibility in funding this effort will be shifted from the overall general tax paying public to those that own residential investment property and visitors to our State. Moreover, there is no clear nexus between those that invest in residential property and visitors to our State (since they do not live in Hawai'i) to education.


According to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, Hawai'i had a homeownership rate of about 59% in 2015, which suggests 41% are renters. Should an additional surcharge be placed on rental investment property, these additional costs may be passed on to renters. Furthermore, with rising housing costs, more homeowners today are purchasing an investment property so that their children have a place to call home or to plan for retirement. With Hawaii's high cost of living and housing, this would further burden our working individuals and families.





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Honolulu, HI 96817

Educational needs must be weighed against the priorities of the State as a whole through the budgeting process and HAR does not support earmarking a new surcharge on residential investment property and visitor accommodations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in opposition to this measure.



EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 8:59 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB180 on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM

HB180

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Hawaii Island School Garden Network	Support	No

Comments: Our public schools, especially our smaller rural schools are underfunded. ESSA will give us a chance to really improve education in Hawai'i. Please support our public and charter schools, to have the funds necessary to improve public education. Also, our teachers need to be paid a living wage, or we will continue to lose them. Turnover at this rate is unsustainable. Mahalo

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

SanHi Government Strategies

a limited liability law partnership

Gary M. Slovin
Mihoko E. Ito
R. Brian Tsujimura

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gslovin@awlaw.com
mito@awlaw.com
rtsujimura@awlaw.com

DATE: February 2, 2017

TO: Representative Roy Takumi
Chair, Committee on Education
Submitted via Capitol Website

RE: **H.B. 180 – Relating to Education Funding**
Hearing Date: Friday, February 3, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room: 309

Dear Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee on Education:

We submit this testimony on behalf of Wyndham Vacation Ownership. Wyndham offers individual consumers and business-to-business customers a broad suite of hospitality products and services through its portfolio of world-renowned brands. Wyndham Vacation Ownership has a substantial presence in Hawaii through its Wyndham Vacation Resorts, WorldMark by Wyndham and Shell Vacations brands.

Wyndham **opposes** H.B. 180, which would establish a \$3 per day surcharge on visitor accommodations that cost less than \$150 per day, and a \$5 per day surcharge on visitor accommodations that cost more than \$150 per day to fund public education. Timeshare owners already pay the transient accommodations tax on timeshare, also known as the “transient occupancy tax” or “TOT,” making Hawaii the only state in the nation that taxes owners of timeshares for occupancy of property they already own. Establishing a new, additional surcharge on visitor accommodations would negatively impact an industry that already contributes significantly to the state.

The timeshare industry is a strong and consistent source of economic growth for the state that brings stability to the visitor industry by providing reliable and consistent occupancy. Timeshare owners, which include kama’aina, are loyal and repeat visitors who have made long-term commitments to vacation in the islands. In

Gary M. Slovin
Mihoko E. Ito
R. Brian Tsujimura
C. Mike Kido
Tiffany N. Yajima
Matthew W. Tsujimura

economic downturns, timeshares stabilize the economy and mitigate potential adverse effects on the community.

While Wyndham appreciates that funding for public school education is important, there is no nexus between increasing taxes on visitors and funding for public schools. Moreover, increasing taxes on the visitor industry could have unintended consequences like reduced visitor spending or decreased visitor arrivals. For these reasons, we respectfully ask this committee to hold this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

SanHi Government Strategies

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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governmentaffairs@awlaw.com

gslovin@awlaw.com
mito@awlaw.com
rtsujimura@awlaw.com

DATE: February 2, 2017

TO: Representative Roy Takumi
Chair, Committee on Education
Submitted via Capitol Website

RE: **H.B. 182 – PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES VII AND X OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO AUTHORIZE THE LEGISLATURE TO ESTABLISH A SURCHARGE ON RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT PROPERTY AND VISITOR ACCOMMODATIONS TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION.**
Hearing Date: Friday, February 3, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room: 309

Dear Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee on Education:

We submit this testimony on behalf of Wyndham Vacation Ownership. Wyndham offers individual consumers and business-to-business customers a broad suite of hospitality products and services through its portfolio of world-renowned brands. Wyndham Vacation Ownership has a substantial presence in Hawaii through its Wyndham Vacation Resorts, WorldMark by Wyndham and Shell Vacations brands.

Wyndham **opposes** H.B. 182, which propose a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to establish a surcharge on visitor accommodations to fund public education. Timeshare owners already pay the transient accommodations tax on timeshare, also known as the “transient occupancy tax” or “TOT,” making Hawaii the only state in the nation that taxes owners of timeshares for occupancy of property they already own. Establishing a new,

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additional surcharge on visitor accommodations would negatively impact an industry that already contributes significantly to the state.

The timeshare industry is a strong and consistent source of economic growth for the state that brings stability to the visitor industry by providing reliable and consistent occupancy. Timeshare owners, which include kama'aina, are loyal and repeat visitors who have made long-term commitments to vacation in the islands. In economic downturns, timeshares stabilize the economy and mitigate potential adverse effects on the community.

While Wyndham appreciates that funding for public school education is important, there is no nexus between increasing taxes on visitors and funding for public schools. Moreover, increasing taxes on the visitor industry could have unintended consequences like reduced visitor spending or decreased visitor arrivals. For these reasons, we respectfully ask this committee to hold this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.



February 2, 2017

2850 Kahawai Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

808 988 5505
www.ppsHI.org

House Committee on Education
Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair

Lois Yamauchi
President
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Har, and Committee Members:

Kashmira Reid
Vice President

This testimony is in strong support for HB180 and HB182, relating to Education Funding.

Sue Haglund
Secretary

Ernestine Enomoto
Treasurer

Deborah Bond-Upson

Zachary Dilonno

Clare Hanusz

Kate Righter

Mary Weir

Parents for Public Schools of Hawai'i has received comments from families whose children are in public schools across our State about what they love about their schools and their concerns. The message is clear that what they appreciate most is their child's teacher. And yet, our State does not adequately compensate teachers for the hard work that they do. Teachers are education's greatest resource, and families acknowledge that teachers are the key to our children's success. We must be able to recruit and retain teachers who are caring, well prepared, and hold high expectations for all children. Teachers are professionals and should not need to work second jobs and live paycheck to paycheck. If we would like to attract the best teachers and retain them in the profession, they need to be adequately compensated.

Our members would like educators to refocus education on the whole child. Families value music, the arts, dance, languages, and Hawaiian and Polynesian studies. These are subjects that are crucial for the healthy and creative development of children that are currently missing in public education. All children deserve an education that nurtures every facet of their life, one that engages them in interesting curriculum that exposes them to new, exciting and creative arenas.

We believe Hawaii public schools are underfunded and our teachers are underpaid. It is time to invest in our children's education and their future. We support HB180 establishing education surcharges on residential investment property and visitor accommodations to increase funding for public schools with surcharges used for:

1. Recruiting and retaining public school teachers;
2. Lowering public school class sizes;
3. Improving special education staffing and resources; and

4. Offering additional instruction in career and technical education, visual arts, music, theatre, dance, Hawaiian and Polynesian studies, and Hawaiian language.

We also support HB182 proposing Amendments to the State Constitution to authorize the legislature to establish a surcharge on residential investment property and visitor accommodations to increase funding for public education. **Let the public vote on this issue.**

This is our greatest opportunity to support and promote education of all Hawai'i's keiki in ways that will significantly influence their lives. These bills can positively affect the lives of thousands of children and their families in our State for many generations to come. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aloha,



Lois Yamauchi, PhD

President, Parents for Public Schools of Hawai'i

Parents for Public Schools Hawaii (PPSHI) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer organization of parents, community members, and educators working to improve and support public education through family engagement. We are committed to ensuring all children in Hawai'i have access to a quality public education.

Parents for Public Schools Hawaii (PPS Hawai'i) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer organization of parents, community members, and educators working to improve and support public education through family engagement. We are committed to ensuring all children in Hawai'i have access to a quality public education.



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Executive Director

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 180, RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING

House Committee on Education
Hon. Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Hon. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Friday, February 3, 2017, 2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Honorable Chair Takumi and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 350 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of House Bill 180, relating to education funding.

In comparison to school districts of similar size and demographic composition, Hawai‘i, ranks 227th in per-pupil funding *before* adjusting for cost of living, at \$11,823 per child. Washington D.C., New York City, Boston, Pittsburgh, and Cincinnati school districts, for example, spend nearly twice as much as Hawai‘i per pupil, at well over \$22,000 to over \$26,000 per student. Similarly, local private schools, discounting Catholic institutions, spend nearly \$19,173 dollars per student, with Punahou President Jim Scott revealing, in 2014, “The real cost of our education per student is \$26,000,” owing to the school’s then-total endowment of \$235 million and fundraising operations of \$12-\$15 million annually.

Moreover, at the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year, media outlets widely reported that the DOE faced 625 vacant teaching positions. While the Department of Education currently includes the percentage of teaching positions filled on the first day of school as a statewide indicator in its strategic plan, this statistic does not detail the quality or competency of the teachers filling vacant positions. The number of new teachers hired who have not completed a teacher education program has increased from 125 for the 2011-2012 school year to 241 for the 2015-2016 school year. Over the same period, the number of teacher resignations has increased from 624 in 2011-2012 to 781 in 2015-2016, while the total number of voluntary teacher separations has increased from 934 in 2011-2012 to 1,075 in 2015-2016. In short, hundreds of teachers are leaving the workforce each year at an accelerating pace, while the DOE does not have enough trained and licensed teachers in waiting to fill the holes they leave. Accordingly, we must raise Hawai‘i’s last-in-the-nation cost of living adjusted teacher pay as a means of addressing the problem. Studies have shown that as teacher pay increases, so, too, does student

achievement. A Stanford University study found that “raising teacher wages by 10 percent reduces high school dropout rates by 3 percent to 4 percent,” while a study of Florida showed that pay raises reduced teacher attrition by as much as 25 percent for hard-to-fill subject areas, with children’s learning growth gaining from more exposure to experienced educators. Recently, the Hawai’i State Teachers Association performed a study of teacher compensation in comparison with mainland peer districts. HSTA found that teachers’ wages are \$4,000 to \$20,000 below that of their mainland peers *before* adjusting for cost of living. Put simply, to reduce teacher turnover, we must pay educators what they’re worth.

We are especially heartened by this measure’s possibilities for making Hawai’i more affordable. Hawai’i residents face the highest housing costs in the nation, at more than twice the national average. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition’s *Out of Reach 2016* report, a full time worker would need to earn \$34.22/hour to afford a two-bedroom apartment at fair market value in our state, with Honolulu experiencing a 67 percent increase in fair market rent between 2005 and 2015. Average rent for a two-bedroom unit surpassed \$2,100 in 2015, with average rent for a 900-square-foot exceeding \$2,200 in 2016. In the past three years alone, Honolulu rent has increased 23.5 percent. While 47 percent of Hawai’i residents are renters (a number that does not include individuals and families renting outside of the regulated rental market), they earn an average wage of \$14.49/hour, scarcely enough to meet their basic needs. One out of every four households in Hawai’i report that they are “doubling up” or are three paychecks or less away from being homeless, according to the Hawai’i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice. Moreover, 54 percent of households are cost-burdened, meaning that they pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing costs.

We are in the midst of an affordable housing crisis. For context, our state’s cost of housing has skyrocketed over the last decade, leaving many families searching for affordable alternatives, in shelters, or on the streets. The median price of condominiums on O’ahu increased 8.3 percent in 2016 to \$390,000, while the median price for single-family homes increased by 6.5 percent to \$735,000, according to the Honolulu Board of Realtors. The cost of a four-bedroom home in urban Honolulu now exceeds \$1.1 million. At least 40 percent of residences in Hawai’i are owner unoccupied, according to the Hawai’i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, meaning that nearly 50 percent—and by some estimates well over half—of Hawai’i homes are investment properties. Many of those properties are owned by mainland and foreign buyers, whose real estate market speculation is a prime driver of Hawai’i’s highest-in-the-nation cost of housing.

Housing costs are driven largely by real estate speculators, who use Hawai’i as their personal luxury row. We must ask ourselves: do we want to continue catering to people who live outside of Hawai’i, but have the resources to maintain a home here, too? Or do we want to create a first-rate education system for our children? According to a study released in May of 2016 by the Hawai’i Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, there are “clear

distinctions” between the average price of homes bought by local residents, mainlanders, and foreigners. Analyzing purchases made between 2008 and 2015, DBEDT found: “The average sale price was highest among foreign buyers. The average sale price of the total of 5,775 homes sold to foreign buyers from 2008 to 2015 was \$786,186, 28.3 percent higher than the average sale price to the mainlanders (\$612,770) and 64.7 percent higher than the average sale price to local buyers (\$477,460).” Thus, this constitutional amendment directly impacts real estate speculators driving up housing and, in turn, rental prices in Hawai’i, i.e. those most responsible for pricing families keiki out of paradise.

All children deserve a chance at a brilliant future. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: REAL PROPERTY, TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS, Education Surcharge on Residential Investment Properties and Visitor Accommodations

BILL NUMBER: SB 686; HB 180 (Identical) [Implementing Legislation]; SB 683, HB 182 (Identical) [Constitutional Amendment]

INTRODUCED BY: SB by KIDANI, K. RHOADS, SHIMABUKURO, Dela Cruz, Espero, Gabbard, Inouye, K. Kahele; HB by SAIKI

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Proposes a substantial surcharge on real property tax for residences where the home exemption is not claimed, and on transient accommodations. Proposes a constitutional amendment, because the surcharge would not be constitutional now. With a tax increase of this magnitude, economic ripple effects are likely to be enormous. We also question why such a massive increase is being sought given that the Department of Education already has a gargantuan share of the State budget but is still beset with such issues as frustrated teachers and students roasting in our classrooms.

BRIEF SUMMARY: Levies a surcharge on all residential investment property in the State of Hawaii as follows:

Property value	Surcharge per \$1,000 of total property value
Under \$500,000	\$3.50
\$500,000 under \$750,000	\$4.50
\$750,000 under \$1,000,000	\$5.50
\$1,000,000 under \$2,000,000	\$6.50
\$2,000,000 and over	\$7.50

Residential investment property is defined as all realty and all machinery and other mechanical or allied equipment and the foundations thereof, that is dedicated for residential use for which the owner does not qualify for a homeowner's exemption.

Levies a surcharge on visitor accommodations in the State of Hawaii as follows:

Daily price	Surcharge per day
Less than \$150	\$3.00
\$150 or more	\$5.00

Visitor accommodations are defined as all transient accommodations pursuant to section 237D-1, resort time share vacation units pursuant to section 237D-1, and any other dwelling or lodging located in the State and let by an owner or operator for less than one hundred eighty

days. Visitor accommodations shall not include any facility owned or used by a government agency, school or college dormitory, homeless facility pursuant to section 346-361, or tenement home, group home, group residence, group living arrangement, boarding house, certified pursuant to section 445-94.

Obligates the counties to collect the surcharge, but provides that they may retain 5% of the amount collected to reimburse the county for the costs of assessment, collection, and disposition of the education surcharge incurred by the county.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon ratification of the constitutional amendment permitting the legislature to establish a surcharge on residential investment properties and visitor accommodations to fund public education.

STAFF COMMENTS: The real property tax increases being proposed are substantial. For a residential property valued at a shade under \$1 million in Honolulu, for example, the real property tax would be \$3,500 and the surcharge would be \$5,500, for a total of \$9,000, nearly tripling the tax bill.

Some have sought to justify the dramatic effects upon the real property tax wrought by this bill by the argument that low property taxes are a bad thing. The preamble in HB 1735 (2016), for example, said:

The legislature finds that Hawaii has the lowest property taxes in the nation. Although this makes sense for low- and middle-income residents who own an average single-family home, this causes the counties to potentially forego additional tax revenue from high-value homes and second homes.

The legislature further finds that many individuals and families who spend time in Hawaii are owners of high-value properties and do not pay state income tax, instead maintaining resident status in another state with a lower income tax rate. However, these individuals still use Hawaii's infrastructure and services, and thus should pay their fair share.

The legislature also finds that low property taxes can incentivize development of high-end, high-value properties, contributing to the high cost of land in Hawaii, driving up the cost of living and exacerbating our affordable housing and homelessness issues.

The conventional wisdom as to why Hawaii has low real property taxes is that most other states provide schools at the city or county level, requiring them to be funded by a municipal funding source like a property tax. Hawaii has a state-run school system, which is funded by state funding sources like the income tax and the GET.

Are the counties suffering because they are forgoing tax revenue? The counties set property tax rates by ordinance and look at rate levels during every budget cycle. Honolulu and Kauai, for example, enacted major changes to their property tax systems in 2013. If the counties are forgoing revenue, they are doing it by their own choice.

Do nonresidents fail to pay their fair share in income tax? Our income tax is like the tax systems in most other states. Nonresidents get taxed on income with its source in Hawaii. Residents get taxed on income regardless of source BUT get a credit for tax paid to another state or country on income that has its source in that state or country. So, a taxpayer's tax, resident or not, depends on where the income comes from and whether other jurisdictions are also taxing it. This kind of system has been upheld as meeting the requirements in the U.S. Constitution. See, for example, *Comptroller of the Treasury of Maryland v. Wynne*, 575 U.S. ____ (2015). If that system fails to tax people fairly, why do most states with an income tax use it?

Do low property taxes lead to development of high-end properties that then drive up the cost of land and therefore the cost of living? And if so, is the remedy for this higher taxes which can and do drive up the cost of living *by themselves*? Land costs more because we're on an island in paradise. Folks are willing to pay decent money to live here part of the time even if they might not want to live here permanently. Indeed, our tourism authority actively encourages potential tourists to come here. So property is going to cost more here than the same square footage in places where transient rental is less of a factor.

A tax increase of any magnitude in Hawaii's fragile economy will, no doubt, have a negative impact as costs soar due to higher taxes. As costs and overhead increase, employers must find ways to stay in business by either increasing prices to their customers or cut back on costs. This may take the form of reducing inventory, shortening business hours, reducing employee hours, or even laying off workers. A tax increase of any magnitude would send many companies, especially smaller ones, out of business taking with them the jobs the community so desperately needs at this time.

While the teachers believe that they have not been given a fair shake at the negotiating table, that is an issue that should be resolved at the table and not by asking for tax increases or an earmarked source of funding. It is up to the teachers to ask for what money is available just like any other collective bargaining units. Although public employee union leaders complain about how the public employees should not be asked to bear the brunt of the downturn in the economy, they seem to ignore the fact that employees in the private sector have taken hits early and often, with many of them either working shorter hours or having taken pay cuts if they are working at all. A recent analysis of Bureau of Economic Analysis data done by the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii,¹ for example, showed that Hawaii teachers make low wages and benefits, 42nd in the nation, but that Hawaii's private sector workers made the lowest wages and benefits nationally when adjusted for cost of living.

Teachers do have a legitimate complaint that should demand the attention of lawmakers and Board of Education members, namely that teachers are being asked to do more and more administrative paperwork and are spending less and less time in the classroom. If nothing else, the funds that are being appropriated to the DOE are failing to reach the classroom because of the top-heavy administrative structure of the department that demands reports and schedules and evaluations to justify the role of administrators. The frustration of classroom teachers is that they

¹ <http://www.grassrootinstitute.org/2017/01/islanders-shouldnt-be-taxed-extra-for-teacher-bonuses/>

Re: SB 686

Page 4

spend too much time filling out forms and reports and not enough time in the actual classroom. Unfortunately, with more than \$1.5 billion in its budget and more than 20% of the general fund budget, teachers are frustrated, and kids are roasting in the schools. The department of education still cannot get it right. Until it does, there is little justification for an increase of financial resources let alone a massive tax increase as proposed.

Digested 2/1/2017

Hawaii Democratic Party Labor Caucus

H.B. 180 – Relating to Education Funding
House Committee on Education
February 3, 2016

H.B. 180 establishes an education surcharge on residential investment properties and visitor accommodations for the purpose of funding public education. The Hawaii Democratic Party Labor Caucus strongly supports the passage of this measure.

Thank your for the opportunity to testify,

Mary Wagner
Legislative Chair

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 12:44 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: coalitionforequaltaxation@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB180 on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM

HB180

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Chang	Coalition for Equal Taxation	Oppose	No

Comments: On behalf of the Coalition for Equal Taxation, please defer HB180. This Bill creates an extremely heavy burden on nonresident property owners. Our Coalition believes that all taxpayers should share in the responsibility of supporting education and to single out only residential investment property and visitor accommodations (both of which are primarily nonresidents) is unequal taxation. This Bill also assesses a daily increase of tax on gross receipts. This is a taxation on commerce, however, again, this tax is being applied only to visitor accommodations (and timeshares). Why would a surcharge tax to support education fall only on this very small sector and not apply to the broader GE taxation? Equally puzzling is if it is associated with visitor accommodations why would hotels not be taxed? Also please consider, many owners of investment property are people who are retired. That is why they have the time to enjoy a second home in Hawaii. Many mainlanders spend part of the year on the mainland and then part of the year in their Hawaii home. This additional surcharge on already high property taxes for the zones where these properties are located, is a serious financial impact on seniors Coalition for Equal Taxation John Chang

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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TIM VANDEVEER
Chair
MARIE STRAZAR
Vice Chair

MARGARET WILLE
SEAN SMITH
Legislation Committee Co-Chairs

February 1, 2017

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Committee On Education

February 3, 2017 2:00 p.m. State Capitol Conference Room 309

HB180 "RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING"

Submitted on Behalf of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS** HB180 "RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING" which is designed to provide dedicated funding for the education of our children. **The intent of this legislation is one of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i's legislative priorities for the 2017 legislative session.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *Tim Vandever* (tim@hawaiidemocrats.org)
Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i
/s/ *Marie (Dolly) Strazar* (hilomds@gmail.com)
Vice Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

/s/ *Margaret Wille* (margaretwille@mac.com)
/s/ *Sean Smith* (simashang@yahoo.com)
Legislative Committee Co-Chairs

EDNtestimony

From: Andrew Jones <jonesbaron23@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 10:48 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee
HB 180 and HB 182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Andy Jones, a teacher at Radford High School. I have been at Radford for a decade; previously I taught English as a Foreign Language in Taiwan 1993-2006. I am writing to ask that you please pass HB 180 and HB 182 to increase funding for public schools.

Valid arguments for increased funding are legion. The following are among the most exigent:

1. *Teacher retention and recruitment.* When cost of living is taken into account, the average public school teacher in Hawaii earns more than \$10,000 less per year than the next lowest-paying American states for teachers. That is to say, it is not just that we are ranked last, but that there is in addition a significant gap between Hawaii teachers and the other low-paying states. For many teachers, this gap spells non-affordability. This is the primary reason why the average Hi teacher spends less than five years in the classroom, and why we have the nation's most serious teacher shortage overall. Students suffer individually and collectively when too many of their teachers are inexperienced or under-qualified. I believe that improving teacher retention and recruitment is beyond question the single most effective way of improving public education in our state.
2. *Unfavorable teacher to student ratios.* Teachers throughout the state are overburdened with too many students. This year at my high school, one of my first-year Language Arts colleagues has over 210 students distributed among his six classes. That's almost 40 students per class. Not only are 40 students far too many for effective teaching and learning; the sheer number of students that this teacher is responsible for seriously limits how much time the teacher can spend devoting important individualized attention to particular students. In short, not only do teachers need to be paid more in order for them to stay beyond five years; more teachers need to be hired in order to effect more favorable teacher to student ratios.
3. *Teachers need more preparation time.* This third point is inextricably woven with the second point. The annual information gathered by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) provides substantial evidence that, of approximately three dozen nations that participate in the extensive reports on education, teachers in the United States are the second-most overworked teachers in the world after Chile, spending an approximate 1100 hours in front of students per year in comparison to the international average of around 600. Most American teachers experience significant challenges in implementing educational "best practices" because they are given so little time to developing the highest quality curriculum, instruction and assessment. Public education in

Hawai'i as in the rest of the United States is unlikely to improve significantly until efforts are made to decrease the number of students teachers are responsible for each year and to build more non-teaching time into the teacher work day. Once again, this will require hiring far more teachers than we currently have.

To deliver the schools that our keiki deserve, I ask you to please support these bills.

Mahalo.
Andy Jones

Language Arts teacher

Radford High School

EDNtestimony

From: Angela Federici <mauiteacher@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 2:01 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

House Education Committee

HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017

2 p.m.

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Angela Federici I have been a public school teacher on Maui for 10 years, first at Lao Intermediate and currently at Baldwin High School. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawaii's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools for many reasons. Teachers in Hawaii have one of the highest costs of living and receive the lowest relative pay compared with teachers across the US. My friends on the mainland that are teachers literally earn DOUBLE my salary with HALF the living expenses. I moved here from California 10 years ago. I was seriously contemplating returning to the mainland prior to meeting my husband. The majority of the teachers I know from out of state have returned to the mainland. High teacher turnover rates have a direct negative impact on our students. We are facing a crisis. Teacher shortages compounded with low wages and high levels of required additional paperwork, including the EES system, make it harder for us to attract and keep quality new teachers in our schools. Older teachers are retiring and we are unable to find suitable replacements. We have unusually high numbers of long term substitutes in our classes.

One of the 11th graders in my SAT Prep elective class told me he has not had a regular (certified, licensed) English teacher since the 8th grade. Instead, he has had long-term subs and/or a variety of different subs every day throughout his 9th and 10th grade years at TWO different high schools. Sadly, his situation is not unique and is in fact quite common. The lack of experienced, licensed, qualified teachers has had a significant negative impact on his learning, as I compare his SAT practice test scores with those of other students. How can we expect our students to compete

globally and nationally when we are preparing them inadequately? How can we expect to attract quality, qualified, professional educators when we pay them as if they are the opposite? We need to fully fund our schools and pay teachers in keeping with the highly qualified, highly capable, highly effective professionals we are. The alternative (continuously relying on substitutes) is detrimental to our students' education.

Over the last 10 years I have calculated that I have donated at least \$200,000 worth of uncompensated time to my school, my students and my classroom. This includes hours spent lesson planning, assessing student work, cleaning my classroom, and helping students after school, on the weekends, and during the summer. It also includes countless supplies I have purchased for students and families that cannot afford their own.

Many of my colleagues have taken other jobs after school and on the weekends to make ends meet. This means teachers are less available to help students with projects, extra help, or make up work if a student was absent.

All of these problems can be addressed with an increase in funding, which will have an immediate and direct impact on the quality of education students receive in the classroom.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,

Angela Federici
Baldwin High School
Maui

1 February, 2017

HB180

I strongly oppose HB180 and implore the legislature to instead find an alternate way to pay for improving our education system.

I have been vocal in my consternation with the facilities and administration of our public schools. Additionally, I believe our teachers deserve increased pay and that increased pay increases teacher retention. However, increasing the property tax on residential “investment properties” is not the answer because the effect will directly negate any perceived benefit: the bill will severely increase the rental costs for the teachers and, thus, leave them in the same position they are currently in.

My husband and I are a struggling middle class family. We purchased our house in 2013. When my husband retired from the Army and I became a full-time student in 2015, we could no longer afford to live in our house. Selling our house would cause a financial loss because of real estate agents’ fees, so our only choice was to rent it out.

If this bill is passed, we will have three options:

- 1) We can sell the house at a financial loss;
- 2) We can face a monthly loss of \$366 to pay for the property tax surcharge; or
- 3) We can charge our tenants \$366 more per month to pay for the property tax surcharge.

For us, the choice is easy, but, at the same time, heartbreaking, because we would essentially kick our tenants out—another struggling middle class family—who would likely be unable to pay the additions \$366 per month.

And the same financial decision will be made by every landlord who charges over \$1,500 per month. Essentially, every family who cannot afford to pay the significant down payment needed to purchase a home will see a gigantic increase in their housing costs. Including teachers, for very few housing options for less than \$1,500 exist in this state for families with children.

Please vote against HB180.

Thank you,

Anita Hurlburt
1333 Parks Pl.
Honolulu, HI 96819

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:55 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: annsfreed@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB180 on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM

HB180

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of this measure. See my testimony on HB182

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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EDNtestimony

From: Ashley Katamoto <akatamoto13@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 5:59 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Testimony for: **House** Education Committee
HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017
2 p.m.

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Ashley Katamoto, a teacher at University Laboratory School Oahu. I have been a teacher for 4 years. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because many teachers hold second or third jobs in order to make ends meet. I had three jobs when I started teaching part-time and had 2 jobs while I taught full time. I've consolidated down to only teaching now because I felt I was dividing my attention between all my jobs and responsibilities. I want to be able to devote my time and energy to being the best teacher possible, without the worry of pay or supply funding. When teachers don't have to worry about their financial stability I truly believe they can focus more on giving the children on Hawaii the best education possible.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,
Ashley Katamoto, University Laboratory School, Oahu

EDNtestimony

From: ms.a.olson@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 12:57 PM
To: EDNtestimony

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ashley Olson and I teach at Lahainaluna High School on Maui. I have been a teacher since February of 1993 and I am writing to you today to ask that you please pass HB180 and HB182 to increase funding for public schools.

I teach at one of the most beautiful schools in the state- in the country- but it is also one of the oldest schools in the country. If you look around, you can see the age in many of the facilities. We take tremendous pride in our school, but pride is no defense against termites, weather (heat) and age, and portables put in place 30-40 years ago as a temporary measure are now part of the permanent landscape

Teachers come to this school from all around the country and fall in love with it and then they leave, because they cannot afford to live here on a teacher's salary. Many will stay for a few years, working another 20-30 hours a week on top of the 45-75 school hours, at one of the many resorts, hotels, bars or shops on Maui. They work two jobs, to the detriment of their personal lives and their students. An exhausted teacher cannot and does not give their best to their students. Eventually, these passionate, dedicated and hard-working teachers leave for better economic opportunities again, to the detriment of their students. I have seen this happen time and time again.

The top administrators in the Department of Education recently received substantial raises. Why? Because a competitive professional salary is a key component of retaining high quality employees- including teachers- not "professional development", not "additional mentoring programs". Love of Hawaii and one's students counts for a lot, but eventually, it comes down to whether or not a person can afford to stay in a state with a high cost of living and where they earn \$10,000 to \$25,000 less every year than they would in another state.

Supporting HB180 and HB182 will help to create a dedicated funding stream for Hawaii schools. Supporting HB180 and HB182 is a first step toward bringing Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes allowing teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support HB180 and HB182.
Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,

Ashley Olson

EDNtestimony

From: B. K. DeRego <dercoff@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 2:11 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: HB 180 and HB 182

Date: February 2, 2017

To: The Honorable Chair Roy Takumi and Members of the Education Committee:

From: Beatrice DeRego, Teacher
Hawaii Dept. Of Education

Re: HB180 & HB182 – Dedicated Funding Source for Public Schools

On behalf of the faculty and students at my school, I strongly support H.B. 180 and H.B. 182.

I am Beatrice DeRego, a teacher at Kahuku High & Intermediate School on the North Shore of Oahu. I have been a teacher for 20 years at Kahuku, and have never had adequate resources to fulfill my roles as an educator. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools to provide an adequate educational opportunity for all students.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations and for the state. Every dollar invested in our communities' public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open, informed, and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will help lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to build relationships with their students, a key component of student success. It will provide the opportunity to truly engage the whole child in areas that include the humanities, the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs and language learner students. and professional pay that reflects the value of both our hardworking teachers and our public schools as the hubs of community prosperity.

I need additional funding for my school, including professional pay, because I don't want to have to leave the islands. I grew up on Oahu and returned here after military service and a career as a conference center comptroller to invest in our children's futures. I have watched as inappropriate mandates and lack of resources have stripped the joy from my students' eyes. I have watched students pass out from the heat without even a chilled water fountain to drink from. I have watched students without proper learning resources attempt to fulfill testing mandates – day after day – always asking if they are failures since they just can't get it – and trying to explain that it is our lack of funding for the right tools and additional teachers that makes it seem so difficult. Always encouraging each to believe that some one will care enough about their education to make the funding choices they need.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Be someone I can point to and let

my students know, that someone – a caring legislator - “get’s it” and is finally going to walk the walk of so many others’ empty words.

Mahalo for considering our future,

Beatrice DeRego
Kahuku High & Intermediate School

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 2:05 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: cchaudron08@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB180 on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM*

HB180

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Camila Chaudron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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EDNtestimony

From: Candace Chun <cachun@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 1:46 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Testimony for: House Education Committee
HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017
2 p.m.

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Candace Chun and I've been a teacher for 35 years with the Hawaii Department of Education. Please pass HB180 and HB182 to increase funding for public schools.

Every dollar invested in our community's public schools supports the work we are doing to prepare our youth for meeting the needs of our community and being successful in the 21st century. For instance, I teach the health professions, and it is crucial for us to have knowledgeable instructors in order for students to receive the best education so that they can pursue those careers. Currently, we have a critical shortage of teachers. I've seen this problem grow worse over the years, and there just are not enough qualified teachers in our classrooms. Ask the students and they are not considering a career in teaching. Just within our school, the turnover rate is so high, many are being recruited from the mainland or lack any experience. Many are uncertified, so our students are being very shortchanged with their education.

A positive vote will help reduce class sizes, which have gotten larger, especially in the high schools, where they are packing 36 students or more in most classes. Some of this is due to offering seven periods, and not hiring enough teachers, so our load is greater. Unbelievably, I started off last year with 210 students and 204 this year at Mililani High School. This lessens the time I can give to every student; rather, I am struggling to get grading, lesson planning, and actually I looking carefully at student work. Many teachers are so frustrated with their current workload, expectations, and stress, including myself.

A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, see how we can assist them with their learning needs, and provide resources to be effective with learning activities. It's frustrating that when we need supplies there is so much red tape that teachers are forced to use personal funds to buy the things they need. That is very unfair.

Most importantly, funding our schools will provide professional pay, which recognizes the hard work our educators are providing. In all my years of teaching, I can't believe how undervalued our teachers are. I used to do a lot as a culinary teacher, but with instructional time added, decided it wasn't worth doing anymore, because it took hours to do shopping for 180+ students every week. I even decided to give up advising our nationally-affiliated HOSA organization, because after doing that for so many years and no additional recognition or compensation, decided it wasn't worth it anymore. It's unfortunate, because we were taking home numerous national medals and top ten winners, along with having so many state officers and Hawaii's first national officer for any Career Technical Student Organization, many of which I poured personal resources so I could chaperone my students for a week during my summer break. The raises have never made up for the strike, furloughs, loss of medical contributions taken away, or no increase in salary years.

More funding would also help teachers with medical coverage, after all, this is a high-stress job, and we catch infections the students pass along. At the high school level, it is even more stressful, as there are the difficult ones who even their parents don't know how to control.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because we are losing too many talented, dedicated, and promising educators due to the fact that our state simply is too cheap to pay us a REAL professional salary. I have stuck with teaching, even though I have seen everyone burning out and having to work multiple jobs to make ends meet. Why? Because I just don't know who will teach our students anymore. It has never made sense to me that teachers are forced to work multiple jobs when they could have concentrated on preparing or revising lessons or doing the multitude of things required of teachers. It has also become very frustrating to many teachers that they have left the profession for better paying jobs. For example, we have lost some very talented people such as our graphics arts teacher, who is now earning more as a stevedore. When he was teaching, his students were consistently winning national awards. Also, it is discouraging to see many teachers leave today past ten years...sometimes only within a couple of years. Many teachers I speak with say they are burnt out and want to retire, and they only have about 10 years on average.

It's time to take this seriously, because I already see the frightening trend that many teachers are retiring as soon as they can just so they don't have to take all the crap being shoved down their throats. Funding should go to classroom teachers, not the bureaucrats who tell us what to do. We are the ones who work in the trenches for our youth and funding is key to making education a top priority. To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills.

Respectfully,

Candace Chun, Mililani High School, Oahu

EDNtestimony

From: Carmen Jones <zapatoblaze@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:12 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Testimony for: **House** Education Committee

HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017

2 p.m.

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Carmen Jones, a teacher at Waianae Intermediate School on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 10 years. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because we are losing teachers faster than ever. In my English department, there are literally ZERO teachers, aside from myself, who have been at the school for longer than 2 years. It has been very hard to constantly train new teachers just to have them leave. Our students are suffering. We are relying on long term subs, emergency hires, and non qualified teacher to teach or children. It isn't working. Test scores have been on a steady decline for years. Behavior incidents have been on the rise for years. Teacher satisfaction surveys are dismal. And worst of all, our kids are not graduating college and career ready. It is sickening to watch.

It is a struggle to stay in a profession that keeps me working till after midnight everyday for less than adequate pay. I have a Masters in Literacy and am highly qualified in multiple subjects. I am a local resident and teach in the community I grew up in. I am a National Junior Honors Society advisor and I teach over a hundred students every year how to read and write at grade level. My job is so important and yet I barely clear \$52,000. a year. My rent is more than half of that salary!!! I have no savings. I do not own a home or a new car or even a flat screen TV. I have 6 children and I struggle to put food on the table. I drive for LYFT on the weekends to make

ends meet. I am burning out and am about to join all my previous colleagues by leaving this profession for a higher paying job if things do not change. Who then will care for our children?

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,

Carmen Jones, Waianae Intermediate School, Oahu

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 11:14 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: ChoonJamesHawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB180 on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM

HB180

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Choon James	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: See Attachment in the comments section. Mahalo!

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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EDNtestimony

From: Chris Santomauro <csantoma@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 10:03 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Testimony for: House Education Committee
HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017
2pm

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Christian Santomauro, a teacher at Kaneohe Elementary School on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 3 years. Please pass SB 683 and SB 686 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because the students I serve in special education are highly underserved. There are still over 500 vacancies in the state, many of which are in special education positions. These highest need students lack stable, long-term teachers who are trained and willing to support them. In addition, we need more money to purchase materials and professional development to service these students. Last year at my previous school, for a department of 20 special education teachers, we had a budget of \$150 for the year. Total. Not per teacher. We cannot support our students with this poor funding.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,
Christian Santomauro
Kaneohe Elementary School
Oahu

EDNtestimony

From: Claire Gearen <clairegearen@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 7:39 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Aloha Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Claire Gearen, a 2000 graduate of the University of Hawai'i College of Education and an educator with nearly 20 years teaching experience, 10 at Mililani High School. I urge you to support House Bills 180 and 182 to bring a constitutional amendment before the public. The public deserves the chance to "weigh in on" a proposal to increase the revenue stream for education in our state.

In 2009, I patiently attended community meetings about the state budget offered by Representative Marcus Oshiro to learn why the legislature felt it was necessary to cut from the education budget. I understood the difficult position our representatives in government found themselves in after the 2008 financial crisis. However, nearly ten years has passed since that crisis and we still have not fixed the structural problems in our revenue stream and state budget that forced the difficult decision of cuts in the form of Furlough Fridays. Simply mandating that Furlough Fridays may not happen again is not a fix. Please let the public decide if a property tax on investment property is an appropriate solution.

Thank you for your consideration,

Claire Gearen
96826

Clare Hanusz
Nevzat Soguk
1128 Kaumoku Street
Honolulu, HI 96825

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
RE: HB 180 and HB 182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION.
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2017

February 1, 2017

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

We are Clare Hanusz and Nevzat Soguk. Clare is a mother, attorney, and a Parents for Public Schools Hawaii board member. Nevzat is a father and tenured professor at the University of Hawaii. We reside with our two children, Ali (15) and Derya (13) in Hawaii Kai. Both of our kids attend public schools.

We strongly urge you to pass HB 180 and HB 182 to increase funding our State's schools.

Our education system has been in crisis for so long that crisis has been normalized. It should not be! Overcrowded hot classrooms, crumbling infrastructure, a lack of qualified teachers for our over-tested stressed out kids. These quasi-third world conditions are the reality of what kids and teachers face in Hawaii's public schools. These issues represent the reasons that many who can choose to abandon public school education for their kids, either from the start or later in the middle school or high school years. They take their social and economic capital and political clout elsewhere. That makes our challenge harder, and we need to raise our voices louder, again.

Our kids were born in Hawaii and attended Honolulu public schools until we moved to Australia for 18 months in 2012. Exhausted and somewhat traumatized from the furlough Friday battle, we were thrilled to find ourselves living in a place with a vibrant, healthy public education system. Only a small percentage of parents where we lived in Melbourne choose private schools for their kids, where the education system was much more robustly funded. Teachers were paid well, respected, and happy. The opportunity to live abroad highlighted again for us the shameful lack of resources devoted in Hawaii to our public school kids and teachers.

Every person we've spoken to – those with kids in public schools, or private schools, or without children, support the idea of paying more for better schools. The time is now- our kids have waited far too long. We owe them better. Supporting these bills is a start.

Thank you for your commitment to Hawaii and our kids.

Clare Hanusz, 808-384-9682, chanusz@gmail.com
Nevzat Soguk

RE: HB 180 and HB 182 - Relating to Education

Friday, February 3, 2017

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am David Negaard, an English teacher at H.P. Baldwin High School on Maui. I have been teaching in public schools for 19 years. I strongly urge you to pass HB 180 and HB 182 to increase funding for public schools.

Children are our greatest treasure. When we teachers instruct our students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for future generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society. And while future returns are important, we also enrich the current lives of our students—education is not just an investment in the future; it is also an investment in the present lives of precious children.

It has been said that one definition of insanity is doing the same thing you have always done and expecting different results. If we keep doing what we have been doing with respect to investments in education—funding that is inconsistent, capricious, and precarious—we will keep getting what we have been getting: rising teacher shortages coupled with increasing class sizes, reduced course offerings, reduced special education services, and deteriorating facilities. Our keiki deserve a world class education and we can provide one if we have the will to make modest changes in how we fund schools that will have major impact in what schools can offer students and families.

Supporting these bills will begin to lift Hawai'i schools into the 21st century. A vote for these bills is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students. A vote for these bills is a vote for whole child education that includes the arts, Hawaiian Language, and Hawaiian Studies. A vote for these bills is a vote for resources for special needs students. A vote for these bills is a vote for professional pay that reflects the value of hard-working teachers.

We *need* additional funding for our public schools: I teach up to 34 students in a 25x30' classroom. Even with minimal furniture and equipment (no computer cart, no storage, no

bookshelves or file cabinets), my classroom is crowded. With so many students, it can be difficult to forge the relationships that can make a real difference in their lives. With so many students, it is impossible to individualize instruction for maximum effect. With so many students, they inevitably distract one another from the task at hand. With so many students, some students may slip through the cracks despite my best efforts. Class size matters, and it is inextricably linked to teacher recruitment and retention; when we don't have enough teachers, class sizes must rise and course offerings must shrink.

We must also expand our offerings in the arts, culture-based education (including Hawaiian language instruction), and career technical education in order to meet the unique needs of Hawai'i students, but it is difficult to add offerings to the master schedule because perennial staffing shortages mean prioritizing tested core subjects over enrichment courses dismissively called "electives." I am fortunate to be teaching a new STEM class next year—administrative support and the enthusiasm of our registrar and a CTE teacher made all the difference—but our students are not always so fortunate; such offerings impact staffing and budgetary considerations. If we are to teach the whole child and not just the reading or writing or calculating child, our course offerings must include breadth as well as depth.

The budget "pie" can only be sliced so fine. Until we find the will to provide a consistent additional funding stream for public education, a sliver is the best our keiki can hope for. These bills would put a sizable additional pie on the table, so our students (and their teachers) could have more than the mere sliver possible under current circumstances.

To help deliver on the promise we should be making to provide the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

David Negaard, H.P. Baldwin High School, Maui

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 1:59 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: debbievida@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB180 on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM

HB180

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debbie Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a teacher, parent and community member. Please pass this bill to help increase funding for public schools. When we surveyed the public about supporting this measure, several stated that they were willing to raise RESIDENT property taxes for such a great cause as the future of our students. To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill. Mahalo.

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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EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 7:00 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: frankiestapleton@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB180 on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM

HB180

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frances K. (Frankie) Stapleton	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha e Rep. Takumi and members of the House Committee on Education. My name is Frankie Stapleton and I live at 14-803 Crystal Circle in Pahoehoe, HI 96778. I am writing in support of HB180 and 182. Hawaii has one of the lowest real property tax rates in the nation and sadly, one of the lowest funded public education systems. I appreciate that this bill is aimed at real property tax investors rather than Hawaii's homeowners. Not only will funds generated by the passing of this bill help Hawaii's statewide public education system but give some sorely needed return from Honolulu's high-end out-of-state real property speculators who continue to drive the cost of housing in Hawaii out of reach of the local population. Please pass HB 180 and 182. With regards, Frankie Stapleton, DPH Dist. 4 Chair

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EDNtestimony

From: Frank Caltagirone <frankcaltagirone@ymail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 4:31 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Testimony for: **House** Education Committee
HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017
2 p.m.

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Frank Caltagirone, a teacher at Kahului Elementary on Maui. I have been a teacher for five years. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

I truly believe that the only way society will function and prosper is with quality education to our students. Through education we can create a society of people who are kind, intelligent, responsible, and contribute in a positive way for the betterment of everyone.

Unfortunately, quality education has been very difficult due to the many disadvantages that our schools and teachers face. An increase in our funding can have many positive effects.

- 1.) Due to cost of living on Maui, I have to work two other jobs to support my family and I. This means that I can not devote any extra time to my school or students (after school help, extracurricular activities, volunteering, ect.)
- 2.) Class sizes are excessive. At Kahului Elementary 3rd grade, my class size consists of 28. This is very challenging because I can not provide quality of instruction when you look at each individuals needs with relation to the amount of instructional time for each school day. More qualified teachers to decrease class size would dramatically increase quality of education to our students and relieve stress and diminish the burn out rate among teachers.
- 3.) Reasonable salaries that are comparative to other teaching salaries in the U.S. while taking into consideration cost of living in Hawaii would increase retention of current teachers and attracted more qualified teachers.
- 4.) Most of the schools and Maui are SUBSTANDARD. Kahului Elementary is very old and out dated. There is no air conditioning because the electrical grid can not handle the energy consumption. This is needed because Kahului is on of the hottest areas of Maui. Our classroom reach temperatures in the 90's which make it very uncomfortable to teach and learn.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,
Frank Caltagirone Kahului Elementary School Maui

EDNtestimony

From: thesandpebbles <thesandpebbles@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 5:01 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

I'm writing in support of HB180 and HB182.

After 21yrs. working as an educator in the Hawaii Dept. of Education words cannot express my disappointment at the State's recent palpable contract offer. It was a literal slap in the face. With my years has come the experience of being treated with such disrespect as to almost expect the State negotiations position to be the same next time around.

It is a paradigm that benefits no one. HB180 and HB182 are a change to that paradigm.

I am a recruited Special Education teacher hired during the Felix Consent Decree. I know of no other that has remained on the job in the classroom from that era. It's been a veritable rock and a hard place trying to survive and I've had to work two jobs just to get by.

Please support a new paradigm and recognize educators by paying them a living wage and allowing them a future.

Mahalo,

Howard Hurst, M.S.Ed

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 3:02 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: Moss.jade.e@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB182 on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM

HB182

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jade Moss	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please see my testimony on HB180. It is time to amend what the plantation owners set up to be a losing battle for public schools. Mahalo!

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EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:04 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: jamesjtz@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB180 on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM*

HB180

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Gauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 9:05 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: jen.mather@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB180 on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM*

HB180

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Mather	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 10:25 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: jennymaliahudson@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB180 on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM

HB180

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jenny hudson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I am Jenny Malia Hudson, a community member from Maui. Please pass bill to help increase funding for public schools. Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society. Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers. To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo. Jenny Malia Hudson, Mother, Maui

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

EDNtestimony

From: Jen Sarpi <jensarpi@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 9:11 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Testimony for: **House** Education Committee
HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017
2 p.m.

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Jennifer Sarpi, a Counselor at James Campbell High School on Oahu. I have been a Counselor for 13 years. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because we need to be able to attract qualified teachers to accept and keep jobs in Hawaii. We need to have safe schools that are well maintained.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,
Jennifer Sarpi
James Campbell High School
Oahu

EDNtestimony

From: Jessica Liggon <jbliggon@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 8:22 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Testimony for: House Education Committee
HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017
2:00 pm

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Jessica B. Liggon, a teacher at Olomana School, Oahu. I have been a teacher for 2 1/2 years. Please pass HB180 and HB182 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because education IS important in Hawai'i. In order for the state government to show support of education, these bills must be passed. Each year, I have picked up additional jobs to pay my monthly bills that include: rent for a studio (\$1,550), internet only (\$35), student loans (\$250), car payment (\$205), food/household items (\$600), and gas (\$100). The total of these bare minimum expenses comes to \$2,740. I do without cable. I rarely buy clothes because I cannot afford them after my monthly expenses and rely on friends and family for hand-me-downs and gifts. My net pay each month after paying taxes and medical/dental/vision insurance is only \$2,548, which is more than most new teachers with only a bachelor's degree earn. This is a difference of \$192 every month not including any medical expenses if I get sick, or vehicle repair/maintenance costs. This speaks for itself about why there are problems in Hawai'i with teacher retention.

Having to work 3 additional part-time jobs to get by each month takes away from my students' learning because I am not able to put in any additional hours before, after, or over the weekends to plan lessons, grade papers

with accuracy and quality, or provide 1:1 tutoring for students seeking assistance. The message this sends to my students and their families is that I do not care. I use my weekly prep periods to do the bare minimum lesson planning and rush through grading. Every day I am disheartened by the lack of support and concern from the state for teacher AND student conditions in Hawai`i.

Every year I witness teachers with whom I work, myself included, having to scrounge up money to purchase school supplies that students are not able to afford, and the state refuses to fund. My purchases go on a credit card in which I make monthly payments throughout the school year to payoff. The only colleagues I know who can afford to purchase their own supplies are ones who are living with family rent free. Recruiting teachers from the continental United States, places them in the same predicament as me.

I have been offered teaching positions in multiple states in which very cheap housing was provided by the schools, pay was equal to or more than that in Hawai`i, medical/dental/vision insurance was under \$100 per month, and the cost of living was low enough for a teacher to survive and have enough money left over each month to enjoy life. If the state of Hawai`i supports education and wants to retain teachers and support them throughout their careers so that they can build relationships with their students, and provide them with optimal learning environments, they need to provide them with the means to do so. Passing HB180 and HB182 will do this by increasing funds to pay teachers' salaries on which they can live, and create a state that promotes residents over non-residents who are looking to make money off of the high cost of rentals in Hawai`i.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills.

Mahalo nui loa,

Jessica Liggon

Olomana School, Oahu

6-12 Social Studies/Math Teacher

EDNtestimony

From: Jodi Kunimitsu <jodikunimitsu@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:42 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: HB 180 and HB 182

Testimony for: House Education Committee
HB 180 and HB 182- RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Jodi Kunimitsu, a teacher at Maui High School. I have been a teacher for 14 years. Please pass SB 683 and SB 686 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because we are currently not able to provide our students with quality resources to help them succeed in the classroom. As an example, for the last four years, math teachers have been using a "common core" curriculum developed by the state, in cooperation with the University of Hawaii Hilo math professors. Teachers have not been provided with hard copies of any resources. Everything we have needed has to be found online. If we want a hard copy of the answer key (with numerous mistakes), we must print it out ourselves or create our own answer keys. This costs us both time and money (printer supplies come out of a teacher's individual classroom budget). In addition to that, the student resources are not consistently printed on "regular paper". This quarter, the student booklets are printed on thin, newsprint paper that easily tears. My students have had their booklets for about two weeks and they are already falling apart. They are supposed to last an entire quarter. The real question is...why is there still a moratorium on purchasing math textbooks for our students? Why are they given these workbooks, but no textbooks? Why aren't we providing them with quality resources for their learning? The answer we keep getting: there isn't enough money. Seriously?!?!

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,
Jodi Kunimitsu, Maui High School

Sent from my iPhone

EDNtestimony

From: Jodi Yoshimura <jyoshimura5@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 4:34 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony

Testimony for: **House** Education Committee
HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)
[2 p.m.](#)

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Jodi Towata, a state resource teacher - full release mentor. I have been a teacher for over 25 years. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because currently educators are struggling to make a decent living. After 25 years, I still can not afford a single family home. I love my profession and the students and families I serve, however, I have struggled financially throughout my career. Currently as a full release mentor working with first and second year teachers, the biggest concern is the pay. Teachers are unable to support themselves without a second job or living with friends and relatives. The high cost of medical premiums and inflation of taxes everywhere is an extreme burden. Teachers are leaving the profession, who pays the price? Our students are suffering.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,
Jodi Towata, State Resource Teacher, Oahu
Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

EDNtestimony

From: Jody Glickman <jodylynn.glickman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 7:28 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Testimony for: **House** Education Committee

HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017

2 p.m.

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Jody-Lynn Glickmsn, a teacher at Kihei Elementary School and Maui. I have been a teacher for five years. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because our students are paying a heavy price. With broken furniture, a lack of materials and equipment, and old text books, our children are not receiving a quality learning experience. There is only so much that teachers can do to make up for inadequate supplies, materisls, and equipment.

In addition, teachers are taking on second jobs and leaving the profession in search of higher wages. My own mother is constantly encouraging me to find better paying employment. Teachers are under a lot of stress just trying to make ends meet, and students are indeed affected. Teacher-student relationships suffer, planning and execution of lessons suffer, and the entire learning environment is changed for the negative. On the other hand, teachers who have less worries, and feel both appreciated and respected, perform better!

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,

Jody-Lynn Glickman, Kihei Elementary School, Maui

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 10:32 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: john.from.stl@alumni.stanford.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB180 on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM*

HB180

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Maurer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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EDNtestimony

From: hughey2000@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 12:57 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Aloha Chair Takumi and esteemed members of the education committee:

My name is Justin Hughey. I am a second grade Special Education Teacher at King Kamehameha III Elementary on Maui.

I am testifying in support of HB180 and HB182.

I want to address the problem of approximately 1,600 teacher vacancies that was projected at the start of this current school year.

In 2005 I was finishing up my Masters in Special Education while working as a server at an Italian Steakhouse Restaurant in Batavia, Illinois. A man sitting in my section said, "If you want to be a teacher, you can do that anywhere. You have to move to Maui. It is a progressive state, Hawaii, a place where kids still respect their elders, and it is paradise." Nice story.

I moved here with about 40,000 dollars in student loan debt for my two degrees. I never put a penny on a credit card because I didn't believe in having one. My rent was 1,200 dollars a month and I was being paid about 1,100 every two weeks after taxes. Immediately I had to put 5,000 dollars on a credit card in the first six months to just purchase groceries.

Six months later I obtained a second job at a fine dining restaurant in Kapalua, Maui. General Manager said we will give you three shifts and you let us know if it is too much or too little. We respect teachers. That General Manager left and the new one told me I had to be available every day of the week and we could care less that you are a teacher. It's about the corporation.

That GM had me working upwards of five days a week, 19 hour Fridays. I was dependent on the second job like 40% of all teachers in Hawaii. This meant that I could not take courses to move myself up the payroll.

First, the DOE does not pay teachers enough to fulfill the job requirements during contractual hours and teachers are exempt from obtaining overtime. No teacher can do a great job when they leave at three, work another job till eleven, get home [at midnight](#), only obtaining six hours or less of sleep, and wake up the next day and do it all over again.

I can't express what it feels like to wake up, sore, tired, and just try to make it through another day.

I don't think it is a coincidence that my body is currently giving out. Last August I picked up a case of paper and it gave me a severe bulging disc. I am only forty years old and I may never be able to go for a jog again. I am still receiving therapy for my injury. If I didn't share the bills with my fiancée I would have had to move.

Teachers don't want to teach here because when the cost of living is factored in, they are paid one of the worst salaries in the country. Whenever I have lobbied legislators they have always agreed more money needs to go to education so where would you take from, the kapuna? So last year HSTA proposed a raise in the GET. That was unsuccessful. This year we proposed raising taxes primarily on non residents. We are not asking you to raise taxes, just please let the people decide by voting on a constitutional amendment by passing this proposal.

Until this state finds a significant increase in a dedicated educational funding stream you will continue to start the school year with more than 1,600 vacancies, hoping enough high school graduates can fill the positions. The teaching profession is a career not a second job. If this state offered competitive salaries, teachers would be coming in droves from the mainland and better yet more of our own members in our community would have the desire to become a teacher.

I never gave up hope. Teachers educate all other professions. The economy suffers when we do not offer a quality public education to every child. All I ask is if you vote against this proposed funding mechanism, that you will come up with a better way to add 500 million more dollars annually, for education, so that this state can one day offer a quality public education, an education the keiki deserve.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Justin Hughey

2nd Grade Special Education Teacher

HSTA Vice President

February 2, 2017

Rebecca Kapolei Kiili
PO Box 322
Wailuku, HI 96793

Aloha Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rebecca Kapolei Kiili and I am a teacher at King Kekaulike High School on Maui. I have been a teacher for thirteen years in the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program. I am writing to express my support and urge your support to pass HB180 and HB182 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will propel Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because Hawai'i deserves future leaders who are ready to engage in their communities in ways that will keep them home in Hawai'i. Too often we lose our best and brightest to the allure of the mainland life as the affordability to live and work at home is bleak because of the cost of living. Investing in our public schools is vital to Hawai'i's sustainability in all levels of our lives, both public and private, personal, and professional. We want students to feel that their public education experiences have prepared them to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century with confidence, conviction, and compassion. Your support of these bills will be a testament to these ends.

Funding our schools and committing to excellence is not only what our children deserve, but what our communities, and our whole state deserves. Thank you for your service, time, and commitment to public education in Hawai'i.

Me ke aloha no,
Rebecca Kapolei Kiili
Rebecca Kapolei Kiili
King Kekaulike High School
Pukalani, Maui

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:17 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: katc31999@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB180 on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM*

HB180

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kat Culina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HB 180 and HB 182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2017

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kathryn Righter, and I am a community member from Kailua, in Ko'olaupoko, on the island of 'Oahu. Please pass HB 180 and HB 182 to increase funding for public schools.

Every school day morning I wake up and get my daughter ready for kindergarten. I make her breakfast, help her pack her backpack with homework, a water bottle and some snacks, then walk with her up the road to Maunawili Elementary, the same school my brother and I attended as children, and the place where I am now employed as a part time art teacher.

And every morning, I give my daughter a hug and kiss goodbye, and then watch as she leaves to enter the care of the other teachers and staff at her school.

Whatever anyone tries to tell me, I know in my gut that my daughter's education is not defined by her test scores or data points. Her education is defined by the adult that teaches her to read and write, teaching her how to count from 0-100, but most importantly, how to be a responsible, caring member of her community.

Our schools are defined by our teachers. Teachers who continue to work even in 100 degree classrooms, even with roofs falling down over their heads. Teachers who buy supplies for their students when the state has refused to find the money to pay for basic needs like paper towels and hand soap. Teachers who stay up late and work on weekends writing lesson plans and grading papers. Teachers who, too often, work second jobs on the weekend to make ends meet.

But for too long, our schools have been defined by the increasing absence of teachers, the most basic element of schooling. Teachers are quitting by the droves because they simply can't make ends meet. They move away, or accept other jobs which pay more. Our public schools are left scrambling to find enough adults with even a high school diploma to stand in front of the classroom and be responsible for educating over 80% of Hawaii's keiki.

Our teachers need professional pay that reflects their immense value to our families and our community. Our children are our future. We need to invest in our public schools, our teachers, and our children, or we will all end up paying the price.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Kathryn Righter
Art Teacher
Kailua, 'Oahu

EDNtestimony

From: Katrina Ahia <katrinaham@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 1:38 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Testimony for House Education Committee
HB180 and HB182 - Relating to Education
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017
2 p.m.

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Katrina Ahia, a teacher at Lahainaluna High School on Maui. I have been a teacher for 14 years. Please pass HB180 and HB182 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools because we have too many vacant teaching positions and too high a turnover rate for teachers working in our public schools. The teacher salaries in this state are far too low to attract and retain educators - especially the quality of educators that our keiki need and deserve - and especially considering the high cost of health insurance and the extremely high cost of living we all face in this state. Teacher turnover or lack of instructors hurt students and student achievement. I have seen far too much turnover as well as classes taught by long term subs, emergency hires without the proper training or background, or a string of day-to-day subs. These situations all rob children in Hawaii of their education. The teachers that do stick it out are working 2 or 3 jobs. They are on their feet all night as hostesses or servers. This prevents them from giving their students the attention and energy they deserve. In addition to being a teacher, I am also a mother. My children are 1 year old and 4 1/2 years old. Please, for them, for all of Hawai'i's children - pass these bills and increase funding for public education in Hawai'i.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo,

Thank you for your time,
Katrina Ahia, Lahainaluna High School, Maui

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 7:40 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: lokahi_04@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB180 on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM

HB180

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
keala Richards	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am Keala Richards a community member from Wailuku Maui. Please pass bill to help increase funding for public schools. Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society. Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes thlt takes Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers. To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo. Keala Richards Maui

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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EDNtestimony

From: Kristi Miyamae <kristim808@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 9:28 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Testimony for: **House** Education Committee
HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017
2 p.m.

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Kristi Miyamae, a teacher at Mililani Middle School, Oahu. I have been a teacher for 15 years. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,
Kristi Miyamae
Mililani Middle School
Oahu

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 6:26 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: tiare@hapahi.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB180 on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM

HB180

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiare Lawrence	Individual	Support	No

Comments: TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION RE: HB 180 and HB 182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2017 Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee: I am Tiare Lawrence, a mother from Maui. Please pass HB 180 and HB 182 to increase funding for public schools. Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society. Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers. To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo. Tiare Lawrence, Maui

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EDNtestimony

From: Lisa Donovan <donovan.lisaf@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 6:58 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Testimony for: **House** Education Committee
HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017
2 p.m.

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Lisa Donovan, a teacher at Kaimuki High School on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 1.5 years. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools for many reasons. I teach special education, and because I do not have a spending allowance for classroom materials, I cannot always meet my students needs (the ones who need it the most). Kids with learning disabilities need extra supports than other students, but sometimes I have to purchase these items out of pocket.

Another reason why public school need more funding is because of the low salaries that teachers and educational assistants are paid. The turn over for SPED teachers is high, and again, these are the students that need the most experienced teachers. My salary is \$49,000, but after healthcare, retirement, and taxes are taken out, I am left with only \$2600 per month. My student loan payments are high, and I cannot afford to live alone or buy a car. I could never buy a house in Hawaii, but I could on the mainland. Situations like this are why many teachers move to the mainland. This profession is very important, but us teachers don't feel that we are being treated as the professionals we are.

Another reason has to do with salary as well. Teachers are paid for a 35 hour week. But I can assure you that the majority of us are working more than 35 hours. Teachers become resentful when they understand they are not being paid for their overtime work. It seems after awhile, teachers stop putting in their full effort and working after hours. It is harmful for the students' learning when there is not enough time for creative planning and reflection.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,
Lisa Donovan, Kaimuki High, Oahu

EDNtestimony

From: Logan HSTA Okita <lokitahsta@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 6:23 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Testimony for: House Education Committee
HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017
2 p.m.

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Logan Okita, a National Board Certified teacher at Nimitz Elementary School on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 11 years. Please pass HB 180 and HB 182 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because many of our resources are outdated and need to be split amongst many teachers and students. At my school, we have been without the use of our playground for almost two school years. We also are working on moving to one-to-one technology, but we can't share it evenly because of the lack of funding. We expect our students to become contributing citizens in a technology driven society without the tools they need to be successful. These students also deserve a well-rounded education, however we are not able to fund full-time positions for music and art education. I have taken jobs outside of my teaching day to help supplement my income. Several of my colleagues have seriously discussed the possibility of leaving the state because they are unable to afford to live and teach here. We need to make it possible for teachers in Hawaii to live and teach here without having to take second jobs.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,
Logan Okita, MEd, NBCT
Nimitz Elementary School
Oahu

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 8:33 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: mpahukoa@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB180 on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM

HB180

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Ann Pahukoa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support our schools & funding for education.

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EDNtestimony

From: Maureen Uytingco <moojo78@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:14 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Testimony for: **House** Education Committee
HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017
2 p.m.

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Maureen Uytingco, a teacher at Keoneula Elementary in Ewa Beach on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 22 years. Please pass HB 180 and HB 182 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because our school currently does not have enough funds to hire resource teachers to teach technology, the arts, and extra curricular activities such as physical education. To prepare our students for the competitive nature of a global economy, I believe ALL students should be provided with these resources. Without funding, our teachers are stretched thin and burnt out by having to teach every single subject area. Having dedicated and taught for more than 2 decades, I have never felt so overburdened by having to develop our own curriculum maps, instruct, assess, and provide emotional support to a wide range of students with ever-changing needs. On average, I work an extra 3 hours after school just to keep up with the work load, of which I am uncompensated. Most recently I have seriously thought of leaving the profession because of the current climate of Hawaii's educational system and the absence of any support by the Department of Education.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,
Maureen Uytingco
Keoneula Elementary
Oahu

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

EDNtestimony

From: Mele Nelson <alohamele71@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 6:03 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Testimony for: **House** Education Committee
HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017
2 p.m.

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Melissa Nelson, a teacher at Maui Waena Intermediate on Maui. I have been a teacher for 5 years. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because on a personal level most of my students do not have the materials they need to effectively learn. Additionally, they come to school hungry and without adequate rest from homes that do not have the education to understand or follow through on helping them with their studies or have the ability to speak English. We need on campus parent education and support so that we can be a team raising our future. Additionally due to low pay - I work two jobs which as a single parent

takes me away from my own child who mostly only sees me while Im grading or preparing lessons for other children. It's to a point where every pay period I have to decide on which bill to pay and which one can wait. Then there is the hope of owning a home - which seems less and less likely with rising costs and unchanging pay. I have lost so many colleagues to jobs on the mainland - others to a change in careers to be able to afford to live here. Please do right by us so that we can continue to do right by our children.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,
Melissa Nelson, Maui Waena Intermediate, Maui

EDNtestimony

From: Mike Landes <jmlandes@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 4:42 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Testimony for: House Education Committee **HB180 and HB182 - Relating to Education Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017**

2 pm

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mike Landes. I am a teacher at Lahainaluna High School on the island of Maui. As a teacher of 13 years in Hawai'i.

I am writing in support of HB180 and HB182, Relating to Education, to increase funding for our public schools.

Hawai'i's public schools rank poorly in teacher recruitment and retention, teacher pay, and student achievement. We are also the only state in the nation that does not use property taxes to fund our schools. While this means that rich areas of our state do not fare disproportionately better than impoverished areas, it has led to all schools throughout the islands being chronically underfunded.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. **A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects that value of our hardworking teachers.**

We need additional funding for our public schools, because our schools do not have the necessary resources to provide

our keiki with the educational opportunities they all deserve. We do not have adequate funding to maintain and improve our facilities and resources, to provide modern technology and curricula for our students, and to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers. We are the only state in the nation that does not provide a dedicated stream of funding for public education through property taxes, and the decision to provide for our school system through the general fund only perpetuates the problems. Our school system becomes just another budget item, underfunded and subject to budget cuts. Our keiki deserve to be our state's highest priority, with a funding source that will reliably and consistently provide them with the funding they need.

To build the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,

Mike Landes
Lahainaluna High School
Maui

TESTIMONY for House Education Committee Hearing on Fri. Feb. 3, 2017 at 2:00 pm

Chair Takumi and members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Mireille Ellsworth, an English and Drama Teacher at Waiakea High School in Hilo. I would like to ask that you join pass and advance HB 180 for increased funding for public education. I regret that I am unable to afford to testify in person today, so I humbly ask that you read this testimony to understand a classroom teacher's perspective.

Allow me to give you the reality as to how funding affects my students, especially in the elective classes that I teach. Waiakea High School prides itself on its Smaller Learning Communities framed around career academies, and I teach two sections of drama. However, this program is crippled in the scope of how far I can take my students in the performing arts. Our school of nearly 1200 students does not have a theater. We don't even have a "multi-purpose room" like many other schools have. The major fundraiser for our student activities program is our annual Variety Show, but annually, we must hire professional lighting and sound companies to help us set up a make-shift performance space in the gym. This eats into the money students could use for their extra-curricular activities. Our local Waiakea Lions Club donated a platform which serves as a make-shift stage in our cafeteria, but there is no "backstage" nor theatrical lighting available nor is there even a curtain.

In order to teach the acting classes and put on productions, the school's head custodian and I jerry-rigged the only "curtain" I could afford given my budget of less than \$300 the year we put it up in the classroom I use. We installed a cable that crosses the room about 12 feet high, and I literally used rolls of black plastic from Home Depot which is used to cover floors when painting, taped the panels of plastic together with black Gorilla duct tape, and punched holes and used black zip ties as curtain hooks. I must train the student actors to stop saying lines when other actors are entering and exiting the stage because of the loud plastic rustling of the "curtain." We have a few theatrical stage lights, but no lighting board, so students sit below each light and turn it on and off using a switch on a power bar. If we turn on more than four stage lights simultaneously, the whole building's circuit breakers trip, powering down two other classrooms. In fact, our class has inadvertently set off the school's fire alarm when we tried to use a smoke machine for special effects because the room is not meant to be a theater.

I have students taking acting more than one year in their high school experience, some even for all four years of high school. There have been amazing productions, many student-written and student-directed. Autistic students have miraculously come out of their shell and found theater their niche in high school. Students who have disabilities have blossomed in this program. One example is a student with a writing disability who realized the importance and significance of punctuation when he heard his peers doing a "cold reading" of his script that he had written. He was so motivated to learn the details of writing mechanics after that revelation! The head of the Performing Arts Department at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, Jackie Pualani Johnson, has even nominated our humble drama program to travel to Edinburgh, Scotland to participate in the Fringe

Festival, but I had to turn down this incredible opportunity because of a lack of funding. I'm almost embarrassed to bring students to such a prestigious event because my students do not know anything about stagecraft or building sets under our present restrictions. It is shameful and much less than the students deserve.

This school year alone, I have spent over \$400 of my own personal funds purchasing props and even a piece of used furniture off Craigslist because of the odd things we need for play productions. Two of my seniors have written and are now directing their original productions and need certain items to make their dream and vision come true! If you want to see the ultimate in student-centered learning and peers leading peers, you ought to visit one of my acting classes' rehearsals. It is exciting and an incredible cooperative and creative student-led learning experience.

Personally, the lack of funding for teacher salaries has affected me and made me question whether or not I can stay teaching in Hawai'i. I am a very thrifty person, and as a single person, I cannot afford to buy a house. I have excellent credit, and the only way I have been able to stay teaching here is to take out personal loans and juggle credit card debt. Any travel to see my two kids and my granddaughter has been subsidized by other members of my family. In fact, I haven't been able to afford to see them for two years now. It's shameful that as a working professional who holds a master's degree (that DOE does not pay me for) at over 50 years old, I depend on family to donate mileage to be able to see them. At present, I own a 2003 vehicle which I can barely afford to keep on the road with repair and maintenance bills, and I'm \$40,000 in debt just affording the basic necessities like food and rent. I still have student loan debt as well. I have no savings and struggle to help my adult kids cover their power bill once or twice a year since they are part of the working poor living in Los Angeles. My two sons live together and share a car working different shifts. I want to cry thinking about how well they did in high school, yet as a single parent, the cost of finishing college was prohibitive for us as a family, even if they only went to school one at a time.

Furthermore, I have not recovered from the reduction in salary I experienced under Furlough Fridays. What made my situation worse was that shortly after that, I was diagnosed with breast cancer which forced me to go further into debt. Since my treatment was only available on Oahu and I live on the Big Island, I had to pay for over a month's worth of hotel accommodations which were not covered by my medical insurance. Without family in Hawaii, I got help from a friend willing to drop everything and nurse me on Oahu, but of course, I had to provide for her expenses. It is sad to think that teachers like me are only one major illness or serious accident away from financial ruin, even with health insurance.

I have a hard time promoting college to students whose socio-economic status is the same or worse than mine because sadly, as much as I love teaching and feel it is the most rewarding profession there is, I know affording college is such a struggle. It would be compromising my personal integrity to encourage young people to choose teaching as a career choice as I myself feel I am in a dead-end job. Teaching salaries in Hawai'i not only do not keep up with inflation. This salary is putting me further into debt and making

my prospects for any possibility of retiring comfortably actually impossible. There will be a breaking point, and if teachers salaries remain stagnant, I will be forced to leave.

Funding for education in Hawai'i is critical. This community has been polled and is willing to provide the types of schools our keiki deserve. It is now in the hands of our decision makers to follow the will of the people to keep qualified, passionate teachers in our classrooms and provide the support for programs that excite kids about learning and keep them motivated in their more challenging subjects.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Mireille Ellsworth,
English and Acting Teacher,
Waiakea High School
Hilo, Hawai'i

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 8:37 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: Kiana96790@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB180 on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM

HB180

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Misha lococo	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am Misha Lococo, a community member from Makawao, Maui. Please pass bill HB180 to help increase funding for public schools. Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society. Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers. To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo. Misha Lococo, Cosmetologist, Maui

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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EDNtestimony

From: Nanna Lindberg <nanna.lindberg82@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 6:27 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony HB180 and HB182

Testimony for: **House** Education Committee
HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)
[2 p.m.](#)

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Nanna Lindberg, a science teacher at Maui High School on Maui. This is my second year teaching but I have 10 years of experience in scientific and a PhD. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because:

1) Teachers are highly educated professionals who are currently not paid as such. Therefore, they can't afford living and teaching in Hawaii and many leave within just years. I have, like many other teachers I know, a second job. Some days I leave home at 7 am and come home after 10pm. This is not why I chose to become a teacher and is the reason I may choose to not stay as a teacher.

2) The lack of funding also affects my students. As a science teacher I suffer along with my students. We do not have science classrooms, we do not have supplies to teach science. We are suppose to deliver curriculum for lab courses without a lab, 21st century equipment and resources. When we don't even have gloves for example!

The current situation is harming our students, and thus our future, and the teaching profession.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,
Nanna Lindberg, Maui

Sent from my iPhone

EDNtestimony

From: Osa A. Tui, Jr. <osatui.rr@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:22 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Testimony for: **House** Education Committee
HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017
2 p.m.

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Osa Tui, Jr., a teacher at McKinley High School on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 18 years. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because our facilities are aging and our keiki need the best and the brightest educators attracted to the profession in order to maximize their full potential.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,
Osa Tui, Jr.
McKinley High School
Oahu

EDNtestimony

From: Scott Laboy <huilokahiacademy@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 10:26 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: HB180 and HB182

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Scott LaBoy, a teacher at Aikahi Elementary School on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 10 years. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,
Scott LaBoy,
School Counselor
Aikahi Elementary School

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 4:26 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: shannonkona@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB180 on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM

HB180

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support

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EDNtestimony

From: Shauna Cale <shauna.cale@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 6:15 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am a teacher at Waianae Intermediate School in Oahu. I have been a public school teacher for over 10 years. As I currently serve on the front lines of what is arguably one of the most challenging and deserving populations of students on my island, I wish to share with you why I believe **HB180** and **HB182** would be beneficial to my community.

First, a vote for these measures will lower class sizes. For many of my students struggling in poverty, personal connections are more important than grades. To make these connections teachers need manageable class sizes. We need to be able to show these kids that we care about them as individuals so that they work hard in return. We need them to work hard so they succeed. We cannot let the circumstances from whence our students come be an excuse for their failure. Smaller class sizes mean more quality time for teachers to spend with students. My students need ME. For some of these kids, school is the only place where they are taught that they can do something significant with their lives and that they are smart. These kids want to succeed, but not all of them believe they can. Today I watched a student cry tears of happiness because he got a B+ on a test. He earned that "B+" and he was proud. It was not an easy test. In August he started out a destructive twelve-year-old boy on the same path he'd been for years: fighting other students, vandalizing school property, yelling at teachers, and skipping class. Today he cried because he got a "B+." He got that "B+" because I took the time to make him believe he could do it. I want to reach more kids and help them to become "Waianae Strong," but I need smaller classes to do this.

Finally, we need to address the issue of teacher pay. Since I began teaching I have worked extra jobs to supplement my teaching pay. I've worked multiple jobs in the summers. I work after school. For years, I've worked at a golf course after school from 5:00 pm to 11:00 pm most week nights. Most of the teachers I know have a second job. We have families to support, and we are exhausted. While I am a fully licensed English teacher, I would like to continue to further my education with a masters in English, but find that it would not be a responsible financial decision to forego the income from my second job to pursue that degree at this time. As a college educated person working in the precise profession for which I received my degree, I feel I merit the same professional pay as my peers who have been working a similar number of years in their professions. If circumstances continue as they are, educators like me will be forced to either pursue a career in school administration or leave the profession. I'm sure you agree that we need hard working, motivated, dedicated people in the classrooms as well as the administration offices. At this time I have begun to actively look at other jobs, not because I don't like teaching, but simply because I am exhausted. It might interest you to learn that I can literally make more money as a licensed lash tech, than I do as a teacher. That's right. I will get paid more hourly to glue lash extensions on eyelashes, than I get paid to teach 102 Waianae students the essential skills of reading and writing.

Let's make our schools into the training grounds our keiki deserve. Let's make our classrooms places where dedicated teachers stay, not pass through. Please consider supporting these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,
Shauna Cale, Waianae Intermediate School, Oahu

EDNtestimony

From: S.M. Yamauchi <sm.yamauchi@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 11:49 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

**Testimony for: House Education Committee
HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017
2 p.m.**

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Shirley Yamauchi, a teacher at Kapolei Middle School, Leeward district, Oahu and the 2016 Teacher of the Year

For Excellence in Economic Education . I have been a teacher for 16 years. **Please pass HB180 and HB182 to increase funding for public schools.**

We need additional funding for our public schools, because last school year, I became an elective wheel teacher for the first time. I moved into my bare portable classroom, with no textbooks, and whatever old supplies that I had collected over my thirteen years as an English language arts teacher. I was provided with only a \$150 purchase order, to last me for the entire school year. I went to see my department head for more funds and was turned away. Fortunately, I was able to order free economic supplies online for one school quarter. The first school quarter, I had to ask each student to supply their own yoga mats and towels from home. A very generous Leeward teacher also donated to my classroom, in order to make my health curriculum happen. My take home pay has decreased for the current school year 2016-2017, due to health care coverage. I was recently forced into refinancing my Makakilo townhouse for another thirty years, being unable to to make my monthly mortgage and maintenance fee payments. Low pay and a lack of resources are driving teachers out of the profession. I have held second and third jobs, until the birth of my son, in March of 2015. I am now unable to work additional jobs, due to childcare coverage. These situations are harmful to students, when teachers cannot focus entirely on their students, classes, and career.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but

for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,

--

Shirley M. Yamauchi
Kapolei Middle, Oahu

EDNtestimony

From: Travis Flynn <travis_flynn@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 3:48 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Please pass HB180 and HB182

Testimony for: **House** Education Committee
HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017
2 p.m.

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Travis Flynn, a teacher at Waiakea Intermediate School in Hilo on the Big Island. I have been a teacher for 15 years. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

My personal story is that I made the move from Oregon about four years ago at a great financial cost; the pay here is far lower than what I was paid previously. My brother, a very highly qualified Spanish teacher wants to move here to teach with his young family and teach, but he cannot because of the poor pay.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawaii's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because... ***[INSERT a paragraph or two, tell your personal story or specific anecdotes about how lack of funding affects your students, how low pay and a lack of resources are driving teachers out of the profession, how teachers have to hold second and third jobs, etc. Make sure to emphasize how these situations are harmful to students.]***

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,
Travis Flynn, Waiakea Intermediate School, Big Island

February 2, 2017

To: Members of the EDU and EDN Committees

**re: Testimony for HB180/SB683, HB182/SB686
[Support with amendments]**

Aloha Esteemed Members of the EDU and EDN Committees,

I strongly support a state property tax to better fund our public schools. Hawai'i is the only state in the nation without a property tax to support public schools and the lack of financial support is a crisis.

However, I ask for amendments. I do not support HB180, SB686, HB182, and SB683 as written because:

1. Surcharges assessed to only one industry (tourist industry) is grossly unfair.
2. Assessing taxes for education only on investment properties only is unfair.

I have done extensive world travel in the past four years and what I have discovered from other world travelers is that Hawai'i is not THE destination spot it used to be. There are so many other tropical destinations for less cost available throughout the world these days. If you want to further drive tourists away from our shores, then pass the bill as is.

I would prefer a simple state property tax for public education *only* that collects:

- 1. A state property tax that assesses an additional 10% of property taxes currently collected by the county to be paid to the State Education fund.**

KISS. Keep it simple. Keep it fair. The counties will continue to be responsible for assessing properties to levy appropriate (fair) taxes based on property values. The state simply collects the additional state property tax of 10% based on county tax assessment. I rent an apartment, own a home, own a rental, and own an investment property. I assure you that property taxes in Hawai'i are significantly lower than any place I have ever lived. A 10% increase on an annual county property tax of say, \$1,200, would be only \$120 per year. That would be only \$10 a month!

The people of Hawai'i must learn that a world class education system is necessary for our keiki's futures, and that a world class education system requires money. It is not the tourists alone, or the tourist industry, who should bear the burden of funding our public schools. The people of Hawai'i need to fund their own education in an equitable, easy, sustainable manner.

Please make that happen.

Mahalo,



Vanessa Ott

Community Education Stakeholder

EDNtestimony

From: william braitsch <wxavier718@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 9:00 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony

Testimony for: **House** Education Committee
HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017
2 p.m.

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am William Braitsch, a teacher at James Campbell High School on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 15 years. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,
William Braitsch, James Campbell High School Oahu

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 8:50 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: ignaciojessica85@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB180 on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM

HB180

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jessica atay	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am Jessica Atay a community member from Wailuku Maui. Please pass bill to help increase funding for public schools. Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society. Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers. To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these Jessica Atay, Medical Assistant, Maui

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EDNtestimony

From: Aaron Day <addleewardhsta@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 4:28 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Testimony for: House Education Committee
HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017
2 p.m.

Honorable Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee,

My name is Aaron Day. I am a teacher at Waianae High School on the island of Oahu. As a teacher of 11 years in Hawai'i.

I am writing in support of HB180 and HB182, Relating to Education, to increase funding for our public schools.

Hawai'i's public schools rank poorly in teacher recruitment and retention, teacher pay, and student achievement. We are also the only state in the nation that does not use property taxes to fund our schools. While this means that rich areas of our state do not fare disproportionately better than impoverished areas, it has led to all schools throughout the islands being chronically underfunded.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects that value of our hardworking teachers.

My family moved to Hawai'i in 1988. When I was a high school student, we rented a 4 bedroom 3.5 bathroom house with a covered lanai and a den in Kailua with a golf course adjacent to our back yard for \$1300/month. Now, as a teacher for the past 11 years, I am renting a 3 bedroom 1.25 bathroom split unit house in Nanakuli for \$1495/month. I am tired of paying rent but cannot afford purchase a house in Hawai'i. I am seriously look at my options and realizing that I can move to other states, that also need math teachers, where the rent is nearly half of what it is here but I could make nearly the same or more money. I do not necessarily want to leave the state, but I feel that if things do not change it will be the only way I can actually build a life for a family some day.

To build the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,

Aaron Day, Waianae High School, Oahu

EDNtestimony

From: Charlotte Godfrey-Romo <charlotte.romo30@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 5:22 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: HB180 and HB182

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Charlotte Godfrey-Romo, a teacher at Kalaniana'ole, I have been a **science teacher for seven years. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.**

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

As a science teacher I strive to design rich educational lessons, activities and excursions for the students. As a Middle School teacher, teaching three grade levels of science (6th grade Physical Science, 7th grade Life Science and 8th grade Earth and Space Science) and electives (science Olympiad, Health, and Spanish) I have an enormous challenge and what makes it even more difficult is that for the past five years my entire allotted budget was only \$250! I spend thousands of my own dollars (over the years) to buy supplies to be able to carryout great science. This year my budget was increased to \$650, which I am very grateful, but it was just enough to cover consumables, science needs a lot of supplies.

I write many grants to be able to take the students on excursions and buy supplies, but I do this on my own free time, it is not fair to my own family to spend so much time on my job instead of them. I became a teacher because I feel it is a noble job to give back to the communtiy but like many teachers I have considered leaving the profession because of the problems in the system, money being one of the big problems.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills.

Thank you for your time,
Charlotte Godfrey-Romo

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 3:59 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: panther_dave@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB180 on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM*

HB180

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dave Kisor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Dr. Amy Perruso
3348 Kaunaoa St.
Honolulu, HI 96815

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

February 3, 2017

RE: HB 180 & HB 182: RELATED TO EDUCATION FUNDING

Aloha Chair Takumi and Committee Members:

Despite aggressive recruitment efforts on the continent, the teacher shortfall in the Hawaii public school system emerges in more vicious manifestations each year. Our tragically shortsighted response is to fill otherwise teacher-less classrooms with emergency hires, or “pretend teachers,” as Corey Rosenlee has called them. These hires have bachelor’s degrees, and have not completed or even necessarily started a teacher certification program. Increasing difficulties with recruitment and retention stem fundamentally from relatively low salaries received by Hawai‘i public school teachers.

In 2016, Hawai‘i was fifty-first or last in the nation as the “worst state” for teachers based on a number of factors, including average starting salary for teachers adjusted for cost of living, in which Hawai‘i ranked last (Wallethub). Hawai‘i also had the lowest median annual salary for teachers, again adjusted for cost of living. This is the worst state in the country for teachers – and this translates into desperate learning conditions for our students, as the schools are characterized by a highly destabilized teaching workforce, the majority of which must work a second and often a third job simply to survive.

This consequences of our collective failure to address this problem are borne by our children, especially who already struggle to find ‘equal opportunity.’ A recent study by Professor Jonathan Okamura, entitled “Unequal Opportunity,” lays out how chronic inadequate funding of the public schools especially disadvantages our “majority clientele of minority students,” by which he means our Native Hawaiian, Filipino and Pacific Islander students.

Underfunding of public education, particularly in terms of low teacher salaries, not only reflects some troubling implications of this state’s racial history but also bodes ill for any realization of increased ‘equal opportunity’ through public education. Public education is supposed to play a key role in the opportunity for social mobility for ethnic minorities. But the tens of thousands of students who are not being provided with an education because they lack a qualified teacher in their classroom, or who suffer from highly unstable learning environments with high faculty turnover every year, consist primarily of Native Hawaiian, Filipino and Pacific Islander students who are living in or close to poverty in Hawaii.

Legal cases concerning the financing of public education have emerged recently in Kansas, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Washington. In September 2016, for example, a Connecticut Superior Court judge ruled that the state was “defaulting on its constitutional duty” to give all children a fair opportunity for an

elementary and secondary school education. Across the country, the starvation of our public education system is rejected as the normal state of affairs. Parents and their children in Hawai‘i, led by the state Board of Education and the teachers’ union, should likewise insist that legislators provide our young people in Hawaii with equal educational opportunity, which begins with adequate funding and decent salaries for teachers.

If we are really interested in ‘equal opportunity,’ we should not be focusing on outcomes, or test scores, which studies have shown primarily capture differences in students’ socio-economic status. We should be keenly focused on measuring our supports for those students with the highest needs. One critical support is a qualified, committed and experienced teacher. If that was a clear objective in the state’s accountability system, principals would not be forced to hire short-term, uncommitted people who simply contribute to the instability of the public schools, and there would be more concerted attention to the dire teacher recruitment and retention crisis. Please consider how we can devise an accountability system that actually enables us to address some of the systemic problems facing our education system.

Very truly yours,

Amy Perruso
Mililani High School
Social Studies

EDNtestimony

From: Laura Proctor <proctola12@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 5:12 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Testimony for: House Education Committee
HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017
2 p.m.

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Laura Proctor, a teacher at Pauoa Elementary School and Oahu. I have been a teacher in Hawai'i for 5 years, at 3 different schools.

Please pass HB180 and HB182 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because when teachers are absent, substitute teachers are unavailable. Schools cannot afford enough subs to cover every class. In my experience, office staff and administration need to fill in for teachers. While teachers have the right to take the days off, they feel instantly guilty because they know the students are not getting as quality an education as they would if their regular teacher was there. Students are not learning sciences and social studies in the elementary school level from what I have noticed in my past 5 years teacher. This is due to lack of time given to plan with the grade level. Students do not get the quality education they deserve and will therefore suffer when they get to middle and high school because they have no background knowledge on the subjects. In order for teachers to have collaboration time, they need to take time out of their own lives (either before eight a.m. or after three-fifteen p.m.) to plan. Teachers do not get paid enough for this, yet many teachers including myself donate their time outside of work hours to furthering our students education. IEP meetings, BSP/FBA meetings, and parent conferences all take up time outside of work hours.

With the high cost of living in Hawai'i, it is very difficult to stay on our salary. I am currently filling out my separation of service form because I am moving back to New York to teach at the end of this school year due to the inability to save money. The cost of rent and loans I owe to my college education masters degree are outrageous and my salary just doesn't allow me to pay both. Special education teachers are especially at a disadvantage because the work is so exhausting and patience-demanding. I am getting burnt out of teaching special education because of the lack of resources for educational assistants (EA) and behavior intervention support specialists (BISS). Students suffer as a result because I am too busy working with certain students (mostly those who are behavior problems or very low academically) to pay attention to others.

These problems have been the same at all three schools I have worked at over the span of five years. The DOE system makes it increasingly difficult for teachers to move to another school or to stay at the school we are at. I have moved

schools three times because I have always been a displaced teacher. Although the special education positions have usually been returned to the school, it is too late and I have already been placed elsewhere. It is unfair to us because we need to form new relationships with fellow colleagues to collaborate more effectively. Also, I have always taught two to four grade levels at once (currently kindergarten through third grade) which is unfair to the students. While I do differentiate instruction to the best of my ability, students lose out on material because I am busy reading at a certain level for one child than another. Schools need funding to hire more special educators so class sizes do not get out of control.

Seventeen special education students at one time is unacceptable.

In conclusion, funding is necessary for public schools in Hawai'i to succeed. We need substitute teachers, time to prepare lessons, time for meetings, increased salary, additional resources for EA's and BISS, smaller class sizes, and the ability to teach where we please.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills.

Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,

Laura Proctor, Pauoa Elementary School, Oahu

EDNtestimony

From: Lisa Morrison <lamorrison17@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 4:28 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Testimony for: **House** Education Committee
HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017
2 p.m.

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Lisa Morrison, a teacher at Maui Waena Intermediate School. I have been a teacher for almost 10 years, with 5 years of service in the Hawai'i public schools. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society. Qualified teachers are of utmost importance to the public school system, and Hawai'i has a teacher shortage crisis. Robust programs in the arts are a cornerstone of success for students, not just in academia but in life.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because students are being educated as though they are second class citizens. They are crammed into overcrowded classes where they can't possibly get individualized attention and instruction. They are forced to go without music classes and physical education in service of subjects deemed more important because test scores drive planning and instruction. Thousands of students each day go without a qualified teacher in at least one class because the profession has been made so unattractive through low pay and stressful work conditions. When we starve public education, the students go hungry.

I have watched this take a toll on administrators at my school and on my island. Vice principals are spending so much energy and time on a daily basis to fill the gaps of classes without teachers, and the principal is almost constantly hiring for vacancies. It is difficult to provide sustained leadership and positive direction for a school when you are always solving today's newest problem. Administration is touted as the next step for teachers once they plateau in the salary schedule, but when I look at what our administrators are dealing with, I see that I have no interest in doing what they do.

I know many teachers who are looking for a way out because they've spent years hoping the state will recognize this problem and address it. They are tired of waiting, and we need to act now to stop the attrition of quality educators. Our children deserve better. Please support these bills.

Thank you for your time,
Lisa Morrison

Maui Waena Intermediate School
Maui

EDNtestimony

From: Lorraine Bennett <lorrainebennett@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 4:52 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony for HB 180 and 182

Testimony for: **House** Education Committee

HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)

[2 p.m.](#)

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Lorraine Bennett a teacher at Honowai Elementary, Oahu. I have been a teacher for over 20 years. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because... *my students are economically challenged. We cannot cure poverty but we can help our children have an equal playing field. When I visited a brand new state of the art Elementary school in Kapolei, what struck me was the amount of technology these students were exposed to. Each student had their own tablets to do their work whereas many of the older schools are still struggling to give students a computer newer than 3-4 years old. There was also money for a library facility. Not only can a library be a place to study and have access to a computer to do their work but it can be a magical place to learn about books, browse, and read a book. Our library is currently housed in a classroom with no seating room and few books. We cannot equal the playing field for our students if some schools have up to date technology and functional libraries. It is hard to attract teachers if you are supposed to get students up to speed but do not have the resources to do it with.*

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,

Lorraine Bennett

Honowai Elementary

Oahu

Sent from my iPhone

EDNtestimony

From: Robert Diaz <graceohana@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 4:51 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: HB180 & HB 182

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrea Diaz and I have been a teacher at Pearl Harbor Elementary on O'ahu for 6 years. Please pass HB180 and HB182 to increase funding for Hawaii's public schools.

Our state needs to hire and retain quality educators. Since becoming a teacher I have not worked a 40 hour week in 6 years. In order to do my job effectively I need to stay late and bring home a lot of paper work at night and on the weekends. Realistically the job demands 60-70 hours of work. Many teachers bring home documents to write, papers to grade, as well as lesson plans to write. The meager salary does not adequately pay teachers for all that they do. It is a joy to work with the students, but the pay does not reflect our true value.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because our teachers are working alone without teacher's aides. Our classrooms are dated and the furniture at my school is from the 70's and 80's. I have rusty desks with holes in the wood and cheap plastic chairs. My school was built in 1956 and the buildings are showing their wear. Our electric system is so old that if all the air conditioners are turned on the power goes out. We need new wiring. I can't arrange my class the way I want because not all of the outlets work. We need a new library. We have almost 1000 students and our library is very small. The students at my school need after school tutoring, but tutoring is not in our budget.

Overall, there is too much paperwork and it leads to teacher burn out. The demands placed on public school teachers in Hawaii leads to an unbalanced life. There is little time for family. Being a teacher takes 100% commitment. I do not feel that I am paid for all that I do. I am a teacher because I want to make a difference in the lives of my students. It would be wonderful if Hawaii's schools were given the same resources as schools on the mainland. The majority of our campuses look more like schools in third world countries with portables and dated buildings. The students deserve to be in a safe and clean environment.

Please support these bills.

Thank you for your time,

Andrea Diaz, Pearl Harbor Elementary

EDNtestimony

From: Sam Vaughs <ssvaughs@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 4:24 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Fwd: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

----- Forwarded message -----

From: EDU Testimony <EDUtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Date: Thu, Feb 2, 2017 at 4:21 PM
Subject: RE: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182
To: Sam Vaughs <ssvaughs@gmail.com>

Thank you for submitting testimony on HB180 and HB182 unfortunately you have sent your testimony to the Senate committee on education. Please resend your testimony to edntestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov to have it properly processed.

Mahalo

~~~~~

*Genni*

Office of

Senator Michelle Kidani

808-586-7100

**From:** Sam Vaughs [mailto:[ssvaughs@gmail.com](mailto:ssvaughs@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 8:41 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony <[EDUtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:EDUtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)>  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

### Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Sundance Vaughs, a teacher at Mililani High School on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 4 years. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawaii's schools into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because teachers can't afford to live and work in Hawaii. Teaching requires 100 % focus and commitment ,and a lot of work outside of our paid hours. Because of our low pay many teachers must have second jobs just to pay the rent. This in turn takes away valuable energy and time that would be spent on our students. Thus their quality of education suffers.

On top of that, we talk about a lack of teachers or a high teacher turn over as a major impediment to our children's education. I hear the solution is more support and mentorship programs, but I'm here, as a 4 year teacher, to tell you that it's not the steep learning curve, but the lack of pay and the lack of respect that it signals. Unless something is done now to signal that there is a change in the State's stance on teacher pay high teacher turn over will continue to impact our children's education. Frankly, I don't know how much longer I can afford to be a teacher in Hawaii, and unfortunately will become part of the 5 year teacher exodus statistic.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,  
Sundance Vaughs

Science Teacher at Mililani High School

Oahu

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Sent from Gmail Mobile

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Sent from Gmail Mobile

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
HB 180 and HB 182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017

Aloha,

My name is Michał Nowicki and I am a teacher at the University Laboratory School. I have been teaching in Hawaii Public Schools for 9 years. I am writing to ask that you please pass HB 180 and HB 182 to increase funding for public schools.

Hawai'i public schools have ranked at the bottom of our nation's schools for too long. Our children deserve better opportunities, facilities, and teachers. The state entrusts teachers with care for our youth, yet, year after year, has fallen short in supporting us in our profession.

I and many teachers have made a considerable effort to share our concerns with the Department of Education and the Board of Education over the course of the last two years, however, very little meaningful action has been taken to avert a dangerous course on which we have stayed for far too long. Somehow, we always hear that there simply is not enough money for our public schools. The proposed HB 180 and HB 182 provide a means to address this critical issue.

Over the course of the last two years, I saw 6 of my teacher friends leave public schools. They now work for private schools, in the private sector, or have left the state for good. Those were all highly educated, and effective teachers, who each gave almost 10 years to the public classrooms, who, like many of us in our 30's, are forced to seriously consider the extent of the sacrifice we have made to provide our services to the public.

And although our hearts are in public education, when our wallets are empty, when we know that we won't be able to afford a mortgage, when confronted with the fact that we just gave 10 years of our lives, sweating in hot and overcrowded classrooms, and have nothing to show for it as evidenced by our empty bank accounts, it is hard for us not to reconsider our commitments.

One of my friends received a \$15,000 raise when she moved to work at a private school. She is now responsible for a total of only 80 students, about a half of the 150 she would teach in a public setting. She also enjoys better benefits, more prep time, air conditioning, and does not have to worry about buying her own supplies.

Her departure, like so many others, is a huge loss for the public school community that in the current climate will struggle to replace her with a qualified teacher. Ironically, this is a win for the community of the wealthy and privileged, whose children will now enormously benefit from this amazing teacher joining their private school.

How can public schools fight to retain their teachers, if we are taking massive pay cuts to work for the Hawai'i DOE? The disparity in pay is especially striking for more experienced teachers – teachers that our children desperately need.

Our public schools are facing a crisis. Unless we create a working source of funding for our schools, we will see a revolving door of under-qualified educators replacing our highly effective teachers. Teacher will keep leaving to pursue opportunities that will allow them and their families to afford to live in Hawaii.

And, ultimately, if the state cannot pick up the tab, all of our kids will pay in a currency that can never be matched in dollars.

Michał Nowicki



Mathematics Teacher and Department Chair  
University Laboratory School  
808-721-0657

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** Tyler Okamura-Tagupa <tagupa@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 4:26 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Testimony for: **House** Education Committee  
**HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION**  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
**2 p.m.**

### **Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:**

I am Tyler, a teacher at Olomana School on Oahu. I have been a teacher for six years and 5 months. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because... students need courses like the ones I offer and teachers like myself deserve a comfortable pay for our efforts. School is more than reading an arithmetic, electives allow students to explore other areas of thinking and become enlightened with more experiences. Employability and problem solving skills are important to the success of students. I sit with colleges and industry professionals on curriculum boards and industry associations and hear their concerns for the need of skilled new workers. We need to better prepare our keiki with the thinking, problem solving and character, to become employable. Funding for CTE programs and related industry partnerships are needed. We need to hear what the college and workforce wants from high schools to produce the type of successful individuals.

In addition to being a ten month teacher I have spent the first six years of my career working weekends at the local City and County pool teaching learn to swim classes and life guarding free swim. Sure I enjoy teaching kids and seniors water recreation but the main reason was to earn extra money to survive. During the summer, fall, winter, and spring breaks I deliver the morning Honolulu Star Advertiser. This is another opportunity for me to make a nice lump sum of money to help get me through the financial year. I do not like waking up at 12-midnight and driving from Ewa Beach to Kaka'ako to count newspapers, sometimes this job requires me to do wake up calls in the Kam IV, Mayor Rights, and other housing developments at the early morning hours. These extra work hours were important to making money but really took away my quality of life and ultimately take away from my quality of teaching... taking away valuable prep time and energy to perform at peak.



To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,  
Tyler Okamura-Tagupa, Olomana School, Oahu

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** Vera Maric <vmaric200@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 3:24 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

### Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Vedrana Maric, a teacher at Kaua'i High School, Kaua'i. I have been a teacher for 1 year. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawaii's schools into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.


We need additional funding for our public schools because sustaining teachers develops quality education for our students. Most of my colleagues hold second jobs, and I too will soon need to get a second job because the salary does not support the cost of living in Hawaii. Working a full time job+ and still needing more income inevitably drives our teachers out of the profession because in the end, it is about the quality of life as well. If teachers are working second, or even third jobs, they are not performing as they could be for the students. Unfortunately, this lowers the quality of education for our students. The students are the ones who are suffering.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,

Vera

Vedrana (Vera) Maric  
Kaua'i High, Kaua'i

224-210-0539 

[vmaric200@outlook.com](mailto:vmaric200@outlook.com)

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** Danielle Hartwick <daniurban@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 7:44 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

### Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Danielle Hartwick, a teacher at Makawao Elementary school on Maui. I have been a teacher for 5 years. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because highly qualified teachers are leaving the island to teach in schools that pay higher wages, pay for teacher's continued education and to teach in schools that recognize the importance of the whole child and multiple intelligences of students. Music and Art programs are not being paid by PTA fundraising efforts but are a part of school budgets.

Many of the teachers also have a second job in order to make enough money for their families to make ends meet. These teachers often take more sick days (due to overworked, less sleep) which affects consistent education for our students. Lack of consistency and less satisfied teachers have a direct impact on the quality of education which in turn affects student learning and eventually standardized test scores.

It is a disgrace that we pay mechanics more per hour to care for our cars than what we pay our teachers to care for our students, our future!

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,  
Danielle Hartwick, Makawao Elementary School, Maui

Sent from my iPhone

As a long-time school teacher, currently an instructor at Kapiolani Community College, and the owner residential investment property, I urge the legislature to pass HB 180 and 182 *in order to update school infrastructure and address the problem of teacher shortages.*

Each year, it seems, the DOE does not have enough teachers *on the first day of school.* This is totally unacceptable. This dysfunction results in real fall-out.

In my classes at KCC, I see that fallout regularly. One student today shared how in his four years of high school, he only had one year of actual instruction in English. Because he had been taught by emergency subs his other years, he said, he did not have real instruction during those other years. Today, the student, a good kid, who is coming to class, doing his work, and trying his best, is on the weak side, and his education may be a part of this.

Teacher shortages on the first day of school is unacceptable. Better salaries would help alleviate the problem of teacher shortages. Raising salaries would help make teaching a viable option for smart individuals. How great would it be if in ten years, we could say that teaching was a *competitive* field to get into. I don't think this is a pipe dream. Teaching offers meaningful, steady work, where individuals get to make a difference in their communities. Teachers are authority figures to students and parents and in many respects are gatekeepers.

But hiring unqualified teachers (who are literally dubbed "unqualified" and expected to do little) is not helping the situation for schools or our families.

The state has a number of other financial responsibilities. The DLNR is grossly understaffed. The police will need an extra quarter million to offset the demands of Louis Kealoha. The state is right to be stingy with regard to salaries, but a \$500 pay increase for a profession that is currently hemorrhaging qualified professionals is not sound policy.

HB 180 and 182, if implemented with *a modest surcharge*, will help funnel money toward our public schools and will have a long-term positive impact on our communities, the education and literacy of our populace, and Hawaii's long-term growth and future.

Hawaii is not a poor state. With 7 million travelers passing through annually and \$400 flights just to travel to the Big Island from Oahu, Hawaii is an expensive state. Honolulu is generally regarded as one the most expensive cities in the U.S. behind New York and San Francisco. We have some of the world's fanciest shopping centers and yet judging by our schools, one might think Hawaii were as impoverished as Alabama.

Passing HB 180 and 182 will not mean the test scores of Hawaii's students will skyrocket overnight. In addition to being an expensive state, Hawaii also has a high population of immigrants, many of whom speak English as a second language. But

improving Hawaii's school infrastructure and salaries will help make Hawaii's public schools on par with its private schools.

Let's allow our schools to reflect the prosperity and wealth of the rest of islands. Let's pass HB 180 and 182. Passing *modest surcharges* on residential investment properties will allow the state to invest in school infrastructure and put money and manpower toward the recruitment and retainment of good teachers. Thank you.

Jacquelyn Chappel

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** Me <melachan21@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2017 1:59 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 180 & HB182

Testimony for: **House** Education Committee  
**HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION**  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
[2 p.m.](#)

### **Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:**

I am Melanie Chan-Vinoray, a teacher at Maui Waena Intermediate on the island of Maui. I have been a teacher for 10 years. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because our students deserve more. I teach in a portable classroom that is over 25 years old and on warm days it can get upwards to 90 degrees in my classroom. Since the building is so old, it has limited electrical outlets needed for a 21st century classroom. Additional funding can help the heat abatement program that has begun but not yet reached our school of 1,100+ students. Plus, additional funds can help with making teacher salaries more competitive and teacher retention.

To deliver the schools our way keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,  
Melanie Chan-Vinoray, Maui Waena Intermediate School, Maui

Sent from my iPhone

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** Alicia Davis <a.davis@keoneulaes.k12.hi.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2017 7:54 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB180 and HB182

Testimony for: **House** Education Committee  
**HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION**  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
**2 p.m.**

### **Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:**

I am Alicia Davis, a teacher at Keoneula Elem on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 16 years. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because the low pay is discouraging. I am a military spouse coming from the mainland. Hawaii is the 9th state that I have taught in and it is the state where I have been paid the least. My family and I came from the DC area. Before coming here, I heard stories about how much the cost of milk was, so I assumed that because the cost of living was higher that my pay would be supplemented because of that. I was shocked when I realized that my pay was being cut \$15,000. I still have student loans and the cost of living is extreme here. I can't afford to lose money! We work too hard to do what is expected of us for this pay. Hawaii should be ashamed. When teachers have to work all day with students and parents and then work 2 other jobs just to get by is extremely sad. We can't be surprised when good educators leave the profession or in this case, go

back to the mainland to teach. Students suffer under these circumstances. They get teachers who are tired and worn out because of having to hold two and three jobs. I am tired of hearing people say that they value and understand what we do daily but don't compensate us that way. We are not expecting to be millionaires but we want to be able to provide for our own families without struggling every month. Please do your best to make sure that we are taken care of so that we can take care of our students.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,  
Alicia Davis, Keoneula ES, Oahu





## EDNtestimony

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**From:** kelly wadlegger <kwadlegger@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 10:01 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB180 and HB182 from Kelly Wadlegger

### **Regarding: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182**

Testimony for: **House** Education Committee

**HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION**

Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017

**2 p.m.**

### **Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:**

My name is Kelly Wadlegger, a teacher at Castle High School in Kaneohe. I have been a teacher for 8 years. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools. This is the first time working full time in a public school and I am appalled at the ridiculously low wages that teachers are paid here. In a state that is so expensive to live in.

The children I teach grades 9-12 depend heavily on us teachers to be not only educators, but social workers, counselors, surrogate parents, and more. The system does not support all the extra work that we do to help these kids.

When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. It is high time that the state of Hawaii give back to the community's public schools and help produce nurtured, cared for and well educated future citizens of our society. You get what you give! There is so much investment in property and real estate and people who come here and buy and that money does not go back into education. I am all in favor of property taxes to raised money to support the public schools, the students and the teachers.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawaii's schools into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to teach everyone of their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students.

We deserve professional pay that reflects the value of our extremely demanding work. I am a dance teacher who teaches 140 students, some of whom are "at risk". Dance and the performing arts at Castle is a valuable program that gives students discipline, focus, identity, the ability to act responsibility, be global citizens, adapt to cultural codes and be internationally (not only locally) minded. Our school's pathways programs save many of these children. We the educators deserve a decent salary and the students deserve better quality education. Many teachers quit in the first few years due to the low pay, the stress and the lack of funding and support. Hawaii needs to step it up and once and for all give teachers a decent raise. A 1% lump sum bonus is an insult to the highest degree!

I have taught years in private schools and know what resources all students deserve to have. Quality Education should not be only for the elite rich.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because I cannot even afford rent here! I make \$550 a week after taxes etc. and one cannot rent a 2 bedroom apartment on my salary. My child and I will have to share a single room for an exorbitantly inflated amount of typically \$1000 minimum for a studio. (we just lost our lease and have to move) I am not making enough as an 8 year teacher to

afford much in Hawaii. And I cannot work a second job because I have a 9 year old. The schools also really need much more support services to deal with the many social issues that students are having today. We educators are burdened with having to deal with everything far beyond the classroom. We care so we teach, but in the end, society will suffer if education is not supported. Believe me I know, as I have 2 family members in law enforcement who see how lack of education and opportunity leads to incarceration. We have 2-3 generations incarcerated. I will stop here.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you very much!  
Kelly Wadlegger, M.F.A. B.F.A.  
Dance Educator  
Castle High School

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** Shannon De Luz <ssdeluz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 9:37 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony

Thank you for submitting testimony on HB180 and HB182 unfortunately you have sent your testimony to the Senate committee on education. Please resend your testimony to [edntestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:edntestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov) to have it properly processed.

Mahalo

~~~~~  
Gerri
Office of
Senator Michelle Kidani
[808-586-7100](tel:808-586-7100)

Testimony for: **House** Education Committee
HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)
[2 p.m.](#)

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Shannon De Luz a teacher at PAAUILO SCHOOL and Hawaii. I have been a teacher for [INSERT YEARS] years. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because I am on the verge of leaving the profession after 12 years of service. I simply cannot afford to live here, not with the amount of hours I put in and the money I spend out of my pocket. After 12 years of working, growing professionally and waiting for things to get better I simply cannot make it anymore. Not with this pay and not with The budgets we are given to work with for example, \$300 for the year for grades 6-9, 70 students. Things need to change- while I am still married and my daughter is still young enough for me to help. I spend 90% of my day helping everyone else's child while neglecting my own child. For example we are in third-quarter and I still have not had a parent teacher conference for my daughter because I was in parent teacher conference myself, overbooked and without a lunch break. To express the reality of how every single minute of every single day is squeeze of us, I purchase diapers and wore diapers to parent teachers conference in fear of not getting to the restroom in time. For whatever it's

worth, I hope somebody reads this message and is able to make a change for the good of all. 100 kids walk through my classroom each day. We need to help ourselves before we can help anyone else. It's time.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,
Shannon Ase Luz, Paauilo school, Hawaii
Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

EDNtestimony

From: Leslie Frasier <lesliefras@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2017 7:57 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: public testimony for HB180 and HB182

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Leslie Frasier, a teacher at Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School on the island of Kauai. I have been a teacher for 20 years, though in Hawaii 6 years. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawaii's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because low pay and a lack of resources are driving teachers out of the profession, including myself, as every year I need to reevaluate my financial situation due to the low pay. I have thought about moving back to California many times as my pay there would be approx \$25,000 higher per year. I hold a second job as an after-school tutor, which takes me away from the classroom every day after school when the bell rings, when I could be spending more time preparing for lessons and making my class more engaging for my students. I even have to have a roommate in my small home, just so I can afford my monthly expenses. I think it is humiliating and demeaning that as a 20 year veteran teacher with a higher degree, I can only live from paycheck to paycheck and am in debt. This affects my students also, as I am in a constant state of worry about money and my stress, no matter how hard I try not to, becomes a part of who I am in the classroom.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,
Leslie Frasier, Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School, Kauai

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 9:22 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: 2spiralbirth@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB180 on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM

HB180

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
pahnelopi mckenzie	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am Pahnelopi McKenzie, a community member from Upcountry Please pass bill to help increase funding for public schools. Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society. Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers. To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

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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EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 8:50 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: rkailianu57@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB180 on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM*

HB180

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

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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EDNtestimony

From: Sheryl Ogawa <petmongoose@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 8:15 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB180 and HB182

Testimony for: **House** Education Committee
HB180 and HB182 - RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)
[2 p.m.](#)

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Sheryl S. Ogawa, a teacher at Pahoia High & Intermediate School on Hawaii Island. I have been a teacher for 26 years. Please pass **HB180** and **HB182** to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because my personal pay cannot supplement the needs of my students in my classroom. I spend over a \$1000 per year for niceties in my classroom. Special pens, to help students own their work, special paper to make letter writing real, thank you cards and incentives and rewards to help motivate students. My school is in a high poverty district where parents do not fulfill those Start of School lists schools dole out. Our students have never seen a play of creative art performance even though Hilo is just 30 minutes away. They have never been to a classical music concert, nor heard Shakespeare in The Park. We need funds to supplement the fine arts because those were the first classes to be cut.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,
Sheryl S. Ogawa, Pahoia High & Intermediate School, Island of Hawaii

Sent from my iPad 🐼

February 2, 2017

Person Submitting Testimony: Hannibal E. Starbuck

To: House Education Committee

Re: Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017, 2 p.m., conference room 309

Subject: HB180 and HB182-- RELATING TO EDUCATION

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

I am a teacher at H.P. Baldwin High School in Wailuku, Maui, and a member of the HSTA. This is my eleventh year teaching at Baldwin in my field of science, where I hold a B.S. in Physics and a M.S. in Geoscience. I live with my wife and daughter in Pukalani, Maui, where we rent a small 'ohana unit.

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB180 and HB182 as they relate to funding education through a surcharge on residential investment properties and visitor accommodations. Funding public education is necessary to give our island children the tools they need to become critical thinkers and respectful, competent members of society, where they can contribute and make a living. Also, we are in a housing crisis where rentals and houses for sale are extremely high. For these reasons I fully support the intent of these bills, however, I would like the following contingencies to be brought to the table for discussion to possibly add to the list of exemptions:

1. A homeowner who owns a single property with one or more rentals (a main house and possible an 'ohana) but does not live on the property and rents instead should be exempt. If the person is not a permanent resident of Hawai'i, then the surcharge should apply.
2. A homeowner who has a house and an 'ohana unit on a single property, lives in the 'ohana, and rents the larger home for more than \$1500 should be exempt.
3. A homeowner who has a house and an 'ohana unit on a single property, lives in the main house, and rents the 'ohana for more than \$1500 (assuming it is worth it according to going rates) should be exempt. The reason I say the above is because I am thinking there are many honorable people scraping to pay mortgage, make improvements, and maintain a decent quality of living by any means possible. Sometimes living in the main house on an owned property is not the preferred choice.

In addition, I think these situations would lend to people who should be subject to surcharge:

4. People with two or more properties whose second property is not rented, but which has a rentable house on it, should be subject to the surcharge. The house could be vacant, could be subject to being rented "under the table", or could be a second home for the owner.
5. As stated above (#1), out of state residents who own properties with rentals in Hawai'i should all be subject to the surcharge unless they meet other exemption qualifications.

The state is responsible to fund public education, but monies collected through this surcharge could aid in ensuring that schools get enough funding to educate our children, maintain facilities, and retain teachers. Additionally, Hawai'i residents are struggling to pay for housing for their families. The proposed surcharge could help alleviate this problem by reducing the amount of investment properties thus opening up more possibilities for families renting or buying homes in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,
Hannibal E. Starbuck