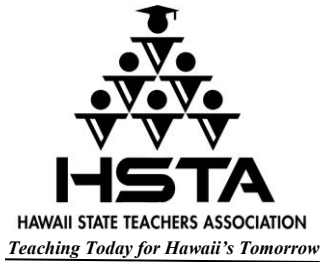


LATE



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

RE: SB 616 - RELATING TO EDUCATION.

MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 2017

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 616**, relating to education.

This bill will require that the DOE develop a plan that will ensure that each public school has a part-time or full-time library and appropriates the funds to do so.

Some of you may be shocked to learn that some of our public schools do not have libraries. It is a well-known fact that literacy is dramatically affected by the accessibility of books to read, especially for our youngest children, but even for our high school students, especially as they dive into research and problem solving required to be successful in our world today, libraries are needed.

Every time we find out that one of our public schools does not have a library, we are shocked too. One of our teachers on Molokai informed us that although they have one high school, one middle school, and four elementary schools on the island, they only have a library in one of their schools. They also have one very small public library that it is, shockingly, not open on weekends.

See their schedule here www.librarieshawaii.org/branch/molokai-public-library/

At the high school level, teachers are dismayed that when their students enter high school that many of their students have never stepped into a library. Many rural areas do not have access to libraries or even bookstores. We also cannot assume that every book is downloadable, nor can we assume that families have the funds needed to either purchase books whether digital or online or access to internet, for their children, especially in low-socioeconomic areas. Not having libraries in their

schools is a disservice to everyone and not having access to them is not providing the quality learning environment that our students need and deserve to thrive.

We will also add, that in the future, we hope not too far in the future, we also need to emphasize that certified librarians are also needed in these libraries. Librarians do so much more than just letting students check out books. In this digital age they also assist with helping students navigate online resources, they guide and support teachers with resources and lessons for their students, and they help connect with the community in supporting growth in literacy in our keiki. They are vital to a successful library as well.

Therefore, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill to ensure that all of our keiki have access to a library in their public schools.

EDU Testimony

From: Lei Learmont <l_learmont@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 1:39 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: SB 616

Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair of the Education Committee

My name is Lei Learmont, and am a member of the Education Caucus of the Hawaii Democratic Party. I am testifying in support of SB 616 regarding requiring each public school having a part-time or full-time library. School libraries are a very valuable resource for students, as they provide books for reading/research, and computers for research and writing reports. Anything that makes students comfortable with books and learning should be supported!

Thank you
Lei Learmont
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 2:24 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: rkailianu57@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB616 on Jan 30, 2017 14:45PM

SB616

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for EDU on Jan 30, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: Every school should have a library where the school students can do physical work and research for topics taught in their schools.

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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