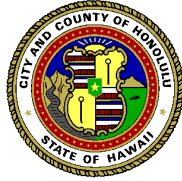


**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 300 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 768-4141 • FAX: (808) 768-4242 • INTERNET: [www.honolulu.gov](http://www.honolulu.gov)



KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR

ROY K. AMEMIYA, JR.  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

GEORGETTE T. DEEMER  
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2017; 2:45 PM

TO: THE HONORABLE MICHELLE N. KIDANI, CHAIR  
THE HONORABLE KAIALII KAHELE, VICE CHAIR  
AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON SB686, RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING

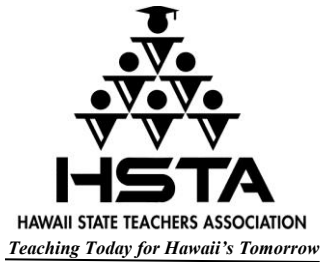
The City and County of Honolulu (City) submits comments on SB686, which establishes an education surcharge on residential investment properties and visitor accommodations for the purpose of funding public education. The City is profoundly aware of the burdens of taxation and will need to consider the 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.



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 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2017

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
 HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports SB 686**, relating to education funding.

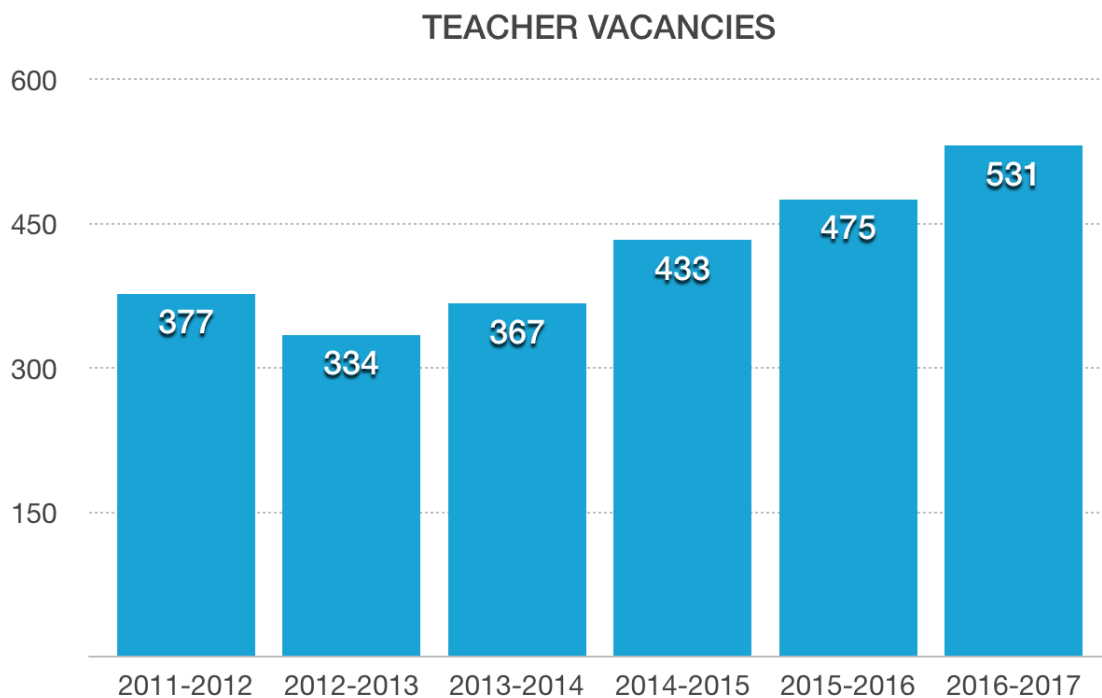
Hawai'i shortchanges its public schools. While our state's per-pupil spending of \$11,823 ranks 17th in the nation when compared to other states in raw dollars, comparison with school districts of similar size and demographics yields different results. Mainland districts with high costs of living are 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

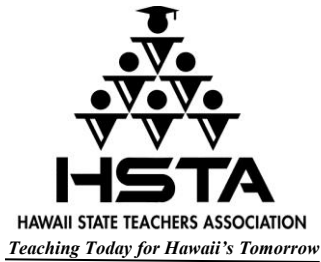
Hawaii's major private schools, on the other hand, average \$15,173 in per-pupil spending. When Catholic schools, subsidized by the Roman Catholic Diocese, are removed, private school spending jumps to nearly \$19,173 dollars per student, sans endowment funds that further boost private school baselines. 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



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: [www.hsta.org](http://www.hsta.org)

**Corey Rosenlee**  
President

**Justin Hughey**  
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.

841 Bishop St., Suite 301  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530  
Contact@HEECoalition.org

Committee on Education  
Michelle Kidani, Chair  
Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

February 3, 2016

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee,

We support both SB683 and SB686 proposing a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to establish a surcharge on residential investment property and visitor accommodations to increase funding for education, and the implementation of the surcharge.

Hui for Excellence in Education, or "HE'E," is a statewide coalition of diverse stakeholders committed to working collaboratively to identify opportunities to improve public education in Hawai'i. HE'E seeks to be the nexus for community and parent engagement while serving as a public resource for educational policy.

The Coalition was formed in May 2010 by parents and community members who stood up and said "no" to school furloughs and "yes" to re-establishing education as a public priority. We have been following public education policy at the Board of Education (BOE) and the Hawaii State Legislature consistently since our inception. We are thankful to the legislature for its support of public education; however, we also know that the current funding for education is insufficient to cover the needs of our students, teachers, administrators and schools. An alternative revenue stream dedicated to education is needed.

The BOE recently approved an update of the BOE/DOE Strategic Plan, which puts a focus on the state's achievement gap that has persisted over the years. We agree that help is most needed for our struggling students. We are concerned for specified groups that need particular attention - students with disabilities, students who do not speak the language of instruction, students with socio-economic challenges, and racial and ethnic groups that have historically not succeeded in our schools relative to others. We feel that surcharge, which would help recruiting and retaining teachers, lower class sizes, improve special education staff and resources and allow for a broader array of instruction, would benefit these students.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support of these bills represents a 75% consensus or more of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura  
HE'E Coalition Director

## HE'E Member List

Academy 21

After-School All-Stars Hawaii

Alliance for Place Based Learning

\*Castle Complex Community Council

\*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS

Coalition for Children with Special Needs

\*Faith Action for Community Equity

Fresh Leadership LLC

Girl Scouts Hawaii

Harold K.L. Castle Foundation

\*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance

\*Hawaii Association of School Psychologists

\*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice

Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars

\*Hawai'i Charter School Network

\*Hawai'i Children's Action Network

Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition

\*Hawaii State PTSA

Hawai'i State Student Council

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

Hawai'i P-20

Hawai'i 3Rs

Head Start Collaboration Office

It's All About Kids

\*INPEACE

Joint Venture Education Forum

Junior Achievement of Hawaii

Kamehameha Schools

Kanu Hawai'i

\*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council

Keiki to Career Kaua'i

Kupu A'e

\*Leaders for the Next Generation

Learning First

McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds

Our Public School

\*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning

\*Parents and Children Together

\*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i

Punahou School PUEO Program

Teach for America

The Learning Coalition

US PACOM

University of Hawai'i College of Education

YMCA of Honolulu

*Voting Members (\*) Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*



# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education  
Friday, February 3, 2017 at 2:45 P.M.  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol**

**RE: SENATE BILL 683 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  
SENATE BILL 686 RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING**

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **strongly opposes** SB 683, 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 Chamber also **strongly opposes** SB 686, which would establish 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



# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

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.





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

---

## TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 686, RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING

**Senate Committee on Education**  
**Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Chair**  
**Hon. Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair**

**Friday, February 3, 2017, 2:45 PM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

Honorable Chair Kidani and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMU Alliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 350 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of Senate Bill 686, 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
<b>Under \$500,000</b>	\$3.50
<b>\$500,000 under \$750,000</b>	\$4.50
<b>\$750,000 under \$1,000,000</b>	\$5.50
<b>\$1,000,000 under \$2,000,000</b>	\$6.50
<b>\$2,000,000 and over</b>	\$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
<b>Less than \$150</b>	\$3.00
<b>\$150 or more</b>	\$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,<sup>1</sup> 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

---

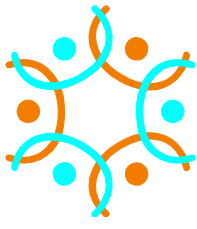
<sup>1</sup> <http://www.grassrootinstitute.org/2017/01/islanders-shouldnt-be-taxed-extra-for-teacher-bonuses/>

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

February 1, 2017

To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Kaialii Kahele, Vice Chair  
Committee on Education

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

Re: **SB 686 – Relating to Education Funding**  
**Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229, February 3, 2017, 2:45 PM**

---

**On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support SB 686 – 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>.





February 2, 2017

2850 Kahawai Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822

808 988 5505  
www.ppsHI.org

Senate Committee on Education  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Lois Yamauchi  
*President*  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele , and Committee Members:

Kashmira Reid  
*Vice President*

**This testimony is in strong support for SB686 and SB683, 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 SB686 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 SB 683 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.*



Board of Directors:

**Senate Committee on Education**

**Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action supports SB686**

Gary L. Hooser

President

Andrea N. Brower

Joshua D. I. Mori

Co-Vice Presidents

Ikaika M. Hussey

Treasurer

Bianca K. Isaki

Secretary

Paul Achitoff

Malia K. Chun

Bart E. Dame

Laura Harrelson

Kim Coco Iwamoto

Katie McMillan

Walter Ritte Jr.

Karen Shishido

Leslie Malu Shizue Miki

Kekaulike Prosper Tomich

Cade Watanabe

Chair Kidani 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 SB686, 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 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.

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.)

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 8:57 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** nredfeather@kohalacenter.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB686 on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM

**SB686**

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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 and pay our teachers what they deserve! 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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)



**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](mailto: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

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Committee on Education  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 683 and SB 686 - Relating to Education

Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

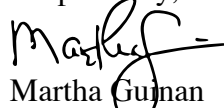
The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **supports the intent** of the above bills to increase funding for public education in Hawaii.

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

# **Hawaii Democratic Party Labor Caucus**

S.B. 686 – Relating to Education Funding  
Senate Committee on Education  
February 3, 2016

S.B. 686 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



TIM VANDEVEER  
Chair  
MARIE STRAZAR  
Vice Chair

MARGARET WILLE  
SEAN SMITH  
Legislative Committee Co-Chairs

January 31, 2017

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Education  
February 3, 2017 2:45 pm State Capitol, Conference Room 229

SB686 "RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING"

**Submitted on Behalf of the Democratic Party of Hawaii**

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports SB686 "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.**

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



Date: February 3, 2017

Time: 2:45 pm

Place: Conference Room 229

To: Senate Committee on Education  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Re: Support for SB686 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 SB683 and SB686 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 SB686.



PRESIDENT  
EVAN FUJIMOTO  
GRAHAM BUILDERS, INC.

PRESIDENT-ELECT  
DEAN UCHIDA  
SSFM INTERNATIONAL, INC.

VICE PRESIDENT  
MARSHALL HICKOX  
HOMEWORKS CONSTRUCTION, INC.

SECRETARY  
DWIGHT MITSUNAGA  
DM PACIFIC, INC.

TREASURER  
MICHAEL WATANABE  
JW, INC.

SPECIAL APPOINTEE-BUILDER  
CURT KIRIU  
CK INDEPENDENT LIVING BUILDERS

SPECIAL APPOINTEE-BUILDER  
MARK KENNEDY  
HASEKO CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT  
GROUP, INC.

SPECIAL APPOINTEE-ASSOCIATE  
PETER ELDRIDGE  
RAYNOR OVERHEAD DOORS & GATES

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
CRAIG WASHOFSKY  
SERVCO HOME & APPLIANCE  
DISTRIBUTION

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
GLADYS MARRONE  
BIA-HAWAII

## 2017 DIRECTORS

KAREN BERRY  
TRADE PUBLISHING COMPANY

CHRIS CHEUNG  
CC ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION, INC.

CLIFTON CRAWFORD  
C & J CONTRACTING, INC.

MARK HERTEL  
INTER-ISLAND SOLAR SUPPLY,  
OAHU-MAUI-HAWAII-KAUI

BRENTON LIU  
DESIGN TRENDS CONSTRUCTION, INC.

SARAH LOVE  
BAYS LUNG ROSE & HOLMA

BEAU NOBMANN  
HPM BUILDING

GARY OKIMOTO  
HONOLULU WOOD TREATING

JACKSON PARKER  
D.R. HORTON, SCHULER DIVISION

DOUGLAS PEARSON  
CASTLE & COOKE HOMES

PAUL D. SILEN  
HAWAIIAN DREDGING  
CONSTRUCTION CO. INC.

ALAN TWU  
HK CONSTRUCTION CORP.

MAILING:  
P.O. BOX 970967  
WAIPAHU, HAWAII 96797-0967

PHYSICAL:  
94-487 AKOKI STREET  
WAIPAHU, HAWAII 96797

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education****Friday, February 3, 2017****2:45 p.m.****Conference Room 229**

**RE: SB 686, RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING, AND**  
**SB 683 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 Kidani and Vice Chair Kahele, 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 SB 686 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 SB 683 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 S.B. 686 and S.B. 683.

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



The Senate  
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2017

To: Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Date: February 3, 2017

Time: 2:45 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 229  
Hawaii State Capitol

**RE: Senate Bill 686, Relating to Education Funding**

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele 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 | SB 686 RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING

3. 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



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

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

---

February 3, 2017

**The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair**

Senate Committee on Education  
State Capitol, Room 229  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: S.B. 686, Relating to Education**

**HEARING: Thursday, February 2, 2017, at 2:45 p.m.**

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, 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** S.B. 686 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.

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.

REALTOR® is a registered collective membership mark which may be used only by real estate professionals who are members of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and subscribe to its strict Code of Ethics.



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 12:41 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** coalitionforequaltaxation@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB686 on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM

**SB686**

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: On behalf of the Coalition for Equal Taxation, please defer SB686. 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 Thank you. 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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

# SanHi Government Strategies

a limited liability law partnership

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

c/o Ashford & Wriston • 999 Bishop Street, Suite 1400  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
(808) 539-0400  
[governmentaffairs@awlaw.com](mailto:governmentaffairs@awlaw.com)

[gslovin@awlaw.com](mailto:gslovin@awlaw.com)  
[mito@awlaw.com](mailto:mito@awlaw.com)  
[rtsujimura@awlaw.com](mailto:rtsujimura@awlaw.com)

DATE: February 2, 2017

TO: Senator Michelle Kidani  
Chair, Committee on Education  
*Submitted via Capitol Website*

RE: **S.B. 686 – Relating to Education Funding**  
**Hearing Date: Friday, February 3, 2017 at 2:45 p.m.**  
**Conference Room: 229**

---

Dear Chair Kidani 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** S.B. 686, 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 economic downturns, timeshares stabilize the economy and mitigate potential adverse effects on the community.

---

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

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 3, 2017

TO: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
SENATOR MICHELLE KIDANI, Chair Education Committee  
SENATOR KAIALI'I KAHELE, Vice-Chair Education Committee

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

RE: Senate Bill 686 Relating To Education - **Oppose**

Senate Bill 283 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 Kidani, Vice-Chair Kahele 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.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 12:24 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** allan@crhmaui.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB686 on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM

**SB686**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Allan Raikes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I write in opposition to this bill. While one can argue that there is sufficient funds already being provided for education and a better solution is to better manage these funds, one can not argue the fact that there is a shortage of affordable housing in this state. By increasing the tax on investment properties offered for long term rentals will result in this additional expense being passed on to renters. The other targeted group, those doing short term vacation rentals are already hit with the second highest property tax rate (on Maui) and contribute more than their share to the state coffers by way of the GET and TAT that is collected on these short term rentals. If the state could spend some of its resources going after those doing short term rentals that are not paying their taxes it could add millions to the general fund. 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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Doug Howe <dhowe@kis.k12.hi.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:55 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony NOT in support of SB683 and SB686

VOTE NO!

Why? We already have a shortage in rental housing so any tax increase will be passed to the renters. This is simple economic in-elasticity of demand. The rent increase will hurt a population in Hawaii who can not afford the cost.

The increased TAX, passed onto renters, will DIRECTLY HURT our effort to recruit and maintain a high quality teacher workforce and a LARGE percentage will be renters.

Additionally, many families keep real estate within the family and rent the property at a very low rent to assessment ratio. If their taxes increase they will be either forced to sell OR increase taxes.

All this proposal will do is secure 500 million/year. It will NOT necessary secure ALL funded needed as other funding streams are diverted to different programs.

Vote NO for higher rental rates in HI.

--

Douglas Howe  
Kailua Intermediate School Engineering and Robotics

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:20 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** tsuchidag001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB686 on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM

**SB686**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
George Tsuchida	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha, I oppose SB686 because a Constitutional amendment should be reserved for rare situations as discussed in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser commentary, "Don't create fund using Constitution," on Jan 31, 2017. In addition, this amendment would create "a slush fund for union bosses," as discussed in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser Letter to the Editor, "Amendment would create slush fund," on Jan 31, 2017. Mahalo nui loa

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

31 January, 2017

## **SB686**

I strongly oppose SB 686 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 SB686.

Thank you,

Anita Hurlburt  
1333 Parks Pl.  
Honolulu, HI 96819

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:07 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** jen\_fordyce@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB686 on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM

**SB686**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jen Fordyce	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I am a teacher at HP Baldwin High School on Maui. I fully support the idea of creating more funding for education through a tax on visitors and part-time residents. Teachers in Hawai'i have the lowest salaries in the nation when adjusted for cost of living. Our classrooms are among the most crowded, especially for the students who struggle and need the most support. The visitor industry makes our cost of living exorbitant, which means teachers have to hold multiple jobs to make ends meet. This takes our energy and attention away from our students. It makes sense to take advantage of all of the extra income that comes to Hawai'i and try to keep some of it here in this economy to benefit our children. Access to better education conditions will hopefully help students succeed in the future so that they will be able to afford to live here, and will not have to leave Maui (and Hawai'i) just to make ends meet.

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Baird Swedman <bairdswedman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:32 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Baird Swedman, a teacher at Kea'au High School on the Big Island of Hawaii. I have been a teacher for 9 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 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 funding is currently lacking, and with new appointments by the Federal government, may possibly cease to exist as we know it!

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

Thank you for your time,  
Baird Swedman  
Kea'au High School  
Big Island of Hawaii

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Chani Matsui <ckkmatsui@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:44 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Chani Matsui, a teacher at Kaimuki High School in Honolulu. 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 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.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Chani Matsui, Kaimuki High School, Honolulu



## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Jen Sarpi <jensarpi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:45 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Jennifer Sarpi, a counselor at Campbell High School on Oahu. I have been a counselor for 13 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 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 we need to be able to recruit and retain quality teachers. Having long term sub with only a high school diploma teaching our keiki because no qualified teachers are available is unacceptable.

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

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

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Lester Kunimitsu <lkunimitsu@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:45 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am [INSERT NAME], a teacher at [INSERT SCHOOL and ISLAND]. I have been a teacher for [INSERT YEARS] 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 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... ***[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,  
Lester Kunimitsu  
H. P. Baldwin High School  
Maui, Hawaii

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** K DeBusca <k.debusca@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:23 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Kari DeBusca, a teacher at McKinley High School on Oahu. I have been a teacher for over 20 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 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.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Kari DeBusca  
McKinley High School  
Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Shaun Kamida <rugernavy@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:22 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am [INSERT NAME], a teacher at [INSERT SCHOOL and ISLAND]. I have been a teacher for [INSERT YEARS] 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 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... ***[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,  
Shaun Kamida, McKinley, Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Tom Foster <wfoster@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:12 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 683 and SB 686

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Donna Foster, a teacher at Keaukaha Elementary School. I have been a teacher for 23 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 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 and a decent raise for the teachers. I spend over \$1,000 dollars a year to purchase needed materials such as food and craft items so I can provide interactive, meaningful lessons for the students. I've decided to stop this extra spending because I have a mortgage to pay. In the end, the students will suffer because I won't be able to provide as many differentiated activities that would address the range of differentiated learners in my class.

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

Thank you for your time,

Donna Foster  
Keaukaha Elementary School  
Hilo, Hawaii

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** joseph holder <jholder79@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:08 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Joseph Holder, a teacher at Keonepoko Elementary on the Big Island. I have been a teacher for 4 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 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.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Joseph Holder, Keonepoko Elementary, Big Island

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Mary Schroth <maryschroth047@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:54 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)  
[2:45pm](#)

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Mary Schroth, a teacher at Iroquois Point Elementary and Oahu. I have been a teacher for almost 4 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 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 we need to keep our highly qualified teachers!! Everyone can think back to a teacher that they particularly remember because of the heart and effort they put into their students and student success. This heart and effort can only last so long when it is consistently dragged down by low pay. Many teachers are leaving the profession despite their passion and expertise because the reality is, there are bills to pay. This unfortunate exit impacts the STUDENTS the most! The lack of inexperienced and highly qualified teachers is the worst thing we could do for our keiki. Teachers are treated with high respect and pay in many other countries and those countries also have a much higher student success. This is a direct correlation to teacher pay! Please help teachers help your children and our future!

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

Thank you for your time,  
Mary Schroth, Iroquois Point Elementary, Oahu

- Mary Schroth

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Chuck De Ville <chuck.deville@ck.k12.hi.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:42 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)  
[2:45pm](#)

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Charles De Ville , a resource teacher at the Campbell-Kapolei Schools Support Center and In Leeward Oahu. I have been a teacher for 24 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 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 we are currently experiencing an exodus of veteran educators from the profession and a staggering number of teacher vacancies that is trending in the wrong direction. In my role with induction and mentoring, I am responsible for supporting teachers new to the profession. The struggle to support, and provide them with an effective on-boarding experience has been extremely challenging. If we are to build a pipeline of best practice professional educators for our students, your support will be necessary.

Trusting in your courage and compassion.

Thank you for your time,  
Charles De Ville, CK Schools Support Center, Oahu

---

--

Chuck De Ville  
Induction and Mentoring RT  
CK Schools Support Center  
(808) 689-9807





## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Effie Egan <effie.egan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:42 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Effie Egan, a teacher at Aikahi Elementary, Oahu. I have been a teacher for 5 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 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.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Effie Egan, Aikahi Elementary, Oahu

--

"We tend to forget that happiness doesn't come as a result of getting something we don't have, but rather recognizing and appreciating what we do have."

-Frederick Keonig

Effie Egan  
The brain is like a parachute, it works best when it is open..

"There are 2 ways to look at life. Either nothing in life is a miracle or everything in life is a miracle."  
Albert Einstein

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Catherine Caine <ccainecc@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:34 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Caine, 2015 Hawaii State Teacher of the Year and a teacher at Waikiki Elementary. I have been a teacher for 30 years and consider it the most important job to support our economy. 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 as you know there is an uncertain future for Federal funding for the important things our public schools need. Additionally, with such a large portion of our student population in poverty we need to be able to attract the best and brightest teachers to the field. I understand that limited State funds may impeded that goal and create an lack of equity in our public education system.

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

Sincerely,

Catherine Caine  
Waikiki School

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Odin Hill <odinhill@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:48 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for: Senate Education Committee

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Odin Hill, a teacher at Kahuku High and Intermediate I have been a teacher for 23 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 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 quality resources to improve their ability to form knowledge and we need to pay our teaching professionals a salary commensurate with their education and skill set in order to retain them.  
To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,  
Odin Hill, Kahuku High, Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Joseph Sanchez <joeyandshanda@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:25 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Joseph Sanchez, a teacher at Waianae High School on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 8 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 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 as a teacher, I am limited in time and resources due to the lack of funding. I work a part-time job Saturday and Sunday (yes, I work 7 days a week) and tutor two students during the week after school so that I can live a modest life supporting my family. I can only imagine what professional pay and additional funding for schools would do to the morale of staff and students. Teachers energized and not weighted down by the pressures of making ends meet financially; with time to spend planning differentiated instruction, tutoring your actual students, or spending time with my own family. Structures and facilities that bring to fruition the value that everyone says we place on the next generation but fail to act on those words. A strong and effective education system can have a significant impact on much of the financial responsibility that falls on the state for mental healthcare, homelessness, social services, and society in general in the future. Additionally, schools have evolved to carry the burden of teaching social and emotional skills, empathy, that lacks when growing up in a cycle of poverty and low wage hourly jobs and education has the power to break that cycle and provide opportunity, self-respect, and freedom; but only if we have the time and resources to do so.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Joseph Sanchez, Waianae High School, Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Anne Everingham <anneeveringham@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:24 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Anne Everingham, a teacher at Voyager Public Charter School, located on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 12 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 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 access to current technology, as well as a variety of resources to allow us to utilize hands on project based learning. Developing 21st century skills in today's learners will not be done with the usual "skill and drill" practice, but with real life experiences that take them out in the community to apply what they've learned. This type of learning requires additional resources as well as teacher training and even specialized facilities, all of which require funding.

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

Thank you for your time,  
NAME, SCHOOL, ISLAND

---

We expect these same proposals will get a hearing before the State House Education Committee shortly, and we will ask for your testimony once again on those proposals. But you can just cut and paste this testimony.

Many thanks!

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Andrew Rego <alrego@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:24 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Andrew Rego, a teacher at Mililani Middle School on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 5 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 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 I work with students with special needs. I have seen the benefits of a public education with this population of students. It is crucial that we make education a priority if this at-risk population is to be successful in life.

Thank you.

Andrew



## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Sharon Saronitman <ssaronitman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:22 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Honorable Chair Kidani and committee members,

My name is Sharon Saronitman. I am a teacher at Wilcox Elementary school on the island of Kaua'i. I am writing in support of SB683 and SB686, 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 the 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 school into the 21st century.

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

Mahalo,

Sharon Saronitman  
Wilcox Elementary School  
Kaua'i.

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Annie Paopao <anniepaopao@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:20 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Annie Paopao, a teacher at Kahuku High and Intermediate on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 12 years. I am also a mother of three school aged children. 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 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 qualified teachers. I'm extremely worried over how we are going to replace the many teachers that are nearing retirement age. We have so many unfilled positions, and emergency hires and long term substitutes are not the solution. Our keiki deserve qualified teachers. Mainland recruits come through a revolving door and we loose them as quickly as they come. Many teachers are also retiring earlier in their career. Many of whom switch professions until they can start collecting benefits. This concerns me greatly as we are literally loosing our best! We can do better than this. We must do better than this.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Annie Paopao, Kahuku High and Intermediate, Oahu

---

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** anna tosick <annatosick@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:18 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB 683 and SB 686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Anna Tosick, a teacher at Kona Pacific Public Charter School on the Big Island. I have been a teacher at KPPCS for 9 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 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 the lack of resources coupled with a nationally low salary are driving teachers to search for work outside of the classroom or out of state. Personally, I am pursuing teaching jobs in states where the profession of teaching is valued. I was shocked to learn that what I earn after 9 years of teaching in Hawaii with a masters and professional development hours, is often the starting salary of the schools where I am interviewing. I do not want to leave Hawaii; however, the high cost of living coupled with a low salary makes it difficult for a family to survive. I am an experienced and professional educator. I am appalled to learn of the number of unqualified teachers filling vacancies across the state. The kamalii deserve better than this. Hawaii has an historic legacy of upholding the rights of children and of honoring education. We formed the second Department of Education, second only to Massachusetts. At one point, Hawaii had the highest literacy rate per capita.

Let's do our best in revitalize our struggling education system in Hawaii by increasing the funds to our public schools, both neighborhood schools and public charter schools. As a charter school teacher, we struggle with lack of funding for transportation and facilities. Our per-pupil funding is considerably less than the neighborhood public schools. All children in Hawaii deserve to attend public schools where the education can thrive with proper and adequate funding. To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,  
Anna Tosick, Kona Pacific Public Charter School

---

[Reply](#) [Reply to All](#) [Forward](#) [More](#)  
Click to [Reply](#), [Reply All](#) or [Forward](#)

[     ]

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Lisha Collier <lishac57@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:03 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Lisha Collier, a teacher at Highlands Intermediate School. I have been a teacher for 6 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 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 of the clear evidence pointing to the fact that are teachers just aren't paid enough. 600 teacher vacancies in a given school year is unacceptable. Our students need properly trained teachers in order to succeed, and the state of Hawaii needs to be able to pay their teachers a decent salary in order to improve teacher retention rates. I personally have to have a second job just to pay my rent. I work full time as a special education teacher in a fully self contained classroom, and I am a full time student in the doctoral program for special education at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I also work part time at a restaurant on weekends so that I can afford to make ends meet. I don't get a prep period during the day so (because I want to ensure that my students get their fair share of instructional time throughout the school day) lesson planning and IEPs need to be done either before or after school. That barely leaves me with enough time to sleep. The struggle for myself and so many other teachers out there is quite real.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Lisha Collier  
Highlands Intermediate School  
Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** ntneenee@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:39 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Funding

My name is Eileen Medvec. I am a teacher in Maui and have been teaching for 15 years at the same school. I can not express how many times I've used my own personal funds for supplies and books for my students. I've kept track every year and it is over a thousand dollars each year. Appropriate funding for our schools is needed. I'm ready to retire, but the younger teachers will not be here if they cannot afford to stay in this job that they love if it doesn't pay their bills.

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** mark\_alfred\_kawika\_fontaine@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:45 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Mark Fontaine, a teacher at Na Wai Ola Public Charter School on Hawaii Island. I have been a teacher for 15 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 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 viable programs and trained personnel are essential to our futures. We need to retain and recruit qualified people to work with our children and this takes more money than has been allocated to education in the past. All of this, and much more, unless corrected, directly impacts our children, and all facets of society have a responsibility to meet the needs of all of our keiki because we are all in this together.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Mark Fontaine, Na Wai Ola Public Charter School, Hawaii Island



## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Claire Bumstead <claire.e.bumstead@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:49 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)  
[2:45pm](#)

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Ms. Bumstead, a teacher at Hookele Elementary in Oahu. I have been a teacher for 1 year. 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 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.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Hookele El.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:19 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB686 on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM\*

**SB686**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Larry Denis III <larrydenishsta@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:02 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Lawrence Denis III, a teacher at Waikoloa School on the Big Island. I have been a teacher for 13 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 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.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Lawrence Denis III  
Waikoloa School  
Hawaii Island

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Gabriel Nehl <gabriel\_nehl@universitylaboratoryschool.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:03 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Gabriel Nehl, a teacher at University Laboratory School on Oahu. I have been a teacher for seven 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 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 and teachers are feeling neglected and unimportant in the current state of the country. As the nation moves further to the right we are seeing minority students marginalized and teachers and an education system demonized by the majority party and the President. It is at these critical junctures in time that our kids and teachers need to be able to count on their state and local communities to prove that Hawaii has their best interests in mind and has the political will to uplift its future through a quality education. Teaching Social Studies and covering American history I can personally attest to the fear and insecurity that I have seen and heard from my students as they present current events covering national politics day in and day out. My classes have followed the elections and its events. We discuss the full gamut of events and their responses to them. Many of our students are scared for their future and worried about their options for the future. They know how expensive college is and how competitive it has become. Not having qualified teachers who feel respected and focused on their job has a dramatic effect on student achievement. I know it has an effect on my peers and on me as a teacher. I am constantly reminded how little we make as teachers from friends and family who explain to me the other options that I could have in terms of a profession. Relatives send me job openings in other states that offer better pay and benefits along with much lower housing prices and a cheaper cost of living. Former teachers encourage me to join them at the fire department where the pay is better and the work much less demanding. I continue to stay in the profession because I feel a desire to help kids and to try to be a positive role model in order to make our society a better place. I coach football and basketball and my days start at 7 and end at 7. I get an extra \$400 after taxes for my coaching efforts. My uncle a retired teacher and coach urges me to move to Oregon where even assistant coaches are now making \$3500-5000 before taxes per season and the pay for teachers with

experience rises much faster than here. He tells me it is not feasible to stay in Hawaii because I will never be able to afford to have a family or buy a house like I could if I moved. He is right and my wife and I have put off having kids because we can only afford a 1 bedroom apartment. I keep believing the state is waking up to the fact that we deserve a raise. I keep hoping that our leaders will realize that we don't want our teachers being forced to take second jobs in order to survive. I was very optimistic that this was going to happen during this contract negotiation and this bill provides a way for it to happen. For me personally if the incentives for staying in the profession are not given to us this year I would have no problem striking for better ages. Even if it means me being forced out of the profession I am willing to stand up for the kids and for teachers. In a time that has become very divisive politically Hawaii has the opportunity to show the nation what is important and to show our students that they can count on their local community and state representatives to do the right thing.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Gabriel Nehl, University Laboratory School, Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Jennifer Scelsa <jscelsa86@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:05 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)  
[2:45pm](#)

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Jennifer Hirokawa , a teacher at Maunawili Elementary in Kailua on the island of Oahu. I have been a teacher for 9 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 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 lack of funding affects our students directly. The buildings alone are not showing that we value our students and their education. It is harmful to our students! We are personally having to fundraise to provide vital programs and technology for our students. Teachers are leaving the field all the time due to low income and high pay out of pocket to create an environment that our students need. It is very common for teachers to hold a second job to make a living for themselves. I currently am one who has a second job dancing hula in Waikiki.

Next year our students are going to be losing much more because the school has to pay from their budget the 5% raise. We are losing our Vice principal position and possibly our art or music teacher position. Why is our students having to suffer and pay for the raise our teachers desperately needed?

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

Thank you for your time,  
Jennifer Hirokawa, Maunawili Elementary School, Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Tiffany Bollinger <ms.bollinger.inbox@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:07 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Tiffany Bollinger, a teacher at Aiea Intermediate School. I have been a teacher for the past 6 years. Please pass SB 683 and SB 686 to increase funding for public schools.

I am a product of our Oahu public school system having attended K-12. In fact, I was a part of the very first student population to roam the halls of Mililani Middle when it first opened. Upon getting hired as a teacher, I was blessed to return to Mililani Middle as a new hire and even co-teach with some of my former teachers. Can you imagine!?! How exciting! To teach in the very same classrooms...and to be given the opportunity to give back...

The dedication of teachers in the past inspired me to teach. Investments made 15-20 years ago, by the public and by law makers to take care of (kokua) teachers and students has directly resulted in my being here today. The way the state looked after teachers in the past, like my father and therefore my family, also led me to join the profession.

INVESTING IN TEACHERS TODAY YIELDS MORE QUALITY  
TEACHERS for the future to come. When you invest in me, you're investing in your keiki (after all, I am your keiki). And when you invest in today's keiki, you invest in the kapuna of your tomorrow.

Let's continue to inspire and entice more skilled, passionate, and well equipped people to join teaching. As a soldier in the trenches, I'm soliciting for good reinforcement.

Mahalo for your time & all you do,

Tiffany Bollinger, Aiea Intermediate School, Oahu

Sent from my iPhone



## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Anjanette Naganuma <asb.naganuma@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:08 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Anjanette Naganuma, a teacher at Lahainaluna High School, on the island of Maui. I have been a teacher since the 2005-2006 school year. 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 lack of funding affects my students and the resources they have access to in the classroom. They are highly aware of how unequal access to quality resources, such as supplies, current technology, and even qualified teachers, puts them at a disadvantage throughout their public school experience, and as they seek to be competitive for college and career.

Low pay and a lack of resources are likewise driving teachers out of the profession. This is an unacceptable situation to offer to students and unfair to those who are called to teach. Second and third jobs taken on by teachers leave them drained, exhausted, and burnt out. My own school, where there is a strong presence of alumni on the staff, deals with a teaching force where half the teachers have 5 years of less at the school.

Schools need proper funding. Teachers need a living wage.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Anjanette Naganuma

Lahainaluna High School, Maui

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** MNMS <mnmswong@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:12 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Marc Wong, a teacher at Niu Valley Middle School on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 20 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 teachers are underpaid and overworked. I spend countless hours after school doing work without compensation. Often sacrificing personal time. I also use my own personal funds for my classroom.

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

Thank you for your time,  
NAME, SCHOOL, ISLAND  
Sent from my iPhone

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Andrew Joyce <joyce70499@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:34 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for Senate education committee  
SB683 and SB 686  
Hearing on Friday February 3, 2017  
2:45 pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the committee:

My name is Andrew Joyce. I am a teacher at Kanoelani Elementary in Waipio. I have been a teacher for the DOE for 12 years, 7 at Ewa Beach Elementary and 5 at my current school. Please pass SB 683 and SB 686 to increase funding for public schools.

Obviously education is of utmost importance to our entire society. Investing in our youth is the only way to ensure the preservation of our society. Locally, we need intelligent and altruistic people to drive our economy and lead our government. Hawaii can be a leader in the environmental and technological industries. But this can never happen, if we do not invest in our youth now.

The learning conditions are difficult at best. Students are expected to learn in classrooms over 90 degrees. Students are supposed to learn with some times 30 or more other students in the room, all needing attention. They use outdated or poor text books and often do not have access to technology, or at least not enough access. How are they supposed to contend with their mainland counterparts in these environments?

Hawaii teachers are the worst paid teachers in America, when figuring for cost of living. When teachers are forced to get second or even third jobs, how can they put maximum effort into their profession? Ultimately, the students are the ones who lose. Teachers try to give as much individual and small group attention to their students. This is difficult if not impossible when there are 30 plus students in their classrooms.

Personally, I can no longer teach here under these conditions. I live paycheck to paycheck, as I have for the past 12 years. I have a second job that I work twice per week, when I should be planning or finding new ways to differentiate instruction to reach all students. I thought conditions would improve but I have been thinking that for the past 3 years and have seen little to no progress. These bills would be a great step in showing that the government of this state actually cares about education, children and teachers.

I urge you to please support these bills.

Thank you for your time,  
Andrew Joyce  
5th Grade Teacher  
Kanoelani Elementary

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** kimberlytanaka@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:33 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB 683 and SB 686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)  
[2:45pm](#)

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Kimberly Tanaka, a teacher at Pu'u Kukui Elementary on Maui. I have been a teacher for 16 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 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 low pay and a lack of resources are not only driving effective teachers out of our profession, but also not helping to attract quality people to join our profession. Needless to say, this has a harmful effect on student achievement and well-being.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Kimberly Tanaka  
Reading Intervention teacher  
Pu'u Kukui Elementary, Maui

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Jesse Robert <jesse20@hawaii.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:26 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Jesse A. Robert, a teacher at Kealakehe Intermediate School on the Big Island. I have been a teacher for 2 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 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 we have limited resources to help us reach our students' needs, we have limited staffs to support our students' needs, and we have programs to encourage and excites our students.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Jesse A. Robert  
Kealakehe Intermediate School  
Big Island, Hawaii.

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Laura Warner <ljww@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:04 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Laura Warner, a teacher at Volcano School of Arts & Science, I hope this proposal for additional funds will support Public Charter Schools as well. I have been a teacher for 10 years, and taught resource programs for another additional 17 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 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... ***[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,  
Laura Warner, Hawaii Island, Hawaii





## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Sheryl Ogawa <petmongoose@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:57 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** ryamanaka@hsta.org  
**Subject:** SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)  
[2:45pm](#)

Chair Kidani 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 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 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 lack of funding puts limits on basic resources that every student should have. Outside of grants, our students have never been to a stage performance, or a play. Our University of Hawaii Hilo provides a number of creative art performances but remain out of reach due to costs.

Our particular principal relies on teachers to provide pot luck contributions, extra student resources, professional development fees and often is okay with our students going "without."

I never went into teaching for the money, but medical costs are weighing heavy on personal funds used to supplement my classroom.

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

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

Sent from my iPad 🐼

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Steph <steph\_takashima@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:45 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)  
[2:45pm](#)

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

Hi, my name is Stephanie Takashima and I am a school counselor at Henry J. Kaiser High School on the island of Oahu. I have been a school counselor for nine years. I am asking you to show your support of Hawaii educators and students by passing SB 683 and SB 686 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct and counselors counsel 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 Hawaiian's 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 counselors and teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because all too often, school educators pay out of their own pockets for school supplies and resources that are used in teaching their students. Without adequate funding, schools often have a challenging time providing the level of instruction necessary to reach each student at their needs. Class sizes are large with 32-35+ students per class. These students have varying levels of need, different learning styles, and different life circumstances that often serve as obstacles in their education. As educators we are also often tasked with many different roles within the school, that it takes us out of the job we were initially hired to do. Quite often we lack adequate funding to hire the necessary personnel in the areas of need, thus teachers and counselors serve various roles within the school, such as custodial workers, security, cafeteria workers, substitute teachers during our non-teaching/prep periods. When this happens, it becomes a disservice to our students because we have a limited amount of time to focus on what we have a passion for, which is teaching and counseling our students to navigate the global world we live in and be productive, responsible, and caring citizens who can make a difference. It quite often leaves the educator burnt out, especially our new teachers, and the end result is that we can't service our students or provide them with the quality education they deserve.

I am asking you to support these bills to show your support for education and the future of our students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Takashima  
Henry J. Kaiser High School  
Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Kristen <krisiko@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:40 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

---

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)  
[2:45pm](#)

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Kristen Iwashita, a teacher at Maunawili Elementary in Kailua, Oahu. I have been a teacher for 23 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 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, educating the children of Hawaii needs to be a priority. Teachers have little incentive to stay in this profession. Many of my colleagues have left the DOE to work at a less demanding job that pays more. In the last couple of years, despite our raises, I have only had a slight increase in my pay due to rising health care premiums. This is very frustrating, teachers deserve better. In order to attract and keep highly qualified teachers something needs to be done.

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

Thank you for your time,

Kristen Iwashita, Maunawili Elementary, Oahu 📧

Sent from my iPhone

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Ray Mohrman <raymauiyoga@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:34 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Ray Mohrman, a teacher at Hawaii Technology Academy. I have been a teacher for 13 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 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 lack of funding has a negative impact on student achievement. Moreover, it is challenging to maintain highly qualified teachers which also affects student learning and achievement.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Ray Mohrman, HTA, Maui

---

We expect these same proposals will get a hearing before the State House Education Committee shortly, and we will ask for your testimony once again on those proposals. But you can just cut and paste this testimony.

Many thanks!

--  
Aloha

Ray

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Lianne Delos Santos <Imdelossantos2@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:24 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Lianne Oshiro, a teacher at Kahului Elementary on Maui. I have been a teacher for 13 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.

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

Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,  
Lianne Oshiro, Kahului Elementary, Maui



## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** islandguys2@hawaiiantel.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:20 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB 683 and SB 686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Aloha esteemed Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Ann Keeler, a teacher at Wilcox School on Kaua`i. I have been a teacher for almost thirty 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 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 for many reasons. One reason is the lack of one to one technology in our classrooms. If our keiki are to compete in a global economy they must be computer, ipad, smartphone, and internet savvy to be successful. They must be able to go on-line and find the research and evidence to both back up their ideas and give them a platform to show their innovation. The BOE wants to give us a one time, one percent pay increase. Along with this they are raising our cost of insurance which when added together creates a pay cut. When compared with other teachers across the nation that have similar living expenses we are the lowest paid in the nation. Yet, even with these facts and my yearly commitment to not spend any of my money on my classroom, I do. I have a son in college and would like to support him to a higher degree and yet I cannot. If these bills were passed then I would not have to spend my own money supporting my classroom and students. I have held two and sometimes three jobs a year. Last year I had a hip revision so this was not possible. I am currently looking for a second job. This is insane. I am a professional with almost thirty years experience. There would not be any other professions, including yours, if it were not for teachers. Yet we are treated like second class citizens. It is time for Hawai'i to say "We support our keiki, their education, and their teachers" by supporting SB 683 and SB 686.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Ms Ann Keeler (Herkes), Wilcox Elementary School, Kaua'i

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** afperez65 . <afperez65@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:17 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Freddie Perez, a teacher at Puukukui Elementary on the island of Maui. I have been a teacher for 12 years and I am nationally board certified as well. 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 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 I simply can't afford one job to support my family. I need to constantly look for small jobs such as cutting lawns and plumbing to help support my family. I'm tired and frustrated.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Freddie Perez, Pu'ukukui Elementary

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** E Schowalter <e.schowalter@live.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:07 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)  
[2:45pm](#)

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Elizabeth Schowalter , a teacher at Ahuimanu Elementary School on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 12 years. Please pass SB 683 and SB 686 to increase funding for public schools.

Our keiki are Hawaii's 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 provide the means to advance Hawai'i's public 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 many of our schools are old and outdated. Conditions in many Windward District Schools are shameful. School buildings and classrooms are dingy and depressing. There is structural damage to steps, plumbing problems that make bathrooms unusable, portable classrooms that are termite infested, and furniture that is decades old, worn and dilapidated. These are safety issues as well as health issues, and they have yet to be addressed. How can anyone feel welcomed and ready to learn in such a depressing, substandard environment? We owe our children and our communities MUCH more, and nothing will change without additional funding to address these shortcomings.

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

Thank you,  
Elizabeth Schowalter  
Teacher  
Ahuimanu Elementary School  
Kaneohe (Oahu)

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** David Yung <dyung2009@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:05 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am David Yung, a teacher at Maunawili Elementary School in Kailua, Oahu. I have been a teacher for 6 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 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 students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because without it, our students suffer. My colleagues have as many as 30-31 students in their third and fourth grade classes this year. The students themselves have voiced the fact that there is a difference in the quality of the work that they produce because they are unable to focus as well with such a high teacher-to-student ratio. These students cannot receive as much individualized or small-group instruction from their teachers. Our teachers are trained and desire to provide differentiated instruction to meet the needs of the children under their care, however, one teacher can only do so much. Class sizes must be limited and this cannot be accomplished without the additional funding. These working conditions adversely affect teachers and students and are driving teachers out of the profession.

I've recently joined many of my colleagues in turning to crowdfunding in order to obtain basic technology for our students to use. I am grateful to many of those in our school community who have stepped in to donate, however, there is still a lack of technology. If we expect our students to be effective and ethical users of technology, then we need the resources for them to use. Most of the jobs of today and tomorrow require the use of technology, innovation, and verbal and written communication skills. We need the resources to foster these in our students.

In addition to my teaching duties, I've taken on additional duties at the school level in order to see the students of Maunawili thrive and have positive learning experiences. These include coordinating school-wide events, coaching, tutoring, and mentoring pre-service teachers. I arrive at school at about 7:40 in the morning and usually stay until about 8:00 in the evening. All of this is done with no additional compensation, just for the pure love of teaching and for our students. I cannot possibly

complete all that I have to complete and have oftentimes questioned my choice of profession. Individuals who are contemplating becoming teachers are turning elsewhere and many of us who are on the front lines oftentimes consider leaving the profession. In the end, our students suffer.

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

Thank you for your time,  
David W. Yung  
Maunawili Elementary School, Oahu

--

Check out my classroom projects!  
[www.donorschoose.org/Mr.Yung808](http://www.donorschoose.org/Mr.Yung808)

## **EDU Testimony**

---

**From:** Alan Isbell <writenow808@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 7:52 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee

SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017

2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Alan Isbell, a fourth-grade teacher at Wailuku Elementary on Maui. I have been a teacher for 15 years. Please pass SB 683 and SB 686 to increase funding for public schools.

Teacher retention is supposedly topping the list of most who are concerned about Hawaii public schools. Most would agree that keeping our teachers means paying them a reasonable salary based on their profession, number of years of education and professional development, years teaching, and so forth. Sadly, that simply is not the case. Not only are Hawaii public school teachers underpaid, they are so much so that they have to either leave their profession or our lovely state in order to survive. At my school alone, six bright, highly educated, personable young teachers left when they were not paid enough to afford to live here.

For most, it is really all about money. Teachers do not enter the profession expecting to get rich, but they do expect to be able to pay the bills incurred for living basically.

Most of you know this, and most of you likely would agree that funding competitive salaries for teachers is daunting. So it is that instead of just restating the problem, HSTA has offered solutions. Last year, our effort to increase the general excise tax proved unpalatable. Back to the board we went, and came up a constitutional amendment for a property tax surcharge, a way to increase revenue without hurting most of the electorate.

We need additional funding for our public schools, To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills.

Mahalo.

Alan Isbell, Wailuku Elementary, Maui

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Chris Santomauro <csantoma@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 7:48 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani 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 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 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

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Maureen Uytingco <moojo78@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 7:39 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB 683 and SB 686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani 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 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 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 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](#)



## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Michelle <jhnnnybravoo@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 7:31 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683and SB686

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Michelle Santos, a teacher at Leihoku Elementary on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 13 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 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 are underpaid, teacher retention is horrible so the students don't get the proper support that they need. In the end it's not only affecting the lowest paid teachers but the students. If teachers were appreciated and paid what they deserve the students can get the education they deserve. Students can't learn from another student straight out of high school in a substitute position. Would you want your child to be taught by someone without a degree because there's nobody who wants to teach at such a low income !!?

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

Thank you for your time,  
Michelle Santos, Leihoku elementary, Oahu

---

We expect these same proposals will get a hearing before the State House Education Committee shortly, and we will ask for your testimony once again on those proposals. But you can just cut and paste this testimony.

Many thanks!

*Copyright © 2017 Hawaii State Teachers Association, All rights reserved.*  
Mahalo for your engagement.

### **Our mailing address is:**

Hawaii State Teachers Association

1200 Ala Kapuna Street  
Honolulu, HI 96819

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

Sent from my iPhone

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Mariann Tabuchi <marianntabuchi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 7:20 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mariann Tabuchi. I am a Resource Teacher at the Kauai District Office. In my position, I have mentored over 30 beginning teachers, and developed and provided professional development to many others. This is my seventh year in teaching.

Please pass SB 683 and SB 686 to increase funding for public schools.

I cannot express to you how much a lack of funding negatively affects our students.

1) A non-competitive income drives good teachers to pursue other professions, leaving students with what we call Code 5s and Code Ws: teachers who are hired that have four-year degrees and are **not teacher trained**. This is to the students' detriment. They are stuck with a teacher who may not use modern, engaging, and relevant pedagogy to teach.

2) Schools often don't have enough money for teachers to purchase basic supplies (as evidenced by a TAX CREDIT provided due to teachers spending their own money on supplies). If there aren't markers in the classroom, how can teachers write on the board? If there isn't sufficient technology in the classroom, how can a teacher keep up with making content engaging? The practice of expecting teachers to purchase their own materials (everything from staplers, to paper, to computers) in order to work must end.

3) Schools are unbearably hot in the early months of the school year, so much so that it is extremely difficult to concentrate, and in many cases, dangerous. If the Hawaii State Legislature building had its air conditioning cut off, I have a strong feeling that another, "more suitable" location would be found: one to the comfort of the senators. Classrooms are hotter and more crowded than ever, and the curriculum only gets more rigorous each year. Schools need funding so that ALL children in Hawaii have access to a safe and comfortable learning environment.

Please help deliver the schools our children deserve by supporting these two bills.

Thank you,  
Mariann Tabuchi  
Kauai District Office  
Kauai

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Susan Chew <susaaan@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 7:17 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Susan Chew, a teacher at Lanai High and Elementary School on the island of Lanai. I have been a teacher for 20 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 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.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Susan Chew  
Lanai High and Elementary School  
Lanai

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** J Moriwaki <moriwaki.j@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 7:15 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Jenna Moriwaki, a teacher at Waianae High School on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 4 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 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 students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because every year we lose about 20% of our teachers (not counting long-term subs and positions that remained unfilled) and this year will be no different. At our school I see how the constant turnover places a burden on coaches, administrators and fellow teachers as we try to catch new teachers up to speed and remember who needs training. It is difficult to continue to improve - though we have steadily been increasing rigor and student engagement - when you are unsure if the changes made will be continued and built upon year to year. We don't have enough classrooms at our school to support the number of students and often it is our most vulnerable students and teachers who take the brunt of the situation. SPED classes and new teachers are often forced to walk across campus to borrow another teacher's room for 1 period and then walk back to borrow a different teacher's room for the next period. SPED classes are overcrowded and in a school with a high population of transitional students / absentee problems, I've seen students drop off the radar because they felt unseen in the class and the teachers were stretched to the breaking point trying to provide all the services the students deserve. This is not the situation I want for the people in my community. These families and teachers deserve more. I hope SB683 and SB686 will be the first step toward improving conditions in our public schools.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Jenna Moriwaki, Waianae High School, Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Kim Elizabeth <kimelizabeth01@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 7:13 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 683 and SB 686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Kim Kozak, a teacher at Kealakehe Intermediate on the Big Island of Hawai'i. I have been a teacher for 20 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 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. I've been doing my best as an 8th grade English teacher to support my students to be successful in our 21st century world; however, I do not have the technological resources to do so. Many of my students do not have computers at home either (nearly 70% free receive free or reduced lunch), so they can't practice these skills there either. It's sad when your students ask why they can't take a book home because you only have a class set, or see them struggling with basic computer skills because they haven't used one in your class for months. I've seen many teachers come and go in the 3 short years I've taught in Hawai'i because they do not receive appropriate financial support for materials and supplies for their students, or the pay to compensate for all the hours needed to complete one's professional duties beyond the work day. Many of my peers work one or more part-time jobs to compensate for the low salary. Hawai'i has an extremely high cost of living, yet is one of the lowest paying teacher states in the nation. I am actually making less money now than I made before I left Colorado 5 years ago. I also use quite a bit of my

own money for classroom supplies and healthy treats for my growing adolescents. I am a caring and highly qualified educator, yet I think about returning to the mainland so I can afford to buy a home of my own without working 2 or 3 jobs. However, the main reason I am giving this testimony is that I want to work in a state that supports students and teachers. I love my students. They are our future. It hurts to see them struggle when I know there are resources out there to support their success in our highly competitive, global society, but are beyond my control to give or receive.

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

Thank you for your time,

Kim Kozak

Kealakehe Intermediate

Big Island of Hawai'i

---



## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** pat murphey <patmurphey@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 7:05 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

I am Pat Murphey , a teacher at Pearl City High School on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 5 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. I have taught special education, and seen many teachers come and go that are qualified and skilled. I have even considered leaving myself. I love teaching, but my family comes first. Without a living wage I will eventually be forced to make a living wage somewhere else. The lack of pay drives us out of the profession. If we truly care about our keiki we need to fund the schools. Our future depends on it.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Pat Murphey, Pearl City High School, Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Wendy Nickl <wendyfivec@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 7:00 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Committee on Education

Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017

2:45pm

Honorable Chair Kidani and committee members,

**My name is Wendy Nickl. I am a teacher at Kohala Middle School on the island of Hawaii. As a teacher of 30 years in Hawai'i.**

**I am writing in support of SB683 and SB686, 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 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 that value of our hardworking teachers.**

**We need additional funding for our public schools, because at our school, I serve as the curriculum coordinator, registrar, Title I coordinator, and have 4 more job titles. We do this at our school so we can devote more resources to having qualified teachers in our**

**classes. However, the quality of the service I give to the students and parents suffers because it's impossible to fulfill all these job responsibilities with consistent high quality. It's just too much. And many of our teachers take on additional duties to provide our students with extracurricular activities. Our small rural schools need the same infrastructure to provide the best support possible for our keiki, but we are underfunded.**

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

Thank you for your time,

Wendy Nickl, Kohala Middle School, Hawaii Island

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Twotogs <twotogs@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:58 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** stop hurting your future

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am a teacher at Waimea Canyon Middle School on the island of Kauai. I have been a teacher for nine 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 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 what is and has happened to educational funding is a crime against our children and you all are the perpetrators of this ghastly ill treatment of our supposedly special gift in our children. You have treated our future as if there is no future and that rests on you all. Our children travel the world now days on their computer devices and they are comparing other places to their home and they can see the vast differences in educational opportunities, school environments, and test scores. They see the classrooms with really cool tools that increase the engagement, motivation and learning results. How are you okay with the huge gap in our schools, even on the same island. Waimea Canyon Middle School has a free and reduced lunch rate of 58% and we have no available funding for simple positive behavior incentive programs, for example. How is that possible? Any time a teacher gets inspired to offer students a new experience in his or her class, we have to seek our own funding. How encouraging is that to teachers

that want to stretch their students and broaden thoughts and ideas. Such an ordeal writing grants, waiting, being refused. This is how you all are killing education in Hawaii.

Your teachers, the light for your students, are struggling just to live on current pay. Many have jobs after school hours. With the recent HSTA contract it's going to suck even more. Obvious, your lack of concern for your future in your children, does not matter to any of you. Shame on you all. So you get what you want by treating what you have like dirt.

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

Thank you for your time,

Florence Susan Togioka

Waimea Canyon Middle School

---

Twotogs  
twotogs@aol.com

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Jasmine\_Tangonan/EWA/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:20 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Jasmine Tangonan, a teacher at Ewa Elementary, O`ahu. I have been a teacher for 1/2 a year. 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 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 as a new teacher, there were a lot of supplies/materials that were needed to be bought in order for my classroom to be ready for my very first batch of students. Even with the \$200 stipend given by the state, I still paid \$500 out of my own pocket in the year 2016. This affects my students because with not having enough funding, I need to go out and spend my own money to get the supplies my students need in order to be successful. Since the beginning of 2017, I have already spent over \$200 out of my own pocket to replenish supplies, and buy additional classroom materials. This has made me think of getting a second job like many of my coworkers already do in order to have that extra money to buy classroom supplies for my students. I do not want to do this because I'd rather spend my time after school helping students, discussing strategies with my colleagues to improve student data, and planning future lessons. These are all things I would not be able to do without additional funding and a pay raise because I would have to leave school to go straight to my second job as well as work on the weekends. Overall, this would affect how much I could do for my students outside of the classroom, which directly affects what I do for them in the classroom.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Jasmine Tangonan, Ewa Elementary, O`ahu

RE: SB 683 and SB 686 - Relating to Education

Friday, February 3, 2017

Chair Kidani 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 SB 683 and SB 686 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



TESTIMONY for Senate Education Committee Hearing on Fri. Feb. 3, 2017 at 2:45 pm

Chair Kidani and members of the Senate 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 SB 686 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

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Travis Leinonen <tvleino@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:18 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Travis Leinonen, a teacher at Konawaena Middle School on the Big Island. I have been a teacher for two 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 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 do not come to school with necessary resources. Teacher turnover and long term substitute positions rob our students of foundational skills they're capable of mastering with your commitment to consistent financial support for teachers and resources crucial to their development. As I tell my students your future starts now, and their future ties to all of our futures as well. Without a priority on educating our keiki, we stand to live in a Hawaii deficient in the skills, services, and values we have been blessed with in our own upbringing.

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

Thank you for your time,

Travis Leinonen  
Konawaena Middle School  
Hawaii Island

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Paul Waite <paulwaite@kahukuel.k12.hi.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:15 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am M. Paul Waite, a teacher at Kahuku Elementary School on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 22 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 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 when funding isn't there important resources cannot be purchased and the students suffer. Too many good young teachers are leaving and the ones who have been around for a while are looking for ways to get out. Greater demand is being placed on teachers but less is given to the schools.

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

Thank you for your time,  
M. Paul Waite, Kahuku Elementary School, Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Amanda Seymore <hstaseymore@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:02 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amanda Seymore and I teach at Aliamanu Middle School. I have been a teacher for 6 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 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.

Being a teacher from the mainland, it is extremely difficult to afford housing on my own and even with my boyfriend. Growing up, my parents have had to pay property tax and a school tax to support the school district. Please consider passing these in support of my current and future students and all students of the islands!

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

Thank you for your time,  
Amanda Seymore  
Aliamanu Middle School  
Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Cheryl Tam <cherylctam@rocketmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:54 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Cheryl Tam, a teacher at Konawaena Elementary. I have been a teacher for 28 years and want to teach for a few more 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 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 *we need to attract the very best teachers, we need to pay them well and we need to keep our teachers here in Hawaii. I have seen teachers working harder but not compensated. Students deserve good teachers, good facilities, and good support to become college and career ready. We want the students to be proud of their education and proud to become graduates from our public schools in Hawaii.*

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

Thank you for your time,  
Cheryl Tam  
Konawaena Elementary, Hawaii Island

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Elizabeth DeLyon <lyon@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:54 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for: Senate Education Committee

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Elizabeth DeLyon, a teacher at Haiku Elementary. I have been a teacher for 28 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 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 we are unable to keep and attract highly qualified professionals. Our students deserve so much more than we are giving them now. Classes without teachers is unacceptable and we need to stand up for the children who cannot stand up for themselves. We want to unite as a state to improve education and that costs money. Teachers deserve salary increase, supplies and computers need to be funded and smaller classrooms increase teacher effectiveness. Let's move forward and bring in the additional funding to support these efforts.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Elizabeth DeLyon  
Nationally Certified 2003 & 2013  
Hope Street Fellow

Maui  
3rd grade teacher

*We love because He first loved us.*  
[1 John 4:19](#)





## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Laura Peterson <laurarenrich@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:48 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Laura Peterson a National Board Certified Student Services Coordinator and teacher at Molokai High School. I have been a teacher for over 20 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 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.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Laura Peterson, Molokai High School, Molokai

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Anne Cross <annieckcross@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:46 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)  
[2:45pm](#)

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Annie CK Cross, a teacher at Chiefess Kapi'olani Elementary School in Hilo on the Island of Hawai'i. I have been a teacher for 15 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 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 we are losing school positions because our enrollment is decreasing. Because we are a small school this means essential positions may need to be cut or class sizes will need to increase. If the pot of money were bigger, our percentage would increase and we would not have to choose between keeping essential positions and keeping class sizes at reasonable rates.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Annie CK Cross  
Chiefess Kapi'olani Elementary  
Island of Hawai'i

Sent from my iPhone

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** maria guardino <mguardino@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:40 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Maria Guardino, a teacher at Kawananakoa Middle School. I have been a teacher for 13 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 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. As an English Language Learner (ELL) teacher, we are not doing enough to support our students and teachers who we, as a State, have agreed to help under the Every Child Succeeds Act. ELLs, students with special needs and many Pacific Islanders and Native Hawaiians struggle to read and therefore learn. We need funding to provide them with qualified teachers, qualified aides/support, and training for persons within the system to become qualified to teach and support these populations.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Maria Guardino  
Kawananakoa Middle School  
Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** zuckeranc005@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:32 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** RE: SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017 2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Carolyn Zukeran, a teacher at Ma'ema'e Elementary School on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 31 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 cost to conduct exciting and hands on lessons has decreased due to the lack of funding. Lessons that I have taught in the past has been watered down due to being unable to purchase necessary supplies.

In addition, each year my personal spending for supplies in the classroom has increased. I have a second job in order to provide for my family's needs since my teaching income isn't sufficient. My family hasn't taking a trip for 8 years due to lack of funds.

Many young teachers are learning that as a teacher, we need to use our personal income to purchase classroom supplies. This has affected their decision to make teaching their lifelong career.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Carolyn Zukeran  
Ma'ema'e Elementary School  
Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Sara Cornielle <teachplaylove@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:25 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB 683 and SB 686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)  
[2:45pm](#)

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Sara Cornielle a teacher at Waiiau Elementary 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 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.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Sara Cornielle  
Sent from my iPhone  
Sent from my iPhone

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** alohahaley@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:23 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB6863

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee

SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)  
[2:45pm](#)

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Haley van Noord, a teacher at Lahaina Intermediate School on Maui. I have been a teacher for eight 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 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 we are losing teachers at an alarming rate due to inability to afford the cost of living on Maui. This additional funding will help improve retention and give our students the most highly qualified and sought out teachers available.

In addition, that funding will help us teach the whole child. Our diverse learners need the opportunity to develop their talents in fine arts and sciences not just English language arts and math.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Haley van Noord

Lahaina Intermediate

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Sharon Goldenberg <sharon.goldenberg@mauihigh.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:22 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am an English teacher at Maui High School. I have been a teacher for over 15 years. I would like to tell you a little about myself and my classroom. I have 150 students-imagine you working with 150 teenagers a day. I generally have 30 kids in a class. My classroom temperature at the beginning and end of school year is over 90 degrees daily. Imagine being in a room with the football team at that temperature. My classroom was supposed to be one of the last classrooms to get air-conditioning installed this year, but, we're not getting it at all.

I do have my a Master's Degree in Education, which I got while teaching. However, because I've been a single mom for 20 years have had to take on two additional jobs to feed my family-so could not take all the extra classes needed to increase my salary. I make \$57,000 a year, working with 150 kids a day, in a 90 degree room after 15 years of employment with the DOE. All my ratings are Distinguished or Highly Proficient.How far does that get you on Maui? I still have my two extra jobs. In the end, who suffers more the students or me?

The following is the standard letter my HSTA Union asked me to send you--and I will attach it. However, if you want your children to remain in Hawaii and receive decent paying jobs you need to give them the best education they possibly can receive. I don't know one teacher who doesn't work their butt off everyday. I don't know one teacher who doesn't put in at least 60 hours of work without any overtime salary. I do know a few teachers who do not have a second job.

What can you possibly learn in a 90 degree classroom--I watch my students sweat, fall asleep, get cranky- I buy them water which I give to them. YOU, have put your children and your teachers and your State's future in a terrible position. I love my kids-all 150-of them. They make me laugh, they ask me to the prom, they sneak up on me when I'm shopping and take my picture and put it on Instagram. These children try hard for me, even in the 90 degree classroom-but there are too many of them in a class. They do not get the education they deserve because I am one person and they are 150. We need more teachers, we need more teachers from Hawaii, we need our teachers to remain teachers-we can only do that by lowering class size and increasing teachers' salaries to be on parity with mainland teachers.

I have been asked by our Union to write this letter as testimony--truthfully I do not know what SB683 and SB 686 will do if anything. I took a trip for the DOE this summer and had to pay for my own hotel room-this was in June and I have still not gotten my money refunded. I've been hearing whispers and see a sign for a Kihei High School for many years now but still, nothing. If this legislation is passed will our schools even get any money?? I am not writing this for our Union, I am writing this letter for your kids-mine are grown. We have such potential in Hawaii.

Finally, with the nomination of Betsy DeVos confirmed I am extremely concerned for our public school system. Please act now before we have less choice and less money for public education.

Sincerely,

Sharon Goldenberg  
Maui High School

Below is the recommended letter.

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 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,  
NAME, SCHOOL, ISLAND

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Mike Landes <jmlandes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:48 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Committee on Education

Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017

2:45pm

Honorable Chair Kidani and committee members,

**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 SB683 and SB686, 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 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 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,

NAME, SCHOOL, ISLAND

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Elaine Mills <beadmills@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 12:56 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Elaine Mills, a teacher at Aliamanu Elementary on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 17 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 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.

Publicly-funded preschool programs is a positive investment towards Hawaii's future. A multitude of research has proven that the first five years of life is when children develop early cognitive and social skills that set the foundation for success later in school and life. I worked in a DOE/Head Start inclusion classroom in Waianae and it was wonderful to observe the children ages 2 1/2 to 5 independently move throughout the classroom to the different learning centers. If a visitor were to enter our classroom they would not be able to identify the children with special needs. This classroom was the purest form of inclusion it was the best five years of my teaching career. A year after I left that school to move closer to home that classroom closed because of lack of funding and teacher support. Ninety two percent of the children in this school were on free or reduced meals and the one and only preschool inclusion program closed. Young children who come from low socioeconomic backgrounds usually never attend preschool. That was 12 years ago and that program has not been restored at that school.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Elaine Mills, Aliamanu Elementary, Oahu

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy Tab®4

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** lumm015@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 4:29 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** bonita\_lum@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Bonita Lum, a teacher at Makawao Elementary School, Maui. I have been a teacher for 11 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 need funds to set up a workable lab for the whole school where STEM is more hands-on.

This is key if we are serious about students getting a well rounded STEM curriculum.

We need funding to increase teachers' pay to attract qualified teachers and maintain them.

A decent pay will eliminate the need to work on second jobs; that time can be used for effective preparation of lesson plans.

Fully fund the schools that our keiki and teachers deserve, please support these bills.

Mahalo -- Bonita Lum.

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Richard Mumaw <richard.mumaw@hawaiiintel.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 5:18 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

We are Richard and Ann Mumaw, teachers at Highlands Intermediate School in Pearl City on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 14 years while Ann has been a teacher for 19 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 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.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Richard and Ann Mumaw

---

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Robert Hu <hu4242001@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 5:40 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** testimony

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am [INSERT NAME], a teacher at [INSERT SCHOOL and ISLAND]. I have been a teacher for [INSERT YEARS] 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 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...as a special education teacher with grade levels k-6 I am struggling with resources and curriculum. Because of the lack of funding this has caused us to lose a position and the stressful conditions now fall on whatever we have left to manage it. I work more than 1 job and am struggling with my own bills as our pay is so poor. I go to work every morning for the last 20 years at 6:00 am which still doesn't seem to be enough time to accomplish all that I need to do. I even spend quite a bit of money out of pocket to make ends meet in the classroom. So please, unless you have been here and been doing what we do please understand our concerns and take them into consideration.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Robert Hu. Keolu Elementary School, Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** libby lenzer <mllibbyvoyagerschool@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 6:03 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Libby Lenzer, a special education teacher at Kainalu Elementary School on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 30 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 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 our students are suffering due to overworked teachers who have limited resources and maximum responsibilities. I as a special education teacher are stretched to the limit daily, without the support I truly need in order to meet the unique needs of my students. Teacher burnout is at an all time high. Teachers have left my school and the field because of it. Please help save our professionals and keep them in the schools. Our students need us there to give them our all, which is not possible without your help.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Libby Lenzer, Kainalu Elementary School, Oahu





## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Del Onaga <delonaga@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 6:35 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)  
[2:45pm](#)

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am DEL Onaga, a teacher at Olomana SCHOOL on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 6 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 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

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

Thank you for your time,

Del Onaga  
Olomana School  
Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Tanya Pang <tanyapang808@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 6:56 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Tanya Casil, a teacher at Pearl Harbor Elementary School on O'ahu. I have been a teacher for 4.5 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 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 school property is deteriorating and is harmful for our students. My roof in my classroom has been leaking since I first started 4 years ago. My administration knows about it but due to lack of funding are unable to fix it. Whenever there is rain (harder than a drizzle) it starts to leak and since my ceiling slopes, it travels down and then finally drips. It happens to drip right over my digital presenter and projector. I had to get a new projector because of the leaking roof. Now, everyday I cover my technology with a shower curtain to prevent further destruction. My students are also aware of the leak and know right away to grab paper towels and a bin to catch the leak as it falls on their desk. It also leaks into my lights which is definitely an electrical hazard. My classroom is not the only room with a leaking ceiling. We are kindly asking for more funds to protect our students from these types of things.

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

Thank you for your time,

Tanya Casil  
Pearl Harbor Elementary School  
Honolulu, O'ahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** STEPHENIE BLAKEMORE <stephenieblakemore@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 7:05 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Stephenie Balkemore, a teacher at Kapa`a Elementary School, on the island of Kauai. I have been a teacher for 13 years.

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.

Please be sure these bill are worded carefully, and truly support our schools, and the middle class residents of Hawaii. Taxing investment property that is providing housing for those many residents, many of whom are Hawaii's underpaid teachers and young parents of my elementary school students. These are Hawaiian residents who cannot afford to buy a home in the islands and I am concerned that this bill could increase rents for those residents in Hawaii who can least afford to stretch budgets in another direction. So please be sure this tax very precisely addresses the investment properties that are part of the very profitable multi billion tourist industry that continues to fuel a large percentage of the the economy in our state, and not those property owners who are

providing long term rentals to those families and individuals who would otherwise be without a place to live in Hawaii.

Supporting carefully thought out proposals will allow the state to secure annual funding that can provide our public schools with one funding source that will not be part of the annual political jockeying for state funds. This will allow schools to consistently provide all students with lower student to teacher ratios in the classroom throughout their entire K-12 public school experience. It should go without saying, given the cost of higher education, and maintaining current best practices as a professionals, that these funds should also help secure living wages that our state must recognize it needs to pay teachers in order to recruit and retain educators who are committed to teaching as a long term career, and not a 5 year or less job.

Mahalo,  
Stephenie Blakemore, Kapa`a Elementary School, Kauai

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Josuha Walling <jwalling55@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 7:47 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony of one teacher.....

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Joshua E. Walling, a teacher at Aiea HS on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 6 months. 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 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 following is my monthly budget;

**Rent- \$800.00/Utilities- \$120.00/Car Payment-\$295.00/Car insurance- \$100.00/Credit Cards-\$300.00**

**TOTAL= \$1615.00 debit**

**Take home pay after taxes = \$1725.00 total surplus of \$110.00/month to live on**

**This does not reflect food/gas/and misc. expenses (emergencies). Currently, I am a full-time graduate student living in Mililani, Oahu. I am in deferment on my student loan payments until I graduate in 2018. The above is not a complaint, it is a question of "I do not understand how the state expects teachers to come, live and teach here when they cannot even pay their bills on what they are allowed?" I am one year away from highly-qualified status, with a Master's, certification and licensure. I would love to contribute more to the students, but not sure if I can stay....We need to be paid fairly. I came to this beautiful state under the auspices that I would be able to transition from the mainland to here. I knew it would be difficult, but thought that I would be paid commensurate to the cost-of-living. I cannot afford to live and work on Oahu making \$35,301.00 per year.**

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Michael Johnson <mrjohnson808@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 7:52 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Michael Johnson, a teacher at Wheeler Elementary and Oahu. I have been a teacher for 7 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 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.

Thank you for your time,  
Michael Johnson  
Wheeler Elementary  
Oahu

--

Mr. Johnson  
Education is the key  
A6  
<https://sites.google.com/site/mrjohnson808/>

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Tsuchiya, Jeanine <JTsuchiya@hsta.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 8:03 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Jeanine Tsuchiya, a concerned community member who supports public education students and teachers. My children graduated from Kaiser High school and have wonderful careers based on the amazing teachers who dedicated their careers to children. 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 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 all those amazing teachers deserve to have a proper educational environment so they can do the most possible for their students. And we need adequate funding to fairly compensate our teachers who are challenged by the cost of living in Hawaii and comparatively make far less than their other professionals here and in the mainland.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Jeanine Tsuchiya



## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Ellen Farnsworth <ellenfarn80011@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 8:02 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Ellen Farnsworth, a teacher at Kealakehe Intermediate School, Big Island. I have been a teacher for 7 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 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 are our future and without good, inspirational teachers their quest to strive for higher education will truly diminish. Students are directly affected by revolving door teachers who seek higher paying jobs outside of the education field. The cost of living in the islands is high and having to hold down two sometimes three additional jobs in order to make ends meet, does not help their ability to teach and guide our students. Hundreds of teachers are being forced to leave every year, not because they don't like their jobs, but rather they need to survive. Our keiki deserve the best teachers to inspire them and become tomorrow's leaders. Please help them succeed.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Ellen Farnsworth  
Kealakehe Intermediate School

February 1, 2017

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am 'Iolani Kū'oha, a teacher at Moloka'i Middle 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 also 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 it is very difficult when there is a lack of funding and resources available for teachers to teach. Majority of my supplies are purchased with my personal funds. It's very disappointing to see my paycheck twice a month knowing that I'm not able to pay the basic living expenses (water, electricity). It's difficult to raise a family here on Moloka'i being we pay \$4.57 a gallon of gas, a gallon of milk is \$7.50, these are examples of what we as teachers have to deal with. If I'm not able to afford this can you imagine my students? I have students coming to school hungry because they don't have food at home. I had an 8<sup>th</sup> grader share that she didn't eat dinner, breakfast and lunch just the other day. How would that comment make you feel as a teacher or a member of the Education Committee? These actions affect not only myself as a teacher but my students as well. They can't concentrate if they are hungry.

Please deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Thank you for your time.

Mahalo.



'Iolani Kū'oha  
Moloka'i Middle School

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Peter\_Celebre/ILIMA/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 8:22 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Peter Celebre, I am a teacher at Ilima Intermediate in Ewa Beach on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 11 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 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 our kids are simply not getting the education, and attention that they deserve. Classes are over crowded which prevents our kids from getting the proper attention they need from their teachers. How can we expect any teacher no matter how good they are to give their students one on one interaction when we have 30-40 students in our classes? We talk about our kids as being a priority, but in my humble opinion our money isn't where our mouths are. In addition our inadequate teacher pay is forcing teachers out of the profession. My wife and I are both public school teachers, and have two small children of our own, and we live paycheck to paycheck. We have been blessed with the task to help prepare all of our children for the future, and stress the importance of education to our kids, yet we struggle to make ends meet. This should not be. I can name multiple state jobs that require only a high school degree that make more money than educators. My wife and love our jobs and working with students and combined have over 20 years in the DOE, but sadly we are contemplating leaving and finding jobs in the private sector so we can better provide for our family. This is truly sad and I am asking for your support in preventing this kind of injustice from happening. This will only result in less qualified teachers and an increase in class sizes which hurts all of our kids.

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

Thank you for your time,  
NAME, SCHOOL, ISLAND

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Gregory Volpone <volpone@hawaii.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 8:52 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Greg Volpone, a teacher at kalakaua Middle School. I have been a teacher for 10 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 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 over the years of my employment our school and our staff have been frustrated over the lack of proactive resources and pay scale the state has been able or concerned about addressing. Time and time again we hear from the political bureaucracy that education is a priority. That our students matter. And yet the state continues to offer minimal, at best, possible solution. Remember furloughs as a solution!

Understanding that budget constraints are a focus of any responsible government entity, don't you think it is about time to think outside the box. provide some real financial relief that is specifically earmarked for education. As technology continues to advance, the ability to provide engaging curriculum that will challenge them into the 21 century. How is that possible without an insertion of additional funding.

Please keep an open mind, please be realistic on how additional funding can help improve our educational system, and please remember the teachers, that I sure you remember, that helped make a difference in your life!

Thank you for your time,  
Greg Volpone

Special Education Department Chair

Kalakaua Middle School

---

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Sheri Dennis <lanigirl11@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 8:52 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Sheri-Ann Dennis, a school counselor at Olomana School on Oahu. I have been a school counselor for 17 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 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 I know of several teachers who have left the teaching profession and have pursued other careers because of the low teacher salary. One person for example was a teacher for 10 years. She was also working a second job at night to help support herself financially. She has since left the teaching profession and is now a real estate agent. I will be starting a second job next week to help support my family financially. We have been living on credit cards and loans. I am starting this second job to help pay off those financial obligations.

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

Thank you for your time,

Sheri-Ann Dennis, Olomana School, Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Anthony Lenzer <tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 9:13 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB 683 and SB 686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am the father of a Special Education teacher at a Kailua elementary school. My daughter taught at a public charter school in Honolulu for 11 years, before coming to her present school 4 years ago. She is a gifted and extremely dedicated teacher. Please pass SB 683 and SB 686 to increase funding for public schools, to enable my daughter and her colleagues to better serve their students, and be more appropriately compensated for their work.

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 without additional resources, excellent teachers will continue to leave the public school system, and our students will not receive the knowledge and skills they will need.

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

Anthony Lenzer

222 Kuukama St.

Kailua, HI 96734





## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Julia Min <juliamin10@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 9:40 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** School's our Keiki Deserve

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Julia Fernandez, a teacher at Mokulele Elementary on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 8 years. Please pass SB 683 and SB 686 to increase funding for public schools.

Colorado uses taxes from their Marijuana sales to fund education. Can't we use taxes from tourists to fund our education too? Let's think smarter.

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. We want to educate our youth so we become united.

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 I am a preschool special education teacher. I need the resources to fund my daily lessons. To make my lessons exciting and engaging for students I need the programs and supplies on a weekly basis. I don't want funding to be my obstacle. I want funding to be available whenever I need it so I can do the fun and rigorous lessons that I envision.

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

Thank you for for your time and consideration,

Julia Fernandez, Mokulele Elementary



## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Crystal-Marie Alpiche-Kanae <alpiche.kanae.mhs@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 9:41 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Crystal-Marie Alpiche-Kanae, a teacher at Mililani High School. I have been a teacher for 7 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 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 we need to attract quality teachers. Yes, it's true that teacher's don't get into teaching for the money, but the reality is that in order to remain in teaching and not get completely worn out due to a need to get a second job requires they get paid what they deserve. We work incredibly hard for our students, putting in hours beyond the school day prepping, planning, and grading, as well as, running clubs, sports, and chaperoning numerous events, all for free. Loving your students, and often times receiving love from our students, just doesn't pay the bills. As a result, teachers often leave the profession for another job that is much more lucrative in pay. This is unbeneficial to the students, the school, and other teachers; there needs to be something done about it.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Crystal-Marie Alpiche-Kanae, Mililani High School, O'ahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Eunice Lazarus <kamuelalaz@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 10:44 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony regarding SB 683 & SB 686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Eunice Lazarus, a teacher at Waimea Middle Public Conversion Charter School in Waimea on the island of Hawaii. I have been a teacher for 34 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 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 all of our keiki need the skills that will enable them to lead successful lives in the future. As our future leaders, they need the support of our current leaders and your support in funding education more fully will demonstrate that you value what public schools can offer.

Unfortunately, it has been my experience over my years of service to see a decline in interest in gaining more knowledge to further dreams. Many of our students get mixed messages from the adults in their world and seem to lack the focus and drive to enable them to reach for greater success than previously experienced by the adults in their lives.

Improved funding will enable schools to prepare students for the future by providing curriculum and infrastructure that is connected to the world they live in. It will enable educators to use

sound, innovative, research based curriculum to enhance current successful practices being utilized. It may also attract and retain more of our "best and brightest" who are dedicated to our opio, who find they need to work in alternate fields or places other than Hawaii just to "make It" and provide for their own families.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Eunice Lazarus

Waimea Middle Public Conversion Charter School

67-1229 Mamalahoa Hwy.

Kamuela, HI 96743

---

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Aaron Day <aarondday777@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:15 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Committee on Education

Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017

2:45pm

Honorable Chair Kidani and committee members,

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 SB683 and SB686, 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 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 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



## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Brent B <brent9669@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:01 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 683 and SB 686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Brent Mukai, a teacher at Waianae Intermediate School on the west side of Oahu. I have been a teacher for 11 years at that school. 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 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 I personally have known many great teachers who have had a positive impact on learning and building excellent relationships with our students decide to quit teaching to either go back to the mainland to teach at higher levels of pay or enter into other professions here in Hawaii. We need these bills passed in order to curb the loss of quality teachers...our students deserve better!

Please support these bills. I am originally from the state of Washington where schools are supported by the voters...my parents pay approximately \$1500 dollars on their property taxes that fund local schools. These bills before you are a creative way to fund our schools without negatively impacting

the wallets of Hawaii's residents.

Thank you for your support,  
Brent Mukai, teacher on Oahu

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 1:44 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** cchaudron08@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB686 on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM

**SB686**

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: Dear Senators, My name is Camila Chaudron and I am a constituent from the Manoa/Makiki area. I support increased funding for the Department of Education so that Hawai'i can attract and retain better teachers, and so that our State may provide better resources for Hawai'i's students. I support increased funding for the DOE for several reasons: 1. More funding for the DOE = paying our teachers a living wage Despite regularly working 12-15 hour days and weekends, many public school teachers (including my mother and my sister, like many of their colleagues), are stretched incredibly thin financially. It is unacceptable that full-time, highly-trained, sought-after professionals who bear the heavy responsibility of educating and caring for our State's future should be living paycheck to paycheck. Every public school teacher I know –and I know many– regularly considers leaving the profession because of the long hours and low pay. No matter how much they believe in the importance of their work, teachers also need to feed their families. If this issue goes unaddressed, the quality of our teaching workforce will diminish because all the bright, intelligent, motivated teachers will leave and find other ways to care for their families. 2. More funding for the DOE = attracting better teachers In addition to supporting the many good teachers we already have on the Islands, higher wages will help our teaching force become stronger. Research and common sense indicate that higher salaries attract better performing teachers. We need our educators to be well educated, to be able to continue learning, and those high-quality teachers will be drawn in by competitive wages. 3. More funding for the DOE = more resources for students Teachers are often martyrs and will do anything for their "kids." Martyrdom is unhealthy but effective, and the State benefits tremendously from the generosity of its teachers. And yet, there's only so much teachers can do without the resources to care for their students' needs. Our public school classrooms are lacking in basic resources for students. Many of Hawai'i's students are homeless and/or hungry and coming from abusive backgrounds. Our schools need to address these issues by providing healthy, affordable lunch options and counseling, at the very least. We should also be providing arts programs to give students an avenue to express themselves creatively. We need better technology in our classrooms to equip our children for a digital age. We need air conditioning for those hot Hawaii days when students are unable to think because of the heat. There are many more reasons I believe that

funding for the DOE should increase, namely on principle, but these are the three most practical and pressing. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimonial. Please support this bill! Sincerely, Camila Chaudron

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 12:59 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** mearth@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB686 on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM

**SB686**

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elizabeth Robertson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This bill affects investment properties, not single-family homes of the struggling middle class. With Hawaii's real estate values, there is no reason our keiki could not be attending the best schools in the country.

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** whitney carden <whitaz@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 12:20 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

---

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Whitney Carden, a teacher at Kalama Int. on Maui. I have been a teacher for 5 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 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 don't even have the \$ for pencils and paper, which our school provides. Many of our students the best time of their day is at school. We as teachers often go above and beyond what our pay is. We buy kids shoes. We buy them shirts so the ones they come to school with don't have holes in them. The low teacher pay is also a major issue. If you want to retain teachers you have to pay them well. Many schools on Maui are filled with long term sub positions because they can't fill the position due to no one wants to work for the pay offered. People want jobs, people want to work with kids, but when schools are understaffed and underpaid, and under supported many people I personally know go to work in different fields. We need the funding to support our youth and strengthen our communities through the support of our local families and their children.

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

Thank you for your time,

Whitney Carden, Kalama, Maui

Whitney Carden Co-Owner/Manager PFI Instructor/Captain/Guide BLUEWATER INC Bluewater Diving,  
Fishing, Freediving and Spearfishing Guides and Instruction, Scuba, and Whale Watching  
WWW.Bluewatermaui.com Email Us @ Fish@bluewatermaui.com

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** M H <mharuki@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 12:24 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Michele Haruki, a teacher at King Kaumuali'i Elementary School on the island of Kauai. I have been a teacher for 28+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 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 here in Hawaii, many of our families are struggling to survive. Many of our students come to school with no supplies, limited medical coverage, no preschool experience, not to mention, tired and hungry. As teachers, we are the "catchall" for providing basic needs to students before we can even begin to teach curriculum. We use our personal funds to purchase food, supplies, field trip expenses, etc. We address physical, mental, emotional concerns/fears children have about things are happening at home and support them. Lower class sizes will help us reach more students, for as we all know, learning cannot take place if basic needs are not met.

Teachers too, are struggling to survive. Many teachers have second and third jobs as they try to make ends meet. This results in teachers who are burnt out, exhausted, or who choose to leave the profession all together. None of these choices is beneficial to the students of Hawaii who deserve the best education. The high cost of living paired with the lowest teacher salaries give our students the message that education is not a priority and if it's not valued by all of you, they will not see it as valuable either. Please invest in our students' education... their future is in your hands and it's too valuable to take lightly.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Michele Haruki  
King Kaumuali'i Elementary School, Kauai



Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 – RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

February 1, 2017

Waikiki School  
3710 Leahi Ave  
Honolulu, HI. 96815

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Julie Park, a teacher at Waikiki Elementary on O’ahu. I have been a teacher for 9 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 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. Providing supportive measures with up to date technology, installation of ac units for heated humid days in classrooms, and increased funding for the arts are some of the ways to support our students. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to increase our pay and funding for the DOE. I hold multiple jobs to survive in this state and it is challenge. Increasing our salary will not only support those in our profession, but also maintain those who are new in this field.

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

Thank you for your time,

Julie Park, Waikiki Elementary, O’ahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Sheri\_Frye/MOKAPU/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 1:27 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Additional Funding for Public School

I, Sheri Frye, public school elementary teacher now for 11 years, am sending you this message to remind everyone that we need additional funding in the public schools in order to meet the needs of all our students. Forcing children to try to learn in overcrowded classrooms is overwhelming and disruptive. My young students are having to cope with other students that have learning disabilities and behavior issues, that adults are challenged with supporting, is not fair. As a teacher, many of my students are overlooked because of the amount high needs students I am focused on supporting. I am doing my best to support every student in my class. It is not fair to my students or to teachers to be forced to function under these conditions. In order to make the progress we are expected to, we need more teachers and classrooms, so we as the state of Hawaii can keep our classroom sizes at the appropriate ratio. We also need updated furniture to give our students pride in their classrooms. Some of our classrooms have 6 different kinds of chairs that are cracked and warped. And several different kinds of desks of which are cracked, rusty, and wiggle back and forth, which also causes distraction, esp. for students with focusing challenges. Please help support the public schools so we can make the best learning environment possible for our students.

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Rosemary\_Summers/MOKAPU/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 1:47 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Rosemary Summers, a teacher at Mokapu Elementary School on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 6 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 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 for many reasons. A first and foremost reason would be to keep teachers in their positions. It is so difficult to make it as a teacher in Hawaii. I currently live at my parents home (I'm 37) and see no possibility of ever buying a house in Hawaii with my current teacher's salary. Teacher's salaries should match the price of living here. If it did Hawaii would be able to retain it's teachers for years to come which would help to improve education for students because there wouldn't be so many new teachers having to learn the system year in and year out. As a teacher I work SO hard, and I am happy to work SO hard, but I definitely work WAY beyond my contracted hours. To be an effective teacher, to make sure lesson plans are made, papers are corrected, classrooms are organized there is no way it can happen in the contracted hours. I don't mind doing some extra work, but I know lots of teachers like me who give way beyond the contracted hours and honestly we really should be better compensated. It would be a motivation for many to stick with it and to plan better for their students, rather than having to take on other jobs. Time in other jobs means less time planning great curriculum for students. I really think if you are not a teacher you cannot comprehend how much work it is to be a teacher. Children are our future and we want them to get the best education possible so they are ready for their future. This will happen if teacher compensation better matches the price of living here in Hawaii. Teaching is not done well without a lot of sacrifice and dedication on the part of the teachers. And to be honest each year I probably spend about \$800 - \$1000 of my own (on top of the \$400 I am given) to pay for things for my students, including things like computer programs, additional supplies, etc.). I LOVE being a teacher! I LOVE working with kids, but I would really appreciate and love a pay raise. It would help me, which in turn would help the students! It would help with teacher turn around and keeping good teachers, which would help the students!

A second reason is we are in an era of technology. We need to make sure our classes have the technology needs to help them to be successful in our global technological world. I teach 2nd grade and have 5 ipads for a class of 20. It would be incredibly helpful to have an ipad for every student. In terms of truly differentiating for different needs having a technology device available for each student is instrumental rather than sharing 5 between 20 students.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Rosemary Summers, Mokapu Elementary School, Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Pheth\_Thatsana/MOKAPU/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 2:40 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** support of SB 683 and SB 686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Pheth Thatsana, a teacher at Mokapu Elementary in Oahu. I have been a teacher for 8 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 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 I am not able to purchase many teaching tools that would help my students with the current funding. The cost of living continues to increase but our pay seems to stay the same. This hinders our (as teachers) home life.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Pheth Thatsana, MOKapu El.

---

We expect these same proposals will get a hearing before the State House Education Committee shortly, and we will ask for your testimony once again on those proposals. But you can just cut and paste this testimony.

Many thanks!

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Kellee Raines <raineskc@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 2:42 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Support of SB683 and SB686

**RE: SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION.  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2017**

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Kellee Kelly, a teacher at Kea'au Elementary on Hawaii island. I have been a teacher for 8 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 teachers are leaving by the droves. It's not that they thought about it, it actually became so bad that they LEFT. This year, many teachers have classrooms of over 28 children in a elementary school setting. Teachers are complaining that they do not have enough desks and chairs. Further our support services are non existent. We are down two speech paths, the last one is on lone. We are borrowing a SBBH councilor and we have no OT on the entire island. Everyday teachers are burning out. Many taking sabbaticals or lead without pay to recuperate. Classrooms without qualified teachers, and even more so, classrooms with stressed out teachers cannot create the environment needed for us to progress as a state.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Kellee Kelly Kea'au Elementary Hawaii island

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Blake Ann Antida <blakeann@hawaii.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 2:45 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Blake Ann Antida, a teacher at Kea'au Elementary School. I have been a teacher for 6 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 I just watched a video of our HSTA President sharing data stating that 50% of teachers hired in the school year 2011 - 2012, the year I was hired, have quit the profession. That is very concerning to me. Our keiki deserve better than this.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Blake Ann Antida, Kea'au Elementary School, Hawaii

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Michelle Marr <hawaiiiteacher808@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 2:47 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Michelle C., a teacher at Likelike on Oahu. I have been a teacher for over 20 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 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 as a teacher I, along with many of my colleagues, hold a second job just to make ends meet. This results in tired, worn out teachers that are not able to put our 110% into our day. Over the years I have heard many comments about how being a teacher must be an easy job; we only work from 7:30-3:00 and get summer and holidays off. I would love those people to trade places with us for a month, or even a week. It is a 24/7/365 job. We are always thinking about our kids. How can we make that math lesson more exciting? How can I get that child to read at grade level when English is a second language? Add to this the necessary second job, and you have teachers that are exhausted and burnt out. It would be amazing to be able to focus only on teaching and creating lessons that are fun and engaging. Not to mention to be able to actually have dinner with my own children, who, by the time I get home from my second job, are already asleep.



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

Thank you for your time,

Michelle C

Likelike EI.

Oahu

February 1, 2017

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Alyson Panem, a teacher at Keaau Elementary School on the Big Island. I have been a teacher for 7 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 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, many schools lack the resources to provide the quality education our keiki deserve! I teach in a high poverty area where many students suffer from multiple adversities such as, living in crowded houses, single parents, incarcerated parent/s, limited or insufficient meal etc. School for many of these students are their only safe haven, a place where they know they will be fed and cared for. As a classroom teacher in this area, I take it upon myself to provide as much as I can for my students. This includes planning meaningful and engaging lessons, which usually require materials that are purchased from my own pocket. Simply providing students with daily snacks, again often purchased with my own money, helps to build the necessary relationships with the students to create a better learning environment in the classroom.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Alyson Panem

Keaau Elementary School  
Hawaii Island

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** lindajury4@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 3:11 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony to support SB 683 and SB 686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)  
[2:45pm](#)

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Linda Jury, a teacher at Waianae High School, on the island of 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 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 children deserve teachers who are highly esteemed in our communities. Teachers deserve an increase in pay so that our profession will start to see a decrease in turn over rates. Being from Hawaii, I have seen so many teachers come and go. In fact, I myself pledged not to become a teacher because of the lack of pay that comes with the profession. It is alarming to think that many teachers have to take up second jobs just to make ends meet. I truly believe that an investment in teachers are an investment in our children, in our future and it will benefit everyone across the state.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Linda Jury, Waianae High School, Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** loke rose <lookatme\_121@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:45 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Hearing EDU 02-03-2017

I am writing to support funding for education by assessing a surcharge on residential investment properties for the purpose of education. Workers in the hospitality industry need to be skilled and educated and because the travel industry is one of Hawai'i's largest and most profitable industries, it is right and pono that the industry contribute to the education of our children and all seeking an education.

mahalo  
Katherine Roseguo

Please - remember, reduce, reuse, recycle, renew, refresh, recover, restore, respect, refuse, reintegrate, rethink, revitalize, replant, replanet, regreen, refurbish, regrow, rot.

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Richard Searfoss <rsearfoss@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 3:49 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Cindy Searfoss, a teacher at Maunawili Elementary School on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 19 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 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 many students come to school without the basic supplies needed to support their education. My classroom allotment money is used to buy basic supplies to help make my students successful. Many students also have difficulty completing their work as they do not have access to computers at home and can only complete those assignments during school. Programs designed to provide practice that increases skills is vital and is usually computer based. Schools are struggling to provide 1:1 technology to increase our students' capacity to become viable contributing members of an increasingly technological society. Students with special needs are impacted to a higher degree when it comes to access to technology and even basic supplies. Their difficulty in grasping academic concepts can be supported with advancements in technology but they need access to that technology on a regular basis in order to become more proficient and to enhance their learning opportunities.

Professional pay is a must for teachers in Hawaii. Our increased cost of living and lower than national average pay make teachers take on second jobs that take time away from their ability to plan, prepare materials, and collaborate with colleagues to present rigorous lessons that will have the greatest possible impact on their students. When teachers are forced to take second jobs to support their families, the students in the classroom suffer. The prospect of having to work two jobs to pay the bills despite multiple college degrees causes teachers to burn out quickly and to consider leaving the profession in order to support their families.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Cindy Searfoss, Maunawili Elementary School, Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Maria Gomes <mgomes@lanikaischool.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 4:03 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Maria Gomes, a teacher at Lanikai School, in Kailua, Oahu. I have been a teacher for 4 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 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 it is a shame how the state chooses to spend its funding in other ways beside its future. The children are our future, why are we not investing more in them? Majority of children attend public schools and it should not be such a battle to ensure that these children are given all the resources they need to succeed.

Not only that, the low teacher pay is negatively affecting the quality of our schools too. It has been shown in several surveys and studies that the current teacher pay makes it near impossible for us educators to make ends meet in Hawaii's expensive economy. I personally find this to be true, as I have needed to take on a second job despite being an educator with a master's degree. The time I spend doing my second job or stressing about money could be spent thinking about innovative lesson plans or anything to better my classroom if I was paid a wage that allowed me the time to just focus on my primary job. Not only that, I personally know smart hard-working people who have avoided entering the field of education because the pay is not worth the amount of work it takes. It is a travesty that children will miss out on being educated by these people simply because the career and title of "teacher" is not a respected one in this state. It is up to you, our lawmakers, to change this.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Maria Gomes  
Lanikai School  
Kailua, Hawaii

--

*Kindergarten Teacher  
Lanikai Elementary Public Charter School  
140 Alala Road  
Kailua, HI 96734  
(808)266-7844*



## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** cachun@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 4:12 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** crosenlee@hsta.org  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

**Importance:** High

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017, 2:45pm

Chair Kidani 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 SB 683 and SB 686 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 advanced 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 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

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** bibilaguna@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 4:58 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Funding the future

To Whom It May Concern,

Our world is changing by the day. We have North Korea and Iran creating nuclear weapons, Russia aiding Syria and bombing civilians while fighting their enemies. We have lone wolves terrorizing the Western world. We have factual news vs fake news and many people can't tell the difference and therefore creating havoc in our country regarding many issues such as refugees and illegal immigration. Our children cannot watch TV without seeing violence, inappropriate sitcoms, and women being exploited (by choice) through sexual oriented advertisements. We have college students and civilians who demonstrate their lack of understanding that with free speech come with responsibilities. The list goes on and on.

How can you consciously maintain that Hawaiian Educators do not need additional funds to properly educate our students for the future. We do not even have a Social Studies/History curriculum in place for our students. We need to teach 21st Century mindset that prepares our students to become Patriotic Americans and Global Citizens in order to compete and work with all people in this world. We cannot be naive and ignore the challenges the future brings and the obstacles our students will face. We must prepare our students and set them up for success not failure. They are our future and it is our responsibility to ensure we do our best to put them first before politics, self interest, and waste. As Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Lets change the world and properly educate our students. Support Hawaii Educators by equipping us with the tools and effective curriculums that allow us to effectively teach.

Thank you.

## Regarding SB 686

RELATING TO EDUCATION  
FUNDING.

Report Title:

Education Surcharge; Residential Investment Properties; Visitor Accommodations

Description:

Establishes an education surcharge on residential investment properties and visitor accommodations for the purpose of funding public education.

I am in strong opposition to SB686.

My wife and I live in a rental property valued at close to \$1,000,000 and pay \$2,400 per month in rent. We cannot afford a home and therefore are forced to rent. Under this bill, the owner of our property would be assessed additional property tax of approximately \$4,250 and would likely increase our rent to offset the additional cost. That would increase our rent by \$354 per month. We cannot afford this increase.

Here is a breakdown of my calculations:

Home Value	For every \$1000 tax is assessed	# of 1000s in Column A		Property Tax	Months	Monthly
\$ 500,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	500.00	\$ 3.50	1,750.00		
\$ 250,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	250.00	\$ 4.50	1,125.00		
\$ 250,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	250.00	\$ 5.50	1,375.00		
\$ 1,000,000.00				\$ 4,250.00	12	\$ 354.17

I am a Certified Public Accountant and have a degree in Finance, so I understand full well how this will affect renters like us. However, most people without an understanding of the bill might read the headlines or read the ballot summary of the amendment and assume "investment property owners" are wealthy non-residents, especially since it is grouped with the visitor accommodations surcharge, and not read the "fine print" or do the math and realize that it has the potential to hurt some of the very people (educators) who it is intended to help.

I agree that the state of education in Hawaii is less than ideal. As a former teacher, I know firsthand the conditions teachers and students face every day. My wife is a former DOE teacher and currently an administrator in the DOE, so she supports additional funding to increase teacher pay. However, I don't agree that this increase in property tax is the way to fix the issue. This increase would likely impact most renters in Hawaii, as most properties in Hawaii rent for over \$1,500 per month and are valued at over \$500,000.

Please vote no on this measure and don't let it even become a possibility on the ballot.

Regards,

Daniel J. Diffenderfer

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 4:40 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** shannonkona@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB686 on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM

**SB686**

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Megan Medley, I am teacher at Iao intermediate school on Maui. I have been a teacher for eight years. Please pass SB 683 and SB 686 to increase funding for public schools.

I want to begin by saying that I am a teacher because I want to help young people succeed. I believe that every decision made in a school should be in the students best interest. I want to see computers in every classroom, textbooks for every student, smaller class sizes, more support staff, more special education teachers, resource rooms for students of all ages, pull out classes for ELL students and students with special needs and of course a library with a librarian that is open everyday of the week.

I also want to work with other teachers and staff members with a positive attitude towards their jobs. Speaking for myself I am exhausted at the end of the school day but the work day is not over for me at that point. Like so many other teachers I have three other part time jobs. After a long often stress filled day I muster the energy to go to my next job. Monday through Friday I leave for work at 7am and I do not return home until 7 or 8pm. Some days I go do three different jobs.

On Mondays I teach Uplinks until 4:30pm. Tuesdays I teach art at The Pa'ia Youth and Cultural Center until 6:00pm. Wednesdays I monitor the pool at The Maui Country Club until 7:00pm. Thursdays I teach Uplinks until 4:30 then I drive to the homeless shelter in Wailuku and I teach an Art class until 6:30pm. Fridays I monitor the pool at The Maui Country Club until 7:00pm. Saturdays I work at The Maui Country Club from 11-4pm. Sundays I teach Sunday School just because I want to. With a schedule like this I still struggle to pay my bills. I have \$40,000 in student loads on deferment because I can not afford to pay them and my rent every month.

When I came to Maui I brought with me 5 years of experience, a bachelors degree in biology and art education, plus 30 college credits in things like biochemistry, physics, astronomy and trigonometry. I spent hours getting the right paperwork to the recruitment office so I could be payed for the 30 credits. I was denied the pay increase because my credits where not all in Earth Science. This frustrated me because the knowledge I have gained by taking these 30 credits has made me a better teacher but Hawaii wont recognize me for it and pay me accordingly. Another colleague has a masters degree in administration but is not being payed for it because she is working as a teacher. There is no doubt that this colleague is a better teacher because of this masters degree.

In the three years that I have been teaching at Iao I have successfully earned 39 PDE3 credits and am currently working on 9 more. I'm happy to earn pay raises with these credits but I am discouraged that there is a salary cap of \$60,000. I believe that I should be able to earn more than this annul salary a year. Due to the low starting wages, the salary cap and the coast of living on Maui there is a high turn over rate for teachers. Time and time again I have heard people say they are moving because they can not afford to live on Maui with a teachers salary.

The job that an effective teacher does is worth more than \$60,000 a year. An effective teacher reaches the most difficult students on an intellectual and an emotional level. An effective teacher lets the swear words that are directed at them by students like verbal weapons roll of their shoulders. An effective teacher welcomes the same students back with open arms into there classroom. An effective teacher doesn't let it get to them that they are verbally abused at work on a daily bases. An effective teacher doesn't get discouraged when a student takes off his shirt and charges at her with an intent to fight. An effective teacher deals with all the discipline and calls home and meetings and still has time to prepare a meaningful lesson everyday and gather lab supplies and grade papers within the time they are given. An effective teacher can go home at the end of the day and leave the stress and thoughts of work at the door.

We all know that a teachers job is never done. A teachers patience is always being tested. And a teachers work load is always increasing. With these increases in demands on teachers there should also be an increase in pay. If you are interested in statistical analyses of teachers pay compared to other jobs and compared to teacher wages in the past read this article. Teacher Pay 1940–2000: Losing Ground, Losing Status by Ed Hurley, NEA Research Division (<http://www.nea.org/home/14052.htm>).

Sincerely,

**From:** [Logan HSTA Okita](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 6:20:50 PM

---

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani 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 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 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 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

---

**Sandra Rivas**

1870 Limahana Circle G201  
Lahaina, HI 96761  
Sandrella77@gmail.com

February 1, 2017

**Senate Education Committee**  
**SB683 and SB686** - RELATING TO EDUCATION

**Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:**

I am Sandra Rivas, a teacher at King Kamehameha III Elementary on Maui. I have been a teacher for 16 years. Please pass **SB 683** and **SB686** 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 lack of funding not only affects our keiki, but the quality of education students receive. Teachers need to be better paid, so students can have the best teachers. Many qualified teachers leave because the cost of living in Hawai'i is through the roof, and the pay is pathetic. **Only 57% of teachers medical insurance is covered by the state, 43% of medical is covered by teachers.** This is ridiculous, yet you expect them to be civil servants when disaster strikes. How, when they are busy working a second job. How are they to be the best, when the quality of life for teachers is the worst in the nation! Teachers have two or three jobs to stay above water, how do you expect teachers to provide excellent



teaching when they are overworked and tired. I ask that you please consider **passing SB683 and SB686**

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Rivas". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and larger than the rest of the letters.

**Sandra Rivas, King Kamehameha II Elementary, Maui**

**From:** [Rachael Fujii](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 7:04:49 PM

---

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Rachael Watson, a teacher at Pu'u Kukui Elementary School on the island of Maui. I have been a teacher for 12 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 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 low pay and a lack of resources are driving teachers out of the profession. Many, many qualified teachers who truly love building leaders of tomorrow continue to hold second and third jobs, to survive in Hawaii. These types of situations are horrendously detrimental to students, providing an environment non conducive to learning. Teachers are working additional jobs in their spare time instead of being able to plan, correct, and prep for classrooms that reflect a mindful atmosphere that teaches to the WHOLE child.*

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

Thank you for your time,  
Rachael Watson  
Pu'u Kukui Elementary School  
Waikapu, Maui

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 10:02 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** sandroyd@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB686 on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM\*

**SB686**

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
sandra adams	Individual	Support	No

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 9:16 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** foodsovereignty@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB686 on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM\*

**SB686**

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mitsuko Hayakawa	Individual	Support	No

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 8:11 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** lhammonds@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB686 on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM\*

**SB686**

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lynn Hammonds	Individual	Support	No

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

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

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 683 and SB 686 - 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



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 4:29 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** shannonkona@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB686 on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM

**SB686**

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:48 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** annsfreed@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB686 on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM

**SB686**

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ann S Freed	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill. See my testimony on SB683, Mahalo Ann S. Freed, Mililani

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:47 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** lakimura@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB686 on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM

**SB686**

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lance Kimura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I have a single rental property. I would normally live in the property. However, we use the rental income from this property to rent a place so we can be closer to my wife's family. If I am forced to pay for this increased tax, I will be either forced to raise the rent in direct proportion to the taxes levied. This will probably push my tenants to leave to try to find another place in an even more expensive rental market. The second option would be me to leave the place where I currently live and force my tenants to find another place to live. I do not want to do this to my tenants. Since I started to rent my place, I have not raised rent once despite increased taxation from the City and insurance premium rate hikes. If this bill is passed, I will have no choice but to follow through with a rent increase or force to move back and thus push out the tenants. This bill assumes almost as if rental property owners are swimming in excess cash. I wish it were the case. Please reconsider this bill and vote against it in its current form. I am in favor of taxation on visitors.

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:18 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** katc31999@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB686 on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM\*

**SB686**

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kat Culina	Individual	Support	No

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 9:06 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** jen.mather@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB686 on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM\*

**SB686**

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Mather	Individual	Support	No

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Clare Hanusz  
Nevzat Soguk  
1128 Kaumoku Street  
Honolulu, HI 96825

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2017

Chair Kidani 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 SB 683 and SB 686 to increase funding our State's schools.

Hawaii's public education system has been in crisis for so long that crisis has been normalized. 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 those 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

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 6:26 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** tiare@hapahi.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB686 on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM

**SB686**

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tiare Lawrence	Individual	Support	No

Comments: TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION RE: SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2017  
Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee: I am Tiare Lawrence, a mother from Maui. 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. To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo. Tiare Lawrence, 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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

HB 180  
RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING.

Establishes an education surcharge on residential investment properties and visitor accommodations the purpose of funding public education.

I understand the perennial need to create more funds for education but I have grave reservations about placing a surcharge on RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT PROPERTIES.

There appears to be a trend to conveniently "stick it" to property owners who have worked hard to obtain home ownership. The notion that all property owners are affluent and can continue to absorb increasing costs to finance government revenue needs is not true. Yes, there are investors who are affluent but if we thoughtlessly clump all property owners in one box, we'll be hastening gentrification - the affluent pushing the less affluent out.

I've been in real estate for 30 years and I've witnessed many residents, including those in public education, sacrificed much to own a home or obtain a second home to help with their income or to obtain a property for the children when they're grown with their own families. Many have planned ahead and live frugally, forgoing brand new trucks or vacations and so forth so they can afford to buy a home.

There is a difference between VISITOR ACCOMMODATIONS (that rent to tourists short-term) versus INVESTMENT PROPERTY.

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell, in his efforts to finance his rail boondoggle, has already doubled the property taxes for non-occupant shacks (RESIDENTIAL CLASS A) that are valued over \$1M. Unfortunately, landlords who provide reasonable rents have been forced to increase their rents. Some landlords said the increased property taxes alone now eat up 3 months of their rental income. Landlords have to content with other expenses, including ongoing maintenance in this tropical climate.



There are many reasons why are non-occupant 2nd homes. It could be that the kama'aina owner is not ready to come home to Hawaii to live. It could be an inheritance that has not transferred to a minor or a young family member is unable to take care of homeownership costs. It could be a local family depending on rental income for augment their salary.

RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT PROPERTIES are usually rented out long-term to tenants. Many landlords provide reasonable rents because they understand it's expensive in Hawaii. Some of these tenants-landlord relationships have lasted for decades.

If these properties continue to be targeted for property tax increases, these costs will unfortunately be passed on to the tenants. Who are these tenants? They include the kupuna on fixed income or families with public school children or the public school teachers themselves.

Will we be placing more hardships on our working families and kupuna renters on fixed income with this proposal?

Will we be forcing kamaaina property owners to sell because they no longer can afford to keep their homes?

Will we cost disruptions to our public school children or create more homeless situations because the tenants with children cannot afford the increased rents?

It's important that we carefully consider the over-arching scenario and the multiplier impacts on a solution we try to find. We may think we're trying to solve one problem but create many other problems.

The public sentiments, including that of school teachers also include the need for DOE to be more efficient and effective in its fiscal management across the board. A recurring comment appears to be the need to cut down on the expenses of its top-heavy administrative positions.

Mahalo,

Choon James

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Andrew Jones <jonesbaron23@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 10:43 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - 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 SB 683 and SB 686 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

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Ian Barbato <ibarbato@kamaile.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 10:34 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Ian Barbato, a teacher at Kamaile Academy on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 8 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 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 school because it is the only way we will be able to turn around the sad state of affairs our education system is currently in. We need to be able to recruit and retain quality, professional teachers. Without passing this measure, our students will continue to suffer and fall further and further behind the national average. Our public school students and teachers deserve and should be shown more respect than what they are currently getting. The disparity between public and private education in the state is deplorable.

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

Thank you for your time,  
NAME, SCHOOL, ISLAND

---

We expect these same proposals will get a hearing before the State House Education Committee shortly, and we will ask for your testimony once again on those proposals. But you can just cut and paste this testimony.

Many thanks!

--

Ian Barbato  
Kamaile Academy Public Charter School  
Dean of Students  
Phone: 808-697-7110 (Ext. 114)  
Fax: 808-697-7115

From: [Kimberly Okino](#)  
To: [EdU Testimony](#)  
Subject: Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686  
Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 7:07:20 PM

---

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Kimberly Okino, a teacher at King Kaumuali'i Elementary School on the island of Kauai. I have been a teacher for 28 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 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.

Students deserve to have a smaller class size. They are asked to achieve more than ever. Reducing the class size would directly benefit each child in a positive manner. It would afford much needed one on one time with the classroom teacher.

Each week I find myself going to various stores to purchase either materials for lessons, supplies or "extras" in an effort to engage my students and encourage their love for learning.

I am struggling to put my own daughter through college. I must work a part time job at night, teach summer school and tutor in order to supplement my income.

Please pass SB 683 and SB 686 to increase funding for my students, and my family. Consideration is most appreciated,

Kimberly Okino

King Kaumuali'i Elementary School

Kauai

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Shannon Hill <sjdlchill@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 9:28 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Shannon Hill, a teacher at Kamaile Academy, Waianae, Oahu. 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 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 literally, the children are our future. Anyone can see that Hawaii's public schools are currently inadequate. The buildings and facilities are largely not conducive to 21st century learning. Most schools lack enough Special Educators and Educational Assistants to effectively service students and support teachers. Spending per pupil has actually decreased over recent years, while teacher pay (when adjusted for cost of living) is very low. Despite all of this teachers still facilitate amazing success daily. Students still achieve great things. Imagine art, music, and STEM teachers in every school. Imagine what would occur with proper funding, proper pay, and 21st century facilities. Please vote yes on SB683 and SB686, and we will be taking a great step forward towards progress, fairness, and equity.

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

Mahalo,

Shannon Hill (Grade 6 English Language Arts)  
Kamaile Academy  
Waianae, Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** william braitsch <wxavier718@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 9:07 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani 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 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 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.

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

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

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Tyler Okamura-Tagupa <tagupa@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 8:59 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani 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 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 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, Olomana School, Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Edith Middleton <edithpmiddleton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 8:51 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Edith Middleton, a teacher at King Kekaulike High School and Maui. I have been a teacher for six 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 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 I am supporting school supplies from my own pocket. It would truly benefit teachers to have SmartBoards in the classrooms. I work 4 jobs to support my family of 3 and struggle to pay my bills which causes undue stress. The salary discrepancies between the various states are stark and it would truly be beneficial for our state of Hawaii to draw teachers who hold graduate degrees in their content areas. Even with a transient district, it would be more beneficial for our students to have teachers with higher education levels.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Edith Middleton

King Kekaulike High School  
Maui, Hawaii

**Edith P. Middleton**  
**203.414.2756 - Cell**

*To laugh often and much, to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children, to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends, to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others, to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded! ~ **Ralph Waldo Emerson***

*"Resolve to make at least one person happy every day, and then in ten years you may have made three thousand, six hundred and fifty persons happy, or brightened a small town by your contribution to the fund of general enjoyment." - Sydney Smith*

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Kathleen Booth <kathleenbooth4@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 8:07 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Kathleen Booth, a teacher at Connections Public Charter School on Hawaii Island. I have been a teacher for 10 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 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 there is a severe teacher shortage. Teachers work very hard and they put in an outrageous number of extra hours. If they aren't compensated appropriately they will continue to leave the profession. While I didn't go into teaching to become wealthy, I also didn't expect to have a difficult time paying my student loans and bills.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Kathleen Booth  
Connections Public Charter School  
Hawaii Island

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Anna Crawford <annabcrawford@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 12:53 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee

SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017

2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

Hi, My name is Anna Crawford, a World Language teacher at King Kekaulike High, Maui. I have been a teacher in Maui for 16 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 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 we desperately need to hire and retain qualified teachers who can afford to live in Hawaii. Every year our school has multiple vacancies it cannot fill. Often we do get highly qualified teachers from other states who soon realize how expensive it is to live in Hawaii. These great teachers end up leaving the state. I have seen over 100 teachers come and go over the years I have worked in Maui. Most of the teachers at my school have to work second jobs, myself included, to make ends meet.

Another reason we need to hire more teachers is class size. My first few teaching in Maui I had classes of 42 students stuffed into a portable classroom. I still have classes over 30. This does not make for optimal teaching and learning conditions. I work hard and love the keiki of this state

and want them to have the best chances of getting a good education. I am so tired of Hawaii always ranking low for academic achievement we can do better by our children!

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

Anna Crawford, King Kekaulike High, Maui

---

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Aaron Day <addleewardhsta@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 8:04 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Committee on Education

Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017

2:45pm

Honorable Chair Kidani and committee members,

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 SB683 and SB686, 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 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 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



## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Leilani Vila <dylanoah@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 5:19 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Leilani Vila, a teacher at Iroquois Point Elementary School in Ewa Beach, Oahu. I have been a teacher for 11 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 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 need a higher pay by thousands to survive comfortably without struggling to pay for our cost of living expenses. Teachers are so underpaid that I am having a difficult time paying for daily needs and expenses. With the high cost of living in Hawaii, my paycheck can only pay for food and bills. If not for my husband that earns ALOT more money than I do, we would not be able to pay for our mortgage and other expenses. Teachers are so important to the building of our children's future. WE are the creators of a better future. These children need educated teachers in the classroom! What are we selling these children short by making teachers leave their profession because we are not getting paid enough...just to live comfortably without living paycheck to paycheck. PLEASE hear us because we have the most important job! WE are not just teachers but all the other highly paid professions role titles combined. Take care of us teachers and I assure you the future of today's children will be better children in the future because there will be teachers who are highly qualified who won't leave their job due to staying at their job.

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

Thank you for your time,  
NAME, SCHOOL, ISLAND

**From:** [Marilou](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 7:29:21 PM

---

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Marilou Gorai, a teacher at Heeia 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 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 we need to create an environment where students will have all of the resources that they need to be effective in our ever-growing society. It is very difficult when I need to front up my own time and money to ensure that our students are receiving these resources because the school system is not providing enough resources in this new generation. I need to work part time jobs to ensure that my own family is financially stable because we are underpaid and underappreciated. When I have to work my part time jobs, I have to set more time aside after work to prepare for the next day at school. I would really appreciate it if we were paid reasonably so that I can be motivated to stay in this profession to help the children of the future.

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

Thank you for your time,

Marilou Gorai, Heeia Elementary School, Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Scott Yamauchi <yamauchi@hawaiiintel.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:47 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)  
[2:45pm](#)

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Carrie Yamauchi, a teacher at Kalaheo School, Kaua'i. I have been a teacher for 19 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 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 are not getting the proper help. One concern I have is that we do not have enough funding to support slow learners. When these students do not qualify for special education services, they continue to struggle in the general education classroom with whatever support the teacher can give. Our schools need more funding to support these students.

Another problem that I have seen over the years is the low quality RTI (intervention) services that schools provide because of lack of funding. RTI programs need to be improved to support students who are able to progress without specialized instruction from special education.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Carrie Yamauchi, Kalaheo School, Kaua'i

---

We expect these same proposals will get a hearing before the State House Education Committee shortly, and we will ask for your testimony once again on those proposals. But you can just cut and paste this testimony.

Many thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** vedicvixen7811@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:47 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB 683 SB 686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)  
[2:45pm](#)

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Danielle Tevis, a teacher at Kamali'i Elementary School. I have been a teacher for 13 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 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 low pay and lack of resources are driving teachers out of the profession and holding them to a poor quality of life. Often times teachers work multiple jobs and are unable to own a home. This effects the quality of the instruction and ultimately is harmful to our students. The future of our country is in jeopardy. We can't ignore this anymore. Our precious keiki are too important!

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

Thank you for your time,  
Danielle Tevis  
Kamali'i  
Maui

Sent from my iPhone

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Jodi Kunimitsu <jodikunimitsu@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:36 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Fwd: SB 683 and SB 686

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jodi Kunimitsu <[jodikunimitsu@gmail.com](mailto:jodikunimitsu@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** February 1, 2017 at 11:33:10 PM HST  
**To:** [EDNtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:EDNtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**Subject:** **SB 683 and SB 686**

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)  
[2:45pm](#)

Chair Kidani 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 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 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

TO: Members of the Committee on Education

FROM: Natalie Iwasa  
Honolulu, HI 96825  
808-395-3233

HEARING: 2:45 p.m. Friday, February 3, 2017

SUBJECT: SB 686 Constitutional Amendment for Real Property Tax Surcharge -  
**OPPOSED**

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 686, which would create a constitutional amendment for a real property tax surcharge as well as a special fund for education. I oppose this bill and urge you to vote “no.”

The bill defines “residential investment property” as all land and buildings dedicated for residential use for which the owner does not qualify for a homeowner’s exemption. “Investment” has come to be a dirty word in Hawaii, and the use of that word belies the fact that those properties are home to more than 40% of residents on Oahu who rent.

The amount of surcharge starts out at \$3.50/\$1,000 of assessed value. This is the current rate of real property tax charged to homeowners on Oahu (on properties up to \$1 million in assessed value). **The surcharge would double the real property taxes on rental properties** not in the Residential A classification. This additional tax would very likely be passed on to tenants and put more pressure on the lower end of the market.

The bill does include certain exemptions, but they are intrusive and would require significant resources to verify. For example, the exemption for property rented to a resident 65 or older who makes less than \$75,000 per year would require the disclosure of the tenant’s birth date and income. **Tenants should not be put in the position of having to release this information or face higher rents.**

This bill also calls for the creation of yet another special fund. Please – no more special funds.

I urge you to vote “**no**” on this bill.



## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Osa A. Tui, Jr. <osatui.rr@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:25 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani 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 **SB683** and **SB686** 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 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

**From:** [Antonina Monkoski-takamure](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 8:02:42 PM

---

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Antonina Monkoski-Takamure, a teacher at Iroquois Point 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 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 lack of funding restricts what I'd like to do with my students involving technology. I have my master's in Educational Technology, but we only have 10 chromebooks in my classroom. I currently have 22 students. Please tell me how I am supposed to utilize technology effectively, in a way to promote 21st century skills, when I don't have enough computers to even have students work on pairs on one computer? We say we want to prepare students for the future, but we don't provide them with sufficient tools to help them become college and career ready.

It is my third year teaching. I have been working two jobs since I started teaching. I had thought that with my master's degree and a professional career as a teacher, I wouldn't need a second job, however I have found that that is not the case. Many teachers I know work second and even third jobs. This leaves us exhausted and causes us to burn out quickly. Part of the Hawaii State Department of Education Strategic Plan is to increase teacher retention - this is because even the HDOE knows teachers are leaving the profession at an alarming rate. Teachers need to be paid a fair wage. We are responsible for educating the future, yet we are constantly looked down upon by society. **Teachers need to be valued - show us that you value and respect teachers.** If you ask students what they want to be when they grow up, you'll find that barely any want to be teachers. This is because even they know that we are overworked, under-appreciated, and not respected by society.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Antonina Monkoski-Takamure, Iroquois Point Elementary, Oahu



Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Susan Suzuki, a teacher at Konawaena Elementary School on the Island of Hawaii. I have been a teacher for 28 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 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 low pay leads to seasoned teachers retiring at age 55 instead of ages 62 or 67. They do not feel appreciated for all the hard work they do in the evenings and on weekends. This leads to more positions going vacant and less qualified teachers for our keiki.

New teachers are leaving the state for the mainland within 5 years since they cannot afford to buy housing of their own in our expensive economy. More support for our new teachers are needed so they will stay in the profession and give our keiki quality education and stability in their schools.

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

Thank you for your time,

Susan K. Suzuki  
Konawaena Elementary School  
Island of Hawaii

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Nanna Lindberg <nanna.lindberg82@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 10:36 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
**SB683 and SB686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION**  
Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)  
[2:45 p.m.](#)

### **Chair Kidani 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 SB683 and SB686 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:

- 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 High School, Maui



**From:** [Anne Rehart](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 8:06:41 PM

---

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Anne Rehart, a teacher at Kamaile Academy PCS on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 2 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 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, we need money for EA supports for example. We have one EA to assist with 89 6th grade students total. Of these we have many identified and low achieving students that need support. Another issue at our school, as well as everywhere in Hawaii, is our continual loss of teachers because it is too expensive here and our pay does not take into account our cost of living. Personally, my family and I may have to leave if my salary does not go up due to economic hardship and I have 2 graduate degrees! Our students deserve long term, established teachers that know Hawaiian values and understand the culture here. We must do better!

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

Mahalo Nui,

Anne M. Rehart

*Secondary Special Education Math/Science  
Kamaile Academy PCS Oahu*

*The mind is everything. What you think you become ~ Buddha*



## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Michael Kline <mikekline999@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 9:45 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

Here are the facts:

There is a teacher shortage **crisis**. We are the **lowest paid** teachers in the country when you factor in the cost of living. We have the **worst teaching conditions** for teachers in the country. More than **10,000** public school children go to school every day and **don't have a qualified teacher** in their classrooms. **One in seven** Special Education teachers are not qualified. For many years, our keiki have been harmed because of these factors. It is time to stop this!!!

I truly believe that you want Hawai'i to shine in our country for its education system and for our students to make great gains. It is time to act! It is time to show that you really care and support our keiki, teachers and schools.

HSTA has spent a lot of time and money to research and formulate these bills. They are based on data and propose real solutions. It is time to trust our HSTA teachers who have helped put forth these bills, as the ones who are in the trenches, who know our schools and know what we need.

I am a Special Education teacher with over 18 years of experience in the DOE. I have two masters degrees and have been National Board Certified since 2003. I am currently teaching at Kilauea School on Kaua'i and have seen the negative effects on our students. When there wasn't a Special Education teacher to hire a few years ago, a full-time sub was hired. However, I was asked to be in charge of the 15 students' IEP's, testing, meetings, and help the sub through out the year all in addition to being in charge of all of my Special Education preschoolers. It was impossible to juggle it all. The sub didn't have the necessary skills to manage her class and ultimately, all of the students were impacted negatively. This is but one example and similar horror stories happen all of the time and it has to stop once and for all. We need to retain teachers, the best teachers and have a qualified teacher in every class.

I ask that you pass SB684 and SB 686 and take a bold step toward improving our schools. I will be there on Friday and want to witness the positive first steps I know our legislature can take to really supporting our keiki, teachers, and schools. Make us proud!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Don't let us and our keiki down!!!

Mahalo.

Michael Kline

Special Education Teacher  
Kilauea School, Kaua'i  
808-651-9992

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Kristi Miyamae <kristim808@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 9:31 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani 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 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 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.

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

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

**From:** [Jessica Liggon](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 8:16:34 PM

---

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani 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 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 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 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 SB 683 and SB 686 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

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** kgannet29 . <kgannet@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 9:16 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Keanuenue Gannet, a teacher at Makaha Elementary School on O`ahu. 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 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 a teacher's sense of self-worth is crucial when modeling how to navigate the future for our students. I have to hold several other jobs to make sure my family is supported financially. Because of this I am unable to be there as much as I should be to support them emotionally and spiritually. I rely on my wife to take care of my daughters while I'm absent due to not making enough money to afford our mortgage, food expenses, car expenses, and other basic living expenses on a teacher's salary. I put it all of my waking hours to working, and the majority of that work is for my students at school. I've contemplated many times this year whether I've made the right decision to become a teacher and whether or not living in Hawaii, where I was born, where my family is from, where my heart is, was the right decision. I don't want to leave Hawaii and watch the students suffer but my family's well-being will always come first. All I ask is that teachers are paid accordingly for the work that they put in; right now it is not adequate pay.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Keanuenue Gannet, Makaha Elementary, O`ahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Natasha Taketa <tsunrise12@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 11:44 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)  
2:45pm

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am Natasha Taketa, a teacher at McKinley High School on Oahu. I have been a 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.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because in my social studies classes, I only have one textbook for each subject. My students need to share that one book in order to do their work.

I also do not have reliable internet access in my classroom for the students and I to use. I use the internet frequently to help supplement the lessons in class. There is a Ethernet port in my room, but the laptop that I am provided with does not have that capability. The laptop is wireless access only and the closest signal is the building next door. Both my building and that other building where I try to catch the wireless signal from is concrete, so the signal is extremely weak.

Also, please help lower our class sizes. My largest class is only 15 students, my smallest is 8, but that's because the students I teach have failed their regular classes and they were put into a smaller class size environment to help them pass! Their former regular classes are on average 35+ students. My students are doing better now since they can receive the extra one on one time with me, but they shouldn't have needed to fail the first time in order to receive the support they needed in a smaller class size environment.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Natasha Taketa  
McKinley High School  
Oahu

TO: Members of the Committee on Education

FROM: Natalie Iwasa  
Honolulu, HI 96825  
808-395-3233

HEARING: 2:45 p.m. Friday, February 3, 2017

SUBJECT: SB 686 Constitutional Amendment for Real Property Tax Surcharge -  
**OPPOSED**

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 686, which would create a constitutional amendment for a real property tax surcharge as well as a special fund for education. I oppose this bill and urge you to vote “no.”

The bill defines “residential investment property” as all land and buildings dedicated for residential use for which the owner does not qualify for a homeowner’s exemption. “Investment” has come to be a dirty word in Hawaii, and the use of that word belies the fact that those properties are home to more than 40% of residents on Oahu who rent.

The amount of surcharge starts out at \$3.50/\$1,000 of assessed value. This is the current rate of real property tax charged to homeowners on Oahu (on properties up to \$1 million in assessed value). **The surcharge would double the real property taxes on rental properties** not in the Residential A classification. This additional tax would very likely be passed on to tenants and put more pressure on the lower end of the market.

The bill does include certain exemptions, but they are intrusive and would require significant resources to verify. For example, the exemption for property rented to a resident 65 or older who makes less than \$75,000 per year would require the disclosure of the tenant’s birth date and income. **Tenants should not be put in the position of having to release this information or face higher rents.**

This bill also calls for the creation of yet another special fund. Please – no more special funds.

I urge you to vote “**no**” on this bill.



## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Vickie Kam <vlpkam@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 12:03 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for: Senate Education Committee SB 683 and SB 686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Vickie Parker Kam, a teacher at Ilima Intermediate on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 15 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 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 are deserving of a living wage. In the State of Hawaii that is higher than many places, however, it does not make the work we do less important. The current high cost of medical coverage is also causing great struggles for teachers, especially those with families to support. By funding this bill it will allow for a Dept of Education budget that would support teachers wages, provide money for resources for school upgrades in technology and services. Those of us that work in older schools, mine was built in 1961, are in a work environment that is outdated, in disrepair and occasionally unsafe. The money invested in school upgrades will definitely benefit our students.

To deliver the Schools Our Keiki Deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,

Vickie Parker Kam

Ilima Intermediate

Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Ashley Wolstein <aweber8@hawaii.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 12:36 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

### **Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686**

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Ashley Wolstein, a teacher at Halau Ku Mana (Oahu). I have been a teacher for nine 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 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 we will not successfully prepare students for the future if we do not provide them access to technology. Additionally, as a teacher, I consistently spend my own funds to make sure our haumana are provided with culturally-relevant and rigorous texts. Over the last four years, I have worked at two Hawaiian charter schools where facility funding clearly robs our students from access to high quality libraries. Hakipu'u Learning Center has a library, but many of the texts are uninteresting or inappropriate for the students' level and interests. When I taught at Radford, 150 of my regular education students had to share thirty copies of one book. This meant they lacked the basic educational right to take the book home and prevented them from having quality homework assignments that would have greatly impacted their learning gains. My friends from the mainland thought of my Radford classroom as one from the Stone Age. I understand facilities are expensive, but our students, at the very least, deserve access to quality learning materials. I am in a Ph.D program at present, studying Reading, Language, & Literacy, and a recurring trend in the research is that students need rich school and classroom libraries, including texts that are interesting to them and are appropriate for their reading level, if they are going to make sustainable gains. This, too often, is not the case.

Furthermore, Hawai'i needs to retain teachers; if we continue to lose quality teachers and hire unqualified ones, the quality of instruction, perhaps the most important asset our educational system has, will detract from the quality of the education our students receive. Quite frankly, they deserve better. This requires paying Hawaii's teachers a livable salary; one that does not require they work three extra jobs to pay their bills (this deters from their teaching efforts). We rank last in terms of

teacher pay, once you factor in quality of living. To improve retention and teacher quality, this needs to be addressed.

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

Thank you for your time,

Ashley Wolstein, Halau Ku Mana, Oahu

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 2:00 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** debbievida@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB686 on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM

**SB686**

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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 as 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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** ms.a.olson@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 1:21 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony

Testimony for: House Education Committee  
SB683 and SB686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2 p.m.

Chair Kidani 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 SB683 and SB686 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 SB683 and SB686 will help to create a dedicated funding stream for Hawaii schools. Supporting SB683 and SB686 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 SB683 and SB686.  
Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,

Ashley Olson

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Erika Hahn <erikamariahahn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 2:06 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Our Students Deserve Better!!

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Erika Hahn, a teacher at Kauai High School on Kauai. I have been a teacher for 6 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 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... our students deserve better. As a Special Education teacher I see on a daily basis the high level of needs our students face every day. With the move towards Inclusion classrooms, but a lack of actual forethought about how to best utilize this, teachers need more time to plan and integrate realistic and workable plans for student success. Ideally, we would bring back Pullout Classes in combination with Inclusion classes, to meet the needs of our learners.

At present, I teach in 9th grade classes that have students who read at a 3rd grade level and students who read at a post-secondary level. The same follows for writing skills; reading proficiency and fluency directly ties to writing ability. It is a dis-service to students academically to have such a wide range in one small room. Reducing class size would help this dramatically.

We need a reasonable salary increase; I go to my 2nd job right after school. Luckily I enjoy my job as a private tutor and I feel proud of my one-on-one work, not to mention being paid as a professional for my skill set. However, if I did not have to have a 2nd job, I'd have more time and energy to devote to my high school students. In order to pay off my graduate student loans (which I pursued to become a teacher) I need more income, one way or the other.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Erika Hahn, Kauai High School, Kauai.

---



## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** B. K. DeRego <dercoff@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 2:18 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Relating to Education - SB683 & SB686

Date: February 2, 2017

To: The Honorable Chair Michelle Kidani and Members of the Education Committee:

From: Beatrice DeRego, Teacher  
Hawaii Dept. Of Education

Re: SB 683 & SB 686– Relating to Education - Dedicated Funding Source for Public Schools

On behalf of the faculty and students at my school, I strongly support S.B. 683 and S.B. 686.

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 **SB683** and **SB686** 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** hughey2000@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 12:58 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Madame Chair Kidani 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 SB683 & SB686.**

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

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Roxane Stewart' <rstewart99489@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 2:29 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Roxane Stewart, a teacher at Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo Hawaiian Immersion Public Charter School in Keaukaha, Hilo. I have been a teacher on Hawai'i island for 17 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 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, especially our charter schools that ARE public schools because every child deserves equal educational opportunities whether they are in a regular DOE school or a charter school. No matter how the fiscal information is manipulated, charter schools are not equally funded but are vital components of the communities and families they service and are in many ways leading innovative changes to education. We are in our third year of piloting our own standardized summative assessment (given to all grade levels at Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo) that are based on specific learning expectations. We are working with a psychometrician in evaluating our assessment data to ensure the results are statistically valid and reliable. In this effort we are leaps and bounds ahead of what ESSA is supposed to do for our schools.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Roxane Stewart  
Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo Hawaiian Immersion Public Charter School  
Papakū Makawalu Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Specialist  
Keaukaha, Hilo

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Mary Garrett <marsydnal1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 2:35 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Mary Garrett, a teacher at Honoka'a Elementary School on the Big Island. I started teaching in Hawaii in July of 2016 after 19 years teaching on the mainland. 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 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 our children deserve the best education that is available. When Honoka'a Elementary had their back to school/parent night in August of 2016, the first thing many of my parents asked was if I was a real teacher. One mother explained that she move her son to Honoka'a Elementary School because he has not had a real teacher in three years. Two years his classroom had a substitute for the entire year and one year the classroom had a Teach for America teacher. Although this lady was trying to teach the class, she did not have any classroom management skills that teachers with an education degree are required to take in order to graduate with a teaching degree.

Another reason that we need to have these bills passed is so that funding can be used to improve school facilities. My classroom does not have heating or air conditioning. One of my parent got a

letter in the mail since her son has been out over 20 times since the beginning of the school year. We spoke about his absences. She explained that her child has asthma. Since we don't have HVAC at the school, we need leave the windows open. The vog sets off his asthma. Mom has had to choose between his health or his education.

Finally, we need these bill passed so teacher can be paid a competitive salary. At this point I have to work a second job in order to stay living in Hawaii. After leaving school, I have to race down to my waitressing job. There I am on my feet standing for another 7 hours. I usually get back home at midnight. I go to bed so I can get back up at 5:30 AM to be at school by 7:00 AM.

In conclusion, If teachers received a cost of living raise, many teachers would not have to continue working second jobs. If money is allotted for improvement of school facilities, then students would have a safe and healthy environment. Finally, if money is allocated for recruiting/retaining quality certified teachers the Hawaii public schools would greatly improve.

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

Thank you for your time,

Mary M. Garrett

Honoka'a Elementary School

Big Island of Hawaii

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 3:04 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** Moss.jade.e@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB686 on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM

**SB686**

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jade Moss	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please see my testimony under hb180. Our keiki thank you!

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)



## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Kimmy Malia <mauigurl808@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 4:46 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Kimberly Naylor, a teacher at Shafter Elementary on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 7 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 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.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Kimberly Naylor Shafter Elementary, Oahu

**-If You Cannot Do Great Things, Do Small Things In A Great Way-**  
-Napoleon Hill

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Natalie Schwab  
Individual

Friday, February 3, 2017, 2:45pm  
Conference Room 229, Hawaii State Capitol

Support for S.B. No. 686, Relating to Education Funding.

SB 686 establishes an education surcharge on residential investment properties and visitor accommodations for the purpose of funding public education. I am a current graduate student at the University of Hawaii, School of Social Work and have worked in Hawaii public schools for years on Oahu. I have also worked in schools on the continental United States, as well as abroad. My statement on this measure does not necessarily represent an institution position of the University of Hawaii.

I support the intent of this bill and efforts to improve and expand high need areas of public education. I believe the school programs that this legislature could potentially support, such as technical, arts, and cultural studies programs, are significant for the development of healthy, intelligent keiki in Hawaii. I have witnessed and experienced the impact these types of programs have had when implemented successfully in schools. My experiences have shown me how beneficial these programs are for children, families, and the school environment as a whole. I believe that the current school programs in Hawaii are lacking, especially in promoting cultural connectedness.

The surcharge on residential investment properties and visitor accommodations is a fair process of getting funds to provide for education. Concern for the already inflated taxation of property is understandable. However, it is a small price to pay for an investment in our keikis' futures.

This bill could fairly fund the improvement of public schools' programs and better support our teachers. Hawaii's children are the future leaders of this great state and deserve better educational resources and experiences. I strongly suggest that this bill be passed for its potential for positive impact for Hawaii's youth. I urge you to pass SB 686.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

I am in strong opposition to SB686.

My husband and I live in a rental property valued at close to \$1,000,000 and pay \$2,400 per month in rent. We cannot afford a home and therefore are forced to rent. Under this bill, the owner of our property would be assessed additional property tax of approximately \$4,250 and would likely increase our rent to offset the additional cost. That would increase our rent by \$354 per month, which is a 15% increase. We are both working professionals but since we both work for the government, our salaries are modest and our health care costs, in addition to the cost of living in Hawaii, are significant. We could not afford such an increase in our monthly (or annual) rent.

As a Certified Public Accountant and with a degree in Finance, my husband understands full well how this will affect renters like us. He did the calculations above. However, most people without an understanding of the bill might read the headlines or read the ballot summary of the amendment and assume "investment property owners" are wealthy non-residents, especially since it is grouped with the visitor accommodations surcharge, and not read the "fine print" or do the math and realize that it has the potential to hurt some of the very people (educators) who it is intended to help.

As a former teacher and now as an administrator for the DOE, I am in support with the intent of this bill. I absolutely believe that the DOE needs additional funding to increase teacher pay and that a regular funding mechanism would help to adequately fund our schools. Most teachers in the DOE work very hard in difficult conditions, with inadequate resources. Our students absolutely deserve to learn in an environment that is clean, well ventilated, and safe. However, I don't agree that this increase in property tax is the way to fix the issue. This increase would likely impact most renters in Hawaii, as most properties in Hawaii rent for over \$1,500 per month and are valued at over \$500,000. Many educators like me who cannot afford to be homeowners would be bearing the cost of this bill/amendment, which would contradict the intent of helping our schools and helping educators.

Please do not pass this bill in its current form. The tax on investment properties hurts renters and would negatively impact many educators as well as families who cannot afford to own property in Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cherilyn Inouye

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 8:37 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** rkailianu57@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB686 on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM

**SB686**

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: This year is filled with charging citizens/tax payers with so much tax for almost every government department. We are now using our keiki/children as a tool to extract money to cover all the promised improvements to our islands.

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Education Committee

Feb.3, 2017  
CR 22

SB686  
SB683

Chair Michelle Kidani and members of the Committee on education:

I am Marcia Linville speaking in support of SB 686 and SB 683, as the Education Caucus DPH, SCC member.

The DOE has long been underfunded in both libraries and Schools. Results of that underfunding in limitations in both services and personnel have had profound adverse impacts on the children and the economy of the state . Hawaii schools presently lack approximately 1600 qualified teachers. 70 % of children on the big island have never had a formal library experience, according to testimony at the BOE. The last available Smarter Balance test showed 53% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders incompetent in reading. The past years have shown many efforts in redressing these problems, but staff shortages continue, school maintenance suffers, classrooms remain overheated and populations remain unable to access library services. There is simply not enough money to redress these problems without seriously impacting other services of the state. New requirements on the DOE resulting from the ESSA. Strategic Plan, and the Governors Innovation project will require new sources of funding.

The proposals of both SB 686 and SB683 would resolve these problems. They would provide significant additional revenues without seriously impacting Hawaii's working and limited income population.

I ask your support for SB 686 and SB 683 for the children and the future of the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this very important matter.

Marcia Linville  
536-4466

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Jennie Hancock <mrshancock808@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 7:21 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB683 and SB686

Honorable Chair Kidani and committee members,

My name is Jennie Hancock. I am a teacher at Waikoloa Elementary and Intermediate School on the island of Hawaii. This is my 4th year teaching in Hawaii. I spent my first year at Hale Kula Elementary School--recently renamed Daniel K. Inouye Elementary--on Schofield Barracks, and the following two years teaching at Paauilo Elementary and Intermediate School on the Hamakua Coast of the Big Island.

I speak in support of SB683 and SB686, Relating to Education, to increase funding for our public schools.

We have seen in the media and from reports from the Department of Education, HSTA, and others that Hawai'i's public schools rank poorly in teacher recruitment and retention, teacher pay, and student achievement. I, my 13,000 certificates colleagues, support staff, and especially the students suffer the ramifications of the poor state of Hawaii's public schools. We are the only state in the nation that does not currently use property taxes to fund our schools. While wealthier areas of our state do not fare disproportionately better than impoverished areas, it has led to all schools throughout the islands being chronically underfunded.

Our Hawaii public schools need an additional, reliable, sustainable source of funding to supplement our current funding. My second year of teaching in Hawaii, which was my first year at Paauilo School, I was assigned a class of 34 second graders. I had so many students that I could only fit desks and bodies in my classroom. I was forced to relocate my 3 desktop computers to my neighbor's classroom--the special education teacher--and after a week I was forced to remove my carpet. I don't know when the last time you were in an elementary classroom was, but the carpet is a critical place for whole group instruction and community--or what I call classroom family--building. I remember telling my administrator at one point that I felt like there were days that I didn't even get a chance to look every student in the eye, which is absolutely heartbreaking to me still. I was stretched so thin trying to meet the needs of an extremely large, extremely diverse group of young learners, and I was using my own money to buy supplies for my students. I don't have time to get into the shoddy, non-ADA compliant state our facilities are in all over the state but can tell you my students and I have dealt with moldy ceilings, falling paint, and extremely hot classrooms.

Last summer, I was displaced from Paauilo because of a lack of adequate funding due to decreasing student population. Three teachers were "rifted" because when students left to go to Honokaa schools, private school, or Kamehameha, Paauilo lost out on their Weighted Student Formula money. Paauilo school is a school with one class per grade level. They pulled 3 non-classroom teachers into classroom positions and displaced 3 great classroom teachers.

Supporting these proposals supports all of our efforts to bring 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 and build meaningful relationships, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies--something my first graders are currently lacking, resources for special needs students, and professional pay that reflects that value of our hardworking teachers. These bills ensure the funds collected will address the issues mentioned instead of

simply increasing the current administration-directed funding system. Without these changes we cannot effectively provide for the students served by our public schools or the teachers serving.

Please help the students and teachers of Hawaii by supporting these bills. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jennie Hancock  
Waikoloa School, Hawaii Island

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Barbara Haight <surfer.mom@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 8:00 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Barbara Haight, a teacher at Waimea Middle Public Conversion Charter School. I have been a teacher for [INSERT YEARS] 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 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 smaller schools especially do not have the funds to provide regular art or music to our students in rural areas. These students often cannot afford lessons and may never have the chance to tap into talents that then, support all other core courses.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Barbara Haight, Waimea Middle PCCS.



## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Troy Freitas <troyfreitas@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 8:19 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Troy Freitas a teacher at Radford High. I have been a teacher for 17 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 without these monies, I am afraid we may not attract or keep quality teachers in the school system. Students learn best when they have high quality.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Troy Freitas  
Radford High School

Sent from my iPhone

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Kristi Miyamae <kristim808@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 8:26 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Shirley Mori, a teacher at Wheeler Middle 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 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.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Shirley Mori  
Wheeler Middle  
Oahu

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Lindsay Fassett <lindsay.i.fassett@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 8:31 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am LINDSAY FASSETT, a teacher at JAMES CAMPBELL HIGH SCHOOL on OAHU. I have been a teacher for 7 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 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 economy depends on having an educated work force.

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

Thank you for your time,  
LINDSAY FASSETT, JAMES CAMPBELL HIGH SCHOOL, OAHU

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Laura Buller <buller.laura@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 11:35 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB 683 and SB 686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Laura Buller, a teacher at Molokai High School, Molokai . I have been a teacher for 21 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 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 at Molokai High have not had a full selection of CTE, Fine Arts, Music, Auto Shop, for over 15 years. We do not have enough funding to hire a World Language teacher. Our small rural community is more dependent on vocational skills. We want our students to find success and be prepared to be contributing members to our community and state. In the nearly 20 years that I have worked at Molokai High it has been over ten years since we have been able to purchase new textbooks. The lack of current curriculum resources leaves our student behind. The past seven years classroom supply funding including curriculum has been zero for three of those year and less than \$400.00 in the other years. This year's supply and curriculum money is all I will see for the next two years as next year we do not have enough funds to cover. Molokai students deserve an equal education. HB 180 and HB182 are new funding sources that would help our education system provide a rich learning experience and prepare our keiki for a stronger Hawaii.**

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

Thank you for your time,  
Laura Buller, Molokai High School, Molokai

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Serena Lynn <serena.lynn50@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2017 12:08 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** Cha, Brandon; Serena Lynn  
**Subject:** SB683 And SB 686 relating to education

Testimony before the Senate Committee on Education  
SB683 and SB686 - Relating to Education  
Friday, February 3, 2017  
Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I am Serena Lynn, a teacher at Waimea Elementary School, Kamuela, HI, on the Big Island. I ask that you pass SB683 And SB686 to increase funding for public schools.

My testimony emphasizes teacher retention and recruitment offering professional pay that reflects a realistic cost of living increase.

I lived in Kailua-Kona in the late 80's-90's, I'm a graduate of UH-Hilo. I taught at Mountain View Elementary, and at Waiakea Elementary in Hilo. I moved to North Carolina where I acquired my master degree and National Board Certification. But I dreamed of returning to Hawaii. I returned In July 2013, upon hearing of the teacher shortage. I wanted to live my dream. I figured I'd have a teaching position by the first day of school, August 1, 2013. Only to find myself homeless and jobless, until late October. No one informed me of the order of job postings, nor that we don't get paid for 6 weeks, nor that my master Degree was not applicable and I would take a \$22,000 cut in pay. All this forced me to find a menial job at Macy's and I eventually applied for food stamps, in order to survive. I almost went back to NC, but I was determined to stay. Hawaii is home, to me. I love the people and the culture, and I returned because the children needed quality teachers. Finally, in October, I was offered a position at Waimea elementary (50 miles away), and was fortunate to get approved for teacher housing for three years. But, my day job in Kindergarten and night job at Macy's (25 miles away) really wore me down.

The children deserved my full attention and stamina. I was responsible for their first school experiences in socialization, literacy, math and science. Kindergarteners are very active. They sing, dance, learn, and play very enthusiastically. And thank God, I kept up with them! Then off to Macy's.

I had joined the ranks of the teachers who work two jobs to make enough money to pay the rent and survive.

This was a very difficult transition for me. I understand why teachers leave.

Please support SB683 and SB686 for the sake of retaining and recruiting quality teachers with a professional pay that is realistic to the high cost of living.

Thank you for your time.

Serena Lynn  
NBCT, MSA

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Karen Robledo <karenrkula@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2017 1:08 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** SB683 and SB 686 Education

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing [on Friday, February 3, 2017](#)  
[2:45pm](#)

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Karen Robledo, a teacher at Waiakea Elementary School on the Big Island. I have been a teacher for 27 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 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 I see principles and staff haggling over the number of teacher positions needed in grade levels to ensure adequate student teacher ratios. How can one teacher meet the needs of identified students, regular ed students, ELL students, students who are homeless, are neglected at home, have single parents, are from low income, drug abusing families, children with emotional Issues, and more in a class of almost 30? We have brainstormed ideas on how to bring arts into the schools but the plan is scrapped due to lack of money. Many of my colleagues hurry off to their second jobs because our low pay is inadequate to support families in our state of Hawaii, with its astronomical cost of living. I myself have worried about paying bills and even took out a loan to pay my rent. Lack of funding does affect all students. To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills. Mahalo.

Thank you for your time,  
Karen Robledo

Waiakea Elementary School  
Hawaii Island

---

Sent from my iPhone

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Work <ms.melanie.chan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2017 2:35 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** SB683 and SB686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
**SB683 and SB686** - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
[2 p.m.](#)

### **Chair Kidani 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 **SB683** and **SB686** 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

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Alvin Lacar <alvin\_lacar@aliamanumiddle.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2017 7:21 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee  
SB 683 and SB 686 - RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing on Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Alvin Lacar, a teacher on Oahu. I have been a teacher for 6 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 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.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Alvin Lacar  
Aliamanu Middle  
Oahu

## **EDU Testimony**

---

**From:** lorey ishihara <loreyishihara@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2017 8:00 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Please support

To All Leaders of Education in Hawaii:

Please support teachers through the passage of SB683 and SB686. This is a unique and creative method to raise the necessary funding for the livelihood of educators in Hawaii. Your support will alleviate the grave financial burdens faced by teachers every month.

Thank you for your time, effort, and earnest consideration of SB683 and SB686.

Sincerely,

Lorey Ishihara  
Teacher

## EDU Testimony

---

**From:** Katherine Ciccarelli <kaciccarelli@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2017 9:54 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB683 and SB686

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Katherine Ciccarelli, a teacher at Kihei Charter School on Maui. I have been a teacher for 7 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 students are struggling and not receiving the educational experience they deserve and our country needs. We currently have very few supplies including limited white board markers and manipulatives. I recently borrowed a set of geometry manipulatives and in minutes was able to demonstrate a concept hands on that my students were struggling to understand in theory. Supplies help students gain a better understanding of material and become more engaged with what they're learning. With more supplies, we could improve education. I also have had the opportunity to work with small class sizes and am amazed at the difference it makes in the classroom. Students are able to get the attention they need both academically and emotionally. They're not lost in the crowd and feel more like they belong and as a result are more engaged in their learning. Small class sizes allow such a positive environment for the students. I know many teachers that are very qualified, with Master's degrees like myself, that have been receiving low pay, minimal supplies, and high class sizes and choose to leave the profession because of all of the frustrations that come with this. One in particular worked as a teacher in the public schools for 5 years and then left because it became too much last December for a job in Hawaii outside of the public schools. She was a wonderful teacher and great asset to our school. With more funding we can improve the environment of the classroom, the academics, and the quality of teachers.

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

Thank you for your time,  
Katherine Ciccarelli, Kihei Charter School, Maui

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 10:34 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** john.from.stl@alumni.stanford.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB686 on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM\*

**SB686**

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Maurer	Individual	Support	No

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)