



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
April 20, 2017 at 4:15 p.m.

By

Risa E. Dickson, Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy  
University of Hawai'i System

SCR 162 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO COORDINATE WITH HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN HAWAII AND TO PARTNER WITH DEBATE ORGANIZATIONS IN ORGANIZING EVENTS FOR STUDENTS TO DEBATE ON CURRENT ISSUES AFFECTING HAWAII AND THE NATION

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the committee:

SCR 162 notes that debates and debate events develop skills in speaking and knowledge of public events, and requests the Hawai'i Department of Education work with other groups to organize debates on selected topics at the State Capitol.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) appreciates the benefits of student debate, but does not support the adoption of SCR 162 due to the necessity of additional resources to implement and coordinate a program, and the uncertainty of both the state and federal budget situations at this time. The University defers to the Department of Education on these matters.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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

**Date:** 04/20/2017

**Time:** 04:15 PM

**Location:** 329

**Committee:** House Higher Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Resolution:** SCR 162 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO COORDINATE WITH HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN HAWAII AND TO PARTNER WITH DEBATE ORGANIZATIONS IN ORGANIZING EVENTS FOR STUDENTS TO DEBATE ON CURRENT ISSUES AFFECTING HAWAII AND THE NATION.

**Purpose of  
Resolution:**

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) is unable to support SCR 162, as introduced, which requests the Department to coordinate and organize speech and debate events for public and private school students attending high schools and college. Although the Department encourages student participation in debate events, we lack the resources and capacity to organize and coordinate such events.

The Department could support this resolution with the following amendments:

- (1) Changing its title to read: "ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS, AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN HAWAII TO PARTNER WITH DEBATE ORGANIZATIONS TO WORK WITH THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT TO PROMOTE EVENTS FOR STUDENTS TO DEBATE ON CURRENT ISSUES AFFECTING HAWAII AND THE NATION.";
- (2) Adding a whereas clause after line 23 to read as follows: "WHEREAS, organizations should promote debate events as resources allow; now, therefore," and
- (3) Rephrasing lines 26-39 on page 2 to read as follows: "BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Education, Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission, Hawaii Homeschool Association, the University of Hawaii System, Hawaii Pacific University, Brigham Young

University-Hawaii, Chaminade University, Debate Hawaii, and Hawaii Speech League are encouraged to work with the House Committee on Legislative Management to promote events for Hawaii public and private high school students and higher education students to engage in the debate of current and relevant issues, including legislative measures, that affect the State and the Nation; and”

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 162.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 18, 2017 4:50 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** kaulanad@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SCR162 on Apr 20, 2017 16:15PM\*

**SCR162**

Submitted on: 4/18/2017

Testimony for HED on Apr 20, 2017 16:15PM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaulana Dameg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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hashem2 - Michael

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 10:59 AM  
To: HEDtestimony  
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for SCR162 on Apr 20, 2017 16:15PM\*

**SCR162**

Submitted on: 4/19/2017

Testimony for HED on Apr 20, 2017 16:15PM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments:

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hashem2 - Michael

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**LATE**

**SCR162**

Submitted on: 4/19/2017

Testimony for HED on Apr 20, 2017 16:15PM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Margaret Maupin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE**

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**SCR162**

Submitted on: 4/19/2017

Testimony for HED on Apr 20, 2017 16:15PM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marielle Ramos	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: This online testimony is in regards to the senate who is requesting the department of education to coordinate with high school associations and higher education institutions in Hawaii to partner with debate organizations in organizing events for students regarding issues that are affecting Hawaii and the Nation.

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# Late Testimony

## TESTIMONY

Support for SCR 162

I write the testimony in support of the Resolution. Since we live in a representative democracy we should encourage more dialogue about issues concerning the state and hearing the various sides of the argument. Many times, voters hearing narrow narratives concerning an issue and debate allows for individuals that have not seen themselves as stakeholders to have a more proactive role in policy and the political process.

Debate is needed to increase our citizenry's awareness of concerns within the state as allow for persons to ask to debaters regarding the positions that they take. We want to grow the critical thinking skills of our voters so that they make more educated, informed and, voting decisions that reflect long term strategy rather than quick uninformed fixes to problems only for the here and now.

Request to included support for the Friendly Amendment concerning the role of the DOE to include the clause below.

Sincerely

Ken Farm

Member at Large

Kalihi-Palama Neighborhood Board No. 15



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 20, 2017 3:11 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
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**SCR162**

Submitted on: 4/20/2017

Testimony for HED on Apr 20, 2017 16:15PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sai Weiss	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In support of the resolution with the proposed amendments.

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**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** nathaniel.char@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR162 on Apr 20, 2017 16:15PM

**SCR162**

Submitted on: 4/20/2017  
 Testimony for HED on Apr 20, 2017 16:15PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathaniel Char	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Debate is necessary as a means for informing the populace for a healthy democracy. In my experience throughout high school then university and beyond, debate serves to galvanize other debaters' and my own competitive spirit, driving us to truly investigate the sides of a debate, so as to craft the perfect debate. Know only your own side and you'll win half your debates; know both and you'll win all. That knowledge is the cornerstone of the well-educated populace that is necessary for a healthy democracy, for the people need to know what and who they're voting for.

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**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** dylanarm@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR162 on Apr 20, 2017 16:15PM

**SCR162**

Submitted on: 4/20/2017  
 Testimony for HED on Apr 20, 2017 16:15PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committee, I support the resolution. I am a long-time attendee of Capitol debates. These events are well-organized and attract sizeable audiences and diverse participation. We need a culture of debate in Hawaii. We will all benefit from a more ingrained culture of examining and discussing ideas based on merit and the parliamentary procedure of debate culture. Finally, it is important for the legislature to support the expansion of debate in our school system because the legislature is the primary deliberative assembly in Hawaii, and has jurisdiction over the Department of Education. I support the amendments proposed by the Department of Education, which will facilitate passage of the resolution. Mahalo Chair for your consideration. Dylan P. Armstrong

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