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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON  
EDUCATION and HIGHER EDUCATION

RE: SCR 138/SR 59 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM TO DEVELOP PROGRAMMING  
AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORTS FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS  
AND LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS TO EARN TEACHING  
DEGREES AND BECOME FULL-TIME CERTIFIED TEACHERS

TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SCR 138/SR 59**, requesting the Department of Education and University of Hawai'i system to develop programming and educational supports for educational assistants and long-term substitute teachers to earn teaching degrees and become full-time certified teachers.

Hawai'i is experiencing 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.

Educational assistants are equipped with many of the fundamental skills necessary to embark on a successful teaching career. Many EAs assist with small group instruction, support students with disabilities, and perform administrative tasks needed to provide a quality learning environment.

Already, Leeward Community College offers an Associate in Arts in Teaching program that offers a Special Education/Inclusive Education Certificate with credits that are transferable to a state-approved teacher education program. Similarly, the INPEACE Kulia and Ka Lama Education Academy develops educational assistants

along the Waianae Coast, a hard-to-fill area for the DOE's recruitment and retention efforts.

Substitute teachers, too, can become effective full-time educators. Substitutes with at least a bachelor's degree have already demonstrated subject matter mastery and may be encouraged to become classroom teachers, if the high the cost of completing a state approved teacher education program can be mitigated. A 2014 study conducted by the New America Foundation found that "the average newly minted teacher in 2012 has to pay \$429 a month in student debt payments."

To help stem our teacher shortage crisis, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this resolution.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, March 24, 2017 12:00 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** kaulanad@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SR59 on Mar 28, 2017 13:25PM\*

**SR59**

Submitted on: 3/24/2017

Testimony for EDU/HRE on Mar 28, 2017 13:25PM in Conference Room 414

<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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