



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony for the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
April 4, 2017 at 9:45 a.m.

By

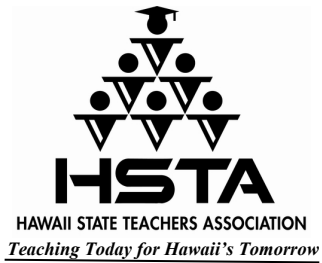
Risa E. Dickson, Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy
University of Hawai'i System

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

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chairs Dela Cruz, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) and the Department of Education have been working together cooperatively to address teacher shortages in Hawai'i, and will continue to do so in developing programming and educational supports for educational assistants and substitute teachers to earn teaching degrees. UH, however, points out that stipend funding would require additional resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



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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
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kaulanad@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SR59 on Apr 4, 2017 09:45AM*
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 5:04:44 PM

SR59

Submitted on: 3/31/2017

Testimony for WAM on Apr 4, 2017 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaulana Dameg	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.

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