

**HR-169**

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Testimony for EDN on 3/16/2018 2:10:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amy Monk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION

RE: HCR 198/HR 169 – REQUESTING THAT THE HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON ITS COMPLIANCE WITH THE PATSY MINK EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN EDUCATION ACT AND THE RESOLUTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS DATED DECEMBER 20, 2017

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HCR 198/HR 169**, requesting that the Hawai'i State Department of Education report to the Legislature on its compliance with the Patsy Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act and the resolution agreement between the Hawai'i State Department of Education and the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights dated December 20, 2017.

On February 9<sup>th</sup>, the American Civil Liberties Union sent a demand letter to the HDOE inquiring about the department's plans to improve gender equity for female athletes. Currently, at some schools, female athletes are relegated to second-class status. Campbell High School, for example, has the highest student enrollment in the state, but lacks a girls' locker room.

In response, the department noted that projects to improve gender equity were underway at two schools and planned for three additional schools, with male and female athletes sharing facilities at six schools. DOE officials also noted examples of

schools that make locker rooms located inside gymnasiums available to female athletes, though such facilities are often unavailable to athletes participating in after school sports. According to multiple reports performed by *Civil Beat*, “Civil Beat spoke with female athletes and school staff members at Campbell who said gym locker rooms were often locked and closed off to students during after-school hours. Female softball and track athletes at the school described having to change in empty classrooms, outside on the bleachers, and running off-campus to use the restroom.”

*Civil Beat* further reported that at least one-third of the high schools on O’ahu and Kaua’i offer athletic locker rooms for males, but not for females. According to the ACLU, 14 schools are experiencing this kind of gender inequity. Clearly, if true, this kind of discrimination toward non-male students is illegal and our state must provide the funds necessary to bring our school system into full Title IX compliance.

To advance gender equity for our keiki, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.