



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

Date: 03/28/2018
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 308
Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2239, SD2 RELATING TO COLLEGE PLACEMENT EXAMINATION FEES.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates moneys for the payment of SAT or ACT registration fees for public school students in the twelfth grade, and public charter school students in the eleventh or twelfth grade, who have not taken the SAT or ACT. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) respectfully suggests that this measure be deferred.

The committee report acknowledges that the Department covers the cost of all eleventh grade students, including students in charter schools, to take a nationally-recognized college admissions test as part of the college and career readiness curriculum.

The Department would like to point out that the process for selectively identifying and providing students to take a college admissions test, outside of the identified statewide test administration day, is a three month process and not likely to generate results in time for college admissions for 12th grade students. The challenge will be further constrained for the 2018-2019 school year as the Department is currently in a Request for Proposal (RFP) process for selecting a vendor for the next three year period. The Department will be unable to implement selective student testing for the fall of 2018.

We respectfully suggest that SB 2239 SD2 is not necessary at this time since the Department is already providing access to college admissions examinations in the eleventh grade for both public and charter school students and the procurement process currently underway for the assessment would make implementation for fall of 2018 unviable. However, should the Legislature proceed with the passage of this measure, the Department requests funding to support its implementation.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: SB 2239 SD2 Relating to College Placement Exam Fees
DATE: March 28, 2018
TIME: 2:00 P.M.
COMMITTEE: House Committee on Finance
ROOM: Room 308
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 2239 SD2**, which provides funds to the Department of Education (DOE) for the payment of SAT or ACT standardized test examination fees for eleventh or twelfth grade students in public charter schools and public schools that have not taken the SAT or ACT.

There are approximately 220 public charter school students that would be eligible for this support if this funding was already available for this school year. The Commission appreciates the efforts of this committee in moving this measure forward and stands ready to collaborate with the DOE on providing this support.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Date: 3/28/2018
Time: 2:00 PM
Location: House Conference Room 308

Submitted to:
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Submitted by:
Spenser Kunishige
Graduate Student at University of Hawaii at Manoa

Good Afternoon committee members. My name is Spenser Kunishige and I am a graduate student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I am in support for SB 2239 S.D. 2, Relating to College Placement Examination Fees. Through the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work Program at UH Manoa, I had the opportunity to work with many low-income, minority students. Many of the students that I encountered were very intelligent, but many lacked the financial resources to even consider college as an option. According to CollegeBoard's 2017 SAT Suite of Assessments Annual Report, "Only 55% of High School Graduates took the SAT. Of that 55%, only 9% of test takers were Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander." Taking College Placement Examinations can provide extreme value as well as opportunities for many students in Hawaii.

While there are waiver fees for eleventh graders, there should also be an equal opportunity for those who wish to take the placement exams in the twelfth grade as well. Furthermore, not all students are equipped and ready to that the exams in 11th grade, and they should not be penalized for that. If students are better equipped with skills and knowledge, it could result in higher enrollment to colleges.

Passing this Bill will help qualified students who need financial assistance and empower them to becoming positive role models. As students see their friends taking the exams, and going to college, they would see the potential and be more inclined to do the same. This bill could give low-income, minority students hope and position them for a brighter future. In the end the overall objective is to invest in the youth as they are the future.

Again, I support SB 2239 S.D. 2, Relating to College Placement Examination Fees. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Written Testimony

03/28/17, 2:00pm, Conference Room 308

To House Committee on Finance

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Ty J.K Cullen, Vice Chair



Members:

Rep. Romy M. Cachola	Rep. Nicole E. Lowen
Rep. Lynn DeCoite	Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura
Rep. Beth Fukumoto	Rep. Chris Todd
Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates	Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita
Rep. Daniel Holt	Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola
Rep. Jarrett Keohokalole	Rep. Gene Ward
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi	

From Doyoung Kim

Relating to College Placement Examination Fees - SB 2239, SD2 (HSCR1274-18)

In Opposition

I Doyoung Kim oppose SB 2239 not because of its purpose but because of its effectiveness. SB 2239 should be effective for every student, including foreign students, who wants to take SAT or ACT, not only for public students and public charter students. If SB 2239 is to be effective for only some eligible students, it cannot be righteous but can be discriminating, given that the chance for the better education should be guaranteed to everybody.

Furthermore, it must be effective sooner than the estimated date 7/1/2050. The date makes SB 2239 uncertain. If the financial challenge is the reason why it cannot be effective sooner, it must be overcome with the supports of the private corporations and the public/private universities that are directly related to the two exams.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Written Testimony



Hearing:

March 28th, 2018

2:00 PM

Conference Room 308

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

To

House Committee on Finance

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Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola

Rep. Gene Ward

From

Rossella Sonzogni

Political Science Student at Leeward Community College

RELATING TO COLLEGE PLACEMENT EXAMINATION FEES – SB2239

In Support

I, Rossella Sonzogni, student at Leeward Community College, support SB2239 Relating to college placement examination fees. I do so for the following reasons:

I believe in the righteousness of this bill, because it gives students the opportunity to prove themselves as motivated individuals, ready to get involved and build a better future for their community and the world in general, starting from education, regardless of their current financial status. These students believe they can take action by beginning their path in college. Having the opportunity to take the ACT or SAT, and getting a good score in these tests, would help many students be eligible for a greater number of scholarships, which in turn will help them, especially the ones with a financial need, commence their career path.

Higher Education (and education in general also) should be an opportunity for everybody. Education for everybody is the beginning for the development of a better world. College tuition is already an enormous expense that not many people can afford. We should at least give a better opportunity to students who struggle financially to have a higher chance to obtain scholarships that will help them reach their goals in life. We need to understand that more students attending college is a positive factor not only for those students, but for the community in general. We can help these students by providing ACT and SAT registration fees for free.

However, I believe we should find a way to have this act take effect sooner than on July 1st, 2050. We could do so by asking the universities to financially contribute to this act. This would be beneficial not only for the students but also for the university campuses, which will gather more students that are motivated to attend their college and subsequently become efficient citizens in their community.

I want to thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify today.

Rossella Sonzogni