

**SB-2393**

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

THE SENATE

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

10:08 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 211

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 2393 RELATING TO EDUCATION

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No. 2393 relating to Alternative Learning Centers; School Complex Areas; and the Department of Education

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No.2393 and supports its passage.

Senate Bill No.2393 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requires the department of education to create a comprehensive plan to establish alternative learning centers in each school complex area in the State and requires the department of education to submit the plan to the legislature prior to the regular session of 2019. An Alternative Learning Center would provide ongoing education to juveniles involved in the justice system or at high-risk of involvement in the justice system.

The DPH Platform states that "[w]e support restorative justice that repairs the harm caused by criminal behaviors and reintegrates the offenders as contributing members of society. Likewise, we support opportunities for those who have been [in a detention home or] incarcerated to effect a smooth transition back into the community and make available health, educational, and other assistance programs needed to allow them to become productive and respected members of the community. (Platform of the DPH, P. 5, Lines 273-277 (2016)).

We believe a major role of education is to develop critical and creative thinkers who are knowledgeable about issues and able to evaluate and solve real-world problems. The curriculum also should emphasize cultural learning, the arts, career and trade skills, and physical education so that we may preserve our health and rich cultural history. A variety of learning strategies should be used, including group projects, cooperative learning, discussion, games and technological innovations.. (Platform of the DPH, P.6, Lines 310-314 (2016)).

Given that Senate Bill No. 2393 requires the department of education to create a comprehensive plan to establish alternative learning centers in each school complex area in the State and requires the department of education to submit the plan to the legislature prior to the regular session of 2019, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

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