
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that special education
2 services, including academic, speech-language, psychological,
3 physical and occupational, and counseling accommodations, meet
4 the unique needs of students with disabilities. Governed by
5 federal and state law, special education services are available
6 to eligible students between three and twenty-two years of age
7 who demonstrate a need for specially designed instruction.

8 The legislature further finds that based on statewide
9 assessments, most of the State's public school students with
10 individualized education programs are performing below grade
11 level in reading and mathematics. In the 2013-2014 academic
12 year, only twenty-two per cent were proficient in reading and
13 fifteen per cent were proficient in math. Moreover, between the
14 2004-2005 and 2013-2014 academic years, the achievement gap
15 between special education students and general education
16 students increased from thirty-eight percentage points to forty-
17 eight percentage points for reading and from twenty-one



1 percentage points to forty-nine percentage points in math. For
 2 the 2016-2017 school year, the statewide achievement gap between
 3 high needs students, which includes English learners and
 4 economically disadvantaged students, and non-high needs students
 5 stood at thirty-three percentage points for language arts and
 6 twenty-eight percentage points for math.

7 Closing the achievement gap between special needs students
 8 and their general education peers requires investing in
 9 additional resources for special education teachers and
 10 classrooms. The purpose of this Act is to provide special
 11 education teachers funding for classroom materials to ensure a
 12 quality educational experience for all special needs students.

13 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to
 16 provide up to \$1,690 to each special education classroom teacher
 17 for instructional materials and equipment that support student
 18 learning.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 20 education for the purposes of this Act.

21 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

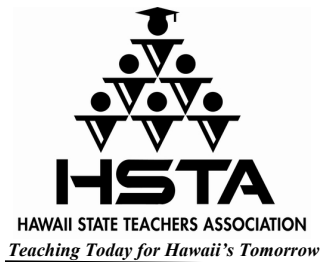
Special Education; Instructional Materials; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to provide up to \$1,690 to each special education classroom teacher for instructional materials and equipment. Effective 7/1/2050.
(SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.





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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

RE: SB 2521, SD 1 - RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports SB 2521, SD 1,** relating to special education.

Hawai'i struggles to meet the needs of special education students. Based on statewide assessments, most special needs students are performing below grade level in reading and mathematics. For the 2016-2017 school year, the statewide achievement gap between high needs students—which includes special education children, English language learners, and economically disadvantaged students—and non-high needs students was 33 percent for language arts and 28 percent for math.

Department of Education officials, including State Superintendent Christina Kishimoto, have stated that closing the achievement gap between special needs students and their general education peers is a top priority. Doing so, however, requires investing in additional resources for special education teachers and classrooms.

In 2011, the ten-year-long DOE ended the special education classroom supply fund, after American Recovery and Reinvestment Act revenue that had been used to subsidize the fund expired. The loss left schools scrambling for alternatives and SPED teachers unable to provide essential supplies for their students, including curricular materials, high-interest low Lexile books, hands-on materials to support mathematics learning, adaptive programs and supplies, community and life skills developmental materials, and even paper for printing of individualized education plan forms, modified lessons, and related items.

We must provide a quality education to our special needs students and invest in the professional necessities of their instructors. To improve the achievement of our most vulnerable keiki, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Executive Director

**TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 2521, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO SPECIAL
EDUCATION**

**House Committee on Education
Hon. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Hon. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair**

**Monday, March 19, 2018, 3:10 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309**

Honorable Chair Woodson and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 400 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2521, SD 1, relating to special education.

Hawai'i's special needs students deserve our help. For the 2016-2017 school year, the statewide achievement gap between high needs students—which includes SPED children, English language learners, and economically disadvantaged students—and non-high needs students was 33 percent for language arts and 28 percent for math. While State Superintendent Christina Kishimoto and the Hawai'i State Board of Education have prioritized closing the achievement gap between special needs and general education students, doing so requires providing additional resources for SPED teachers. In 2011, the Hawai'i State Department of Education discontinued the SPED classroom supply fund, which, for a decade, had given \$1,690 to every SPED teacher for essential supplies, including curricular and classroom materials and printing of individualized education program forms. Reinstating this funding will help teachers fulfill the IEPs of children with special needs. It would cost \$3,635,190 to provide the \$1,690 in supply funds to each of the state's 2,151 SPED teacher positions, which would be money well spent.

To support our most vulnerable children, we ask your committee to support this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance

SB-2521-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 8:53:11 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/19/2018 3:10:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Christine Russo | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2521-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 8:59:03 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/19/2018 3:10:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kelli Buenconsejo | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I would like to provide support for SB 2521 which would provide funds for special education teacher to purchase supplies for their students and classrooms. All teachers dedicate their lives, time and livelihood to fund their classrooms so they can provide meaningful, individualized education experiences for their students. Please support all teachers by supporting this bill.

SB-2521-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 1:52:13 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/19/2018 3:10:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Susan Pcola_Davis | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION: Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to provide up to \$1,690 to each special education classroom teacher for instructional materials and equipment.

I am in Strong Support of having funds provided for spec ed classroom teachers in order to supplement materials and equipment.

kong1 - Blayne

From: Deborah Cheeseman <nalomeli26@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2018 2:21 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: SB2521

Aloha House Education Committee Chair Justin Woodson,

My name is Debbie Cheeseman and I am a public school special education teacher here in Hawaii. I am testifying on SB2521 and urge you to restore the \$1,690.00 per year for classroom special education teachers to purchase teaching supplies. I know my colleagues and I often spend \$500 to over a thousand dollars out of our own pockets each school year in order to support the diverse needs of our learners. It is not right to expect special education teachers to fund classroom needs from our paychecks. Teaching students who learn differently requires adapting curriculum and purchasing math, reading and spelling materials that support differently abled learners. Additionally, there is often pricey equipment needed in order for students who have physical disabilities to access learning. We special education teachers should not have to beg at the school level and compete for funds for our students. Please support special education teachers and our students who learn differently by ensuring there is money to purchase the supplies we need.

Thank you,

Debbie Cheeseman
Special Education Teacher

kong1 - Blayne

From: Sara Farnham <sarafarnham@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2018 12:57 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Support of SB2211 SD2 HD1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

March 19, 2018, 3:10 pm
House conference Room 309

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2211 SD2 HD1

I am a pediatric and adult neuropsychologist and I specialize in assessment and treatment of traumatic brain injuries.

I am writing to endorse SB221 SD2 HD1, which expands the concussion educational program and regulations removing injured athletes from game play established under Act 197, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, and expanded under Act 262, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016.

Research demonstrates that even non-concussive head impacts can cause permanent brain damage. Young athletes can experience hundreds of head impacts during a single season of play. Participation in youth sports programs creates a significant risk of permanent brain damage that can lead to clinical depression, behavioral regulation difficulties, and cognitive impairment later in life. The risk for such impairment is correlated with earlier starting ages for participation in youth sports programs.

SB2211 SD2 HD1 will protect the long-term health and welfare of children and young adults by expanding the scope of existing legislation to include all youth athletes, regardless of age.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB2211 SD2 HD1.

Sincerely,
Sara Farnham, PhD
Clinical Neuropsychologist
Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific

kong1 - Blayne

From: Jamie Blake <jamieablake@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2018 2:17 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: SPED supply money

Aloha,

I am a special education preschool teacher at Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary school, and have been teaching SPED prek since 1999. I am at a military school, which is very transient. We are constantly getting kids who may have not found permanent housing yet, but are in the lodges. And we have children from our home school, and over flow from nearby schools. I have 8 children, and half of them are Autistic. I have spent so much of my own money trying to get toys, manipulatives, snacks, lamination for their communication book (PECS), safety equipment, furniture, music, and anything that might help them! I usually order from Lakeshore Learning or Abilitations which have great things, but cost an arm and a leg to ship to Hawaii. Our limited \$300 classroom supply money is spent quickly in the beginning of the year at Fisher, trying to make sure we have arts and crafts. In my many years of teaching, I find that there are so many wonderful things that can help my children with Austism. But they are often really expensive, so I try to make it myself if I can. But it still costs money to buy the supplies and try to make something similar. I remember a long time ago, each teacher was given a \$1000+ stipend to buy classroom materials for their SPED class. That was at least 8-10 years ago. Our children are young and need lots of manipulatives and hands on materials, which are expensive. They are need a lot of supplies to make arts and crafts as we learn through doing. Please take into consideration that we are trying to find a way to connect to our children, especially our Austistic population. Having a bigger budget would help us to be able to purchase new manipulatives for our children.

Mahalo,
Jamie Blake

kong1 - Blayne

From: Joanna Wright <joannaw@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2018 11:50 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: SB 2521 Testimony

To: House Education Committee Chair Justin Woodson

Dear Mr. Woodson,

As a high school Special Education Science Teacher in Hawaii, I would like to submit testimony in support of SB2521. Due to their disabilities, our students need more supports and materials than students in the general population, yet Special Education teachers receive much less (if any) funding for supplies. At our school, SPED department funds are needed to pay essential support staff, and there is only enough left over for a few office supplies for the teachers. This is really a problem in Science, where hands-on labs are even more important for SPED students than they are for general ed students, due to our students' need to experience the content in active and engaging ways. The general ed Science teachers receive a per-pupil allotment to cover this, but SPED teachers receive no supply funds. In order to provide my students with instruction that meets their needs as closely as possible, I have advocated for them by meeting with my principal to ask for supplies, begging and borrowing from the gen ed Science teachers, and spending my own money on supplies. My principal and fellow teachers have been extremely generous, but I feel like I can only ask for so much, and my time for meetings is limited. It is really not fair to my students that there is no funding set aside for supplies for them. If given a designated funding allotment, there is a lot more I could do to help them experience the content in relevant ways as well as providing specific supports for particular types of disabilities. Thank you for your time. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like more information.

Sincerely,

Joanna Wright
1717 Keeaumoku St. #103
Honolulu, HI 96822
808-286-7994
joannaw@hawaii.edu

From: Lyle Herman, Psy.D. <dr.lyleherman@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2018 8:53 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

March 19, 2018, 3:10 pm
House conference Room 309

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2211 SD2 HD1

I am writing to endorse SB221 SD2 HD1, which expands the concussion educational program and regulations removing injured athletes from game play established under Act 197, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, and expanded under Act 262, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016.

Research demonstrates that even non-concussive head impacts can cause permanent brain damage. Young athletes can experience hundreds of head impacts during a single season of play. Participation in youth sports programs creates a significant risk of permanent brain damage that can lead to clinical depression, behavioral regulation difficulties, and cognitive impairment later in life. The risk for such impairment is correlated with earlier starting ages for participation in youth sports programs.

SB2211 SD2 HD1 will protect the long-term health and welfare of children and young adults by expanding the scope of existing legislation to include all youth athletes, regardless of age.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB2211 SD2 HD1.

Lyle Herman, Psy.D.
1188 Bishop St., #3102
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-545-4585

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Lyle Herman, Psy.D.
1188 Bishop St., #3102
Honolulu, HI 96813
Tel: 808-545-4585
Fax: 1-877-631-6362

www.drlyleherman.com

"The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honors the servant and has forgotten the gift." Albert Einstein

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kong1 - Blayne

From: jcwhite54@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2018 8:04 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: SB2211 SD2

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

March 19, 2018, 3:10 pm
House conference Room 309

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2211 SD2

I am writing to endorse SB221 SD2, which expands the concussion educational program and regulations removing injured athletes from game play established under Act 197, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, and expanded under Act 262, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016.

Research demonstrates that even non-concussive head impacts can cause permanent brain damage. Young athletes can experience hundreds of head impacts during a single season of play. Participation in youth sports programs creates a significant risk of permanent brain damage that can lead to clinical depression, behavioral regulation difficulties, and cognitive impairment later in life. The risk for such impairment is correlated with earlier starting ages for participation in youth sports programs.

SB2211 SD2 will protect the long-term health and welfare of children and young adults by expanding the scope of existing legislation to include all youth athletes, regardless of age.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB2211 SD2.

Sincerely,
Judith C. White, Psy. D.

Sent from my iPhone

kong1 - Blayne

From: Jaclyn_96792@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2018 6:24 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Sped funds

For the past two years since returning to the fully self contained preschool sped classroom, I have been providing at least \$200 worth of items monthly. It ranged from playground balls, Velcro, special chairs , pillows and blankets for nap time, trikes ,trampolines to jump on for my Asd students, printer ink, fans to cool the class , special utensils to eat and drink with, detergent to wash the dishes the children use, Lysol spray, classroom rug , rug cleaner,paper towels, Kleenex , hand sanitizers, sponges to clean, snacks and not to mention fieldtrip \$when parents do not have.

It would benefit the classroom teacher if the administration does not manipulate the funds and take it from the teachers to use for their educational (?)trips....

Sent from my iPhone

kong1 - Blayne

From: Chris Santomauro <csantoma@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2018 6:19 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Support for SB2521

Dear Chair Woodson,

I am an educator on the Windward side of O`ahu and I am emailing in support of SB2521, supply money for Special Education teachers. I have been a special education teacher for 5 years and understand first hand the challenges we face in education due to the starvation of money from school sites. When I first started 5 years ago, my principal told the special education department we had \$160 to share for the year for supplies. That was \$160 to share among 20 teachers. That's \$8/teacher. Needless to say we spent our own money buying supplies that we needed to purchase for our students. Although I will go above and beyond for my students, this common practice of teachers spending personal money is not how we should be forced to operate.

Please support SB2521 so we can better support our students and our teachers.

Chris Santomauro
Special Education Teacher
O`ahu

kong1 - Blayne

From: gregg & charlotte morimoto <cpgkaimoto@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2018 4:00 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: SB2521

I support SB2521. I am a Special Education Teacher of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. These students require additional supports to access the general education curriculum. Many of them have sensory needs which when met can allow them improved success socially and academically. Having monies specifically for Special Education teachers instead of relying on small portions of general education money could make all the difference. Access to sensory activities and materials would directly benefit students under the IDEA umbrella.

Charlotte Kaimi-Morimoto
Hilo Union School

--

Charlotte Kaimi-Morimoto

kong1 - Blayne

From: susanerupp <susanerupp@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2018 3:58 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Hi my name is Susan Rupp and I am the FSC workplace readiness teacher at Pahoa High and Intermediate. I STRUGGLE with supplies for my classroom. Last year I spent over 1000.00 dollars of my own money in my class. Because I teach life skills I spent th...

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8+, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

kong1 - Blayne

From: Kristina De Witt <kristinakauai@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2018 2:39 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony SB2521

Justin Woodson,

My name is Kristina De Witt and I wanted to submit my testimony supporting bill SB2521 to stress how underfunded special education teachers and classrooms are.

I'm a young second year teacher recently graduated from college. Which means I have to work a second job to afford Honolulu's high cost of living on top of paying off student loans. Despite these struggles I still need to set aside money to spend on my students so that I can provide them with the best resources possible to meet their educational needs.

Additional resources are necessary to fully support my students' individual learning needs in the special education setting. This includes flexible seating for students who have ADD and ADHD, fidget tools and other things to keep their attention. I have had to spend my own money on these things specifically: supplies to print and make visuals, incentives to work for those students who have behavior needs, and even an iPad.

Other necessities that I have paid for out of pocket include books and supplies that are at my students academic levels. The school supplies me with the tools at their grade level but that is often far too advanced for their current performance. These are just some of the things I haven't had the funding for to support my students in the best way possible. I definitely believe this extra funding will greatly improve my students performance.

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony.

-Kristina De Witt

kong1 - Blayne

From: SARAH <bbondsbond@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2018 2:28 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Individual Money for SPED teachers

Getting money back to SPED teachers would be very beneficial to us. I am a SPED fully self contained preschool teacher and use PECS to assist my students with communicating and following visual schedules. The cost of colored ink for my printer, paper to print the pictures on, laminating film, and Velcro is immense when you have 7 students using PECS. District barely supplies any thing, and when they do it is grudgingly done. And then there is the supplies for sensory time - play dough, shaving cream, moon sand, tunnels, etc. I pay for a lot of this out of my own pocket.

Mahalo for your consideration in this matter,
Sarah "Sally" Bond

kong1 - Blayne

From: Joanne Kimura <jokimura@earthlink.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2018 1:32 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony SB2521

Dear House Education Committee Chair Justin Woodson;

I am a Special Education teacher at Pearl City High School in a self-contained classroom. My students are Specific Learning Disabled and Learning Disabled students who have not been successful in "traditional" standards based Special Education Resource and General Education classes. They are not successful because they have behavioral issues and require one-to-one and small group classroom settings. I have 12 students in my program.

My class includes students Grade 9 to 12, ability levels Grade 1 to post high school, all subject areas that are required for a high school diploma or certificate for grades 9 - 12, and various electives. I literally have over 20 classes on record. The amount of preparation for all these classes is a challenge. I would like to put my students on individualized monitored programs for reading comprehension and math, the subject areas our Special Education students show a gap in achievement with the general education population as shown is standardized DOE testing. These areas make our students unable to be successful in the general education classroom setting as well handicap our students even when they exit the public school system. Programs such as Teenbiz constantly access the individual students and challenge them by adjusting the level of their the readings consistently and when warranted. We had access to the program up to 2 years ago but I could not use it effectively during school time because I did not have enough up to date computers (kids get really frustrated when the computers are too slow to instantly load the program or even the next question) for a class of 10 to use during school hours to assure proper monitoring and to give access to students who do not have computer access at home.

I have discussed having access to online programs with our curriculum coordinator and administrators for the last 2 years since I created this program with little success. Most of the school monetary resources are dedicated towards implementing an academy program for the entire school. I do not deny the benefit for the majority of our school students warrant this. While the school figures out where non mainstreamed Special Education students work within the school academy programs programs such as mine have become orphans in our school. Now that I have a computer lab for my sole classroom use but now I have no access to online programs that would help my students make more academic gains. I am thankful I was included in the initiative to have computer access in every classroom.

This year my classroom allotment is \$150.00. We are feeling lucky because the last couple of years we had an allotment of \$80.00. Last year I personally spent \$700.00 on curriculum for my classroom this does not include the amount I spent on classroom supplies.

Please consider passing this bill. Any increase in funding will be greatly appreciated.

Thank You for your time
Joanne Kimura
Special Education Teacher
Pearl City High School

kong1 - Blayne

From: Patty Gorski <gorskified@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2018 11:54 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Special education funds

Aloha, my name is Patricia Gorski and I teach life skills in Makawao at Kalama Intermediate. Part of our, and our sister school's CBI curriculum requires instruction in the community. Many of the teachers and classes have very limited options for educational opportunities since there is not money in the budget to afford busses to take our students to meaningful educational places. Bus funding is essential to make our instruction impactful to our most severe needs students and is not often allocated when considering the sped budget for schools in Hawai'i. We need increased funding for CBI transportation to ensure our students are receiving their FAPE.

THANK YOU.

Sent from my iPhone

kong1 - Blayne

From: Carrie Jyo <carriejyo@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2018 10:13 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Sped Funds

I am writing because I am a Special Education teacher and need your support regarding bill (SB2521) that would give special education classroom teachers funds for instructional materials and equipment.

This extra funding will be used to purchase hands on materials, manipulatives, technology equipment, etc.

Every year we don't have enough monies to purchase the basic school supplies like construction paper, glue, crayons, etc. We also have students who cannot afford to bring in their own school supplies therefore, these expenses comes out of our pockets.

I am asking you to please help support this bill.

Thank you,
Carrie Jyo

Sent from iPhone

kong1 - Blayne

From: Rana Google <rminemoto@viking.k12.hi.us>
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2018 9:51 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB2521

To: House Education Committee Chair, Justin Woodson (Testimony for SB2521)

I am currently a Special Education teacher at Hilo High School. Being a Special Education teacher, we always need to be flexible, depending on what students we get and what type of disabilities they may have. We can never be too prepared for this job. Students with disabilities are in our classes because they need Individualized supports. We as Special Education teachers need to find various ways on how to help each student learn in the best environment, using the best strategies possible.

On a daily basis, we use all sorts of tools, that over time wears down. I use my Elmo, which is on it's last leg, a projector which we never know how long will last. My printer (not sure what is going on with the latest technology) seems to need to be replaced every other year or so. We stretch out our educational appliances and tools the best we can because we are always given limited funds to cover things we need in class. We are forced to prioritize which supplies MAY last a little longer before being replaced, and taking a chance on certain things to purchase due to limited funding. They always say that the Special Education department is one of the most needed areas, well if that is that case, we need more supports. Allowing us to have the sufficient tools to better service our students who need the supports will benefit everyone in the learning environment.

Thank you for time.

Sent from my iPhone

kong1 - Blayne

From: Davidene DeeDee Iman <deedeeiman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2018 8:22 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: SB2521

Dear Justin Woodson,

I am a Special Education teacher at Iliahi Elementary School in Wahiawa, HI. This bill will allow me to purchase supplies and materials to differentiate lessons to meet the goals and objectives of my students that is listed his/her Individual Lesson Plans (IEPs). Meeting the various needs of my students can be difficult without the resources to provide modifications and accommodations. I truly believe bill SB2521 is a good start to providing support to Special Education Teachers.

Mahalo for your support in bill SB2521,

Davidene Iman

Sent from my iPhone

kong1 - Blayne

From: Kari Odo <kari.odo@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2018 8:15 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: SB2521

I am writing to support bill SB2521. I am currently a Special Education teacher and spend hundreds of dollars every school year to pay for items that my students need to be comfortable and perform in school.

Some examples of things I have used my own money for include:

- adaptive scissors
- theraputty
- adaptive writing paper
- learning games
- individual white boards
- sensory squeeze balls

Some of the items that I have wanted to buy, but couldn't bring myself to pay for include:

- sensory/ball chairs
- sensory vest
- room divider
- adaptive pencils
- noise-cancelling headphones
- slant board for writing

Please help me and my fellow Special Education teachers give our students the tools they need to feel comfortable and thrive in school.

Thank you so much for taking the time to address and hear our concerns.

Sincerely,
Kari Odo
Special Education Teacher

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kong1 - Blayne

From: iyamagata@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2018 7:59 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Support for Special Education Supply Money

Please support this bill to fund money for Special Education teachers to receive supply funds. It is imperative for teachers to have the tools necessary to do the best job for the special needs students. Funding is one of the keys to success. There is no time to ponder or wait. Success in their lives depends on the quality of education they receive. Let's do as we say and give them the opportunity to be contributing citizens in our communities.

kong1 - Blayne

From: linda griffin <lgriffin144@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2018 7:11 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Funding for Sped

I believe the committee will see the importance of supporting sped classrooms with funding that would be much needed to assist teachers to purchase materials that are related to the ongoing growth in the sped classrooms. Please take a chance to look at a few supply/essentials catalogs for pricing of items for students that have autism, sensory needs, emotional therapeutic needs, behavioral and students who may need assisted devices to improve their learning. Most sped teachers across the state go without or at times just purchase out of pocket for materials that are essential for a students learning. Please stop having teachers spend extra hours of their non working time thinking of ways to make money(ie. fundraise) for much needed items for students. Students have a right to an education that provides them with tools to be successful. Please stop denying what our students need.

Sent from my iPhone

kong1 - Blayne

From: julialdavison@yahoo.com
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2018 6:22 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Sped funds

Our school is in desperate need for special education students funding for a sensory room supplies. Many of our students just need a break from the regular education over stimulation and they need somewhere to go so they can call down or regulate. Having a special room with materials such as a bouncy ball or light table would could be purchased if we had some funding. As it is we get nothing. Regular education get funds even though the parents of their students bring in supplies. Special education teachers don't have any materials. This year I didn't even have pencils or paper, I bought these things myself. We need supplies just as much as regular ex teachers if not more because our student need specific supplies such as larger pencils or apparatus that allows them to hold that pencil. Please consider giving us some money too for the students. Mahalo Julia Davison sped teacher or 14 2nd grade students

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

kong1 - Blayne

From: Camille Winslow <cwinslow@barberspt.k12.hi.us>
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2018 12:01 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: SB2521 Teacher Testimony

Aloha House Education Committee Chair Justin Woodson,

In an effort to pass SB2521, I would like to share my testimony.

I am a grade 4/5 resource teacher at Barbers Point Elementary School. I service 13 students for english language arts and 10 students for math. All my students are below grade level for reading (ranging from kindergarten to just below grade level) and cannot access the traditional curriculum that is mandated for our school. On top of that, my students come with several challenges that include learning disabilities, communication needs, and social/emotional/behavioral needs.

Each school year I am allotted \$200 per semester to buy supplies and materials for my classroom. Many of my students do not come with the necessary supplies at the beginning of the year, and I use much of my purchase order monies to buy basic supplies (e.g. pencils, paper, notebooks) for them. I also have to supply myself with extra printer paper because the 1 case each semester we are given is not nearly enough to to print worksheets and student documents. Once those things are taken care of, I have little to no money left to spend on other necessities that make my classroom run.

As a special education teacher, my job depends on making learning accessible for my students. That includes creating curriculum that is not only tailored to each student's educational level, but is also engaging to my learners. This year alone I have spent over \$500 on resources for my classroom, which could have been much more had I not practiced some restraint in my purchasing. I've purchased chapter books, laminate, velcro, ink, timers, and math manipulatives just to name a few. I've even raised \$500 on Donors Choose for wobble chairs to provide better seating options for my students.

Passing this bill, would provide the much needed support for Hawaii's special education classrooms. The money will go to better resources in order to promote a higher quality of learning for the students who desperately need it most.

Thank you for your time and for considering my testimony as you make your decision.

Sincerely,
Camille Winslow

kong1 - Blayne

From: Shari Odo Ikeda <shariann88@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 10:21 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in favor of SB2521

To: House Education Committee Chair Justin Woodson,

My name is Shariann Ikeda and I am a special education teacher at Kailua High School. My students curriculum focuses on adaptive living skills that they can use post high school. They do not have the academic skills required for a diploma and instead work towards a certificate of completion.

I support SB2521 that would give special education teachers like me up to \$1690 for instructional materials and equipment to support my students needs. This is my 8th year teaching this curriculum and every year I spend my own money buying much needed curriculum. My students, although in high school, read at the pre K to fourth grade level and have the math skills of Kindergarten to fourth grade level. Being at the high school the curriculum is not available. I have bought reading and math materials with my own money to meet their needs. I have also bought items such as counting blocks, flash cards, lower level readers, etc.

Please support teachers like me in providing instructional materials and equipment to support my students. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Shariann Ikeda
Kailua High School Special Education Teacher

kong1 - Blayne

From: Linell <aplusmktg@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 10:05 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Special Education supplies

The supplies needed for students with special needs:

1. Visual aids: color printer
2. Manipulative: hands-on items that provide real world application
 - a. Electromagnet experiment
 - b. Promethean interactive board

kong1 - Blayne

From: Janice Javar <janicejavar@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 8:55 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: SPED funds

For many years I have taught special education and every year I am scrambling to find appropriate curriculum for my students. I am constantly searching for resources with which to teach my students. On a daily basis I am trolling the Internet in order to find lessons and/or worksheets to supplement their learning in order for them to attain the standards that we, as teachers, need to teach them. A lot of the resources available sometimes have a price attached to it.

The \$200 funds that we receive each year is not sufficient for our classrooms. Due to the small numbers in our classrooms, we do not have basic supplies that students normally bring, we need to purchase them all which includes paper, pencils, tablets, facial tissue and paper towels. That spending leaves us nothing to buy instructional resources for our classrooms.

Providing sufficient funds for special education will benefit the students like nothing else will. Their struggles are real and not providing for them is doing them a disservice.

I truly hope that SB2521 is rated as a necessity and that it is truly comes under consideration.

Sent from Janice's iPad

kong1 - Blayne

From: Cynthia Levy <cwlevy67@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 7:46 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Need money to support sped students

We need this money badly. It will allow sped teachers to purchase needed materials that the students go without because there is NO MONEY !!!! Our students need extra supports in order for them to be successful. We need the money to support our students !!!!!

kong1 - Blayne

From: barbara towle <nsbarb@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 7:26 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony for Bill SB2521 concerning Dept of Educ Special Education Classroom Funds

Dear Justin Woodson
House Education Committee Chair,

I have been a special education teacher in the State of Hawaii for 17 years. I believe this increase in funding is necessary to get the under funded schools up to date, technology wise. My school is one of the more funded schools in the state and was one of the seven schools to receive MacBook Air laptops for all students. Having this technology at my students and my finger tips has helped students complete their online testing (SBA, IReady, DIBELS), practice skills (IXL, IReady, Wonders Online Website, Kidbiz, Brain Pop, JR), produce quality finished writing products (Google Docs, Google Slides) and broaden their world view (researching, Discovery Education).

All special education classrooms need working laptops for students to use. Just today we completed a writing project which included researching on a topic. Once the finished product was printed the student was pleased with his own work. For a struggling 3rd grader, this is a moment to reflect and appreciate what our school as to offer.

I strongly feel all other special education classroom, especially in the less funded areas in Waianae, Kalihi, and the outer islands need laptops available for student daily use.

Thank You,
Barbara Towle

kong1 - Blayne

From: De Austin <dezireenaustin@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 7:01 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Special ed teachers need help

Respected Committee Chair Justin Woodson and committee members:

Please approve passage of bill # SB2521.

I am not a special education teacher, but I am a regular education teacher who is a witness to the miracles performed every day by this hard-working group of teachers on my campus. Many of them spare no expense to provide for their students.

Their workload is incredible, and the demands that are placed on them from writing IEPs, collaborating with classroom teachers to provide services, working with their students and their families to ensure their needs are met appropriately, is an awesome job which demands so much of their spirit, time and financial commitment.

Please support our teachers. Please support our special education teachers.
Please pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Dezireen Austin, 10 year teacher
Maui Waena Intermediate School
Kahului, Maui

kong1 - Blayne

From: stacey dobashi <dobashcake@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 6:53 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: SB2521

I am a special education teacher who teaches students with severe multiple disabilities. My students are unable to move, eat, or communicate without adult assistance. The cost of various devices and equipment for my students are so expensive that it is unattainable for me to purchase them with my own money. For example, a single voice output switch which aids my students in communicating can cost \$150 (my voice output switch is on its last leg). A Hoyer lift to assist in transferring my students from place to place can cost upwards of \$700 (my lift is broken) Special education funds would benefit these students by providing them the tools needed to help them learn.

Stacey Dobashi

Sent from my iPhone

kong1 - Blayne

From: thesandpebbles <thesandpebbles@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 6:53 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: In support of SB2521

Please support Special Education teachers.

Howard Hurst, M.S.Ed

kong1 - Blayne

From: Vanessa Kahihikolo <vanessa.kahihikolo@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 6:45 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony on Bill SB2521

Dear House Education Committee Chair Justin Woodson,

My name is Vanessa Kahihikolo and I am a Special Education teacher at Hilo High School. I am writing to you in support of providing SPED classroom teachers with money for instructional materials and equipment. Here are some of the financial issues that I face.

I currently use my personal laptop for both instruction and IDEA compliance requirements such as the development of IEPs.

I used my personal projector for instruction for five years until it died. This led me to personally purchase an Apple TV (streaming device that allows me to airplay from Apple devices, like my laptop) as an alternate means of projecting my lessons.

I am currently using an 8 year old printer while other departments are changing printers every three years and have a stock of equipment in their workroom. Again a printer is needed to comply with IDEA compliance issues like providing copies of IEPs and progress reports to parents. For all the years that I have been at Hilo High School, the allotment of money that I was given each year was just enough to keep buying the toner needed for this printer.

I don't want to waste your time with an endless list so I'd like to share one last thought. My goal is to service the students here in Hawaii as best as I can. As you can see I'm willing to pay for whatever I need to make my instructional strategies work, however should I have to?

Thank you for your time, consideration and support.

--

Aloha
Vanessa

LATE TESTIMONY

kong1 - Blayne

From: Skintwin1 <skintwin1@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 6:25 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: SB2521



To Whom It May Concern,

I am an elementary school special education teacher and I support SB2521.

It would be of great value if special education teachers received extra supply funds to purchase instructional materials and equipment which is desperately needed to support our students who have special needs. There are many supplies that would greatly benefit our students but without funds, we cannot purchase.

Please consider supporting SB2521 so that all students with special needs can receive the education they deserve.

Thank you,

Diane Styles

Special Education Teacher

Sent from my iPad

SB-2521-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 3:10:43 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/19/2018 3:10:00 PM

LATE

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melodie Aduja | OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2521-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 3:38:12 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/19/2018 3:10:00 PM

LATE

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Amanda N Kelly | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Our teachers deserve our support. They are the backbone to our public school system. Mahalo for your consideration on this matter.

Twenty-Ninth Legislature, 2018
State of Hawaii

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

The Maga Family
michellepestelmaga@gmail.com

LATE

Monday, March 19, 2018

Support for SB2521 SD1

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kong and members of the committee,

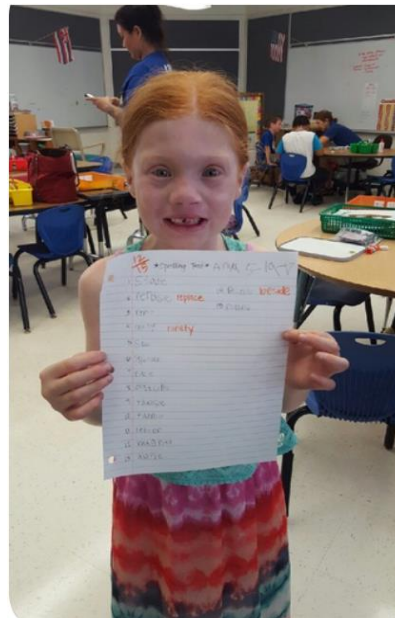
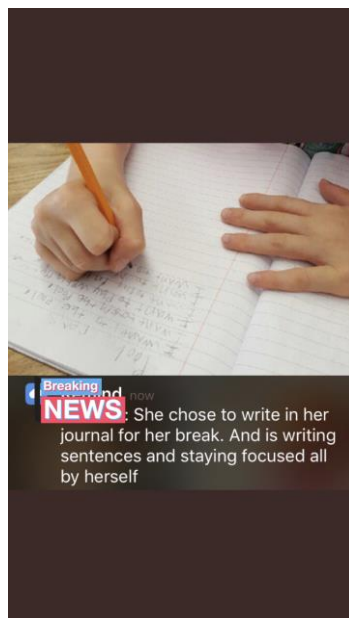
We are the Maga family, Anya, Jason and Michelle. We are testifying in strong support of SB2521 SD1, which appropriates funds to the department of education to provide up to \$1690 to each special education classroom teacher for instructional materials and equipment. Our daughter Anya has been receiving special education services through the Department of Education since the age of 3.

As parents of a unique child, we understand how important specific materials and equipment are with helping our unique children succeed with their education. We also understand that not every classroom and school has the opportunity to provide these special materials. Please support all of Hawaii's unique children and their teachers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB2521 SD1.

Respectfully submitted,

The Maga Family – Anya, Jason and Michelle



kong1 - Blayne

From: jinman@phkai.k12.hi.us
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2018 3:05 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: SB2521



Dear House Education Committee Chair, Justin Woodson,

My name is Jasmine Inman and I am testifying in support of SB2521. I am an Early Childhood Special Education teacher at Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary.

We typically get \$300 in purchase orders to spend on classroom supplies and learning materials, for the entire school year. That money goes by very quickly, especially when ordering from companies like Lakeshore (for preschool-specific materials) or Abilitations (for adaptive tools/equipment for children with disabilities). Many times the high cost of shipping to Hawaii takes up a big portion of the funds, not leaving much for the actual materials. \$300 does not cover the cost of large ticket items like a painting easel, which we are currently doing without.

Passing SB2521 will greatly help to put more of the much needed resources that teachers can't afford to buy with their own money, into our special education classrooms. Thank you for your time and consideration, and for supporting education.

Respectfully,
Jasmine Inman

kong1 - Blayne

From: (null) (null) <kristin.lindquist10@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2018 4:26 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: SB2521



Aloha.

Please support this bill that will provide additional funding for special education. I am a special education teacher at Waianae high school. Special education teachers frequently need resources for students immediately and are not able to purchase them in a timely manner due to purchase order requisition procedures.

We are tasked with teaching our students skills which take place out in the community. However our families do not have the money to pay for these trips. All the teachers I know have spent money out of their own pockets in order to provide their students the opportunity to learn in real life situations.

Teaching students with special needs is a unique teaching experience. The students needs are individual and it is hard to predict what they will be. Having sufficient funds to use based on these unique needs would be extremely beneficial to our students learning. Some students need physical adaptations so that they can participate more fully in their learning. Others may simply need basic school supplies. Please support this bill in order to give us the money and flexibility that we need in order to teach our students in the best fashion possible.

Thank you for considering my request.

With respect,

Ms. Kristin Lindquist
Special Education Teacher
Waianae High School

Sent from my iPhone

kong1 - Blayne

From: Dorothea Sanford <DeeZkazoo@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 12:23 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: SB2521



House Education Committee Chair Justin Woodson.

Aloha Mr. Woodson,

This is my second year teaching in HI. I have been a Special Education teacher in FL for 14/16 years. I moved to K'au with little more than the shirt on my back. I was very surprised to find out that the SPED department on the Islands does not purchase many consumable supplies for our special needs students.

My students with dyslexia and dysgraphia, need colored films to place over text in their books so the letters and words don't jump all over the pages. They also need standard lined, colored notebook paper for writing, so once again, the words don't jump all over the pages. Buying for one student is one thing, but in my K-2 case load, I have 15. Some of my students are "mouthers" they need what we call biters to chew on, something safe to calm them down and focus. Other students may need strong elastics so they can pull with their hands or feet, this activity does not disturb other students, pencils with special eraser ends for tactile stimulation, ball chairs and cushions for students with ADHD, PPD (Autism Spectrum), extra, extra large grid paper, and many more consumable therapies and accommodations. There is specialized curriculum for our high needs students that is available but not affordable in our schools' budget. Incentives are solely placed on the teachers. Some of my students have Soc/Emo/Behavior Disorders, these students have many other needs, that must be addressed. There are specific games created by psychologists to help modify/lesson undesirable behaviors through strategies (behavior modification) technics. Our Principal is fantastic, she is more than just supportive. Because K'au is a small, under privileged, rural city, there is not enough \$\$ money to go around. Teachers' Salaries is incomprehensibly low compared to the amount of time we spend planning and prepping daily. Cost of living prevents most teachers from using their retirement to help fund their classrooms.

Mahalo for taking the time to read this letter Have a safe and enjoyable break Mahalo H Sanford

Sent from my iPhone

kong1 - Blayne

From: Jenella Ogitani <jogitani@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 6:26 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: SB2521



Dear Sirs,

I am asking for your support helping Special Education teachers in getting funds that are needed to help our students be successful in their academic careers. Year after year we are unselfishly using personal funds to supplement our students supplies. Working in the Leeward district a good number of students are economically challenged, it falls upon our shoulders to provide supplies, when we can afford them, or forced not doing a project due to a lack of supplies/funds. An example would be our department of over 200 students having to share a handful of chrome books to access reading programs that would help to improve student's basic reading, fluency and comprehension. When we do not have the chrome books some students cannot participate using technology that we are encouraging students to learn. Instead we have to rely on hard copies which in the long run cost more through printing, copies, wear and tear on copiers, toner, etc.

Please consider my request.

Sincerely,
Jenella Ogitani
Special Education Educator
Kapolei High School

Sent from my iPhone

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LATE

DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 03/19/2018
Time: 03:10 PM
Location: 309
Committee: House Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2521, SD1 RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to provide up to \$1,690 to each special education classroom teacher for instructional materials and equipment. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 2521 appropriating funds so that every special education classroom teacher is provided up to \$1,690 for instructional materials and equipment that support student learning, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Board of Education's approved budget.

The intent of this bill aligns with Goals 1 and 2 of the Department's Strategic Plan in that the extra materials and equipment would help ensure student and staff success.

If SB 2521 is to be enacted, the Department respectfully requests approximately \$4,000,000 be appropriated to carry out the purposes of this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

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.