



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

Date: 01/31/2018
Time: 02:45 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2521 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.

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 as extra materials and equipment would help ensure student and staff success.

The Department is currently researching the background on this measure for historical allotment of these funds to special education classroom teachers and requests additional time to report back to this committee. It is also calculating a proposed budget impact of this measure. If SB 2521 is to be enacted, the department respectfully requests funding for 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.



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council
1010 Richard Street, #118, Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129
email: seac.hawaii@gmail.com

January 31, 2018

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

Ms. Martha Guinan, *Chair*
Ms. Dale Matsuura, *Vice Chair*
Dr. Patricia Sheehey, *Vice
Chair*
Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Vice Chair*

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman
Ms. Annette Cooper
Mr. Motu Finau
Ms. Gabriele Finn
Mr. Sage Goto
Dr. Kurt Humphrey
Ms. Bernadette Lane
Ms. Kaili Murbach
Ms. Stacey Oshio
Ms. Kau'i Rezentos
Ms. Charlene Robles
Ms. Rosie Rowe
Mr. Daniel Santos
Mr. James Street
Dr. Todd Takahashi
Dr. Daniel Ulrich
Mr. Steven Vannatta
Mr. Gavin Villar
Dr. Amy Wiech
Ms. Jasmine Williams
Ms. Susan Wood

Dr. Robert Campbell, *liaison
to the military*
Dr. Christina Tydeman, *liaison
to the Superintendent*

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff
Susan Rocco, Staff

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: S.B. 2521 - RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION


Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), strongly supports S.B. 2521 which provides funds to special education classroom teachers to spend toward instructional materials and equipment to meet their students' unique instructional needs.

A number of teacher surveys have highlighted the need for additional adaptive curricula, assistive technology and specialized equipment to enable special education students to access their individualized instruction. The monies for these additional supports are often not included in the school budget, and many special education teachers spend their own funds to support their students. The flexibility to purchase additional instructional materials and equipment is sorely needed in order for students with disabilities to access learning opportunities, make meaningful academic gains, and thus reduce the huge achievement gap between special education and non-special education students.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our testimony. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact us.

Respectfully,


Martha Guinan
SEAC Chair


Ivalee Sinclair

Legislative Committee Chair





1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Corey Rosenlee
President
Justin Hughey
Vice President
Amy Perruso
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

RE: SB 2521 - RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

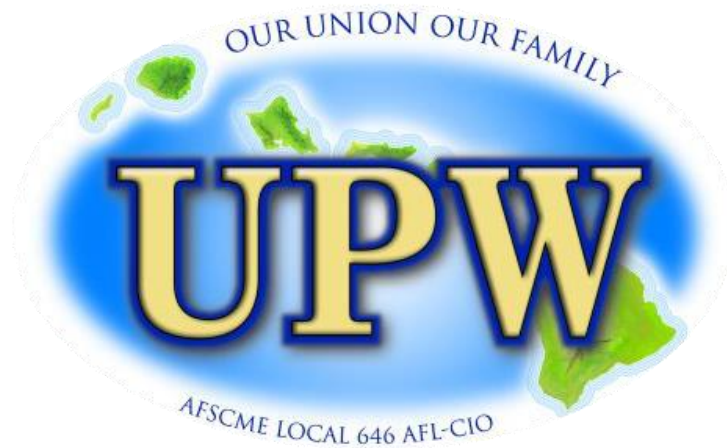
Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports SB 2521**, 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 learning in math, adaptive programs and supplies, extra supplies needed for learning life skills out in the community, and even the paper needed for printing of individualized education plan forms, modified lessons, etc.

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.



The Hawaii State Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2018

Committee on Education

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Date of Hearing: Wednesday, January 31, 2018
Time of Hearing: 2:45 p. m.
Place of Hearing: Conference Room 229

Testimony in Support of SB2521 Relating to Education

By Dayton M. Nakanelua,
State Director of the United Public Workers,
AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, and AFL-CIO. The UPW is the exclusive representative for approximately 12,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and the four counties.

SB2521 Relating To Special Education will provide to the Department of Education up to \$1,690 to each special education classroom teacher for instructional materials and equipment.

The UPW strongly supports this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Schools Our
Keiki Deserve

808-351-0980
808-627-0193

1488 Glen Ave.
Wahiawā

TESTIMONY FOR SB 2521 - RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

Please pass SB 2521 to provide special education teachers with critical funds for classroom needs.

Special Education, as you are surely aware, is in a state of crisis in our public system. It is the area of the most critical teacher shortage, with Special Education teachers doing more and more with fewer certified and qualified professional Special Education teachers to support them and collaborate with them at their schools. Not only are we intensifying their work and increasing their case loads, as more teachers leave this area of work, but we are also depriving these teachers of the tools they require to be successful in their work.

To increase the achievement of special needs students, and retain these teachers certified and qualified teachers, we must give teachers additional funding for resources and supplies. In 2011, the DOE ended the special education classroom supply fund, which provided every special education teacher \$1,690 per year to provide essential supplies for their students, including curricular and classroom materials. Please reinstate this funding.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amy Perruso
Executive Director



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

TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 2521, RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION

Senate Committee on Education
Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Hon. Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Honorable Chair Kidani 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, relating to special education.

Hawai'i's special needs students are performing below grade level in both 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. While State Superintendent Christina Kishimoto and the Hawai'i State Board of Education have made closing the achievement gap between special needs and general education students their top priority, doing so requires investing in additional resources for special education teachers. In 2011, the Hawai'i State Department of Education discontinued the special education classroom supply fund, which, for a decade, had given \$1,690 to every special education teacher for essential supplies, including curricular and classroom materials and printing of individualized education plan 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 teachers, but would be money well spent.

To support the unique learning needs of our most vulnerable children, we ask your committee to support this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance

EDU Testimony

From: Inga Park <ingapark@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 1:22 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: RE: SB 2521 - RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Inga Park Okuna, a counselor at Kalihi Uka School. Please pass SB 2521 to provide special education teachers with critical funds for classroom needs.

About 10% of public school students qualify for Special Education services. These students are considered “high needs” students by the DOE. The range of needs by these students is exceptionally broad. They have unique learning needs which is why each student in special education receives an IEP— Individualized Education Program. They require specialized materials and supplies. Many require individualized reward systems to keep them motivated and feeling successful. Yet special education teachers aren’t given the money and support needed to be able to meet the needs of all of these students. Teachers and schools are pressured to close the gap and raise the achievement level of these students. In order to do this, we must give teachers additional funding for resources and supplies. In 2011, the DOE ended the special education classroom supply fund, which provided every special education teacher \$1,690 per year to provide essential supplies for their students, including curricular and classroom materials. Reinstating this funding will help teachers fulfill the individualized education plans of children with special needs.

Inga Park Okuna
Kalihi Uka School
Oahu

EDU Testimony

From: Rebecca Hadley-Schlosser <beccasuehi@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 8:16 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: RE: SB 2521 - RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION

Aloha Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Rebecca Hadley-Schlosser, a special education teacher at Nanaikapono Elementary School. Please pass SB 2521 to provide special education teachers with critical funds for classroom needs.

As a special education teacher, I have spent 20 of my 21 years in the DOE working out on the Waianae Coast. I am very concerned that funding for special education has been cut, resulting in the need for me to spend more money out of my pocket for supplies for my classroom.

If we want to increase the achievement of my students with special needs, we much give teachers additional funding for resources and supplies so that we are not spending that money out of our own pockets, essentially taking away money needed for my family. In 2011, the DOE ended the special education classroom supply fun which provided every special education teacher \$1690 to use towards supplies for our classrooms, including curricular and classroom materials. When this was done, special education teachers were then expected to meet the individual needs of our students using whatever funds the principal gave to us. For some teachers, that amount was \$200 or less. This amount of money does not allow the teacher to purchase research-based, effective curricula and materials that our students need in order to access the general education curriculum and work towards their grade level standards. Reinstating this funding will help teachers fulfill the individualized education plans of our children with special needs.

Please pass this bill so that all special education teachers across Hawaii are better able to meet the needs of our students.

Thank you for your time,

Rebecca Hadley-Schlosser
Nanaikapono Elementary School
Oahu

SB-2521

Submitted on: 1/27/2018 2:11:03 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2521

Submitted on: 1/27/2018 4:34:16 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaulana Dameg		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2521

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 5:53:22 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Ninci		Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 2521. Special educators should be allotted adequate annual funds to go toward curricula, new applications, technology resources, assistive technology, motivating activities and reinforcers, specialized assessment resources, and more. This would appear to address some of the support needs for special educators, and perhaps it will help to avoid potential negative trajectories, such as inadequate student progress and teacher attrition. Special educators generally need more resources available to them and it would be beneficial to allow them choices in how to use funds toward their own classrooms, adapted to their student needs. Thank you for considering this bill!

Jennifer Ninci, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA

Honolulu, Hawaii

SB-2521

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 8:38:56 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Freudig		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Caroline Freudig, a resource teacher at the Kaua'i Complex Area. Please pass SB2521 to provide special education teachers with critical funds for classroom needs.

Hawai'i struggles to meet the needs of special education students. The Department of Education has made closing the achievement gap between special needs students and their general education peers a top priority.

To increase the achievement of special needs students, we must give teachers additional funding for resources and supplies. In 2011, the DOE ended the special education classroom supply fund, which provided every special education teacher \$1,690 per year to provide essential supplies for their students, including curricular and classroom materials. Reinstating this funding will help teachers fulfill the individualized education plans of children with special needs.

To improve the achievement of our most vulnerable keiki, please support this bill. Mahalo.

Caroline Freudig, Kaua'i Complex Area, Kaua'i

SB-2521

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:50:06 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Lum		Support	No

Comments:

I have been teaching in the Hawai'i public school system for over 14 years. I was originally a Career and Technology Education (CTE) teacher. As a CTE teacher we got funding from Perkins. Because we had this funding we were able to have newer supplies. I have always had Special Education students, even when teaching CTE classes. The Special Education department always had enough to give me supplies and help as necessary because I had the extra work of have their students in my classes.

Seven years ago I was displaced because of budget reasons. I was placed as a Special Education teacher. I was shocked when I learned that we just got the leftovers when it came to materials. Old books, broken desks, no computers. I had to scrape and scrounge for all my supplies or pay for them out of pocket. Why? Because we receive between \$60-\$80 a year for supplies. We can not buy a book when the average textbook is \$80. We can not buy computers. We can buy some posters, pens, manipulatives the must be shared,

I bought my own document camera. I brought my old computers from home, which cannot be hooked up to the internet because of rules stating the computer must be school property. I don't want to have to depend on my own pocketbook to have my classroom stocked.

Even the amount proposed would help, but barely make a dent. I will still have to scour Craigslist for freebies and cheap deals. I will have to place ads to get donations. This is not fair. We would not expect any other state employee to provide all of these things. Don't tell me that I decided to become a teacher and this is what is expected of teachers. It shouldn't be.

Please support our students. Please support our teachers that take on the role of creating educated, responsible future citizens.

Mahalo

SB-2521

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 10:41:51 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Osa Tui, Jr.		Support	No

Comments:

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I am Osa Tui, Jr., registrar at McKinley High School. Please pass SB2521 to provide special education teachers with critical funds for classroom needs.

Reinstating funding that used to exist for special education teachers is critical as we continue to watch as the special education program in Hawaii continues to fail to meet the needs of our keiki. Overworked teachers who cannot provide for the special needs our keiki have will continue to flee the profession in droves. On top of being tasked with teaching, they are also tasked with coming up with IEPs and setting up the meetings, and trying to make do with curriculum materials not specifically designed for those who require special resources to learn effectively.

Osa Tui, Jr., McKinley High, Oahu

EDU Testimony

From: Anne Cross <annieckcross@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 9:57 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: RE: SB 2521 - RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 2521 - RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Anne Cross, a 16 year veteran special education teacher in the State of Hawai'i, currently teaching Resource grades 4-6 at Chiefess Kapi'olani Elementary in Hilo. Please pass SB 2521 to provide myself and fellow special education teachers with critical funds for our individual student's' needs.

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. Accordingly, Department of Education officials have made closing the achievement gap between special needs students and their general education peers a top priority, but have not provided adequate funding to schools to do so.

To increase the achievement of special needs students, we must give teachers, like myself, additional funding for resources and supplies. In 2011, the DOE ended the special education classroom supply fund, which provided me and every special education teacher \$1,690 per year to provide essential supplies for our students, including curricular and classroom materials. Reinstating this funding will help me and my fellow teachers fulfill the individualized education plans of our children with special needs.

Prior to 2011 I was able to purchase the necessary resources to supplement the general education curriculum that is purchased with my school's Weighted Student Formula funds. Now, I must fight for funds to be taken out of the pot of money to support all students. Some of my student's' needs are very costly. I now, never feel like I have enough to truly support their learning and close the achievement gap. With the statewide push for inclusion it makes sense to support teachers with more funds to purchase what our student's' need to make general education curriculum accessible and when necessary provide interventions for specific skills.

To improve the achievement of our most vulnerable keiki, please support this bill. Mahalo.

Annie C.K. Cross, Chiefess Kapi'olani Elementary, Hilo, Hawai'i

Sent from my iPhone

EDU Testimony

From: Chris Santomauro <csantoma@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 10:49 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: RE: SB 2521 - RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 2521 - RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Christian Santomauro, a special education teacher at Kane`ohe Elementary School. Please pass SB 2521 to provide special education teachers with critical funds for classroom needs.

I got into teaching, especially teaching in special education, to support the empowerment of traditionally oppressed and marginalized communities. Special Education throughout the country is in severe dysfunction, further marginalizing already vulnerable populations due to the systemic dysfunction of our educational system and larger society. To not recognize this and to not actively promote equity for students who are gravely misunderstood and mistreated is an act of oppression in itself.

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. Accordingly, Department of Education officials have made closing the achievement gap between special needs students and their general education peers a top priority.

To increase the achievement of special needs students, we must give teachers additional funding for resources and supplies. In 2011, the DOE ended the special education classroom supply fund, which provided every special education teacher \$1,690 per year to provide essential supplies for their students, including curricular and classroom materials. Reinstating this funding will help teachers fulfill the individualized education plans of children with special needs.

To improve the achievement of our most vulnerable keiki, please support this bill. Mahalo.

Christian Santomauro
Kane`ohe Elementary School
O`ahu

EDU Testimony

From: Trisha_Lee/KANEOHE/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 11:40 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: RE: SB 2521 - RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 2521 - RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Trisha Lee, a teacher at Kaneohe Elementary School. Please pass SB 2521 to provide special education teachers with critical funds for classroom needs.

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. Accordingly, Department of Education officials have made closing the achievement gap between special needs students and their general education peers a top priority.

To increase the achievement of special needs students, we must give teachers additional funding for resources and supplies. In 2011, the DOE ended the special education classroom supply fund, which provided every special education teacher \$1,690 per year to provide essential supplies for their students, including curricular and classroom materials. Reinstating this funding will help teachers fulfill the individualized education plans of children with special needs.

To improve the achievement of our most vulnerable keiki, please support this bill.

Mahalo.

Trisha Lee, Kaneohe Elementary, Oahu

SB-2521

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:15:39 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeanette White		Support	No

Comments: