



SB2665
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

February 7, 2017

2:51 p.m.

Room 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** SB2665, which codifies sustainable development goals based on the United Nations' Global Goal four, quality education.

OHA has long advocated for the implementation of meaningful policies which reduce inequities faced by Native Hawaiians. This includes our Strategic Priority of No‘ona‘auao (Education), which seeks to maximize Native Hawaiians' choices of life and work, by empowering them to gain knowledge and excel in educational opportunities at all levels. This aligns with closely with target seven in this measure, "Eliminating gender disparities in education and ensuring equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, Native Hawaiians, and children in vulnerable situations."

Continuing research shows a persistent lack of positive Native Hawaiian education experiences over the past 50 years, resulting in substantial and continuing gaps in student achievement and growth, school engagement, promotion and graduation, and post-high enrollment and completion. OHA published a detailed report on *Kānehō‘ālanī: Transforming the Health of Native Hawaiian Men* in May 2017, which outlines education gaps faced by Native Hawaiians: based on the SY 2014-2015 DOE enrollment records, Native Hawaiians comprise approximately 26% of the total DOE student population; meanwhile, in 2016, only 14.5% of Native Hawaiian men 25 and older had a bachelor's degree or higher, half the rate of degree holders in Hawai'i's male population overall. Similarly, Native Hawaiian women aged 25 and older hold post-secondary degrees at a rate 14.3% less than the statewide average. As the number of school-age Native Hawaiians in Hawai'i is expected to increase by 263% from 2010 to 2060, it is imperative that our public education system work to address the clear gaps faced by its substantial and growing population of Native Hawaiian students.

OHA believes that the sustainable development goals described in this measure align with our historical and ongoing advocacy, programs, and initiatives relating to our own strategic priorities, and is a step towards ensuring a more equitable future that both empowers Hawaiians and strengthens Hawai'i through quality education.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SB2665. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

Date: 02/07/2018
Time: 02:51 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education
Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education
Title of Bill: SB 2665 RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.
Purpose of Bill: Codifies sustainable development goals based on the United Nations' Global Goal four, quality education.

Department's Position:

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

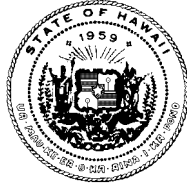
The Department of Education (Department) appreciates this opportunity to testify in support of S.B. No. 2665, which codifies goal four, quality education, of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Goal four articulates a number of actions toward ensuring inclusive and equitable education that align with the Joint Department of Education and Board of Education Strategic Plan, including a focus on literacy, career and technical education, teacher recruitment and retention, and expanding the Department's partnerships. In addition, the Department was an active participant in the World Conservation Congress that was held in Hawaii in 2016, and created an online resource bank to provide K-12 educators with a starting point for locating resources relevant to the themes of the Congress such as food and water security, biodiversity, and climate change.

The Department is actively engaged in several initiatives, tied to our Strategic Plan and Implementation Plan, that will further the objectives elucidated in goal four and look forward to working collaboratively with other State offices toward these ends.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

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.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 7, 2018

TO: The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2665 – RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 2:51 p.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the proposed bill as it aligns with the department's transformation efforts and mission to support the well-being of individuals, families, and communities in Hawaii.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to codify sustainable development goals based on the United Nations' Global Goal four, relating to quality education.

DHS has a large stake in ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. The Preschool Open Doors (POD) program of DHS, for example, currently serves more than 1,600 children statewide, and provides child care subsidies to eligible low- and moderate-income families to pay preschool tuition. The program aims to provide children whose families might otherwise not be able to afford preschool the opportunity to gain essential skills to be successful in school and in life.

Through the department's First to Work and Employment & Training programs, DHS provided education-related benefits to approximately 160 individuals in state fiscal year 2016 to pay for credit and non-credit courses, training courses, certification courses, books, supplies, uniforms, tools, and other education-related items. Additionally, the Social

Services Division of DHS provides higher education and other supports for former foster youth.

In 2016, DHS initiated its 'Ohana Nui framework by adopting a multigenerational approach to transform the way services are provided to individuals and families to improve outcomes and well-being. By providing programs and services that maintain a high level of service integration, quality, and intensity across multiple generations, DHS intends to reduce intergenerational poverty in the State, and the human and financial costs associated with poverty.

One of the pillars of the 'Ohana Nui framework is education and economic stability. According to the Aspen Institute, investments in high-quality early education yield a 7-10 percent per year return on investment based on increased school and career achievement as well as reduced social costs. At the same time, parents who complete a college degree double their incomes. A parent's level of educational attainment is also a strong predictor of a child's success.

As part of the DHS mission to transform the way we deliver benefits and services, and as part of the Governor's package, DHS proposed SB 2793/HB 2366 which requires DHS to use an integrated and multigenerational approach to delivering human services to reduce the incidence of intergenerational poverty and dependence on public benefits.

Additionally, DHS is engaged in its first departmental strategic plan to improve overall program outcomes and establish outcome measures of services for children, parents, and families geared to reduce adverse risks and increase protective factors that promote educational attainment and wage progression that lead to economic self-sufficiency. One of the key objectives of the strategic plan is to support early childhood development and school readiness.

The proposed SB 2665 furthers the goals of DHS as we transform to an integrated service delivery system with a focus on supporting every recipient's human potential; ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education; promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all; reducing incidences of intergenerational poverty; and improving the community's overall health and well-being.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education
February 7, 2018 at 2:51 p.m.

By
Jan Gouveia
Vice President for Administration
University of Hawai'i System

SB 2665 – RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2665. The University of Hawai'i ("University") supports the high-level and overarching vision of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as presented in this legislation.

The SDGs intersect with key cross-cutting issues in Hawai'i, and acknowledge that none of these goals can be achieved without consideration for the others. The University is in the process of building a statewide directory of Sustainability Scientists, Scholars and Practitioners that will be searchable by SDG, research interest, and other keywords to improve access to subject matter expertise across the spectrum of sustainability, climate change and resiliency issues.

The SDGs can support locally and culturally appropriate implementation of sustainability goals through the *Aloha+ Challenge* (SCR 69), Sustainable Hawai'i, 100 Resilient Cities, Promise to Pae 'Āina, and other efforts. This builds on the recent adoption of the Paris Agreement (Act 32) and the inspiring Worldwide Voyage of Hōkūle'a. Progress on Hawai'i's statewide sustainability commitment is being tracked through the online *Aloha+ Challenge* Dashboard, which the University has supported by providing subject matter expertise throughout its development over the past three years.

As the State of Hawai'i's only public institution of higher education, the University's core mission strongly aligns with SDG #4 Quality Education, which SB 2665 seeks to advance. The University partners with our local communities and other communities around the world to support place-based action that drives global sustainability outcomes, and looks forward to working with the legislature to advance the State's sustainable development goals through quality education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2665.