

**SB-2680**

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 9:21:13 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/7/2018 2:51:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dr. Ward Mardfin		Support	No

Comments:

February 7, 2018

House Committee on Education

Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Re: S.B. No. 2680 RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING

We are in support of the above referenced Bill to study the effects of WSF on the remote schools and especially remote K-12 schools such as Hana High and Elementary School.

The WSF funding allocation does not provide the necessary funding to maintain Hana School's educational requirements as set forth by the DOE. The Superintendent's Reserve Fund has assisted in year's past, but still provides an inadequate budget. I appreciate your considering and passing this legislation to assess the negative impacts of WSF on our small, remote and K-12 schools.

In the meantime, while the study is being conducted, consideration needs to be given for the upcoming fiscal year funding to assure that Hana High & Elementary School, as well as any other small remote schools, has adequate funding to offer minimum course requirements and to adequately fund the necessities to operate the school. The Complex Area Superintendent (CAS) Lindsay Ball, recently informed Hana School that

the Superintendent Reserve Fund will be eliminated for the 2019-2020 school year further reducing the ability to provide adequate education.

Regards,

*Ward Mardfin*

Ward Mardfin, Chair

Hana High & Elementary School SCC

P.O. Box 547

Hana, HI 96713

cc: EDU Members

Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele, Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Sen. Will Espero, Sen. Donna Mercado Kim

cc: Sen. J. Kalani English

As Chair of the Hana School Community Council, I continue to be extremely concerned with the serious underfunding of Hana School under the Weighted Student Formula. While the Reserve Fund has provided some minimal relief, this will be discontinued in the future.

Our students are being robbed of their futures by not receiving educational services comparable to that of most other students in the State.

This bill and the LRB study will provide objective evidence and, hopefully, recommended solutions to give our students a fair share of educational opportunities.

Ward

Mahalo, Ward Mardfin



## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Education

Time: 2:51 p.m.

Date: February 7, 2018

Where: State Capitol Room 229

### TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

**RE: SB 2680, Relating to Education Funding**

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Kidani, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Kahele, a me nā Lālā Kenekoa o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao o ka 'Aha Kenekoa, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Division of Kamehameha Schools.

We are writing to **support** SB 2680, relating to education funding, which requires the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on the impact of the weighted student formula on small and remote schools to determine whether the formula fulfills its statutory purpose of equalizing operational funding among the State's public schools.

Kamehameha Schools advocates for and supports the achievement of Hawai'i's Native Hawaiian public school students. As such, we have been a collaborator with Hawai'i public schools and hope to significantly impact more children and their families through education. This measure is an important step toward ensuring that small and remote schools, many of which have a predominance of Native Hawaiian students, will receive equitable and adequate resources.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

'A'oha hana nui ke alu 'ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui