

Written Comments

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LATE

Date: 02/28/2018

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: 211

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2879, SD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the office of enterprise technology services, in collaboration with the department of education, to establish a working group to study the department of education's information technology infrastructure, operations, and services. Establishes the members and duties of the working group. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Department takes no position on SB2879, SD1, but instead provides the following comments and recommended amendment:

The Department appreciates the objective of ensuring that technology in the State is provided in the most cost effective manner possible. The Department continues to work collaboratively with ETS to that end. We continue to work towards the success of projects that make sense.

There are places, however, where operating independently has saved the State of Hawaii substantial funds through lower costs for educational licenses and funding from the federal government that is only available to educational institutions. For example, by using Google for Education, the Department is able to save as much as \$40 million per year. With regards to federal funding, by operating school networks independently, the Department has obtained \$31 million in eRate funds over five years from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), funding only available to K12 institutions.

Rather than a working group, the Department recommends to amend SB2879, SD1 to add Department of Education (DOE) representation to ETS's current governance committee. The addition of the DOE representation would be similar to that of the University of Hawaii's representation on the committee with UH's CIO serving as its representative. Having DOE representation on the committee will provide the full spectrum of educational representation from K-12 through higher education - of which both have very distinct requirements. The ETS

governance committee is intended to ensure that ETS is serving the needs of all State agencies where appropriate and with the addition of the DOE representation on the committee, these discussions can continue through the established committee, in lieu of creating a duplicative workgroup with similar composition and purpose.

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.