



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

Date: 02/05/2018
Time: 03:15 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2922 PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES VIII AND X OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO AUTHORIZE THE LEGISLATURE TO ESTABLISH A SURCHARGE TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Proposes amendments to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to advance the State's goal of providing a quality education for the children of Hawaii by authorizing the legislature to establish, as provided by law, a surcharge on residential investment property and visitor accommodations.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education supports the intent of this measure, yet respectfully defers to the Department of Taxation and the Department of Budget and Finance for implementation and fiscal impact analysis.

The Department has made every effort to wisely spend appropriations provided. However, funding has not kept pace with 2008 levels of state fiscal support, adjusted for inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index.

Education is a key investment in the state's economic development and an investment in its local employee base capacity for all Hawaii industries. A funding increase will provide adequate student funding and teacher pay to support an equitable high quality instructional system with respectful 21st century learning environments through quality facilities.

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

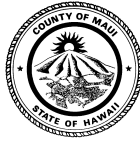
The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.

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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

February 3, 2018

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

FROM: Mike White
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike White", is written over the name and title in the "FROM:" field.

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 5, 2018; TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 2922, RELATING TO PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES VIII AND X OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO AUTHORIZE THE LEGISLATURE TO ESTABLISH A SURCHARGE TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **opposition** to this measure. The purpose of this bill is to amend the Constitution of the State of Hawaii by authorizing the legislature to establish a surcharge on residential investment property and visitor accommodations.

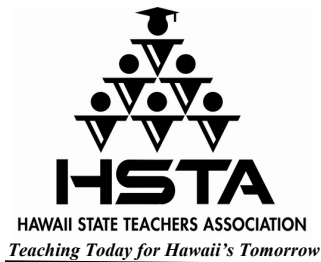
The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **oppose** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Although the Department of Education receives almost 20 percent of the entire budget of the State of Hawaii, administrators, teachers, students and advocates of this bill have legitimate reasons to demand more funding to provide quality education for our keiki. However, the proposed measure is flawed, which is why I implore the legislature to defer this bill.
2. Increasing costs of visitor-related programs like transportation, sewer and water, fire, police, and parks maintenance continue to be a challenge as the counties do not receive a fair share of the transient accommodations tax. To pay for these services, businesses and homeowners will continue to be burdened and face potential increases in real property taxes.
3. Real property taxes are counties' primary and largest source of revenue to fund county programs. The counties must account for the salary increases for all bargaining units this year, which we are obligated to fund. Raising property taxes is our only reasonable option to balance our budget.

4. In many mainland communities, local real estate taxes are used to support local schools. Communities identify local needs and tax residents accordingly. In Hawaii, a decision was made decades ago to establish a statewide school and healthcare system, which differs from most of the nation, and would be funded through state tax collections. If lawmakers and the governor believe schools are underfunded, you should accept responsibility and appropriately fund education without passing the buck and causing financial challenges for the counties.
5. The State has far more taxing authority than the counties and should be able to handle any increased need for funds. The premise that the counties should fund schools without having a greater say in the way monies are spent ignores the importance of a community's right to decision making.

For the foregoing reasons, I strongly **oppose** this measure.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

RE: SB 2922 - PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES VIII AND X OF
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO AUTHORIZE THE
LEGISLATURE TO ESTABLISH A SURCHARGE TO INCREASE
FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports SB 2922**, proposing amendments to Articles VIII and X of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i to authorize the Legislature to establish a surcharge to increase funding for public education.

Let the people vote.

Today, we are not asking you to vote on increasing anyone's taxes. Rather, we are urging you to **champion democracy** by allowing the people of Hawai'i to decide whether or not to increase funding for public education.

Hawai'i *still* shortchanges its public schools. While our state's per-pupil spending of \$12,855 ranks 17th in the nation when compared to other states in raw dollars, comparison with school districts of similar size and demographics yields different results. Mainland districts with high costs of living are typically urban and averaged with rural districts experiencing lower costs of living in statewide analyses, a geographic and fiscal situation that is not applicable to the islands' single statewide school district.

When comparing school districts of similar size, Hawai'i ranked 227th in per-pupil funding *before* adjusting for cost of living, according to an analysis performed by Ballotpedia.org. Likewise, the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism reported, in March of 2017, that Hawai'i's education expenditures, as a share of combined state and local government spending, is 27.3 percent, which ranks as the lowest in the nation. Hawai'i's major private schools, in contrast, average \$15,173 in per-pupil spending. When Catholic schools, subsidized by the Roman Catholic Diocese, are removed, private school spending jumps to nearly \$19,173 dollars per student, sans endowment funds that further boost private school baselines. Punahou President Jim Scott revealed, in 2014, that the "real cost of our education per student is \$26,000," with the school's endowment standing then at \$235 million and fundraising operations generating an additional \$12-\$15 million each year. It is no wonder, then, that Hawai'i has one of the highest private school enrollment rates in the nation. According to U.S. Census Bureau data, for the 2016-2017 school year, approximately 20 percent of K-12 students on O'ahu attended private schools, with that number rising to 38 percent for students living in the urban core of Honolulu.

The islands also continue to suffer from a shortage of qualified teachers. According to the DOE's STRIVE HI accountability reports, for the 2017-2018 school year, the state saw 1,011 SATEP vacancies, up from 920 SATEP vacancies in 2016-2017, including a slight increase in SPED SATEP vacancies, from 290 in 2016-2017 to 311 in 2017-2018. SPED teacher attrition has led to a situation in which 1 out of every 6 SPED teachers have not completed a state-sanctioned teacher training program. Our teacher shortage problem is further clarified in the DOE's 2016-2017 Employment Report, which shows that teacher resignations increased from 781 in 2015-2016 to 850 in 2016-2017. Similarly in-state SATEP hires decreased from 404 to 387 over that time span, while out-of-state SATEP hires increased from 508 to 572. Teacher attrition is even worse in high-poverty areas. In the Nanakuli-Waianae Complex Area, for example, an astounding 18 out of 19 SPED teachers hired for the 2017-2018 school year do not have a special education license.

Moreover. In 2015, the DOE released a study entitled *Equitable Access to Excellent Educators*, which found that an average of 14.48 percent of teachers in low-poverty schools are inexperienced (haven't completed one full year of full-time teaching), unqualified (have not obtained full licensure in Hawai'i), or teaching out of their field of expertise. In high-poverty schools, however, the study noted that an average of 21.48 percent of teachers are inexperienced, unqualified, or out-of-field. In other



HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
Teaching Today for Hawaii's Tomorrow

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words, high-poverty schools have 50 percent more teachers who are inexperienced, unqualified, or out-of-field than their low-poverty peers.

Complex Area Averages	%Poverty	% New Teachers (Inexp)	% Not Licensed (Unqual)	% NHQT (OOF)
Statewide Poverty Average %	55%			
Statewide Average for High Native Hawaiian Schools		11%	7%	7%
Statewide Average for High Pacific Islander Schools		12%	7%	7%
CA Aiea-Moanalua-Radford	38%	10%	3%	2%
CA Baldwin-Kekaulike-Maui	53%	9%	3%	4%
CA Campbell-Kapolei	46%	12%	3%	3%
CA Castle-Kahuku	56%	9%	4%	3%
CA Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani	50%	8%	2%	2%
CA Hana-Lahainaluna-Lanai-Molokai	67%	8%	4%	5%
CA Honokaa-Kealakehe-Kohala-Konawaena	68%	12%	8%	8%
CA Hilo-Waiakea	63%	6%	2%	3%
CA Kailua-Kalaheo	44%	9%	6%	3%
CA Kaimuki-McKinley-Roosevelt	57%	7%	3%	2%
CA Kapaa-Kauai-Waimea	51%	11%	4%	6%
CA Kau-Keaau-Pahoa	86%	15%	4%	6%
CA Leilehua-Mililani-Waialua	46%	9%	2%	4%
CA Nanakuli-Waianae	81%	21%	8%	9%
CA Pearl City-Waipahu	46%	7%	3%	3%
SCHOOLS WITH UNIQUE CONDITIONS				
CA Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani – Hawai'i School for the Deaf and Blind	71%	67%	42%	75%
CA Kailua-Kalaheo – Olomana School - For incarcerated youth	59%	15%	12%	27%
CA Kapaa-Kauai-Waimea - Niihau School - There are only 2 teachers who teach on Niihau. Niihau is a privately owned island that requires permission from the Robinson family to access/enter the island.	50%	0%	50%	50%

Our children deserve better. Again, please **let the people vote** on this critical issue. Authorize our state to debate the condition of our public school system, a debate that has been a long time coming. When you vote for this measure, you are not voting on the details of complex tax increase. Instead, you are voting to entrust Hawai'i's people with the opportunity to chart the course of their children's future.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

841 Bishop St., Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

Committee Education
Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

February 5, 2018

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee,

We support SB2922 proposing a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to establish a surcharge on residential investment property and visitor accommodations to increase funding for education.

Hui for Excellence in Education, or "HE'E," is a statewide coalition of diverse stakeholders committed to working collaboratively to identify opportunities to improve public education in Hawai'i. HE'E seeks to be the nexus for community and parent engagement while serving as a public resource for educational policy.

The Coalition was formed in May 2010 by parents and community members who stood up and said "no" to school furloughs and "yes" to re-establishing education as a public priority. We have been following public education policy at the Board of Education (BOE) and the Hawaii State Legislature consistently since our inception. We are thankful to the legislature for its support of public education; however, we also know that the current funding for education is insufficient to cover the needs of our students, teachers, administrators and schools. An alternative revenue stream dedicated to education is needed.

In 2016, the BOE approved an update of the BOE/DOE Strategic Plan, which puts a focus on the state's achievement gap that has persisted over the years. We agree that help is most needed for our struggling students. We feel that the education surcharge would benefit these students.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support of these bills represents a 75% consensus or more of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

HE'E Member List

Academy 21
After-School All-Stars Hawaii
Alliance for Place Based Learning
*Castle Complex Community Council
*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS
Coalition for Children with Special Needs
*Faith Action for Community Equity
Fresh Leadership LLC
Girl Scouts Hawaii
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance
*Hawaii Association of School Psychologists
*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars
*Hawai'i Charter School Network
*Hawai'i Children's Action Network
Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition
*Hawaii State PTSA
Hawai'i State Student Council
Hawai'i State Teachers Association
Hawai'i P-20
Hawai'i 3Rs
Head Start Collaboration Office
It's All About Kids
*INPEACE
Joint Venture Education Forum
Junior Achievement of Hawaii
Kamehameha Schools
Kanu Hawai'i
*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council
Keiki to Career Kaua'i
Kupu A'e
*Leaders for the Next Generation

Learning First

McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds
Our Public School
*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning
*Parents and Children Together
*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i
Punahou School PUEO Program
Teach for America
The Learning Coalition
US PACOM
University of Hawai'i College of Education
YMCA of Honolulu

Voting Members () Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*



Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele and members of the Committee on Education,

The Young Progressives Demanding Action – Hawai‘i **strongly supports** SB 2922. As young adults, we are uniquely positioned between past and future. We look to our kūpuna to provide us with the wisdom of the past, and we look to our keiki and see the hope of our future. Millennials believe strongly that education is the key to transferring this ‘ike from past to future. This vital transference can transform our society into a place where equality, justice and compassion prevail over greed, ignorance and barbarism. When education is missing in the framework of our society, we see the tragic and crippling effects it has on our most vulnerable, and on each and every one of us. And that happens far too often in Hawai‘i, where teachers are underpaid, classrooms are underfunded, and bureaucracy shifts the focus away from skill-building toward test-taking.

When teachers are properly paid and classrooms are properly funded, instruction thrives and ‘ike is transferred to the student, building the foundations for equality and prosperity into perpetuity. Studies have shown that every dollar invested into our community’s public schools yields exponential returns, not just in economic terms, but in terms of the promise of a more open and democratic society.

This measure carries with it the potential to lift Hawai‘i’s schools out of mediocrity and into a leadership position within a 21st century educational framework. With more funding comes smaller class sizes, allowing teachers to connect with students in a deeper and more meaningful way. With more funding comes the infrastructure to support whole-child education rich with learning in the arts, music, Hawaiian studies and humanities—crucial for developing critical thinkers and compassionate problem solvers. With more funding comes vital resources and services for students with special needs. With more funding comes appropriate professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

When schools can provide their students with opportunity and a pathway to success in the 21st century, society flourishes and we all benefit. To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Mahalo,

Will Caron
Social Justice Action Committee Chair
Young Progressives Demanding Action – Hawai‘i

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: REAL PROPERTY, TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS, Education Surcharge on Residential Investment Properties and Visitor Accommodations

BILL NUMBER: SB 2922; HB 2608 (Similar)

INTRODUCED BY: SB by KIDANI, S. CHANG, ESPERO, GALUTERIA, HARIMOTO, K. RHOADS, K. KAHELE; HB by WOODSON, AQUINO, BROWER, CREAGAN, DECOITE, EVANS, GATES, ING, JOHANSON, KEOHOKALOLE, C. LEE, LOPRESTI, LOWEN, MORIKAWA, NISHIMOTO, SAN BUENAVENTURA, TODD, Nakamura, Nakashima, Yamashita

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Allows the legislature to impose a surcharge on real property tax for residential investment property, and on transient accommodations. We question why this type of increase is being sought given that the Department of Education already has a gargantuan share of the State budget but is still beset with such issues as frustrated teachers and students roasting in our classrooms. Limits should be written into the amendment or the voters should be apprised that they are voting only on granting power to the legislature to impose a state level real property tax surcharge, with no limitations on that power.

SYNOPSIS: Empowers the legislature to establish a surcharge on residential investment property valued at one million dollars or greater and visitor accommodations.

Residential investment property is defined as all real property including apartments and condominiums and appurtenances thereto, including buildings, structures, fences, and improvements erected on or affixed to such real property and any fixture which is erected on or affixed to the land, buildings, structures, fences, and improvements; and all machinery and other mechanical or other allied equipment and the foundations thereof, that are dedicated for residential use and that do not serve as the owner's primary residence.

Visitor accommodations are defined as any room, apartment, suite, single family dwelling, or time share unit furnished for less than one hundred eighty consecutive days for each letting in a hotel, apartment hotel, motel, condominium property regime, apartment, time share vacation property, cooperative apartment, dwelling unit, or rooming house that provides living quarters, sleeping, or housekeeping accommodations, or any other place in which lodgings are furnished to transients.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This amendment shall take effect upon compliance with article XVII, section 3, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

STAFF COMMENTS: A tax increase of any magnitude in Hawaii's fragile economy will, no doubt, have a negative impact as costs soar due to higher taxes. As costs and overhead increase, employers must find ways to stay in business by either increasing prices to their customers or cut back on costs. This may take the form of reducing inventory, shortening business hours,

reducing employee hours, or even laying off workers. A tax increase of any magnitude would send many companies, especially smaller ones, out of business taking with them the jobs the community so desperately needs at this time.

While the teachers believe that they have not been given a fair shake at the negotiating table, that is an issue that should be resolved at the table and not by asking for tax increases or an earmarked source of funding. It is up to the teachers to ask for what money is available just like any other collective bargaining units. Although public employee union leaders complain about how the public employees should not be asked to bear the brunt of the downturn in the economy, they seem to ignore the fact that employees in the private sector have taken hits early and often, with many of them either working shorter hours or having taken pay cuts if they are working at all. A recent analysis of Bureau of Economic Analysis data done by the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii, [<http://www.grassrootinstitute.org/2017/01/islanders-shouldnt-be-taxed-extra-for-teacher-bonuses/>] for example, showed that Hawaii teachers make low wages and benefits, 42nd in the nation, but that Hawaii's private sector workers made the lowest wages and benefits nationally when adjusted for cost of living.

Teachers do have a legitimate complaint that should demand the attention of lawmakers and Board of Education members, namely that teachers are being asked to do more and more administrative work and are spending less and less time in the classroom. If nothing else, the funds that are being appropriated to the DOE are failing to reach the classroom because of the top-heavy administrative structure of the department that demands reports and schedules and evaluations to justify the role of administrators. The frustration of classroom teachers is that they spend too much time filling out forms and reports and not enough time in the actual classroom. Unfortunately, with more than \$1.5 billion in its budget and more than 20% of the general fund budget, teachers are frustrated, and kids are roasting in the schools. The department of education still cannot get it right. It needs to be able to spend its existing resources efficiently. Until it does, there is little justification for an increase of financial resources.

Also, it is troubling that there are no limits on the proposed tax. The current version of SB 686, implementing legislation designed for last year's version of this bill, would if approved impose a surcharge of \$7.50 per \$1,000 of property value on "residential investment" properties that are valued at \$2 million or more. But if the constitutional amendment is approved, there is no reason why legislators can't change the implementing legislation or come up with an entirely new bill. It could be the year the amendment is approved, or the next year, or the year after that. They could change it to impose the surcharge on all "residential investment" property regardless of value. They could change the surcharge rate. They could do all these things because the constitutional amendment gives the legislature this power.

In other words, once the amendment passes, the genie is out of the bottle. It may not even be under control of the members now in the legislature, because future legislators (note that this year is an election year) may have different ideas from current members.

Re: HB 2608

Page 3

We need to ask ourselves if we want to or need to give the genie that much power. If we do, then we only have ourselves to blame for what happens when the genie does come out. If we don't, then we should either kill the constitutional amendment or write strict limits into it.

Digested 2/2/2018

SB-2922

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 10:25:07 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary Hooser	Kauai County Council	Support	Yes

Comments:

SB 2922 PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES VIII AND X OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO AUTHORIZE THE LEGISLATURE TO ESTABLISH A SURCHARGE TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION.

From: Gary Hooser - Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA)

This testimony is in strong support of SB2922 seeking to establish a surcharge to increase funding for public education.

Hawaii's schools are grossly underfunded. We need qualified teachers in every classroom, we need class sizes to be small so students receive the attention they deserve, and we need to provide students and teachers with the facilities and technology needed for modern learning.

Qualified teachers deserve to be paid well. Smaller class sizes also require additional funding for staffing and expanded facilities. SB2922 if passed will allow the people of Hawaii decide for themselves on this issue.

It is high time that Hawaii's state government stop shortchanging our public education system.

I strongly encourage all legislators to support SB2922 and to offer other methods as well to support the proper funding of public schools in Hawaii. The legislature has decided it must provide the funding needed for the Oahu rail project, the same should be done for public education.

Our kids deserve more and it is our responsibility to provide that for them.

Gary Hooser

Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA)



Hawaii
Children's Action Network
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

February 5, 2018

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Committee on Education

From: Mandy Finlay, Director of Public Policy
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **SB 2922 – Proposing Amendments to Articles VIII and X of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to Authorize the Legislature to Establish a Surcharge to Increase Funding for Public Education**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229, February 5, 2018, 3:15 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support SB 2922, which proposes amendments to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to authorize the legislature to establish a surcharge on residential investment property and visitor accommodations in order to fund public education.

As one of the lowest rated school districts for spending per student, Hawaii needs to find new ways to increase funding for education. This bill provides an option to increase funding without increasing the tax burden on Hawaii residents. This additional funding for education can lead to better results in test scores, school completion, college attendance, and job opportunities for students.

For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that the committee pass this bill.

HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education.



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

**TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 2922, PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES
VIII AND X OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO
AUTHORIZE THE LEGISLATURE TO ESTABLISH A SURCHARGE TO INCREASE
FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION**

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

**Monday, February 5, 2018, 3:15 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 2922, proposing amendments to Articles VIII and X of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i to authorize the Legislature to establish a surcharge to increase funding for public education.

In comparison to school districts of similar size and demographic composition, Hawai'i, ranks 227th in per-pupil funding *before* adjusting for cost of living, at \$12,855 per child. Washington D.C., New York City, Boston, Pittsburgh, and Cincinnati school districts, for example, spend nearly twice as much as Hawai'i per pupil, at well over \$22,000 to over \$26,000 per student. Similarly, local private schools, discounting Catholic institutions, spend nearly \$19,173 dollars per student, with Punahou President Jim Scott revealing, in 2014, "The real cost of our education per student is \$26,000," owing to the school's then-total endowment of \$235 million and fundraising operations of \$12-\$15 million annually.

Moreover, for the 2017-2018 school year, the Hawai'i State Department of Education report 1,011 teacher vacancies. The number of new teachers hired who have not completed a state approved teacher education program has increased from 125 for the 2011-2012 school year to 294 for the 2016-2017 school year. Over the same period, the number of teacher resignations has increased from 624 in 2011-2012 to 850 in 2015-2016, while the total number of voluntary teacher separations has increased from 934 in 2011-2012 to 1,170 in 2016-2017. In short, hundreds of

teachers are leaving the workforce each year at an accelerating pace, while the DOE does not have enough trained and licensed teachers in waiting to fill the holes they leave. Accordingly, we must raise Hawai'i's last-in-the-nation teacher pay (adjusted for cost of living) as a means of addressing the problem. Studies have shown that as teacher pay increases, so, too, does student achievement. A Stanford University study found that "raising teacher wages by 10 percent reduces high school dropout rates by 3 percent to 4 percent," while a Florida study showed that pay raises reduced teacher attrition by as much as 25 percent for hard-to-fill subject areas, with children's learning growth gaining from more exposure to experienced educators. Recently, the Hawai'i State Teachers Association performed a study of teacher compensation in comparison with mainland peer districts. HSTA discovered that teachers' wages are \$4,000 to \$26,000 below that of their mainland peers. Put simply, to reduce teacher turnover, we must pay educators what they're worth.

We are also heartened by this measure's potential for making Hawai'i more affordable. Hawai'i residents face the highest housing costs in the nation, at more than twice the national average. Researchers who authored the National Low Income Housing Coalition's *Out of Reach 2017* report found that a full-time worker would need to earn \$35.20/hour to afford a two-bedroom apartment at fair market value in our state, with Honolulu experiencing a 67 percent increase in fair market rent between 2005 and 2015. Average rent for a two-bedroom unit surpassed \$2,000 in recent years, with minimum wage workers needing to log 116 hours per week to afford a modest one-bedroom apartment at fair market value and 139 hours per week to afford a two-bedroom—a number that is equivalent to working 20 hours a day with no days off year-round. In the past three years alone, Honolulu rent has increased by more than 25 percent. While 46 percent of Hawai'i residents are renters (a number that does not include individuals and families renting outside of the regulated rental market), they earn an average wage of \$16.53/hour, scarcely enough to meet their basic needs. One out of every four households in Hawai'i report that they are "doubling up" or are three paychecks or less away from being homeless, per the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice. Additionally, 54 percent of households are cost-burdened, meaning that they pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing costs, a number that rises to 83 percent of extremely low-income households.

We are in the midst of an affordable housing crisis. Our state's cost of housing has skyrocketed over the last decade, leaving many families searching for affordable alternatives, in shelters, or on the streets. For context, the median price of condominiums on O'ahu increased 6 percent in the summer of 2017 to a record \$425,000, while the median price for single-family homes increased by 3 percent to \$795,000, according to the Honolulu Board of Realtors, a number that they expect to increase by at least another 5 percent in 2018. Average fair market rent for two-bedroom apartments in *outlying* communities in the City and County of Honolulu now exceeds \$2,700, with the cost of a four-bedroom home in urban Honolulu now exceeding \$1.1 million. At least 46 percent of residences in Hawai'i are owner unoccupied, according to the National Low-

Income Housing Coalition, meaning that nearly 50 percent—and by some estimates over half—of Hawai'i's homes are likely investment properties.

Many of those properties, in turn, are owned by mainland and foreign buyers, whose real estate market speculation is a prime driver of Hawai'i's highest-in-the-nation cost of housing. According to a study released in May of 2016 by the Hawai'i Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, there are “clear distinctions” between the average price of homes bought by local residents, mainlanders, and foreigners. Analyzing purchases made between 2008 and 2015, DBEDT found: “The average sale price was highest among foreign buyers. The average sale price of the total of 5,775 homes sold to foreign buyers from 2008 to 2015 was \$786,186, 28.3 percent higher than the average sale price to the mainlanders (\$612,770) and 64.7 percent higher than the average sale price to local buyers (\$477,460).” Experts at DBEDT now estimate that Hawai'i needs 66,000 new housing units by the year 2025 to keep up with demand, more than 80 percent of which is needed to meet the demand of people who qualify for affordable housing. Yet, for every 100 extremely low-income renters on O'ahu, there exist only 40 affordable rentals, according to the Urban Institute, of which only 11 are “naturally affordable,” meaning they are affordable without federal subsidies.

We must ask ourselves: do we want to allow people who live outside of Hawai'i to use the islands as their private monopoly board or do we want to create a first-rate education system for our children? We submit that this constitutional amendment disincentivizes the rampant real estate speculation driving up our state's housing and rental prices and forces those most responsible for pricing families out of paradise to pay their fair share to improve our keiki's future.

All children deserve a chance at happiness and prosperity. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance



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
February 5, 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. 2922 - PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES
VIII AND X OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF
HAWAII TO AUTHORIZE THE LEGISLATURE TO ESTABLISH
A SURCHARGE TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC
EDUCATION.

Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

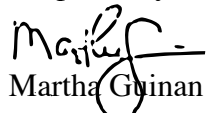
The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **strongly supports the intent** of S.B. 2922 to increase funding for public education in Hawaii.

Hawaii serves a smaller percentage of students with disabilities compared to the entire student population than the national average--10.6% compared to 13.0% for most states--which may indicate that we are not identifying and serving all students who are eligible for special education services. Those who are served have experienced lackluster progress and a growing achievement gap with their non-disabled peers. Hawaii also serves significantly fewer children in the general education classroom contrary to IDEA mandates for placement in the least restrictive environment.

To address these inequities will take additional resources, including higher teacher pay to attract more qualified teachers to the field, smaller class sizes to encourage greater inclusion and specialized services and supports to meet the unique learning needs of these students. An enhanced funding stream for public education would benefit ALL children in Hawaii, including those who are most vulnerable to academic failure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important legislation. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me.

Respectfully,


Martha Guinan
Chair


Ivalee Sinclair
Legislative Committee Chair

EDU Testimony

From: Marcia Linville <linvilleedcac253@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2018 11:37 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: Hughey, Justin; Mitzie Higa; Jenny Nomura; John Bickel
Subject: SB2922

Senate Education Committee
Feb.5, 2018
SB 2922

Senator Kidani and members of the Senate Education Committee:

I am Marcia Linville M.S., Education Caucus, State Central Committee member, Democratic Party of Hawaii, testifying in support of SB 2922.

I have been a librarian at the state, city, special, and federal levels for over 50 years. I have taught at both the school and college level, and been an education delegate to both China and Eastern Europe. I have also served as Board member for Hawaii Literacy, League of Women Voters, Hawaii Library Association, President of the Library Association of Hawaii, and for almost 20 years as Agency Council Head, Unit 13, DOE , HGEA. Every single one of the positions has been adversely impacted by the underfunding of the DOE.

From the inability to recruit and retain qualified teachers, school librarians, and special education staff, to lack of supplies, heat abatement, unrepaired facilities, and to the many problems you have heard of from teachers, students, parents and general public for the last 50 years, inadequate funding has been cited as a major factor. Decades long evasion of this problem has resulted in a two class system of education, as those who can afford to send their children to private school do so, and seventy two per cent of our public schools become Title One schools and more and more educational services are reduced or removed.

SB 2922 provides a partial solution to those problems. Money won't fix all the problems of the DOE, but you can't fix the problems without money. Many solutions have been suggested for obtaining additional funding for your children's schools. None of them have proved both acceptable and adequate.

SB 2922 will adversely impact only those properties valued at over one million dollars, affecting only a small but influential population. I believe the general public will feel that this small, influential population, which is largely out of state, can afford the additional investment in it's future work force, since they will otherwise find it necessary to hire from out of state, further complicating our limited and expensive housing situation.

I therefore ask your support for SB 2922. That you for the opportunity to testify on this matter,

Marcia Linville
808-536-4466



HAWAII

AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

OFFICERS	DIRECTORS			MAILING ADDRESS
John Bickel, President	Guy Archer	Jan Lubin	Cameron Sato	P.O. Box 23404
Alan Burdick, Vice President	Juliet Begley	Jenny Nomura	George Simson	Honolulu
Marsha Schweitzer, Treasurer	Gloria Borland	Stephen O'Harrow		Hawai'i 96823
Karin Gill, Secretary	Chuck Huxel	Doug Pyle		

February 2, 2018

TO: Honorable Chair Kidani & Members of the Education Committee

RE: HB2922 PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES VIII AND X OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO AUTHORIZE THE LEGISLATURE TO ESTABLISH A SURCHARGE TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION.

Support for hearing on Feb. 5

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support SB 2922 as it would propose amendments to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to advance the State's goal of providing a quality education for the children of Hawaii by authorizing the legislature to establish, as provided by law, a surcharge on residential investment property and visitor accommodations.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawaii's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

Quite a few of our members and board members are educators. We know there is a serious need for greater funding to give our keiki the schools they deserve.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel
President



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting SB 2922 –
Proposing Amendments... to Establish a Surcharge to Increase Funding for Public Education
Senate Committee on Education
Scheduled for hearing at 3:15 pm on Monday, February 5, 2018 in Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of **SB 2922**, which proposes amendments to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to advance the State's goal of providing a quality education for the children of Hawaii by authorizing the legislature to establish, as provided by law, a surcharge on residential investment property and visitor accommodations.

Hawai'i is the only state in the nation that doesn't use property taxes to help fund our schools. We also have the lowest property taxes in the nation, according to the Tax Foundation. Our effective rate is 0.28 percent of home value, which is almost ten times lower than the rate in states like New Jersey, Illinois and New Hampshire.

Such low property taxes make it easier for out-of-state investors to purchase properties in Hawai'i and leave them vacant for much of the year, which drives up home prices and reduces the amount of housing available to local residents.

Meanwhile, our state's public school performance was graded a D-plus for K-12 achievement, C-plus for Chance-for-Success, and a C overall by Education Week. To improve these grades, our schools will need more funding.

SB 2922 would put a question on the ballot for the public to vote to amend a specific section of the Constitution that would allow a state surcharge on investment properties valued at over a million dollars, and excluding owner-occupied homes. This bill would also add a surcharge to visitor accommodations to help fund our public schools.

For the reasons outlined above, the proposed ballot question deserves to be put before the public for a vote. We appreciate your consideration of this testimony.

The Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.

SB-2922

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 8:38:53 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
C.R.P. Montague-Mullins	Na Leo ʻŌ Hawaiʻi	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Caroline R.P. Montague-Mullins. I am a TEACHER at Ke Kula ʻŌ NĀ• wahĀ«okalaniʻĀ• puʻu on Hawaiʻi ISLAND. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow’s generations. Every dollar invested in our community’s public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawaiʻi’s schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools because lack of funding affects your children/ students/community. Low pay and a lack of resources are driving teachers in your schools out of the profession. Teachers have to hold second and third jobs when they should be able to concentrate on their students. Investing in our public schools is an investment in our society/future.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Caroline R.P. Montague-Mullins

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

Room 229, 3:15 p.m.

Dear Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michelle Foyt. I am a citizen of Kakaako, Honolulu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because the children are our future and must be educated to make the decisions that will move our cities, state and country forward. Citizens in a Democratic Society must be able to think. To deliver the schools our keiki deserve and need, please support this bill.

Mahalo,

Michelle Foyt

Michelle Foyt, Citizen
1296 Kapiolani Blvd Apt 2804E
Honolulu, HI 96814

Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is LYNNE TANAKA.. I am a teacher at Farrington High School in Honolulu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because... [OPTIONAL: INSERT a paragraph or two, tell your personal story or specific anecdotes about how lack of funding affects your children/ students/community, how low pay and a lack of resources are driving teachers in your schools out of the profession, how teachers have to hold second and third jobs when they should be able to concentrate on their students, etc., how investing in our public schools is an investment in our society/future]

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

LYNNE J., TANAKA, HSTA, Honolulu Chapter

SB-2922

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 12:39:13 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Van Ornum	Hawaii Department of Education	Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

3:15 p.m.

Aloha Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is John Van Ornum. I am a Teacher at Molokai High School in the Maui District. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because lack of funding affects your children, students, and community. Low pay and a lack of resources are driving teachers in your schools out of the profession and out of the state. We need to pay teachers a living wage and give them the tools they need to enable local residents to learn at home and become contributing members of society. Investing in our public schools is an investment in our society and future.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

John Van Ornum EdD

Molokai High School

MAUI District

P.S. I have lived in Hawaii for over 40 years, and taught at Molokai High School for the past 23 years.

SB-2922

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 9:58:50 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dwayne Abuel		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dwayne Abuel. I am a Technology Coordinator and teacher under HSTA at Highlands Intermediate School in Leeward District on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because there is just so much to purchase, replace, repair, and it cost monies to trash. Doing this just to keep up with society and our laws is vital to keep a great school running. This monies will also purchase positions needed to help our teachers and students. It just costs money, time and energy to do things right. Especially when laws force us to do all those things. But without the monies, we can't keep up with technology and follow laws. Help!!!

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Dwayne Abuel, Leeward District, Oahu

SB-2922

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 12:33:17 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Negaard		Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

3:15 p.m.

Aloha Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is David Negaard. I am a 20 year veteran teacher, currently teaching at Henry Perrine Baldwin High School on Maui. I strongly urge your unequivocal support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Children are treasures now and future citizens, entrepreneurs, and employees. They are the present and future fabric of our society. Public schools provide the foundation on which our democracy and economy depends. Lasting liberty and prosperity depend on public education and public educators. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more just, open, and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for:

- lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students
- whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies
- resources that allow for innovation in and across classes
- resources and services for students with special needs
- professional pay reflecting how we value our hardworking teachers

Right now, budgetary concerns are the difference between "auto shop **and** STEM lab" and "auto shop **or** STEM lab." In some cases (as here at Baldwin), budgetary considerations take us from the dream of **both** to the reality of **neither**. Rather than focusing solely on teaching, teachers such as myself additionally scramble to write grants and seek partnerships and outside funding because we dream of saying "Yes,

and...” to our students and their needs and interests. We need additional funding for our public schools so that schools like Baldwin High can say **and** instead of **or** to our students; so students learn in classrooms where roofs don’t leak, damaging ceilings, structures, books, and equipment; so teachers can afford to work with students and offer enrichment outside of the school day instead of rushing off to second and even third jobs.

Our keiki in public schools deserve every opportunity private schools offer and—because a statewide school district like ours enjoys significant economies of scale—the Hawai’i Department of Education can offer rich opportunities economically. It cannot, however, be done for nothing (which is what’s left **at best** after providing the bare essentials under current funding practices). Graduates of public schools are and will always be the heart and soul of our democracy, our economy, our society. They deserve and **we need them to receive** better than they currently get.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve—the schools we need them to have—please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

David Negaard, Maui District, Maui Island

EDU Testimony

From: Erika Hahn <erikamariahahn@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2018 6:52 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: \$\$\$ for Education, if education is a value we share

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

3:15 p.m.

Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is *Erika Hahn*.

I am an English Language Arts Teacher at Kapa'a High School in [a poor, rural county on the outer island of Kauai](#); I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. [Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.](#)

Supporting this proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and [professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.](#)

We need additional funding for our public schools, because low pay and a lack of resources are driving caring and intelligent teachers in your schools out of the profession; [too many classroom teachers have to hold second and third jobs when they should be able to concentrate on their students, themselves and their families.](#)

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Erika Hahn, Kauai

EDU Testimony

From: Andy Stever <astever1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 11:50 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Stevet. I am a teacher at Hawai'i Academy of Arts and Science Hilo District on Hawai'i Island. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because low pay and a lack of resources are driving teachers in Hawai'i schools out of the profession. Investing in our public schools is an investment in Hawai'i's future.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Andrew Stever

Hawai'i Academy of Arts and Science Hilo District, Hawai'i Island.

EDU Testimony

From: Catherine Caine <ccainecc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 11:51 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: SB 2922

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Caine. I am a teacher at Waikiki School. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. As the ESSA heard from the Governor every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because the key to great schools are great teachers. Considering the cost of living in Hawaii and the national teacher shortage we need this increase in funding to be competitive for the best and brightes teachers in the nation. Given this ability to compete for the best teachers we can in turn support student learning and prepare them for the 21st Century.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Catherine Caine
2015 Hawaii State Teacher

EDU Testimony

From: Brandon Cha <brandoncha3@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2018 10:33 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: Mitzie Higa; Mitzie Higa
Subject: TESTIMONY SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

3:15 p.m.

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Brandon Cha. I am a teacher at Pearl City High School in the Leeward district on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because our current school funding levels are insufficient to attract and retain quality teaching talent, resulting in increased turnovers and students learning from teachers with less experience.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Brandon Cha, Leeward District, Oahu

EDU Testimony

From: Chris Santomauro <csantoma@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 7:39 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: SB 2922 Relating to Education

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

3:15 p.m.

Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Chris Santomauro. I am a teacher at Kane`ohe Elementary School in the Windward District on O`ahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because this is an issue of social justice. The fact that private schools spend significantly more per student than public schools, and that public schools are largely composed of students of color, especially Hawaiian and Filipino students, while private schools are largely comprised of white and Japanese students, demonstrates the inequity that exists in our society around class and race. If you believe in providing resources to our more vulnerable populations in order to move towards a more just society, increasing funding for public schools is a necessary step to take.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Christian Santomauro, Windward District, O`ahu

EDU Testimony

From: Christine Putzulu <h4putzulu@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 2:52 PM
To: EDU Testimony

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is [INSERT NAME]. I am a teacher and community member at Daniel K. Inouye Elementary School in Central on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools because to educate a child incurs an expense and a burden beyond my personal salary. I often purchase out-of-pocket materials to supply my students with the bare necessities of pencils, dry erase markers, writing paper, and annual subscriptions to online programs to keep my students up-to-date on technology. Trying to keep up with purchasing materials and supplies out-of-pocket, puts a burden on my family finances.

We are already preparing for the next school year and we are advised that due to budget cuts money will be tight and we'll need to find creative ways to gather supplies for our incoming students. This burden and responsibility should not be the case.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Christine Putzulu, Central District, Oahu

--

Christine Putzulu
Daniel K. Inouye Elementary School
1st Grade, GLC

EDU Testimony

From: Art and Debra Sanbei <sanbeia001@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 10:53 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: \$ for our childrens' future

Aloha Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Debra Sanbei. I am a social studies teacher at Hilo High School in Hilo / Waiakea District on Hawaii Island. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes (which I am especially an advocate), bringing a closer learning relationship with EACH student in our classroom, environment connection with our students, and keeping on top of current technology - which is so vital for their future. Providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve with quality education from highly qualified teachers in Hawaii, please support this bill.

We need your help.

Mahalo.

**Debra Sanbei
Hilo High School
Social Studies Teacher
Hilo, HI**

EDU Testimony

From: jenningse001 <jenningse001@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 10:37 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Support SB 2922

Aloha Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Erik Jennings . I am a special education teacher at Lahainaluna High School on Maui. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

Thank you for your time

Erik Jennings

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

EDU Testimony

From: gmechocolate1 . <gmechocolate1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 1:58 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: SB 2922

Aloha Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gail Yoshioka. I am a teacher at Waimānalo Elementary and Intermediate School in the Windward District on the Island of O'ahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB2922 to increase funding for all public schools.

I have just participated in a social and emotional learning professional sevelopment event which has confirmed my beliefs from many years of teaching, about the importance of supporting the social and emotional needs of our students so that they may succeed in the 21 Century. With the positives of a technologically driven society come the negatives, one being the lack of opportunities to build face to face relationships with others and to develop citizens who are true community contributors. It is easy to see these "negatives" from observing the increasing violence in which the perpetrators seem to be people who have lost that sense of community and compassion; that human connection.

Studies have been showing for many years that before any deep learning can occur, a person needs to feel safe, have skills to work with others, to persist through "thick and thin"; to feel intellectually safe. Unfortunately, time is needed in order to build these positive relationships and trust between teachers and students. Believe it or not, some of our children come to school not even having these basics. I find myself constantly focusing on and providing lessons that reinforce basic concepts such as saying "thank you," "you're welcome", "please stop, I don't like when . . . ," and "excuse me." I am a music teacher by the way, and I am talking about grades K through 8. (We also need the time to listen to *really* listen

to our students, not just "tell, tell, and tell-- time that is often easy to provide, in an environment focused on increasing test scores.) We are expected to pour all our money and time into language arts and math curriculum, and technology (which is the "wave of the future" and the tools used for testing), leaving no time or money for equally important subjects that support the emotional and social side of our students and that allow for teachers to promote skills needed to survive in an ever-growing global society, filled with diversity.

I am pleading with all of you to support SB 2922 and any other bill that will help all public schools, that not only support smaller class sizes, but also support funding that allow for schools to carry out activities and lessons that support the social and emotional learning of our children, that allow us to focus on relationships and intellectual safety, that will in turn allow (as studies are showing) our students to learn at a deeper level academically. That is what will increase test scores and create emotionally, physically, intellectually healthy community contributors. Thank you for your support. Mahalo.

Gail Yoshioka, Waimānalo Elementary and Intermediate School,
Windward District, Island of O‘ahu

EDU Testimony

From: Julie <jtzucker@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 12:50 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Julie Tzucker-Nikolas. I am a special education teacher at Kalaheo High School in the Windward District on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our keiki are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools because our school building is in awful physical condition and special ed students need more services. The lack of funding affects my students every day. They look around and see the foundation drooping, insects, gross bathrooms, only one cold water fountain, and a cafeteria that doesn't serve local food. Resources and staffing for special ed have been cut drastically, and we feel the pain.

Low pay and a lack of resources are driving teachers in out of the profession or to the mainland. My department head's wish for this year was simply for each teacher to make it through the year because so many people have quit over the past few years that it's basically a revolving door. People with master's degrees who dedicate their lives to our keiki are being paid poverty level wages, and they can't live like this indefinitely, so they leave. It's a tragedy.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Julie Tzucker-Nikolas, Kalaheo HS, Oahu

--

"I became a vegetarian after realizing that animals feel afraid, cold, hungry and unhappy like we do." -Cesar Chavez, farm worker and activist(1927-1993)

EDU Testimony

From: Kealohi Foster <kealohifoster@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 11:28 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: SB 2922 Relating to Education

Aloha Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ke‘alohi Foster. I am a Teacher at Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Waiiau on O‘ahu. I am submitting a testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai‘i's schools into the 21st century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools because teachers are being drive out of their profession due to teachers having to hold second and third jobs when they should be able to concentrate on their students. Investing in our public schools is an investment in our future.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo

Ke‘alohi Foster, Leeward, O‘ahu

EDU Testimony

From: Krystle Dunn <dunnkrystle@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 10:17 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: SB 2922 Testimony

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Krystle Dunn. I am a math teacher at Lahaina Intermediate School in Lahaina on the island of Maui. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools for so many reasons. My school, Lahaina Intermediate, is growing in student size and it is becoming more and more challenging to find physical space for students and teachers to be learning and teaching in acceptable conditions. Our students need more classrooms to help decrease class size and to give them the opportunities of a variety of classes offered to them. Students also deserve teachers who are able to stay from year to year and work in conditions that promote positive experiences. Last year, several of my colleagues left the school to either move back to the mainland or to start a new career. The low pay, high cost of living and physical working conditions all contributed to their decisions to leave. I want to stay, but I know that in order to be a more effective teacher, I need to engage more in collaboration with other teachers for the benefit of our students. There is a vast amount of evidence that supports more time for teachers to collaborate in order to be more effective educators and to increase student learning. Due to my school's lack of space and number of teachers, we constantly find ourselves limited in when and where to schedule collaboration time. I would like to see it become part of the workday, which would mean longer hours and so more pay for teachers. This is extremely important for our students. They deserve the best and I truly hope these ideals can become realities in the future as a result of increased funding.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Krystle Dunn, Maui District, Maui

EDU Testimony

From: Laura Buller <buller.laura@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 10:09 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2922

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Laura Buller. I am a Social Science Teacher at Moloka'i High in Maui Canoe Complex on Moloka'i. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because the current funding amounts are insufficient. I have been a teacher at Moloka'i High for 20 years and have watched and struggled with the diminishing funds the State of Hawaii provides. Weighted Student Formula has never been adequate for my small rural school. I am working annually with a curriculum budget that ranges from zero to about \$300 per year to purchase curriculum, technology, and supplies for my students. There is not enough funds to update books. Small rural schools need additional funding to be able to offer the same quality education all of Hawaii's Keiki deserve.

Investing in education is the best long term investment that our state can make to ensure that we are retaining our best and brightest and raising up all keiki to be productive, employed, caring and active members of our state.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Laura Buller, Maui Canoe Complex-Hana, Lahaina, Lanai, & Moloka'i, Moloka'i.

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Sent from Gmail Mobile

EDU Testimony

From: Laurie Ishida <lishida2002@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 4:15 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Support of SB 2922

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Laurie Ishida I am a teacher at Waikiki School in the Honolulu District on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because the cost of living in Hawaii is so high. Although I am nearing retirement, I have a daughter and 2 nieces who have to weigh the cost of living in Hawaii in order to stay in the field. I've seen mainland teachers come and go. In order to build a sustainable teacher work force, they need salaries that will allow them to stay in Hawaii.

Also the structures of our schools are housed in and its infrastructure need to be updated to counter the effects of our warm temperatures. It's ridiculous for the first quarter of school to be sweating at 6:30 am when I am prepping for the day- add the students' body temperatures to that by 8:00 and it is unbearably hot. In order to empathize, please turn off your ACs all day in the months of August, September, and October. It's distracting to be teaching and learning when sweat is dripping off your face onto your papers.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Laurie Ishida

Sent from my iPhone

EDU Testimony

From: L Chincio <mrschincio@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 12:23 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Support SB 2922

Aloha Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lyn Chincio. I am a 2nd grade teacher at Helemano Elementary in Wahiawa. Please support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Mahalo,

Lyn Chincio

EDU Testimony

From: Marla Domingo <mkdomingo24@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2018 8:29 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: SB2922

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Marla Domingo. I am a District Resource Teacher on Kauai. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools because the lack of adequate funding affects our children, our students and our community. Low pay and a lack of resources are driving teachers out of the profession, teachers have to hold second and third jobs when they should be able to concentrate on their students. Investing in our public schools is an investment in the future of our islands.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Marla Domingo

Kauai

EDU Testimony

From: melissa turner <melissarturner@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 1:04 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony in support of SB 2922

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Melissa Turner. I am a teacher at Honokaa Elementary in West Hawaii on the big island. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because Hawaii needs to meet the needs of our students. We need to be able to hire qualified teachers to who will receive a nationally competitive wage so that good teachers will remain invested in our youths education. Teachers in Hawaii are among the lowest paid in comparison to their cost of living. Which sends many teachers that have been recruited from the mainland back to the mainland where they are paid more to do the same job with even more funding. I am among many of the teachers in Hawaii that have to work a second and even third job just to make ends meet. We ask so much from teachers yet want to pay so little. Look at the cost of housing here. How can a teacher even afford to buy a home here when they make less than 10% of the cost of the average home in Hawaii.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Melissa Turner, West Hawaii, Big Island

EDU Testimony

From: Melissah Vannatta <melissahvalen@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 1:36 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Melissah Vannatta. I am a teacher at Shafter Elementary in central district on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools because the lack of funding affects our children and community. We are left with a lack of resources which drive our teachers in our schools out of the profession. Less teachers means a larger class size, which translates into less time spent on individual students to meet their needs in helping them to become successful. Also, teachers are tired of being overworked from holding a second or third job since a teaching salary is not enough to support a family in Hawaii. Teachers should be able to concentrate on their students. Investing in our public schools is an investment in Hawaii's future.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Melissah Vannatta, Central District, Oahu

EDU Testimony

From: Michelle Balala <michelle_balala@live.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 1:40 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION Testimony

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

3:15 p.m.

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michelle Balala. I am a teacher at Kahului Elementary School on Maui. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because as a teacher some of the school supplies in my classroom have been paid for with my income. I worry that I would have to work a third job to be able to pay my mortgage. I work beyond my contracted hours to ensure my students education. I have accepted all the above when I decided to be a teacher, but we especially need the funding for the children. They need to know that they are important. We need to provide better opportunities for them.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Michelle Balala, Maui District

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EDU Testimony

From: Natasha Taketa <tsunrise12@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 2:03 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION SB 2922

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

3:15 p.m.

Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is [INSERT NAME]. I am a [TEACHER/COMMUNITY MEMBER] at [INSERT SCHOOL] in [INSERT DISTRICT] on [INSERT ISLAND]. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because... [OPTIONAL: INSERT a paragraph or two, tell your personal story or specific anecdotes about how lack of funding affects your children/ students/community, how low pay and a lack of resources are driving teachers in your schools out of the profession, how teachers have to hold second and third jobs when they should be able to concentrate on their students, etc., how investing in our public schools is an investment in our society/future]

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Natasha Taketa, Honolulu, Oahu

--
~tasha

EDU Testimony

From: Phaedra Robinson <drphaedra@me.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 10:45 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: In support of SB 2922

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Phaedra Robinson. I am a teacher at Hokulani Elementary School in Honolulu district on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because investing in our public schools is an investment in our future. We live in a state where our leaders typically come from private schools. The strength of the private school system here has come from the weakness of our public schools. The keiki of Hawaii deserve a quality education which comes from quality teachers which can only be attracted to the position by high pay and schools with ample resources and supports.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

[INSERT NAME, DISTRICT, ISLAND]

EDU Testimony

From: Pualani McKeen <pualanimckeen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2018 11:43 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Hope McKeen. I am a Teacher at Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo PCS ma Honohononui, Keaukaha, Hilo, Hawai'i.

I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because... at some point we need to make education a priority. Our one natural resource is our children. The ali'i of our islands have always cared for our people and gave them the best. Isn't it time our current leadership do the same for our children.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Hope McKeen, Hilo, Hawai'i

EDU Testimony

From: R. Kalei Bras <kaleib@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 2:51 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: In support of SB 2922

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

[MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018](#)

[3:15 p.m.](#)

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is R. Kalei Bras, and I am a teacher at Samuel Enoka Kalama Intermediate School on Maui. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because over the twenty years that I have been a teacher, it has become increasingly challenging to financially support my family while living on my native island of Maui. The cost of living is so high here in Hawai'i that I've recently been looking at relocating to another state as a viable option. This breaks my heart because Hawai'i is my home, and the students, parents, and community I serve is my heart. Watching my students, OUR future leaders, crumble under the declining conditions of our drug-infested society because education has become a second-rate profession with little resources to truly educate the whole child feels like a losing battle. You can help to restore the hope in our future and deliver the schools our keiki deserve by supporting this bill.

Teachers alone can't carry on this important endeavor. We need your help.

Mahalo.

R. Kalei Bras, Maui nui a Hina

EDU Testimony

From: Ryan McGill <ryanmakai@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 2:55 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ryan McGill. I am a teacher at Hanalei School on Kaua'i. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future and our best investment in our islands' future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers. As part of the Admin team at our school, i have seen far too much teacher turnover. It is stressful to the school, and makes it harder for our school to fulfill it's mission - to educate the keiki of our community. We need to make teaching a profession our island graduates can aspire to, that can support their families so they continue to be pillars of our community.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because if we do not, we will diminish our ability to serve our communities, and our children. They deserve our support. It is our children, and our future.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your support and help. Mahalo.

Ryan McGill

Kilauea, Kauai

EDU Testimony

From: SARAH <bbondsbond@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 1:09 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: testimony

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sally Bond. I am a Special Education Preschool teacher at Kahakai Elementary in Konawaena District on the Big Island of Hawai'i. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because there is not enough support for SPED teachers in the classroom. We need to be able to offer better money and benefits for Educational Assistants so we can have qualified people supporting the SPED teachers and the SPED students get the support they need.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Sally Bond, Konawaena District, Big Island of Hawai'i

EDU Testimony

From: STEPHENIE BLAKEMORE <stephenieblakemore@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2018 9:01 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: support SB 2922

Aloha

Hawaii needs to find a way to fund the schools of today for the Hawaii of tomorrow.

SB 2922 is that way.

Pass the bill

EDU Testimony

From: Tim Anthony <timothysanthony@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 10:14 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Funding for Education

In regards to the proposal to provide additional funding sources for our public schools, I ask the legislature to enact legislation that will provide funds to improve our Hawaii schools. Superintendent Kishimoto made it clear in her recent comments that teacher salaries are a concern in attracting and retaining qualified teachers. I am a 13 year teacher who has reached the highest class, or highest salary level, possible after continuing my professional development over the last 13 years. I take home about 3200 dollars a month. As a result, instead of using my time to plan more interesting lessons for my students, and give them feedback on their work, I work 30 hours a week at a second job so my wife and I (she also works a full time job) can pay rent (we have no chance of owning in our community) and expenses to live here in Hawaii. We love our community, and I am appreciative of what we do have. However, I am unable to devote as much time and attention as I feel my students need to be prepared for the world of work and education after high school.

Tim Anthony 808-489-8832

EDU Testimony

From: Nakamura <skyjav123@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 5:06 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: testimony for SB 2922

February 3, 2018

To Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

As a DOE counselor in Honolulu for over thirty years I have seen the challenges increase for all teachers and school personnel as our respective school populations change.

More and more families can no longer afford proper neonatal and early education services, which in turn lead to incoming kindergarteners who lack the basic skills and knowledge to be successful learners.

It is imperative to fully fund our schools so that we can effectively address the many needs before us, including the huge backlog of building projects, early education initiatives and reducing teacher/student ratio. At the same time, teacher salaries must rise substantially to attract the best and brightest minds to the profession and to retain our current educators.

Please pass SB 2922 for the future of our keiki and the state of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Matt Nakamura
1313 Honokahua St.
Honolulu, HI 96825

Ph: 395-3221

SB-2922

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 8:37:56 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 3:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Christina Russo. I am a Science teacher at James Campbell High School in Ewa Beach and I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools. I am appalled that Hawaii's education expenditures, as a share of combined state and local government expenditures, is 27.3 per cent and ranks lowest in the nation! As an educator, we must prepare students to take on the challenges of an ever-changing world as well as create graduates who can compete in a global economy. How can Hawaii graduates compete with those from the mainland or abroad when we invest so little in their education? Not only is the lack in funding affecting students in hidden ways like students lacking a competitive edge, but it is affecting them in more conspicuous ways as well. It is painfully obvious that Hawaii schools are deteriorating. The infrastructure lacks basic accommodations such as air conditioning, auditoriums, athletic facilities, and inviting learning spaces. Furthermore, the infrastructure presents several security flaws. We have open campuses that are completely accessible by intruders and that go largely unmonitored. Furthermore, staff/student notification systems are not clear nor easily heard and school security staffing is insufficient.

Other ways lack of funding puts us far behind school districts in the mainland is our lack of investment in student well-being. We need to fund programs that educate staff and students on suicide prevention, bullying, and violence prevention. We also need to educate the whole child through art, music, and Hawaiian cultural programs.

Finally, we need funding to support genuine teacher retention efforts. Going to the mainland and recruiting teachers to work here is a short-term fix. Teachers brought in from the mainland usually do not stay in Hawaii due to cost of living, culture shock, and missing home. We need to increase teacher salaries to increase retention and we need to incentivize HAWAII residents to teach--those who will likely stay in Hawaii and commit to teaching Hawaii's keiki. Without funding, we will continue to have teacher shortages and student education will suffer. Currently, there are a huge number of long-term subs filling in for teachers. If students are continuously in the classroom with long-term subs, the state's commitment to educate students is being broken because subs are not teachers, and they are likely not educated in the content students are supposed to be learning.

I appreciate your time and I thank you for your support! Please pass SB2922.

Christine Russo

SB-2922

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 9:07:51 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Mandado		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senate,

My name is Ryan Mandado and I'm a Special Education teacher at James Campbell High School.

I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools. I am appalled that Hawaii's education expenditures, as a share of combined state and local government expenditures, is 27.3 percent and ranks lowest in the nation! As an educator, we must prepare students to take on the challenges of an ever-changing world as well as create graduates who can compete in a global economy. How can Hawaii graduates compete with those from the mainland or abroad when we invest so little in their education? Not only is the lack of funding affecting students in hidden ways like students lacking a competitive edge, but it is affecting them in more conspicuous ways as well. It is painfully obvious that Hawaii schools are deteriorating. The infrastructure lacks basic accommodations such as air conditioning, auditoriums, athletic facilities, and inviting learning spaces. Furthermore, the infrastructure presents several security flaws. We have open campuses that are completely accessible by intruders and that go largely unmonitored. Furthermore, staff/student notification systems are not clear nor easily heard and school security staffing is insufficient.

Other ways lack of funding puts us far behind school districts in the mainland is our lack of investment in student well-being. We need to fund programs that educate staff and students on suicide prevention, bullying, and violence prevention. We also need to educate the whole child through art, music, and Hawaiian cultural programs.

Finally, we need funding to support genuine teacher retention efforts. Going to the mainland and recruiting teachers to work here is a short-term fix. Teachers brought in from the mainland usually do not stay in Hawaii due to cost of living, culture shock, and missing home. We need to increase teacher salaries to increase retention and we need to incentivize HAWAII residents to teach--those who will likely stay in Hawaii and commit to teaching Hawaii's keiki. Without funding, we will continue to have teacher shortages and student education will suffer. Currently, there are a huge number of long-term subs filling in for teachers. If students are continuously in the classroom with long-term subs, the state's commitment to educating students is being broken because subs

are not teachers, and they are likely not educated in the content students are supposed to be learning.

I appreciate your time and I thank you for your support! Please pass SB2922.

SB-2922

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 11:06:58 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Fitzpatrick	fitz for maui	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair Kidani and members of the Education Committee,

My name is John Fitzpatrick, a teacher at Kihei Charter School on the island of Maui. I am also a member of the HSTA government relations committee and we are fighting for schools our keiki deserve.

I am writing in strong support of SB 2922 and the democratic process. I believe we should allow the people of Hawaii the opportunity this November to vote on a constitutional amendment that would allow the state of Hawaii to charge a property tax surcharge on investment properties of One Million Dollars or more in order to add additional funding to our public education system that currently ranks among the lowest in the Nation in many statistics.

Currently our property tax rates are among the lowest in the nation and do not contribute to our education system like other places in the world. In addition a majority of investment properties are owned by non-Hawaii residence which pay no income tax here in Hawaii and do not contribute to our roads, hospitals, and schools. It is time to ask those that can afford million dollar investment properties and vacation homes to help pay for the schools our keiki deserve and invest in the next seven generations.

Investing in our education system and giving our students the opportunity to a first class education. We would be able to provide small class sizes that allow teachers to be more personable with students, invest in STEAM education, improve Hawaiian studies and Hawaiian language education, take care of our students with special needs, and have competitive pay for hard working teachers so we no longer have a 1100 teacher shortage here in the state of Hawaii.

As an educator, I hold two additional jobs as a captain in order to be able to make a decent salary for my family and to qualify to buy an "affordable housing apartment." Many teachers including myself put in many hours at home grading papers and preparing for class. At our institute day nearly a year ago we asked teachers to raise their hands if they hold second jobs in order to support their family and a majority of teachers raised their hands. I am not alone! This obviously takes away from a teachers ability to attend to their families and concentrate on their students.

It is time we start funding a 21st century education system because the return on investment in our public education system yields exponential returns that will advance our society.

I look forward to working with you and all of our legislators to pass this common sense constitutional amendment that will help us adequately fund our schools and improve our education system.

Mahalo,
John Fitzpatrick "Fitz"

HSTA Government Relations Committee
Kihei Charter School Athletic Director and Science Teacher

EDU Testimony

From: Anna Crawford <annabcrawford@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2018 9:41 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Support of SB 2922

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Anna Crawford I am a teacher at King Kekaulike High School in Maui. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because we don't have sufficient funding to support all our children, especially when it comes to Special Education. We follow an inclusion model at my school. I feel a special education teacher should be in all core classes with the regular education teacher. Current funding does not allow for this, sadly our most in-need students may go unsupported. We also need funds to maintain our facilities.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Anna Crawford, Maui District, Maui Island

EDU Testimony

From: Anthony McCurdy <amccurdy808@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 5:18 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Anthony McCurdy. I am a teacher at James Campbell High School in Ewa Beach on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because a strong education is the foundation for success for all of our keiki. This legislation is an opportunity to ensure a consistent and sustainable funding resource for our schools, and therefore also for our children, and our future as a state. I have seen in my experience the benefits of adequate funding for education as well as the negative results of inconsistent, insufficient funding. Ultimately, the children, our keiki, are the ones who suffer the most without that solid foundation.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Anthony McCurdy

Makakilo

House District 42, Senate District 20

Oahu

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

3:15 p.m.

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Candace Chun and I've been a teacher for 35 years with the Hawaii Department of Education. I am from the Central District on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Every dollar invested in our community's public schools supports the work we are doing to prepare our youth for meeting the needs of our community and being successful in the 21st century. For instance, I teach the health professions, and it is crucial for us to have knowledgeable instructors in order for students to receive the best education so that they can pursue those careers. Currently, we have a critical shortage of teachers. I've seen this problem grow worse over the years, and there just are not enough qualified teachers in our classrooms. Ask the students and they are not considering a career in teaching. Just within our school, the turnover rate is so high, many are being recruited from the mainland or lack any experience. Many are uncertified, so our students are being very shortchanged with their education.

A positive vote will help reduce class sizes, which have gotten larger, especially in the high schools, where they are packing 36 students or more in advanced classes. Some of this is due to offering seven periods, and not hiring enough teachers, so our load is greater. Unbelievably, I started off last year with 210 students and 204 this year at Mililani High School. This lessens the time I can give to every student; rather, I am struggling to get grading, lesson planning, and actually I looking carefully at student work. Many teachers are so frustrated with their current workload, expectations, and stress, including myself.

A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, see how we can assist them with their learning needs, and provide resources to be effective with learning activities. It's frustrating that when we need supplies there is so much red tape that teachers are forced to use personal funds to buy the things they need. That is very unfair.

Most importantly, funding our schools will provide professional pay, which recognizes the hard work our educators are providing. In all my years of teaching, I can't believe how undervalued our teachers are. I used to do a lot as a culinary teacher, but with instructional time added, decided it wasn't worth doing anymore, because it took hours to do shopping for 180+ students every week. I even decided to give up advising our nationally-affiliated HOSA organization, because after doing that for so many years and no additional recognition or compensation, decided it wasn't worth it anymore. It's unfortunate, because we were taking home numerous national medals and top ten winners, along with having so many state officers and Hawaii's first national officer for any Career Technical Student Organization, many of which I poured personal resources so I could chaperone

my students for a week during my summer break. The raises have never made up for the strike, furloughs, loss of medical contributions taken away, or no increase in salary years.

More funding would also help teachers with medical coverage, after all, this is a high-stress job, and we catch infections the students pass along. At the high school level, it is even more stressful, as there are the difficult ones who even their parents don't know how to control.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because we are losing too many talented, dedicated, and promising educators due to the fact that our state simply is too cheap to pay us REAL professional salary. I have stuck with teaching, even though I have seen everyone burning out and having to work multiple jobs to make ends meet. Why? Because I just don't know who will teach our students anymore. It has never made sense to me that teachers are forced to work multiple jobs when they could have concentrated on preparing or revising lessons or doing the multitude of things required of teachers. It has also become very frustrating to many teachers that they have left the profession for better paying jobs. For example, we have lost some very talented people such as our graphics arts teacher, who is now earning more as a stevedore. When he was teaching, his students were consistently winning national awards. Also, it is discouraging to see many teachers leave today past ten years...sometimes only within a couple of years. Many teachers I speak with say they are burnt out and want to retire, and they only have about 10 years on average.

It's time to take this seriously, because I already see the frightening trend that many teachers are retiring as soon as they can just so they don't have to take all the crap being shoved down their throats. Funding should go to classroom teachers, not the bureaucrats who tell us what to do. We are the ones who work in the trenches for our youth and funding is key to making education a top priority. To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills.

Respectfully,

Candace Chun, Mililani High School, Central District, Oahu

EDU Testimony

From: c c <cxhconrad@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 9:22 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christina Conrad. I am a teacher at Kapolei High School in Leeward District on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because teachers are not staying in the profession. It is difficult to be effect if there is a new sub every other week asking for your help. You end of giving your time to them then they leave. We have classes that have had rotating subs all year and it's February. We have had teachers leave mid year too. Overall you know that people are not staying in the profession. Even myself, I am looking into changing professions. I am tired of living in someone else's house where I rent a room.

Just keep in mind if the funding doesn't increase neither will the number of teachers entering the field. Prepare for an increase in unqualified teachers.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Christina Conrad

Leeward District Oahu

EDU Testimony

From: Cindy <cindy.l.fong@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 7:16 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

3:15 p.m.

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Cynthia L. Fong. I am a teacher at Hilo Intermediate School in Hawaii County on Hawaii Island. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our next generation. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because it allows for many inequities our students experience become equitable. As a public school teacher, I get students from all walks of life with wide-ranging socio-economic challenges. I am currently teaching a STEAM Explorations and Wood Workshop electives with a goal of having my students actually practice positive workplace behaviors. I purposely DO NOT charge a lab fee though we use a lot of consumables. Why?! Because so many of our students families have to make a choice between housing and food and basic school supplies. The skills I teach are life-long skills they need to survive and be positive community contributors. I am aware of a number of students who parents would have refused to allow their child to take my

class with even a small \$5 lab fee. Good funding allows me and my colleagues to focus on my students first, as it should be. As it is, I have two jobs to make all ends meet, especially with two children in college. This takes away significantly what extra effort I have available to be even more effective.

The lower pay considering the cost of living and lack of resources are really hampering our younger and newer teachers from staying and developing their teaching craft. It takes years to develop one's craft and it takes resources which are extremely limited to non-existent to be able to effectively teach to students of all abilities. Further, it costs the Department of Education even more money in lost training when you lose a teacher. It's a vicious cycle that could be solved with funding that can improve resources, class-size, classroom environment (sorry - our kids can't learn when it's really hot). With less college financial assistance being provided these days, too many of our teachers are coming out with huge loans. They may start in education but they quickly realize that when they take a long hard look at their finances, they really have to decide if they can fiscally remain teachers or should they move on to a better paying profession or a less expensive cost-of-living area? As college graduates, it's a difficult situation to encourage teachers to stay and develop their craft and relationships with their school community.

Help our keikis and please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Cynthia L. Fong

Hawaii Island

EDU Testimony

From: Erin Mendelson <blabbering1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2018 9:13 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

3:15 p.m.

Aloha Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Erin Mendelson. I am a special education teacher at Wheeler Middle School in the Central District on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because they currently look like prisons. Our environment shapes who we are. We take pride in going to places that are clean, modern and comfortable. Unfortunately, many of our classrooms have not been updated, painted, and furnished in years. Bathrooms are disgusting. Floors are filthy. We live in a beautiful archipelago, but our public spaces do not reflect what politician claim to care about. We have the money. Instead, we spend the bulk of our public dollars on the affluent. A surcharge on residential investment property would direct necessary dollars to our public schools. The cost to upgrade our schools is not a small figure, but it is well within our capacity. Instead of providing tax benefits to the wealthy or to corporations, we need to reinvest in the greater good to reduce poverty, improve schools and provide housing to all residents of Hawaii. So that our children can feel safe, value school and give back to our communities in the future.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Erin Mendelson, Wahiawa, Oahu

EDU Testimony

From: helenwkong@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2018 9:03 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony

Aloha Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Helen Kong. I am a teacher at James Campbell High School in Leeward district on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone

EDU Testimony

From: hughey2000@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2018 11:03 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018
3:15 p.m.

Aloha Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Justin Hughey. I am a teacher at King Kamehameha III Elementary in Lahaina on Maui.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

If you read the book [Hawaii Pono](#), you will see that we have made little progress since 1911. In 1911, the problems with our educational system included too few teachers, teacher salaries that were distressingly low, buildings that were overcrowded, and thus the per capita cost of education was meager. The plantation owners sent their kids to private school and didn't want their plantation workers' keiki to receive more than a fourth-grade education. The optimal time for this to have been addressed was when our Hawaii State Constitution was written. Yet, no one made sure there was language that would make funding a quality public education a priority.

Almost every politician campaigns on the issue of education. But as this top priority has continually fallen to the wayside, maybe the reason why is many who have the power to change it send their kids to private school. Almost 40 percent of kids on Oahu attend private school, the largest proportion in the United States. The last two school years have started with over 1,600 teacher vacancies, largely because Hawaii pays the lowest salary of districts that have the same cost of living.

We have the lowest percentage of taxation to public education in the country. I appreciate Chair Kidani's leadership in addressing our educational funding crisis. Finally, we can improve the funding problems that has plagued Hawaii since 1911, with passage of this bill.

Mahalo!
Justin Hughey
District 8, Maui

EDU Testimony

From: Kathleen McDonough <kamcdono@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2018 1:50 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Teacher Testimony: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kathleen McDonough and I am a teacher at Ilima Middle School in Leeward District on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because low pay and a lack of resources are driving teachers in your schools out of the profession. Teachers have to hold second and third jobs when they should be able to concentrate on their students. For instance, I have a job after school and work during most of the breaks, including in the summer. I wish I didn't have to work extra so I could focus just on my students but the low wages and the very high cost of living make it impossible to live on one paycheck. I don't know how long I can continue to work so much.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Kathleen McDonough

Leeward District Oahu

Sent from my iPhone

EDU Testimony

From: Kimberly Deas <kymzspot@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 11:18 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony in support of SB 2922

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kimberly Deas . I am a teacher at Solomon Elementary in Central District on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because students need an excellent education. They should have the best teachers , access to engaging and exciting opportunities, materials, and resources. Where are our priorities ? A commitment to investing in public education is

Teachers have unique impact on the future of our society but continue to be undervalued and unsupported . I teach because I know I make a difference in students lives . I celebrate kiddos' successes and do my best to support all my diverse learners and their families. Please do what is long overdue to deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help.

Mahalo,

Kimberly Deas, Central District, Oahu

EDU Testimony

From: Lindsey Medina <lindseymedina09@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 10:22 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: SB 2922 Relating to Education

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lindsey Medina. I am a teacher at Kaneohe Elementary School in the Windward District on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because it is vital to providing our students with a quality education that serves the needs of all learners. Our children are our future. It is our Kuleana to provide them with meaningful learning opportunities to ensure that they have the tools they need to become productive, contributing members of society. This is not possible without money.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Lindsey Medina, Windward, Oahu

EDU Testimony

From: Maury Davenport <mauryd221@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2018 6:31 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Educational funding

I support the need to increase our funding for education.

This is one if the most important pieces of legislation before us in 2018.

Maurice Davenport
Wailuku
264-6314

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

EDU Testimony

From: Nanna Lindberg <nanna.lindberg82@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2018 11:20 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

3:15 p.m.

Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nanna Lindberg. I am a science teacher at Maui High School on Maui. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because in Hawaii we have the lowest taxation going towards education. The way the school system in Hawaii was established during the plantation era, public schools weren't a priority. Plantation workers' children were not to be well educated so that they would stay in and work at the plantation. Thus, funding public education was not a priority. The upper class citizens sent their children to private schools and therefore had no interest in funding public education or using tax money dedicated to public education. This racist political view segregates children based on their family income and doesn't offer the same education to all keiki. This is no longer acceptable.

The lack of funding is especially apparent in my community where schools are overcrowded and more schools aren't being built. At Maui High school we share science classrooms because we don't have enough classrooms for teachers. We can't hire more teachers which drives our class sizes up and makes for a less than optimal learning environment. Even though Maui High School is the high school for children from Kihei, we are not seeing any funding to help out with our overfilled schools.

Money is being held for Kihei High School when we ARE the Kihei high school NOW. And the high school in Kihei hasn't even started to be built. Large class sizes and lack of proper science classrooms is hurting our students and it's not letting us teach to the standards we are tasked with. Some science classrooms don't even have running water, or 30+ small slanted desks crammed into a small room that you for obvious reasons can't put any science equipment on because it will slide off the desk. We are not going to get any improvement on next generation science classrooms any time soon since all money is being set aside for Kihei High School. As a science teacher tasked with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) I find myself struggling to deliver to my students the curriculum I am tasked with with the scarce resources I'm given. Learning biology is experiencing it, not reading from a textbook. To learn science we must do science. And that requires a certain set of equipment and consumables. My students learn best when doing experiments and they want more! In conclusion, there just isn't enough money in the state budget to sustain high quality schools and education. It is time we solve this funding issue!

In combination with low pay, lowest in the country when adjusted for cost of living, many teachers at my school have left in the last few years. Teaching is driving teachers into bankruptcy forcing them to leave. Like most teachers I hold a second job when I should be able to concentrate on my students. I babysit at resorts and hotels, sometimes until midnight on weeknights, followed by driving home and not going to sleep until 1am only to get up at 6am and get ready to teach. Investing in our public schools and our teachers is an investment in our future.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Nanna Lindberg, Maui High School, Maui

EDU Testimony

From: Nara Takakawa <ntakakawa@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 5:12 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

3:15 p.m.

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nara Takakawa, and I am a special education teacher at Kapolei Middle School in the Campbell-Kapolei District on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Over the years, I have heard politicians say that throwing more money at education won't solve anything. I truly beg to differ. Increased funding would help schools make much needed capital improvements, such as providing air conditioning or fixing leaking roofs. The classroom I am currently teaching in has leaked for years along its width and length. I dream of the day when I don't have to have 30-gallon garbage cans that serve to catch water sitting around my classroom or plastic sheets covering a shelf of books.

More money could be used to hire more staff to support kids who come to school with emotional, mental, and social needs that are often beyond a school's current capacity to provide.

More money could help schools acquire more technology. Currently, my team of 5 teachers shares one mobile laptop cart with 30 Chromebooks for 130 students. How are Hawaii's students supposed to be on the cutting edge of the 21st century when they have limited access to technology?

More money could increase teachers' salaries. Hawaii's cost of living is among the highest in the nation, yet our teachers are among the lowest paid. Is it no wonder that teacher retention is so poor?

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools

yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Nara Takakawa

Campbell-Kapolei District, Oahu

EDU Testimony

From: Noah Myers <noamyers@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 5:46 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

3:15 p.m.

Aloha Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Noah Myers. I am a teacher at James Campbell high school. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Noah Myers

EDU Testimony

From: Paul deVille <paul@transpacificnw.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2018 10:02 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony RE SB 2922

Aloha Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Paul deVille. I am a concerned citizen submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When our dedicated teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawaii's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and our cultural history, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers. Our teachers are there because of their extreme sense of duty and their passion for what they do, certainly not because of money, and yet, they deserve far greater monetary benefit.

We need this additional funding for our public schools, and our kiekie deserve this support. Please help give it to them.

Aloha and Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Paul I. deVille

EDU Testimony

From: Shelby DeSilva <shelby.desilva@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2018 8:14 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony for SB 2292 Relating to Education

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

3:15 p.m.

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Shelby DeSilva and I am a teacher at Pohakea Elementary School in Ewa Beach on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because our teachers are struggling. As a teacher, I know how much out-of-pocket money teachers use so that our students can get the education they deserve. Living on a teacher's salary is not easy, and it is easy to understand why so many qualified and passionate teachers are leaving the profession to seek a career with better pay. I live paycheck to paycheck, but when it comes to the needs of my students, I put them first, many times meaning that I sacrifice something that I need. However, this is in no way fair to myself or my family.

Pilots are not asked to pay for fuel for the planes that they operate. Doctors and nurses are not asked to purchase the basic supplies that their hospitals need to operate. Why is it acceptable for

teachers to have to? If you invest in our students and teachers now, you are making an investment for our future and the future of Hawai'i. Our students need good teachers, and our teachers need a livable salary.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo for your kokua.

Shelby DeSilva, Leeward District, Oahu

EDU Testimony

From: Sheryl Ogawa <petmongoose@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 7:07 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: SB2922

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

[MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018](#)

[3:15 p.m.](#)

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sheryl S. Ogawa. I am a teacher at Pahoa High & Intermediate School in Ka‘u Keaau Pahoa Complex on Big Island. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow’s generations. Every dollar invested in our community’s public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai’i’s schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because class size matters. Our school is heading towards full Inclusion, and you know what? It’s not the SpEd students that need the help, but the Gen Ed student with discipline issues. My Inclusion class has 33 students of which 8 are SpEd. I am an 8th Grade ELA teacher mandated to use a curriculum called SpringBoard that uses disposable student workbooks. For starter, there are not enough workbooks for students to write on, so we were told we could use a digital version, but of course there are not enough laptops to support 33 students in a classroom. The DOE has lofty expectations and demands of their teachers, but they never put their money where their demands are.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Sheryl S. Ogawa, KKP Complex, Big Island

Sent through ‘ope‘ape‘a express ☐

EDU Testimony

From: Keone & Steph <kunis@hawaiiintel.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 5:29 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: support SB 2922 please

Aloha Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Stephanie Kuniyoshi. I am a school librarian at Wahiawa Elementary School on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in **support of SB 2922** to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We also need additional funding for our public schools, to **ensure that every single student has consistent access to a certified librarian**, who can support their learning. Certified school librarians are the experts in teaching informational literacy skills, which children need in order to sift through the overwhelming information and **misinformation**. School librarians are also the extra support that children need to help them in their social, emotional and academic development.

Please support this bill to deliver the schools our keiki deserve.

We need your help!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Kuniyoshi, Librarian
Wahiawa Elementary School

EDU Testimony

From: Terry Low <terry@terryjlow.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 5:12 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

3:15 p.m.

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Terry Low. I am a teacher at Kauai High School. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because the current system isn't able to provide the resources and services necessary to give our keiki the schools they deserve.

Please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Terry Low

Kauai High School

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

3:15 p.m.

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kim Virtudazo. I am a teacher at James Campbell High School in Ewa Beach on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Today I am testifying not only as a teacher but as a parent to my six year old son, Logan and three year old daughter, Lily. I am writing in support of SB 2922 to increase funding in public schools. Logan is a kindergartner at Ewa Elementary. His teacher Mrs. Kris Tanioka is an outstanding educator who does so much despite the school's limited resources. With 22 five and six year olds in her classroom, Mrs. Tanioka manages to give all of her students the emotional attention they need, while teaching every child the benchmarks and standards, and showing them all their potential. Everyone knows twenty two kindergartners is way too many. She does an incredible job and I'm fortunate to have her as Logan's teacher. But to retain exceptional teachers like her, the state needs to fund schools better. Schools simply need more funding.

At Campbell I teach freshman English and I see first-hand daily the conditions and the lack of resources of our schools. Our school allots teachers between \$100 - \$150 a school year for supplies. This money is spent on expo markers, staplers, pencil sharpeners, hole punchers, tape dispensers, chart paper, post-it, index cards, tissue boxes and paper towel rolls. I try to stretch the money as much as I can but I'm never able to purchase everything I need. So everything else I purchase throughout the year comes out of pocket. I do this for my students...I do this for your constituents and their families. I gladly invite you into my classroom to see my termite infested room. When you're here, I would like you to meet my students and see their daily struggles. I would like you to see me as I feed them whatever snacks I have since some of them don't have food at home.

As a sixth year teacher, our family has struggled with whether or not to move to the mainland. I have a Master's degree in Secondary Education but I can't afford to purchase a home. Like many teachers, I think about moving to the mainland. We see this in the shortage of

qualified teachers and the number of long-term substitutes we have. This past year I picked up a second job, teaching night school at Waipahu Community Schools for Adults. Teaching night school, I have students from 16 to 60+ years old. Some of the students who I work with at night, could've benefitted from a loving, qualified teacher who was able to give them the one-on-one attention they deserved. But the state failed them. Schools simply need more funding.

So today, I ask that you support SB 2922, to deliver the schools our keiki deserve. I ask you this a parent of Logan and Lily, a freshman English teacher at James Campbell High School, a night school teachers at Waipahu Community Schools for Adults, a State of Hawaii registered voter, and just a citizen of Hawaii.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Kim Virtudazo, Ewa Beach, Oahu

EDU Testimony

From: Angie Miyashiro <terqu2004@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 2:44 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: SB 2922

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Angie Miyashiro. I am a teacher at Ka'u High and Pahala Elementary on the Big island of Hawaoo. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because our students deserve to have the opportunities and success that is afforded to others. We are 100% free and reduced lunch. We struggle financially to provide them the added resources and tools to have that quality education experience

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Dr. Angie Miyashiro, Big island of Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: uilani macabio <umacabio@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2018 6:24 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony in support of SB2922

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Uilani Macabio. I am a teacher at Honokaa High and Intermediate School in North Hawaii on the Island of Hawaii. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because we need to provide a safe, diverse, and updated school to allow students to be successful post high school. The extra funding will support our students to be prepared in this fast developing 21st century world. At Honoka'a High and Intermediate School we are a rural high school that utilize all the resources we got, but individual teachers use their own time and finances to support students and curriculum. My students is my priority and I will never feel that my time and personal resources are not worth it for them. However, with support and extra funding it will take a small portion of the extreme length that I go through to make my curriculum and lessons everlasting and engaging. please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

U'ilani Macabio

Sent from my iPhone

EDU Testimony

From: Rose S <rosiesroses1@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2018 12:16 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rosemary Summers. I am a teacher at Mokapu Elementary school in Windward District on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because as adults it is our job to provide children with the best education possible. Great education thru great teachers, who want to stay in teaching, and are able to because they can afford the cost of living in Hawaii is so important. I've been a teacher in Hawaii's public schools for 7 years now and have seen so much turn over among colleagues. Many people move back to the mainland because they cannot afford to raise their children in Hawaii. I feel sad when classrooms are too large. As a teacher I strive to support each child with their individual needs, but it is near to impossible to differentiate for each child's needs enough when classroom sizes are large. Again it is our responsibility as adults to give each child a great education. If we don't do that for them we give them a disservice and the future of our country is at risk because their will be a lot more juvenile delinquents running around or homeless people who did not receive a good enough education to help them stop that cycle.

I love being a teacher, but it is a LOT of work! It is physically and mentally taxing. I know every job has an element of this, but education needs to be funded in order to keep people who care in education. It is crucial to our children's future!

Please show care for our keiki by increasing funding for public schools!

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Rosemary Summers, Windward District, Oahu

EDU Testimony

From: Mike Landes <jmlandes@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2018 12:35 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

3:15 p.m.

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mike Landes. I am a teacher at Lahainaluna High School in Lahaina on Maui. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Mike Landes, Maui

EDU Testimony

From: Lt Jav <javlt@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2018 11:57 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

3:15 p.m.

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lorie Javier. I am a teacher in the Leeward District on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, to be able to provide supplies needed to conduct STEM activities, to sustain programs that provide students with diverse experiences that nurture innovation, leadership, and creativity, to properly maintain aging schools, and to provide a competitive salary for teachers in order to retain talent in this most important profession. Investing in our public schools is an investment in our society and our future.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Lorie Javier, Leeward District, Oahu

EDU Testimony

From: Susie Chun Oakland <susiechunoakland@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2018 2:40 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Senate Bill 2922 Relating to Education

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

3:15 p.m.

Dear Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

Thank you for hearing SB 2922. I support this bill, which proposes amendments to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to advance the State's goal of providing a quality education for the children of Hawaii by authorizing the legislature to establish, as provided by law, a surcharge on residential investment property and visitor [accommodations.to](#) increase funding for public schools.

Our children's education is a top priority. This bill is critical to strengthening the foundation for 21st Century educational excellence for our keiki and 'opio and assuring equality and prosperity for our young people's future. Supporting this proposal will strengthen our ability to create more experiential, hands on curriculum that will excite and inspire student learning as well as help support our educators to innovate and offer meaningful and relevant learning opportunities for their students. This measure will permit the people of Hawaii to express their support for providing additional resources and services in the public schools for their children and to address professional pay that reflects the value of their hardworking teachers.

Thank you for your favorable consideration and support for SB2922.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Susie Chun Oakland
603-E Kunawai Lane
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
(808) 778-9146

SB-2922

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 7:35:20 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl		Support	No

Comments:

Supporting.. we need to find some way to help fund public education. If this is a positive way then I support and I will be trusting that all of you have examined the positives and negatives before voting. In addition, at some point, the legislature really needs to look at the educational "system" here and determine whether there are any ways to make it more efficient and purposeful for kids. I am not talking about the educators. I am talking about the actual system. For example, is the appointed BOE the best vehicle for getting things done or would a return to the elected work.

thanks for looking at ways to support.

SB-2922

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 8:09:16 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anela Iwane		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2922

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 10:07:50 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cory Harden		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please support increasing school funding. Education increases people's ability to contribute skills to their community. It also means people get higher-paid jobs, then contribute more in taxes.

mahalo,

Cory Harden, Hilo

SB-2922

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 3:35:13 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Russo		Support	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I support this bill to increase funding for Hawaii schools through residential investment property and visitor accommodations surcharge. Hawaii expenditure, as a share of combined state and local government expenditures, is 27.3 percent and ranks lowest in the nation.

My granddaughter, born in and being raised in Hawaii, deserves to receive a well rounded education. It is unfair to put any child's future and future success at risk because the legislature did not act when given the opportunity.

Please support SB 2922! Our children's future depends on it!

Thank you for your consideration. Respectfully, Susan Russo

SB-2922

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 5:20:50 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kat Culina		Support	No

Comments:



EDUCATION CAUCUS

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **EDUCATION**
RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018
3:15 p.m.

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jenny Nomura. I am a librarian at Aiea Intermediate School in Central District on Oahu and also a secretary for the education caucus. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children will be our future leaders and they deserve the best education possible to be prepared for this job. In order for them to become life-long learners they need to connect with their teachers in smaller class sizes. Teachers need resources (both teaching materials and people such as librarians) through adequate funding to help with enough building blocks for our kids to function at their best ability. In order to keep our children interested in furthering their education our schools need to have a whole child education approach that includes the arts, music and Hawaiian studies.

We need dedicated teachers who are paid enough money which is the key to teacher retention. I know many beginning teachers who have to work at a restaurant at night in order to afford a place to live. Small schools like ours, don't have enough money to retain support staff. My position as librarian is being eliminated next year so I will retire in July. It is the children who will suffer the consequences.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.
Jenny Nomura, Education Caucus Secretary
District 36, Oahu

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

3:15 p.m.

Position: **SUPPORT SB2922**

Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kendrick Farm. I am a community stakeholder on the Island of Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

With reference to cost analysis in the 1950s onward it was determined that for every dollar invested into education there was a seven dollar return to the coffers of the federal government. Likewise, the State of Hawai'i should reflect of that historical performance and see if we would be able to replicate that in our own economy with untapped resources for the common benefit.

We need additional funding for our public schools, low pay and a lack of resources are driving teachers in your schools out of the profession, how teachers have (at times) to hold second and third jobs when they should be able to concentrate on their students, etc., how investing in our public schools is an investment in our society/future.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

Mahalo,

Member-At-Large

Neighborhood Board No. 15

Kalihi-Palma

SB-2922

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 3:50:44 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dave Kisor		Support	No

Comments:

Smaller classes and better conditions for learning? Get our school system into the 21st century? Like other things in Hawai'i, it would be great if the school system made it into the later half of the 20th century and slowly work its way to the 21st. It may be a century behind, but it would be an improvement over what we have now. Please support SB2922. Facetious? Sarcastic? Moi?

SB-2922

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 8:48:58 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debra Koonohiokala Norenberg		Support	No

Comments:

EDU Testimony

From: begoniabarry@gmail.com on behalf of Barbara Barry <gardenmeister@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2018 4:27 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: SB2922

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Barbara Barry. I am a community member at Makawao Elementary school on Maui. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because when we invest in our children's education, society as a whole is improved. Our keiki need teachers who are paid well, smaller classroom sizes, more preparation in science, the humanities, music, math, computer literacy and programing and language. Lets train them to compete in the world they will find as they grow up

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help.

Mahalo.

Ms. Barbara Barry

Ha'iku, HI

EDU Testimony

From: mhc <oceanwave7@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2018 5:18 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

3:15 p.m.

Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is MH Chapin. I am a Community Member involved with curriculum development for Keaau Middle School, in KKP complex, Hawaii district, Hawaii. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, they build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposals will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and culture, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because every child, no matter what their economic status deserves the best education possible. This requires resources, and smaller class sizes that allow for learning to take place. Lack of funding affects our entire community including the children, students and the entire community. There is rapid turnover of highly qualified educators due to low pay and a lack of resources, driving teachers in our public schools out of the profession, teachers have to hold second and third jobs when they should be able to concentrate on their students. Investing in our schools, increases the quality of professionals, entrepreneurs, and community members while it reduces incarcerations and crime.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

MH Chapin, KKP, Hawaii Island, HI.

SB-2922

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 10:19:39 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erika Lechuga DiSalvo		Support	No

Comments:

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Erika Lechuga DiSalvo. I live in Haiku on the island of Maui. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because education is the very BACKBONE of our society. We need to invest in our schools, our teachers and our children. This is a NO BRAINER. Our teachers in Hawaii are face enormous stress- they dont get paid what they should and often have one or two side jobs. They cannot afford to buy a home which is outrageous considering they are devoting their careers to educating our children- the future of our society. Education and supporting our teachers should be paramount and of the highest priority.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Erika Lechuga DiSalvo

Haiku, Maui

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION**

Monday, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

3:15 p.m.

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, Members of the Committee:

My name is Jun Shin and I am a board member at-large for Young Progressives Demanding Action - Hawaii. I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting these proposals will lift our schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because a better public school system for Hawaii's students means:

- A need for fewer and fewer prisons
- A workforce adapted to the changing times
- More and more students choosing higher education
- A population that is more willing to invest in the political process
- More people who want to become teachers and a better retention rate of our current teachers

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill and advance it through committee.

Thank you for your hard work and deliberation on this issue,

Jun Shin,
Board Member At-Large
Young Progressives Demanding Action - Hawaii
1561 Kanunu St. Honolulu, HI 96814
Cell: 8082556663
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com

SB-2922

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 2:44:29 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shane Albritton		Support	No

Comments:

Schools Our
Keiki Deserve

808-351-0980
808-627-0193

1488 Glen Ave.
Wahiawā

TESTIMONY RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

This committee has shown a deep understanding of the issues that have been raised by HSTA over the past three years with regards to the issue of funding of our public schools.

While it had been normalized for decades, for historical and political reasons, that fact that we are starving our public schools is incontrovertible. And the effects are evident everywhere, from our teacher shortage crisis to our crumbling facilities.

While this long-term austerity program was written into our state constitution by Big Five plantation owners who did not want their property taxes to pay for the education of the children of workers, we have the power to change this structure to create the public school system that our children deserve.

The provision of public education is a state power and the state must have the means - property tax - to fulfill its responsibility. Please support this measure, which will simply let the people decide if the Hawaii State Constitution should be amended to allow very valuable non-owner occupied residences and visitor accommodations to be taxed to support our public schools.

Let's spend our policy-making energy trying to figure out how to serve working families in Hawaii - and pursuing the *common good*.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amy Perruso

Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

Room 229, 3:15 p.m.

Dear Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Arthur G. Foyt, Jr. I am a citizen of Kakaako, Honolulu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because the children are our future and must be educated to make the decisions that will move our cities, state and country forward. Citizens in a Democratic Society must be able to think. To deliver the schools our keiki deserve and need, please support this bill.

Mahalo,

Arthur G. Foyt, Jr.

Arthur G. Foyt, Jr., Citizen
1296 Kapiolani Blvd Apt 2804E
Honolulu, HI 96814

SB-2922

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 10:11:30 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Kwiat		Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Distinguished Members of the Education Committee,

As longtime Hawaii residents and owners of a home in Kona and two vacation rental condos we OPPOSE SB 2922 but would SUPPORT a constitutional amendment that allows for using an across the board raise in property taxes to pay for education.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) is again proposing a Constitutional amendment to allow for funding of public schools by taxing investment properties. It's noted that Hawaii is currently the only state in the US that does not fund education through property taxes as Hawaii's Constitution currently only allows the counties to levy a property tax.

It makes more sense to enact a Constitutional amendment that allows for the funding of education through property taxes than to target one group of property owners that will never benefit from an improved educational system in Hawaii. Our children are grown and out of the school system but, as Hawaii residents, we still would benefit from an improved educational system. An across the board hike in property taxes would be smaller and much fairer than one tax applied to any distinct group.

You can argue that all taxes are unfair to someone. It seems to me that we should be paying for the education of Hawaii's children ourselves and not look to shift the burden to some other group--just because they do not have a vote here!

Thank you for your consideration.
David and Carole Kwiat

72-4084 Akahipu'u Place
Makalei Estates
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
(808) 987-7271

SB-2922

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 8:47:24 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Wardlow	The Westin Princeville Ocean Resort Villas	Oppose	No

Comments:

Higher taxes and fees harm our ability to compete. Last August, the Legislature raised the TAT, to the point where guests now pay a TAT of 10.25 percent. Coupled with the general excise tax, guests pay a 14.41 percent tax on the Neighbor Islands and 14.96 percent on O'ahu. Hawai'i has reached the point where high business costs and tax rates make it increasingly difficult for business to be profitable and competitive, in both the domestic and international markets.

Tourism already is the state's largest revenue producer. Tourism continues to be the largest single source of private capital for our economy. Recent reports have noted that (a) tourism accounted for 204,000 jobs; (b) visitor spending last year totaled \$16.8 billion, a new high; and (c) the state's tax take was \$1.96 billion. Of that sum, TAT revenues alone generated nearly \$508 million for the state's coffers last fiscal year.

More than half of TAT revenue now goes to the general fund. While the TAT was established to promote and market the visitor industry, it has since become a major source of revenue for purposes other than originally intended. We would surmise that public education may already be receiving a share of TAT revenue through its general fund budget allocations.

The state government is not collecting TAT and general excise taxes on transient vacation rentals. I support legislation that would ensure a level playing field for all visitor accommodations, from the traditional hospitality businesses to the alternative accommodations offered online. There are tens of thousands of alternative accommodations in the Hawaiian Islands competing with hotels, resorts, timeshares, and bed-and-breakfasts, except that the majority of them are most likely avoiding TAT and general excise taxes.

For these reasons, I continue to oppose raising taxes and extra fees on the visitor industry and we respectfully urge you to oppose the establishment of a transient vacation surcharge proposed in Senate Bill 2922.

Sincerely,

Denise Wardlow



February 5, 2018

TO: SENATOR MICHELLE KIDANI, Chair Education Committee
SENATOR KAIALI`I KAHELE, Vice-Chair Education Committee

FR: AMERICAN RESORT DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (ARDA) -HAWAII,
Blake Oshiro, Acting Executive Director

RE: SENATE BILL 2922 PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES VIII AND X OF THE
CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO AUTHORIZE THE LEGISLATURE TO
ESTABLISH A SURCHARGE TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION –
OPPOSE

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice-Chair Kahele and Members of the Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the proposed Constitutional Amendment. On behalf of the American Resort Development Association (ARDA) Hawaii, the time share association, we respectfully **oppose** this bill.

While the discussion and policy decisions about the proper level of funding for public education is an important one that has been ongoing for several years, the approach taken in this bill seeks to have just two sectors of the economy bear that burden, one of which being the visitor accommodations. We believe this is an unfair targeting of one type of property owners and property users being taxed. While this does not mean ARDA-Hawaii necessarily supports a broad-based tax increase, we believe that would be a much more reasonable policy discussion for the entire general public to engage in. Moreover, these proposals single-out these areas to have them pay these fees for services and programs which do not have a direct nexus to the surcharge that is sought to be imposed. Finally, the transient accommodations tax was just recently raised in this fall in the special session in order to fund the Honolulu Rail Project, as such, we do not believe that adding additional tax increases so soon and quickly is prudent as it places an undue burden on these sectors.

Our tourism industry remains the number #1 economic driver. Unfortunately, our other important economic driver, the military support and spending, is also tenuous and uncertain due to changes at the federal level in the past few years including sequestration, no longer allowing specific appropriation or "pork-barrel" projects, and loss of congressional seniority, along with an uncertain and yet to be determined approach by the new federal Administration. As such, additional targeted fees or taxes on our visitor accommodations has the potential to drag down our tourism market momentum and inhibit Hawaii's continued cost-competitiveness as a sought-after tropical destination.

It is for these reasons that ARDA-Hawaii must respectfully oppose this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2018

To: Senator Kidani, Chair

Senator Kahele, Vice-Chair

Date: Feb 5, 2018

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 229
Hawaii State Capitol

RE: Senate Bill 2922, Relating to Constitutional Amendment

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

RBOAA must **OPPOSE** the bill.

This Bill proposes Constitutional amendments to authorize a “Surcharge on residential investment property and visitor accommodation to fund quality public education for all of Hawaii’s children.”

RBOAA takes no position as to the need or merit of additional funding for education.

RBOAA has great concern with the proposed method of payment for additional education funding as follows:

1. Residential investment property that cannot claim a homeowner's exemption.

Among the counties there is not a uniform definition of when a property owner can claim a homeowner’s exemption. Each county has defined the duration of use differently, therefore, without a one definition of when a homeowner’s exemption can be applied, the result will inherently be discriminatory.

Further, the Privileges and Immunities Clause protects against State Legislation that bears unequally on nonresidents and exempts nonresidents from any higher taxation or excises than are imposed by a State on its own citizens. It is hard to find the rational basis for taxing only certain properties to fund education which is a benefit to all children who reside in the State. While there are some resident owners who indeed do have residential investment property, as seen in last year’s proposal, they are likely to receive benefits and

offsets that nonresidents will not. It is also noted that the Legislature has requested studies of nonresident property ownership, so it is well known to the legislature that the nonresident will be significantly more impacted by this Bill.

2. Additional surcharge on visitor accommodations.

As everyone is aware, the legislature in special session last summer increased the transient accommodation tax to pay for funding for the Honolulu transit system. It is only a month ago that transient accommodation operators had an increase of 1% (total 10.25%). The increases over the past several years are significant already. It is unknown if there will be a negative impact with this newly implemented increase. With every increase in TAT there is an increased risk that the tourists will cut back on other expenditures that are vital to the economy.

RBOAA must also question the nexus to investment property and tourist operations and education. Generally, where there is a special tax imposed on only certain sectors there is a nexus to it which justifies having to bear the expense. There is not such connection here. Indeed, tourists do not send children to school, and investment property generally is not connected with sending children to a local school.

3. The Constitution of the United States

The U.S. Supreme Court has held that the Constitution guarantees equal treatment by government and the legislative process shall not make laws that harm a “politically unpopular group(s)” and that government “cannot justify disparate treatment of that group.” During the past seven years, every year, there have been Bills introduced for taxation, regulation, and encumbrances on transient vacation rentals. There is even a Bill this session and in the past two sessions prescribing that failure of a transient accommodation operator to register with the Tax Department would be a Class C Felony - the same as involuntary manslaughter. And yet, failure to obtain a GE license for all other forms of business is a fine of \$500. (HRS 237-9). Compare: a Class C Felony with mandatory fines and prison versus a fine of \$500 for the same offense (conducting business without registering). There has clearly been established a hostility towards non-resident owners.

It is up to this legislative body to determine how they will enact Bills that uphold the protections afforded under the Constitution of the United States that provides for equal protection even for those groups that are “politically unpopular.” There is ample case law that establishes the courts have consistently upheld these protections for decades.

We urge the legislature to consider the U.S. Constitution’s Equal Protection Clause that provides for protection from discriminatory actions, the Privileges and Immunities Clause that protects against State Legislation that bears unequally on nonresidents and exempts nonresidents from any higher taxation or excises than are imposed by a State on its own citizens. It is hard to find the rational basis for taxing only one or two uses of property to fund education which is a benefit to all children who reside in the State.



Further, the additional surcharge imposed upon transient accommodations is discriminatory against one form of commerce. Hawaii has many different forms of commerce and it is unclear why one form would be responsible for education and not another. The Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution also provides for equal treatment in the laws established by a State. In the *Bacchus case*, the United State Supreme court held “the Commerce Clause stands as a limitation on the means by which a State can constitutionally seek to achieve its goals.” The court further held that it is irrelevant to the Commerce Clause, and still in violation of its provisions, when the motivation of the legislature was the desire to aid in state interest rather than to harm out of state interests.

We ask you to please consider that money needed to fund “education for all of Hawaii’s children” should be funded by all revenue sources rather than selecting only residential investment property and visitor accommodations to fund additional revenue for education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

Neal Halstead
President,
Rental by Owner Awareness Association

Rental By Owner Awareness Association (RBOAA) is a Hawaii non-profit corporation founded in 2011, with over 1000 members. Our mission is to provide Hawaii vacation-rental property owners with information to help them comply with the applicable State and County regulations, support the Hawaii economy by offering visitors choice in accommodation, and advocate for the rights of Hawaii vacation property owners. RBOAA members provide transient vacation rentals in full compliance with existing tax and County regulations. RBOAA fully supports enforcement of existing regulations.



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org
hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro
Executive Director

February 5, 2018

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

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee,

HawaiiKidsCAN supports SB 2922, which proposes amendments to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to advance the State's goal of providing a quality education for the children of Hawaii by authorizing the legislature to establish, as provided by law, a surcharge on residential investment property and visitor accommodations.

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawaii has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, has a transformational impact on our children and our state. HawaiiKidsCAN is a branch of 50CAN: The 50-State Campaign for Achievement Now.

HawaiiKidsCAN is supporting SB 2922 because Hawaii must aim to provide every student in Hawaii with the best education in the world. The influence of our innovative graduates will reach all corners of the world and secure the future of the strong and sustainable islands we are fortunate enough to call home.

In order to reach these ambitious goals, we must ensure our students and educators have the resources they need to thrive and innovate. That includes funding to increase equity and access in computer science and advanced science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) courses; to develop world-class dual language immersion pathways that support multilingualism and English learner students; and to close our persistent achievement gaps.

Our world is changing rapidly, and strategic investments like these will be more than repaid if our students graduate equipped with the critical thinking and problem-solving skills to innovate and lead.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

David Miyashiro
Founding Executive Director
HawaiiKidsCAN



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Kekaulike Prosper Tomich

Cade Watanabe

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Anne Frederick and I am the Executive Director for the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA). I am submitting testimony in support of SB2922 to increase funding for public schools.

HAPA is a statewide environmental, social and economic justice organization. HAPA engages over 10,000 local residents annually through our work.

HAPA and several of our partners have held a series of input gathering forums across the islands called the People's Congress. Over 800 people attended forums on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui and Hawai'i Island to discuss the most pressing issues facing their communities. The chronic underfunding of our public schools was one of the top concerns and priorities raised by residents across the state.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for these measures is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.



We need additional funding for our public schools, because we need to grow the next generation of civically engaged, informed, leaders and decision-makers. Our schools must prepare our young people for the challenges they will need to face in their lifetime from climate change and food security to an increasingly globalized economy. The education of our keiki is the single most important investment we can make for a better future.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Best Regards,

Anne Frederick
Executive Director
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action

SB-2922

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 2:57:50 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vickie Parker Kam		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

I am a public school teacher at Ilima Intermediate in Ewa Beach, Oahu. My children attended public school in the state of Hawaii from K-12. In order to ensure the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help.

Sincerely,

Vickie Parker Kam

SB-2922

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 3:03:14 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Chang	Coalition for Equal Taxation	Oppose	No

Comments:

The Coalition for Equal Taxation opposes SB2922 Constitutional Amendment. The Coalition believes that education should be paid for by a broad base of all sources of taxation rather than specifically designating only two sources for additional funding. The Coalition also believes that education funding should remain an item paid for from the general fund.

EDU Testimony

From: Lisa Yamagata <Inishizuka@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2018 1:36 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

[MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018](#)

[3:15 p.m.](#)

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lisa Yamagata. I am a teacher at Waimea Canyon Middle School on Kauai. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because our keiki need and deserve a clean, stable, and modern learning environment with teachers who are consistent in their abilities and values. With the poor teacher pay and high cost of living, I have seen so much turnover at my school in my short career of 11 years. Sadly, I am considered one of the veteran teachers at my school because so many teachers come and leave, either because they can't afford to stay or because the working conditions are so poor and stressful that they know they can find something better elsewhere. Ultimately, the children end up suffering because when there is high turnover there is low consistency and structure at a school. There is very little continuity in teaching strategies, classroom management, grading, etc.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Lisa Yamagata, Kauai

Sent from my iPhone

EDU Testimony

From: Dylan Ramos <dylanpk.amos@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2018 2:03 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony regarding SB 2922

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION

[MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018](#)

[3:15 p.m.](#)

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dylan Ramos and I am testifying as a product and proud supporter of Hawai'i public schools, as well as a member of the Hawai'i Democratic Party's Education Caucus. It has been a long time since I've sent in a written testimony, but SB 2922 caught my attention. There may be some opposed to this bill for fiscal or political reasons, but I would say to them that Hawai'i's keiki (and the 'āina they live on) should always be our first priority.

Residential investment property and visitor accommodations are big business in Hawai'i — there is no reason they shouldn't help fund the state's future. Public schools must be available and supportive of the large number of "high needs" students, helping to shape a generation that can fix Hawai'i's growing social and economic problems.

That said, the cost-of-living in Hawai'i is immense, contributing to both the causes and consequences of our struggling public education system. We must do our best when considering a bill like this not to harm already-struggling residents. This includes locally owned businesses and residential investors renting to other locals to live, as opposed to short-term vacation rentals. There should also be assurances that money will make its way to teachers, students, and a proportionate amount of administrators, faculty and staff (avoiding excessive hires and expensive bureaucracy).

Anybody opposed to these measures on fiscal grounds should consider different ways to address budgetary issues. Our keiki are not bargaining chips or political pawns for use, but rather our future innovators who deserve the best education we can provide. Our state's unique administration of public schools requires creative and resourceful thinking, and as the introduction to SB 2922 points out, there are many ways students and teachers can benefit from more funding.

Please consider passing this bill or something similar with strong support for funding sustainable, long-term programs for quality education.

Mahalo nui loa,
Dylan Ramos

EDU Testimony

From: sandy u <sandy_1019@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2018 2:03 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Support for SB 2922

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sandy Umakoshi. I am a teacher at King Kaumuali'i Elementary School in central district on Kaua'i. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public school because lack of funding affects our school & students. I see how low pay and a lack of resources are driving teachers in our schools out of the teaching profession. My teacher friends have to hold second jobs to pay their rent or mortgage. We should be able to concentrate on our students worry free.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Sandy Umakoshi

Central district

Kaua'i

Sent from my iPhone

EDU Testimony

From: Andrew Jones <jonesbaron23@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2018 2:15 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Monday 2/5/2018 Hearing on SB 2922 Relating to Education

Testimony for: Senate Education Committee
SB 2922 - RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing on Monday, February 5, 2018
3:15pm

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Andy Jones, a teacher at Radford High School. I have been at Radford for eleven years; previously I taught English as a Foreign Language in Taiwan 1993-2006. I am writing to ask that you please pass SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Valid arguments for increased school funding are legion. The following are among the most exigent:

1. *Teacher retention and recruitment.* When cost of living is taken into account, the average public school teacher in Hawaii earns more than \$10,000 less per year than the next lowest-paying American states for teachers. That is to say, it is not just that we are ranked last, but that there is in addition a significant gap between Hawaii teacher salaries and salaries the other low-paying states. For many teachers, this gap spells non-affordability. This is the primary reason why the average Hi teacher spends less than five years in the classroom, and why we have the nation's most serious teacher shortage overall. Students suffer individually and collectively when too many of their teachers are inexperienced or under-qualified, or when the doors to their classroom are constantly revolving. I believe that improving teacher retention and recruitment is beyond question the single most effective way of improving public education in our state.
2. *Unfavorable teacher to student ratios.* Teachers throughout the state are overburdened with too many students. Last year at my high school, one of my first-year Language Arts colleagues had over 210 students distributed among his six classes. That's almost 40 students per class. Not only are 40 students far too many for effective teaching and learning; the sheer number of students that this teacher was responsible for seriously limited how much time the teacher could spend devoting important individualized attention to particular students. In short, not only do teachers need to be paid more in order for them to stay beyond five years; more teachers need to be hired in order to effect more favorable teacher to student ratios.
3. *Teachers need more preparation time.* This third point is inextricably woven with the second point. The annual information gathered by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) provides substantial evidence that, of approximately three dozen nations that participate in the extensive reports on education, teachers in the United States are the second-most overworked teachers in the world after Chile, spending an approximate 1100 hours in front of students per year in comparison to the international average of around 600. Most American teachers experience significant challenges in implementing educational "best practices" because they are given so little non-teaching time to developing the highest quality curriculum, instruction and assessment. Public education in Hawai'i as in the rest of the United States is unlikely to improve significantly until efforts are made to decrease the number of students teachers are responsible for each year and to build more non-teaching time into the teacher work day. Once again, this will require hiring far more teachers than we currently have.

A few final words about myself. I am currently 52 years of age, and I have been teaching since my 20s. I began my career teaching English to Chinese speakers in Taiwan for a dozen years. Since returning to the United States, I have centered my career on Advanced Placement. I teach the two AP English courses (AP Language and AP Literature), as well as AP Psychology. I am also an official AP Reader for the College Board, spending a week each year on the mainland scoring AP Language essays coming in from around the world.

I believe that, by all accounts, I am an excellent teacher. In addition to my wealth of AP experience and my quarter-century's commitment to studying and implementing the best and most current pedagogical practices in my classroom, I bring to my teaching at Radford a degree of knowledge pertaining to my teaching area (and to various subsidiary areas helpful in high school Language Arts teaching, including the arts, philosophy, world history, and Asian and European languages) that is seldom matched among high school teachers in the United States.

In short, I am the sort of teacher that fills classrooms in top-performing educational cultures from Singapore to Finland, and the sort of teacher that has always been a rarity and is now becoming even more scarce in the United States, as fewer of the academically brightest students pursue college paths in education, opting instead for occupations that are both more financially attractive and less subject to the ups and downs characteristic of an profession which is so constantly subject to the arbitrary decisions of non-professionals as public education. To be sure, despite the fact that I love what I do to earn a living and have no desire at this point in my life to do anything else, I have a very hard time recommending to the many academically gifted and advanced students I work with each year that they pursue a profession in which, three and a half decades later, they may still find themselves working six or seven days a week as I do, and – if they end up teaching in Hawaii – struggling with chronic credit card debt to meet mortgage payments and college bills for their own children, as I do, together with my wife, who also teaches.

To attract teachers like me in the coming generation, and to deliver the schools that our keiki deserve, I ask you to please support this bill.

Mahalo.
Andy Jones
Language Arts teacher
Radford High School

EDU Testimony

From: Ann Kaai <annkaai9@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2018 2:19 PM
To: EDU Testimony

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Antonia Kaai. I am a Teacher and HSTA member at Waianae Elementary in the Leeward District on the island of Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2922 to increase funding for public schools.

Our children are our future. When teachers instruct their students, we build the foundation for equality and prosperity for tomorrow's generations. Every dollar invested in our community's public schools yields exponential returns, not just for our economy, but for the promise of a more open and democratic society.

Supporting this proposal will lift Hawai'i's schools into the 21st Century. A vote for this measure is a vote for lower class sizes that allow teachers to connect with their students, whole child education that includes the arts and Hawaiian studies, providing resources and services for students with special needs, and professional pay that reflects the value of our hardworking teachers.

We need additional funding for our public schools, because our children can't have the learning opportunities without the necessities such as books, technology, supplies, materials and safe learning environment which should enhance their inspiration to continue their education. Our students in the Leeward Coast have been going to school in close to unbearable temperatures. In some buildings, the termites are the only ones holding the structure up! The lack of funding affects our children/students/community. The low pay and a lack of resources are driving teachers in our schools out of the profession. Teachers have to hold second and third jobs when they should be able to concentrate on their students. Investing in our public schools is an investment in our society and our future. Our children, like others have the desire to learn and we need to harness that desire if we want to have a better future for all.

To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support this bill.

We need your help. Mahalo.

Antonia Kaai, Leeward District, Oahu

Labor Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Senate Committee on Education

Monday, February 4, 2018

3:15PM, Room 229

Attention: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Regarding: **Support for SB2922**: PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES VIII AND X OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO AUTHORIZE THE LEGISLATURE TO ESTABLISH A SURCHARGE TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION.

The Labor Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii stands in **support of SB2922**. Public education is an essential function of government and a central purpose of the state. Moreover, public schools are working class schools. Hawai'i's public schools have struggled with outdated facilities, too few staff, and a shortage of teachers. Our keiki deserve better than this. Whether we look at k-12, the University of Hawai'i, or public libraries, the common theme is the defunding of public education. We urge the legislature to fully fund public education.