



Native Hawaiian Education Council

February 9, 2018

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
State of Hawai'i Senate
Senate Committee on Education

Via: Electronic Upload

RE: SB2997 – RELATING TO EDUCATION GRANTS

Aloha 'oluha mai,

The Native Hawaiian Education Council (NHEC or the Council) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB2997 – RELATING TO EDUCATION GRANTS** and requires the department of education to prepare a report identifying any unused federal funds, based on:

1. Our Native Hawaiian Education Platform and 2017-2018 Education Priorities (attached) and in support of the Native Hawaiian Education Mission, Vision and two Goals (attached);
2. The Council's understanding that federal funds are allocated to Hawai'i for public education through formula block or competitive discretionary funding sources which must be utilized for specific purposes within specified periods of time; or be returned to the federal government (e.g., lapsed funds);
3. A clear understanding of all federal funds available for public education in Hawai'i, their purposes and expiration date is critical to inform decisions regarding the total funding of public education in Hawai'i; and
4. The Council's understanding that the Financial Audit reports of the State of Hawai'i, Department of Education contains a Statement of Revenues and Expenditures – Budget and Action (Non-GAAP Budgetary Basis) – Federal Fund schedules for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, reported and "unfavorable variance" (actual revenue less than budgeted revenue) of \$179,445,025, \$177,229,372, \$224,689,126, \$184,373,825 respectively for federal grant revenue.



Michelle N. Kidani
Kaiali'i Kahele
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The Native Hawaiian Education Council was established in 1994 under the federal Native Hawaiian Education Act. The Council is charged with coordinating, assessing and reporting and making recommendations on the effectiveness of existing education programs for Native Hawaiians, the state of present Native Hawaiian education efforts, and improvements that may be made to existing programs, policies, and procedures to improve the educational attainment of Native Hawaiians.

Please feel free to contact the Council's Executive Director, Dr. Sylvia Hussey, directly via e-mail (sylvia@nhec.org), office (808.523.6432) with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa M. Watkins-Victorino".

Dr. Lisa M. Watkins-Victorino, Chair

cc: Policy & Advocacy and Executive Committees and staff





KEAOMĀLAMALAMA

www.keaomalalama.org

Nu'ukia (Vision)

'O Hawai'i ke kahua o ka ho'ona'auao.

Hawai'i is the foundation of our learning.

Ala Nu'ukia (Mission)

I nā makahiki he 10 e hiki mai ana e 'ike 'ia ai nā hanauna i mana i ka 'ōlelo a me ka nohona Hawai'i no ka ho'omau 'ana i ke ola pono o ka maui Hawai'i.

In 10 years, kānaka will thrive through the foundation of Hawaiian language, values, practices and wisdom of our kūpuna and new 'ike to sustain abundant communities.

Pahuhopu (Goals)

In the next 10 years, our learning systems will . . .

Goal #1 — 'Ōlelo Hawai'i:

- **Advance 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Expectations**

Develop and implement a clear set of expectations for 'ōlelo Hawai'i that permeates all levels of education.

- **Actualize a Hawaiian Speaking Workforce**

Increase a prepared 'ōlelo Hawai'i workforce to ensure community and 'ohana access and support.

- **Amplify Access and Support**

Increase 'ōlelo Hawai'i context and programming to support the kaiāulu.

- **Achieve Normalization**

Pursue normalization of 'ōlelo Hawai'i.

Goal #2 — 'Ike Hawai'i:

- **Actualize 'Ike Hawai'i**

Increase use of knowledge from traditional and diverse sources.

- **Amplify Leo Hawai'i**

Increase 'ohana and kaiāulu learning and participation.

- **Advance Hana Hawai'i**

Increase resources to support practice and leadership.

Native Hawaiian Education Platform*

‘O Hawai‘i ke kahua o ka ho‘ona‘auao.
Hawai‘i is the foundation of our learning.

Perpetuate ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i

Actions on advancing ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i expectations; actualizing a Hawaiian speaking workforce; amplifying access and support; and achieve normalization of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i

Amplify Family and Community Voices

Recognizes parents and families as first educators; Actions that inform, illuminate, elevate and strengthen parent, family and community engagement in education

Advance Hawaiian Culture Based Education

Actions that promote further understanding, connecting, supporting and advancing ‘ike and ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i: policy and pathways; teachers, leaders and communities; pedagogy and programs; curriculum, instruction, assessment and research practices; and evaluation and accreditation mechanisms.

Intensify Systems Engagement

Actions that intensify systems level action---federal, state, primary, secondary, tertiary, national and international, health, housing—to strengthen families and communities.

* Formal set of principal goals



**Native Hawaiian
Education Council**
735 Bishop Street, Suite 224
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
808-523-6432
www.nhec.org

2017-2018 Native Hawaiian Education Priorities

Native Hawaiian Education Council

Perpetuate 'Ōlelo Hawai'i

- Support the Working Group recommendations re: the Expansion of Hawaiian Language Instruction Throughout the University of Hawai'i Systems.
- Support continuing work on Hawaiian language standards and assessments.

Amplify Family and Community Voices

- Advocate for the effective implementation of ESSA for the benefit of families and communities.
- Aggregate field data on family and community voices by island community.

Advance Hawaiian Culture Based Education

- Illuminate Models and Practices of Innovation.
- Elevate Accreditation Frameworks, Designations and Schools.
 - Create a Native Hawaiian research agenda.
 - Continue Native Hawaiian education meta-evaluation.
- Include CBE in Teacher Education and Preparation Programs and Professional Development

Intensify Systems Engagement

- Continue national advocacy work re: ESSA implementation and Native Control of Native Education.
- Engage in early learning planning and implementation work.
- Advance the implementation of Board of Education Policy E-3 Na Hopena A'o.
- Support the continuing 2-Pathways of Education Design and Development



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SB-2997

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 1:01:30 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/12/2018 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
THE SENATE
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018**

Monday, February 12, 2018

2:50 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 229

RE: Testimony in Support of SD 2997, RELATING TO EDUCATION GRANTS

To the Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair; the Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on Education:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No.2997, relating to reports by the Department of Education regarding Federal Grants for public education.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No.2997 and supports its passage as an audit has revealed that the Department of Education has underutilized over \$175,000,000 of federal funding per year for years 2013 through

and including 2016. Senate Bill No. 2997 increases transparency and accountability of the Department of Education to better utilize federal grants as it requires the Department of Education to prepare a report detailing all unused Federal Grants for the last five years.

Senate Bill No. 2997 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requires the Department of Education to prepare a report identifying any unused federal funds.

The DPH Platform states that "[w]e believe that the future of our state as well as or county depends upon an educated and knowledgeable citizenry. We support the prioritization of our resources toward providing quality public education and library services to every student, regardless of learning capacity or ability to pay, in an environment conducive to the learning process. These resources shall be made available at every level, from pre-school through higher education, including life-long learning. Educational facilities must be maintained, renovated and built to 21st-century innovations so that our students learn in a well-designed, safe environment." (Platform of the DPH, P. 6, Lines 296-302 (2016)).

We support a dedicated source of funding for the Department of Education. (Platform of the DPH, P. 6, Line 329 (2016)).

Given that Senate Bill No. 2997 requires the Department of Education to prepare a report identifying the number of funds left unused or lapsed from each grant and ways in which such unused funds could have been used, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889