

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2017 12:42 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** linda\_alicea@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB553 on Feb 13, 2017 14:45PM

**SB553**

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

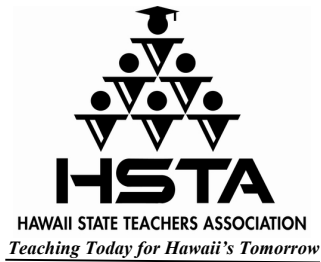
Testimony for EDU on Feb 13, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kathryn S. Matayoshi	DOE	Comments Only	No

Comments: The Department takes no position on SB 0553, but would respectfully like to provide some comments for the committee's consideration. Hana High and Elementary, Lanai High and Elementary, and Molokai High would all be designated as "remote schools" as each is at least a one-hour drive away from the nearest public high school and removed from receiving funding based on the weighted student formula (WSF). Niihau, which typically has an enrollment of approximately 11 students, is already funded outside of the WSF. Two of the three schools that would be classified by this measure as remote are K-12 combination schools. The Committee on Weights (COW) IX recommended and the Board of Education approved increasing base funding for K-12 combination schools from \$525,024 in the 2016 school year to \$673,048 in the 2017 school year. Currently, COW X will once again be reviewing this concern to determine if additional considerations can be ascertained. The actual amount of funds required to "guarantee the funding of a minimum number of instructional and support staff to ensure that at least minimum course requirements are maintained" would depend on enrollment, course offerings, and class sizes. The difference between what the schools would receive via the WSF and via categorical funding would vary each time the WSF is run, as the WSF allocations are based on enrollment and student characteristics. For this Act to take effect on July 1, 2017, presumably the amount each school received this year for their Financial Plans would be moved out of the WSF budget into a categorical program(s).

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION

RE: SB 553 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports and proposes amendments for SB 553**, relating to education.

Since the passage of Act 51 in 2004, Hawai'i has experimented with a weighted student formula to equalize school funding. Intended to make funding for public education more equitable, transparent, and decentralized, WSF had the unintended consequence of limiting academic programming for children in small and rural schools. A recent report commissioned by the Hawai'i Department of Education and completed by the American Institutes of Research reveals that "small or isolated schools do not have adequate funding under WSF and that the formula does not account adequately for diseconomies of scale associated with small schools or for additional costs due to geographic isolation."

Small and geographically remote schools sometimes lack sufficient funds to cover programming above and beyond basic operations. Isolated communities lack the economic breadth available to their urban counterparts, while experiencing distance from essential services and less access to technology. The AIR, therefore, suggested that "extra support" be provided to schools that are small or isolated, including a recalculation of WSF to "accurately account for the differential costs of providing an equal opportunity for all students to achieve, regardless of their individual needs or circumstances (such as geographic location)."

That said, we feel that this measure could be used to address staffing shortfalls experienced by all remote schools. Because student populations at remote schools vary dramatically from year to year, funding for positions at such schools also changes annually, creating turbulence in staff requirements and course offerings. Accordingly, we encourage your committee to amend this measure by elevating the minimum staffing levels contained in Section 3 of this bill into statute, so that all small and rural schools will be guaranteed the same fundamental staffing positions that the bill proposes for Hana High and Elementary, regardless of student enrollment.

To increase funding equity throughout our state's public school system, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2017 12:07 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** dylanarm@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB553 on Feb 13, 2017 14:45PM\*

**SB553**

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 13, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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## EDU Testimony

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**From:** Marcia Linville <linvillelege@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2017 5:33 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** SB549 and SB553

Senate Education Committee  
17  
229 SB549  
SB553

2-13-

RM

Chair Kidani and members of the Senate Education Committee::

I am Marcia Linville, speaking for the Education Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii in support of SB 459 and SB 553..

While the weighted student formula provided many advantages to the schools, it also had some unintended adverse effects. One of these was the disappearance of school libraries with a corresponding drop in reading scores of 53% incompetence in the 4th grade and a 70% graduation of students on the big island with no library experience. Another was the reduction of staff in small schools to the point where they could no longer fulfill the needs of their students. This was obviously not the intent of the legislation.

SB 549 and SB 553 will rectify this unintended consequence and provide Hawaii's students with the staff needed.

I ask your support for SB 549 and SB 553.

Marcia Linville  
536-4466.