

MAR 09 2018

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO EXPLORE STUDENT AID  
OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS WHO ATTEND A DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS AND OPT TO ENROLL IN AND  
COMPLETE THE COMPETENCY-BASED COMMUNITY SCHOOL DIPLOMA  
PROGRAM TO EARN A HAWAII ADULT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DIPLOMA.

1           WHEREAS, the Department of Education provides the  
2 competency-based community school diploma program as an option  
3 for adults who do not have a high school diploma to obtain the  
4 Hawaii adult community school diploma; and

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6           WHEREAS, the purpose of the competency-based community  
7 school diploma program is to enable adult learners to become:

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9           (1) Functionally literate adults;

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11           (2) Productive and contributive citizens and community  
12 members;

13  
14           (3) Effective family members; and

15  
16           (4) Productive workers; and

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18           WHEREAS, many graduates who complete the competency-based  
19 community school diploma program previously relied on federal  
20 student aid to attend post-secondary institutions; and

21  
22           WHEREAS, due to federal student aid requirements, the  
23 University of Hawaii System is unable to qualify Department of  
24 Education community school for adults graduates who successfully  
25 completed the competency-based community school diploma program  
26 for federal student aid; now, therefore,

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28           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the  
30 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of



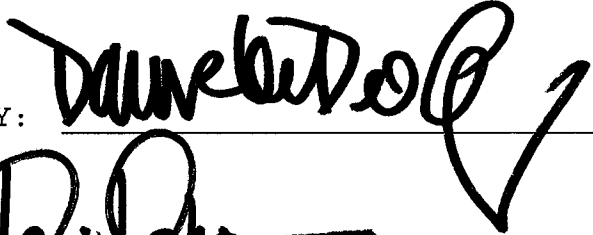
# S.C.R. NO. 160

1 Education is requested to explore student aid options for  
2 students who attend a Department of Education community school  
3 for adults and opt to enroll and complete the competency-based  
4 community school diploma program to earn a Hawaii adult  
5 community school diploma; and  
6

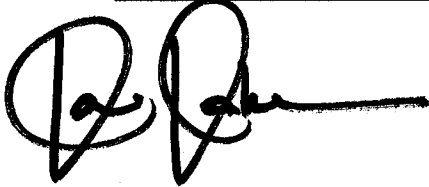
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education  
8 work with the University of Hawaii System to identify  
9 alternatives for student aid; and  
10

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board  
13 of Education, Superintendent of Education, and President of the  
14 University of Hawaii System.  
15  
16  
17

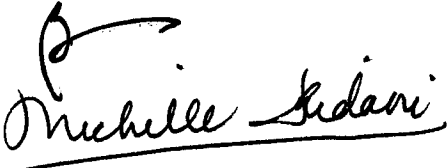
OFFERED BY:



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Clarence K. Nishihara



Michelle Sidani





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

**Date:** 04/13/2018  
**Time:** 02:00 PM  
**Location:** 309  
**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Resolution:** SCR 160 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO EXPLORE STUDENT AID OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS WHO ATTEND A DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COMMUNITY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS AND OPT TO ENROLL IN AND COMPLETE THE COMPETENCY-BASED COMMUNITY SCHOOL DIPLOMA PROGRAM TO EARN A HAWAII ADULT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DIPLOMA.

**Purpose of  
Resolution:**

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports SCR 160 with comments.

A student who enrolls in the Competency-Based Community School Diploma Program does not qualify for federal financial aid under the current Higher Education Act, CFR Title 43 Part 600.

The Department will continue to work with the University of Hawaii System to identify alternatives for student aid, such as foundation grants, for adults who opt to enroll in and complete the Competency-Based Community School Diploma Program to earn a Hawaii Adult Community School Diploma.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 160.

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](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).

**SCR-160**

Submitted on: 4/12/2018 3:18:24 PM

Testimony for EDN on 4/13/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Chair; the Honorable Sam Satoru Kong, 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") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **SCR160** regarding a competency-based community school diploma program.

The OCC on Legislative Priorities is in favor of **SCR160** and supports its adoption.

**SCR160** allows for competency-based community school diploma program is to enable adult learners to become: (1) Functionally literate adults; (2) Productive and contributive citizens and community members; (3) Effective family members; and (4) Productive workers; and many graduates who complete the competency-based community school diploma program previously relied on federal student aid to attend post-secondary institutions; but due to federal student aid requirements, the University of Hawaii System is unable to qualify Department of Education community school for adults graduates who successfully completed the competency-based community school diploma program for federal student aid; therefore, the Department of Education is requested to explore student aid options for students who attend a Department of Education community school for adults and opt to enroll and complete the competency-based community school diploma program to earn a Hawaii adult community school diploma.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that "We believe that the future of our state as well as our country 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 well-designed, safe environments." (Platform of the DPH, P. 5, Lines 296-302 (2016)).

Given that **SCR160** allows for competency-based community school diploma program is to enable adult learners to become: (1) Functionally literate adults; (2) Productive and contributive citizens and community members; (3) Effective family members; and (4) Productive workers; and many graduates who complete the competency-based community school diploma program previously relied on federal student aid to attend post-secondary institutions; but due to federal student aid requirements, the University of Hawaii System is unable to qualify Department of Education community school for adults graduates who successfully completed the competency-based community school diploma program for federal student aid; therefore, the Department of Education is requested to explore student aid options for students who attend a Department of Education community school for adults and opt to enroll and complete the competency-based community school diploma program to earn a Hawaii adult community school diploma, it is the position of the OCC on Legislative Priorities to support its adoption.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.  
Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja  
Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC on Legislative Priorities  
Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889