
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT ALL PUBLIC
SCHOOL STUDENTS, INCLUDING PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS,
HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE FOOD SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, all charter schools in Hawai'i are chartered by the
2 State Public Charter School Commission under the oversight of
3 the Board of Education and subject to the operating parameters
4 of the Department of Education for facilities and food services;
5 and
6

7 WHEREAS, there are two types of charter schools in Hawai'i:
8 start-up charter schools with no operating facilities and
9 charter schools that were converted from Department of Education
10 schools with facilities; and
11

12 WHEREAS, there are thirty-seven charter schools in Hawai'i,
13 of which over half are committed to Hawaiian epistemology; are
14 community designed and controlled; and reflect, respect, and
15 embrace 'ōlelo Hawai'i, 'ike Hawai'i, and Hawaiian cultural
16 values, philosophies, and practices; and
17

18 WHEREAS, there are nearly twelve thousand charter school
19 students in Hawai'i, all of whom should have equal access to
20 appropriate facilities and food subsidies, but this is currently
21 not the case; and
22

23 WHEREAS, the Department of Education assesses the free and
24 reduced lunch applications of all public school students and
25 determined in the 2016 Title I status reports that seventy
26 percent of the student population of Hawaiian charter schools is
27 considered economically disadvantaged and qualifies for federal
28 food subsidies; and
29



1 WHEREAS, start-up charter schools have no kitchen
2 facilities, while conversion charter schools may have existing
3 Department of Education kitchen facilities; and
4

5 WHEREAS, some charter schools, especially those in rural
6 areas of Hawai'i, are denied access to National School Lunch
7 Program subsidies because there are no appropriate United States
8 Department of Agriculture certified kitchens, besides those
9 existing in Department of Education public schools; and
10

11 WHEREAS, since 2000, the inception of start-up charter
12 schools in Hawai'i, the State Public Charter School Commission
13 has repeatedly requested facilities funding for charter schools;
14 and
15

16 WHEREAS, without United States Department of Agriculture
17 appropriate kitchens in charter schools, low income families are
18 not able to receive federal free and reduced food subsidies that
19 are provided to all other traditional public school families;
20 and
21

22 WHEREAS, without United States Department of Agriculture
23 appropriate kitchens in charter schools, Hawai'i is losing
24 millions of dollars in food subsidies for low income families
25 per year; and
26

27 WHEREAS, the lack of appropriate free and reduced food
28 service severely burdens and adversely impacts charter school
29 families; and
30

31 WHEREAS, beginning 2012, the Department of Education
32 decided that charter schools would no longer have access to the
33 nearest existing Department of Education food service, which
34 effectively resulted in the denial of access to qualified
35 families receiving federal subsidized meals under the United
36 States Department of Agriculture National School Lunch Program;
37 now, therefore,
38

39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
40 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the
41 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
42 Education is urged to ensure that all public school students,



1 including public charter school students, have equal access to
2 appropriate food services; and
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
5 requested to immediately provide school breakfasts and lunches
6 to charter school students who qualify at no additional expense
7 to the charter school or students; and
8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chair of
11 the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and
12 Executive Director of the State Public Charter School
13 Commission.
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15
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17





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 194, SD1 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS, INCLUDING PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS, HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE FOOD SERVICES.

Purpose of Resolution:

Department's Position:

Specific to the intent to provide Charter Schools access to meals, the Hawaii State Department of Education (DOE) agrees with the intent of SCR 194, SD1. However, it is incumbent on each charter school to opt to purchase and pick up meals prepared by the DOE for their students. DOE does not have the funding and capacity to do this without charging a fee for the supplies and service provided.

The mission of the DOE's School Food Service Branch is to feed our keiki with healthy, nutritious, fresh food to achieve academic success. The DOE agrees that no student should ever be denied meals and all students should have access to facilities that can provide them with their meals. This includes students attending charter schools.

The DOE is currently providing meals to six out of the twenty-seven charter schools, with one charter schools' status pending. As such, the DOE does and will continue to provide the service to feed charter school students. The DOE is open and willing to provide meals to any and all charter schools, if they so desire to purchase meals through the DOE.

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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: SCR 194 SD1 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENTS, INCLUDING PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS, HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE FOOD SERVICES

DATE: April 13, 2018

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

COMMITTEE: House Committee on Education

ROOM: Room 309

FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to **SUPPORT THE INTENT of SCR 194 SD1**, which requests the Department of Education (DOE) to ensure equal access to food services and provide school meals to public charter school students.

The majority of charter schools provide food service at various levels from a variety of sources which include the Department of Education and private, contracted vendors. As self-governed state agencies, charter schools have the authority to seek out and contract with either public or private providers for school meal services.

Currently, the DOE already provides meals to certain charter schools. Charter schools interested in receiving meals from DOE can request meal service through a process already implemented by the DOE’s Food Services Branch. The Commission will continue to facilitate and assist these efforts between charter schools and the DOE in providing meals to charter school students.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



Native Hawaiian Education Council

April 12, 2018

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair
State of Hawai'i, House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Via: Electronic Upload

RE: SCR194, SD1 (SSCR3379) - URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS, INCLUDING PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS, HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE FOOD SERVICES..

Aloha 'olua mai,

The Native Hawaiian Education Council (NHEC or the Council) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** the above measure, based on 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).

Because of the current exclusion of public charter schools by the Department of Education (HiDOE) regarding school meals and the related impact on over 11,000 students, we **strongly support SCR194** because it is a matter of equitable resourcing as it relates to meals/food services for ALL students.

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,

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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**Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
PO Box 1135
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96807**

April 12, 2018

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair
State of Hawai'i, House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Via: Electronic Upload

RE: SCR194, SD1 (SSCR3379) - URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS, INCLUDING PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS, HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE FOOD SERVICES.

Aloha 'olua mai,

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SCR194, SD1** – based on the attached **Resolution 17-44 Urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to Enact a Law Ensuring that all Public School Student have Equal Access to Appropriate Educational Facilities and Food Service**, passed by the House of Delegates at its 58th annual convention in Seattle, Washington, November 2017.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC) is the oldest Hawaiian community-based grass roots organization founded in 1918 by Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole, Delegate to the United States House of Representative; and is a confederation comprised of fifty-eight (58) Hawaiian Civic Clubs located throughout the State of Hawai'i and in the States of Alaska, California, Colorado, Illinois, Nevada, Utah, Virginia, Washington State, Tennessee and Texas. AHCC is governed by a 16-member Board of Directors and is a strong voice at city, state and federal levels. AHCC advocates for improved welfare of native Hawaiians in culture, health, economic development, education, social welfare, and nationhood, to name a few; and perpetuates and preserves language, history, music, dance and other cultural traditions. The vision of the AHCC is to remain a recognized voice of the Native Hawaiian people and make the organization self-sustaining; and the mission is to serve with pono in advocacy of culture, health, economic development, education, social welfare and nationhood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sylvia M. Hussey'.

Sylvia M. Hussey, Chair
AHCC Education Committee

Attachment

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

A RESOLUTION

No. 2017 - 44

URGING THE HAWAI‘I STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENACT A LAW ENSURING THAT ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AND FOOD SERVICE

WHEREAS, all charter schools in Hawai‘i are chartered by the State Public Charter School Commission (SPCSC) under the oversight of the Board of Education (BOE) and subject to the operating parameters of the Department of Education (DOE) for facilities and food services; and

WHEREAS, there are two types of charter schools in Hawai‘i, start-up charter schools with no operating facilities and conversion charter schools (for DOE school with facilities); and

WHEREAS, there are 37 charter schools in Hawai‘i of which over half are committed to Hawaiian epistemology (the theory of knowledge, especially with regard to its methods, validity, and scope, the investigation of what distinguishes justified belief from opinion); are community designed and controlled, and reflect, respect and embrace ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, ‘ike Hawai‘i, Hawaiian cultural values, philosophies and practices; and

WHEREAS, there are nearly 12,000 charter school students in Hawai‘i, all of whom should have equal access to appropriate facilities and food subsidies as do all other public school students, but this is currently not the case; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai‘i Department of Education (DOE) assesses the free and reduced lunch applications of all public school students and determined in the 2016 Title 1 Status Reports that 70% of the student population of Hawaiian charter schools is considered economically disadvantaged and qualifies for federal food subsidies; and

WHEREAS, there are two types of charter schools in Hawai‘i, start-up charter schools with no kitchen facilities and conversion charter schools with existing DOE kitchen facilities; and

WHEREAS, some charter schools, especially those in rural areas of Hawai‘i, are denied access to National School Lunch Program subsidies because there are no appropriate United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) certified kitchens besides those existing in DOE public schools; and

WHEREAS, since 2000, the inception of start-up charter schools in Hawai‘i, the charter school Commission has repeatedly requested the legislature appropriate facilities funding for charter schools but none has been approved; and

WHEREAS, without USDA appropriate kitchens in charter schools, low income families are not able to receive federal free and reduced food subsidies that are provided to all other traditional DOE families; and

WHEREAS, without USDA appropriate kitchens, Hawai‘i is losing millions of dollars in food subsidies for low income families per year; and,

WHEREAS, although Hawai‘i charter school statutes, Section 302D, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, ensures that charter schools and traditional public schools enjoy the same per pupil general funding amounts and access to state and federal financing, or parity in funding, it is ironic that Section 302D-29.5, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, makes plain that charter schools alone are solely responsible for their facility building costs and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the lack of appropriate free and reduced food service severely burdens and adversely impacts charter school families as a result of the State’s decision prohibiting students from purchasing USDA lunches under the National School Lunch Program; and

WHEREAS, beginning 2012, the DOE decided that charter schools would no longer have access to the nearest existing DOE food service which effectively resulted in the denial of access to qualified families receiving federal subsidized meals under the USDA National School Lunch Program; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai‘i State Legislature has the authority and power to enact a law that ensures that all public students have access to appropriate educational facilities and food service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 58th annual convention in Seattle, Washington, in the malama of ‘Ikuwā and the rising of Māhealani, this 4th day of November 2017, urging the Hawai‘i State Legislature to enact a law ensuring that all public school students have equal access to appropriate educational facilities and food service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, urge the BOE and DOE of the State of Hawai‘i to immediately provide school breakfasts and lunches to charter school students who qualify at no additional expense to the school or students, and the State legislature provide equitable facilities support to charter schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to Chair of the Board of Education, the Executive Director of the Charter School Commission as well as the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State

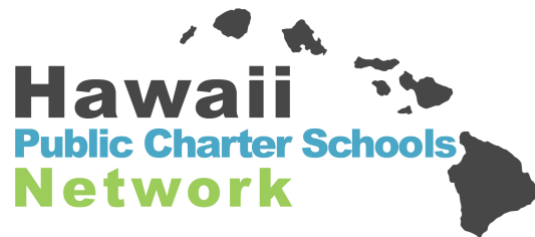
House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate Committee on Education, Chair of the State House Committee on Education, Chair of the State Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted in the malama of 'Ikuwā and the rising of Māhealani on the 4th day of November 2017, at the 58th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Seattle, Washington.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Annelie C. Amaral". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Annelie C. Amaral, President



April 12, 2018

To: Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Honorable Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

From: Jeannine Souki, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network

Re: SCR 194 – URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS, INCLUDING PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS, HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AND FOOD SERVICE– SUPORT
Conference Room 309 – Hawaii State Capitol – April 13, 2018, 3 P.M.

On behalf of the Hawaii Public Charter School Network (HPCSN), I respectfully submit our testimony in strong support for SCR 194– Urging the Department of Education to ensure that all public school students, including public charter school students, have equal access to appropriate educational facilities and food service.

Public charter schools are serving 11,160 students in Hawaii in 2018. Schools in non-DOE facilities do not have adequate resources to cover facilities costs, which on average take a 10 percent of the non-facilities per pupil funding (\$7383/student in SY17-18). Unlike traditional DOE schools, not all charter schools are able to provide school meals because often the cost of facilities expenses takes a larger percentage of the school’s annual budget, especially in urban areas of the state. Charter schools serving a larger percentage of free & reduced lunch eligible students or in CEP-designated areas especially need state subsidies for school meals so that students gain access to nutrition programs designed to assist at-risk and underserved communities.

HPCSN believes every student is deserving of equity and access to the provision of non-per pupil facilities funding and state funding for school meals available to students in most public schools. For these reasons, we humbly ask your support for this bill to close the gap on providing equitable funding for public charter school students.

HPCSN works to improve the operation and governance of public charter schools in Hawai’i and to be a voice for children and families that seek educational choices and quality in an independent public-school setting. Mahalo for your consideration.

SCR-194-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/12/2018 3:44:32 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 **SCR194 SD1** regarding the Department of Education providing school breakfasts and lunches to charter school students.

The OCC on Legislative Priorities is in favor of **SCR194 SD1** and supports its adoption.

SCR194 SD1 urges the Department of Education to ensure that all public school students, including public charter school students, have equal access to appropriate food services; and requests that the Department of Education to immediately provide school breakfasts and lunches to charter school students who qualify at no additional expense to the charter school or students.

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)).

We support community health initiatives that provide opportunities for the overall health of communities through strategic projects and programs focusing on increased interaction and physical activities among all age groups, as well as on better nutrition. (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 378-380 (2016)).

Given that **SCR194 SD1** urges the Department of Education to ensure that all public school students, including public charter school students, have equal access to appropriate food services; and requests that the Department of Education to immediately provide school breakfasts and lunches to charter school students who qualify at no additional expense to the charter school or students, 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

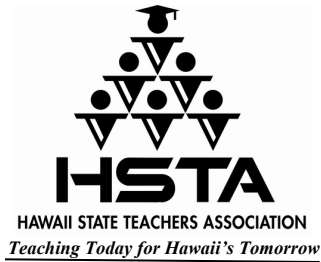
SCR-194-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/12/2018 2:14:45 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taffi Wise	KANU O KA AINA	Support	No

Comments:



LATE

1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Corey Rosenlee
President
Justin Hughey
Vice President
Amy Perruso
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

RE: SCR 194, SD 1 - URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS, INCLUDING PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS, HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE FOOD SERVICES

FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SCR 194, SD 1**, urging the Department of Education to ensure that all public school students, including public charter school students, have equal access to appropriate food services.

Today, amounts received by charter schools fail to keep pace with the cost of providing and quality instruction and maintaining adequate food services. Charter schools receive \$7,323 per-pupil, most of which is disbursed toward operational expenses, according the Hawai'i Public Charter Schools Network, which may not be enough to meet the nutritional needs of every student.

All public school students should be provided access to school meals. In Hawai'i, food insecurity is one of the most pressing manifestations of overall socioeconomic inequality. Nearly 91,000 public school students qualify for free or reduced-price meals in our state. For the 2016-2017 school year, 50.5 percent of public school students were classified as "economically challenged." Thus, for many students, school meals may be the only nutrition they receive during the day.

The number of students qualifying for the Department of Education's free and reduced lunch program has risen by over 20 percent since 2007 because of economic

decline and cost of living increases. Low-income students are, again, less likely to receive adequate meals at home, leaving them without the basic sustenance necessary to perform academic tasks. Cases of chronic hunger can lead to achievement gaps, concentration loss, illness, increased absenteeism, behavioral problems, depression, and misdiagnosed learning disabilities. Providing a decent meal for our children, therefore, is a moral and educational imperative, especially when those children live in the high-poverty districts serviced by many charter schools (including the high percentage of charter schools that emphasize Hawaiian culture).

To provide charter schools with the funds they need for their students to succeed, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this resolution.

SCR-194-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/12/2018 4:10:16 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katie Benioni	KALO	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SCR-194-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/13/2018 9:11:41 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janlyn Ryusaki-Phillips	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please consider supporting this! Much needed for ALL keiki! Mahalo