

SCR-92

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

Comments:

To the Honorable Donovan M Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Good morning, 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 **SCR92** which REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO SUBMIT A REPORT ON UNUTILIZED, LAPSED FEDERAL GRANT REVENUE FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **SCR92** and supports its passage.

SCR92 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requests that the Department of Education review its financial records from the last five fiscal years, specifically its revenue from federal grants, including titled, discretionary, and formula-based grants, and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019, on unutilized, lapsed federal grant revenue for public education.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that "We support a dedicated source of funding for the Department of Education.

We cannot support the practice of unfunded mandates from the federal government.

We support adequate funding for mandatory public education K through 12." (Platform of the DPH, P. 6, Lines 329-333 (2016)).

The Department of Education receives federal grants for public education which must be used for specific purposes within specific periods of time or else be returned to the federal government. The Department of Education underwent a financial audit in each of the years 2013 to 2016, and each of these audits revealed that the Department of Education had underutilized over \$175,000,000 of federal funding per year. The underutilization of such federal funding per year is unacceptable given the financial

requirements of the Department of Education in providing the best available educational resources and environment for public school students in the State of Hawai'i.

Given that **SCR92** requests that the Department of Education review its financial records from the last five fiscal years, specifically its revenue from federal grants, including titled, discretionary, and formula-based grants, and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019, on unutilized, lapsed federal grant revenue for public education, 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

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