



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

**Date:** 03/15/2019  
**Time:** 02:45 PM  
**Location:** 229  
**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 0413, HD2 RELATING TO EDUCATION INNOVATION GRANTS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes the Education Innovation Grants Program to support school-level innovation. Authorizes the Board of Education to adopt guiding principles and measures of success for the Grants Program and the Department of Education to implement the Grants Program. Establishes the Education Innovation Grants Special Fund. Makes appropriations. (HB413 HD2)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 413, HD2, as long as it does not adversely impact priorities indicated in our Board of Education (Board)-approved budget.

HB413, HD2 will allow the Department and our schools to have access to funding for school-level innovation that will sustain advancements and continue to provide resources for student-centered school design, which is one of the Board's strategic priorities for the 2018-2019 school year.

The Department appreciates that the bill recognizes the need for an additional general fund appropriation to assist with the effective implementation of this measure.

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

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



RODERICK K. BECKER  
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU  
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**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**

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MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**

TESTIMONY BY RODERICK K. BECKER  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 413, H.D. 2

**March 15, 2019  
2:45 p.m.  
Room 229**

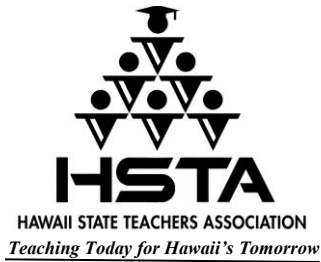
**RELATING TO EDUCATION INNOVATION GRANTS**

House Bill (H.B.) No. 413, H.D. 2, establishes the Education Innovation Grants Program under the administration of the Board of Education, to support school-level innovations reflecting visionary and aspirational educational practices. The bill also creates the Education Innovation Grants Special Fund to deposit appropriations made by the Legislature and interest and accrued earnings from the investment money. In addition, the bill proposes an appropriation out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii for an undetermined amount for FY 20 and FY 21 to be deposited into the special fund.

As a matter of general policy, the department does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program

and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. In regards to H.B. No. 413, H.D. 2, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed special fund would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION

RE: HB 413, HD2 - RELATING TO EDUCATION INNOVATION GRANTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

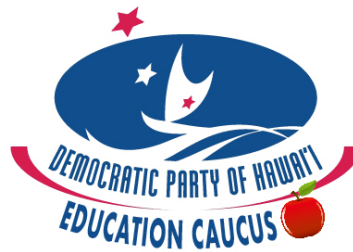
Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports HB 413, HD2** relating to education innovation grants.

HB 413, HD2 would establish the Education Innovation Grants Program to support school-level innovation. It authorizes the Board of Education to administer the Grants Program and establishes the Education Innovation Grants Special Fund.

Some of the best new ideas on how to make our public schools better and more engaging places of learning come from the front lines, our teachers. Establishing the Education Innovation Grants Program would help foster and nurture innovative and out-of-the box thinking. This will encourage our teachers that their ideas are valuable and allow them to come up with new ways to engage our keiki to ensure they are making the most out for their education experience.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association looks forward to seeing what amazing and unique ideas our teachers will come up with and be allowed to implement and therefore we ask that your committee to **support** HB 413, HD2.



## **HOUSE BILL 413, HD 2, RELATING TO EDUCATION INNOVATION GRANTS**

MARCH 15, 2019 · SENATE EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE · CHAIR SEN. MICHELLE N. KIDANI

**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports HB 413, HD 2, relating to education innovation grants, which establishes the Education Innovation Grants Program to support school-level innovation; authorizes the Board of Education to adopt guiding principles and measures of success for the Grants Program and the Department of Education to implement the Grants Program; and establishes the Education Innovation Grants Special Fund.

Under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA), the Hawai'i Department of Education may discard the “one size fits all” approach to student learning that had been imposed under the federal No Child Left Behind and Race to the Top programs. ESSA specifically affords the state an opportunity to embrace school-level innovation and educator empowerment that may amplify instruction based on the islands’ unique values, beliefs, culture, history, and language.

This measure could assist our public school system in moving away from an education culture based on standardized testing. Earlier this year, HIDOE officials submitted a letter of intent to the U.S. Department of Education signaling the department’s commitment to applying for participation in ESSA’s Innovative Assessment Pilot Program. Once approved, schools involved in the program may implement “authentic assessments” that align classroom learning with real-world problem-

solving. Grant funding provided pursuant to this bill could subsidize the training, professional collaboration, and development of authentic assessments, as well as project- and problem-based curricula on which they're frequently predicated.