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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
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 WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 171, S.D. 1

February 25, 2019
10:30 a.m.
Room 211

RELATING TO EDUCATION

Senate Bill No. 171, S.D. 1, creates a county education task force to establish a process for the transfer of jurisdiction over all public schools, including all State public education functions and funding, from the State to the county in which the public school is located.

The Department of Budget and Finance notes that Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution reads in part, "The State shall provide for the establishment, support and control of a statewide system of public schools" The Constitution envisions a single school system to ensure equitable funding for schools throughout the State. Having each county responsible for schools may not achieve that objective due to the differences in the respective county tax bases.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



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

Date: 02/25/2019

Time: 10:30 AM

Location: 211

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 0171, SD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Creates a county education task force to establish a process for the transfer of jurisdiction over all public schools, including all state public education functions and funding, from the State to the county in which the public school is located. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) strongly opposes SB 171, SD1 which would create a county education task force to establish a process for the transfer of jurisdiction over all public schools.

This measure does not advance the Board of Education's or Department's Strategic Priorities. The Department focuses on providing a common foundation of expectations and supports for public education, centering on closing the achievement gap to ensure equity and excellence for each student. The Department believes this measure would adversely impact these efforts, could potentially increase inequity amongst our students, and affect Hawaii's assurances made to the United States Department of Education contained within Hawaii's Consolidated State Plan under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act for federal funding.

A transfer of jurisdiction as proposed in SB 171, SD1 could potentially affect all 256 Department schools statewide. Article X, Section 1 of the State Constitution specifies the state shall be the provider of public education, which would preclude any county from operating public schools in their geographic boundaries. Article X, Section 3 of the State Constitution grants the Board of Education the constitutional authority to formulate statewide educational policy. Further, numerous statutes, primarily under Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, clarify, support, and define the State's role, via the Department, in providing public K-12 education to the people of Hawaii.

The Department defers to the State Public Charter School Commission as to potential impacts this bill may have on charter schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 171, SD1.

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.



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

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Monday, February 25, 2019
10:30 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211

Senate Bill 171, Senate Draft 1, Relating to Education

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education ("Board") would like to testify in **strong opposition** to SB 171 SD1, which would create a county education task force to establish a process for the transfer of jurisdiction over all public schools, including all state public education functions and funding, from the State to the county in which the public school is located.

The Board does not support proposed legislation that would prevent or hinder the Board or the Department of Education from addressing their Strategic Priorities for School Year 2018-2019 ("Strategic Priorities"). This measure fits the criterion, as it would result in a task force with a mission to break the statewide public school system—including the public school students, public education professionals, and public education resources—into several systems. It is unclear how this serves the interest of all students and the public.

SB 171 SD1 runs counter to the Strategic Priority of equity and access, which seeks to ensure that "the appropriate policies, structures, and resources are in place to guarantee the advancement of access and support structures that allow all students to engage in learning through the core curriculum design." A statewide system ensures equitable and fair resources across all schools, a feature of which Hawaii has long been proud. Splitting up the system into multiple school districts has the potential to erode equity for our schools and students, likely hurting our least affluent and most vulnerable populations the most, as demonstrated in so many other states across the nation.

This measure could also lead to greater inefficiencies and decreased economies of scale that we enjoy in our unitary statewide system, hampering progress in addressing the other Strategic Priorities. Divided resources and support could potentially make it more costly to address school facilities needs or design student-centered schools. Rather than focusing on addressing the teacher shortage issue holistically at the statewide level, multiple in-state districts might compete for each other's teachers.

These are just a few examples of the potential but significant impacts this measure could have on the public education system and our students. **Therefore, we urge the Committee not to pass this measure.**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.

Very truly yours,

Catherine Payne
Chairperson, Board of Education
Chairperson, 2019 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi
Director

Shawn K. Nakama
First Assistant

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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 446
415 S. Beretania Street
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Written Comments

SB171 SD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Testimony by the Legislative Reference Bureau
Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Director

Presented to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Monday, February 25, 2019, 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees:

Good morning Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Committees, my name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi and I am the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written comments on S.B. No. 171, S.D. 1, Relating to Education.

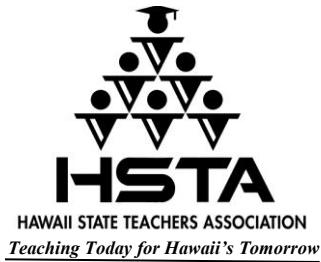
The purpose of this measure is to create a county education task force to establish a process for the transfer of jurisdiction over all public schools, including all state public education functions and funding, from the State to the county in which the public school is located; provided that the county has a population greater than five hundred thousand.

Under this measure, the Bureau is required to assist the task force in drafting proposed legislation to implement its recommendations.

The Bureau takes no position on this measure, but submits the following comments for your consideration.

The Bureau believes that the services requested under this measure are manageable and that the Bureau will be able to provide the services in the time allotted; provided that the Bureau's interim workload is not adversely impacted by too many other responsibilities, such as conducting, writing, or finalizing other reports, drafting legislation, or both, for other state agencies, task forces, or working groups that may be requested or required under other legislative measures.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit written comments.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

RE: SB 171, SD1 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly opposes SB 171, SD1**, that would create a county education task force to establish a process for the transfer of jurisdiction over all public schools, including all state public education functions and funding, from the state to the county in which the public school is located, provided that the county has a population greater than five hundred thousand.

This measure would transfer the state public education functions and funding to the City and County of Honolulu. The City and County of Honolulu does not have the required staff nor facilities to oversee the public education functions. This transfer would cause for the duplication of functions at the County level that would still be done at the State level for the other three Counties. This would increase the cost for public education across the State, and make it top heavy, like many other states, instead of investing funds directly to our public schools. These funds would be better spent lowering class sizes, supporting our students with special needs, providing competitive salaries for our teachers that support them better with the high cost of living in our state so we are able to retain our teachers, and a multitude of other costs that would better benefit our students.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committees to **oppose** SB 171, SD1.

SB-171-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 8:43:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suzanne Skjold	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

In reading this bill and believing the intent is to break the State DOE into County departments, I have many concerns on that as a successful path of our state and oppose this bill. From my individual perspective of intreracting with various parts of the DOE, I appreciate how large, sometimes unwieldy and even top heavy the DOE can be. However, moving to a county level DOE system will just create 4 top heavy bureaucracies instead of one, and further reduce the amount of money available for teachers and schools because they will need to fund four version of most adminstrative positions.

Second, I do not believe several of our county governments, including Oahu, are capable of managing an agency as critical as the DOE effectively. City departments are even more stuck in bureaucracy and ineffective managment and there are multiple example's in the auditors reports, particularly rail, on how ill equipped our City government would be to take this role on.

Last, for neighbor island counties, many state contracts now sit empty becuae there is not the infrastructure and staffing to fully provide services. This would likely also be true in education and most hurt youth in rural areas of the State.

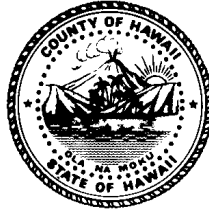
I think developihng a way for County's to have greater input and collaboration with the DOE and even some contol over resources would be worthy, but creating four county level DOE's seems to me a wasteful and dangerous path for the future of education in Hawaii.

For these reasons, I oppose this bill.

Mahalo,

Suzanne Skjold

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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February 25, 2019

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 171, SD 1 Relating to Education (Transfer Public Schools from the State to the Counties)

An earlier generation of Hawai'i leaders recognized that all residents of the State deserve equal educational opportunities, regardless of where they live. This foresight created the only Statewide school system in the United States, and although we have not lived up to the ideals and vision reflected in that principle, we should be forever striving to achieve that fundamental goal rather than undermining it.

SB 171, SD1 would be a giant step in the wrong direction. The mainland offers forty-nine examples of how local control of education is great for wealthy jurisdictions where property taxes can fund every bell and whistle that the rich can envision for their children, but reliance on local funding is disastrous for lower income areas. And why should it be so? A student living in a rural county already is disadvantaged, missing out on opportunities that "city kids" have at their fingertips? Why would the State want to compound that disadvantage by leaving the education of our children to the mercy of what each community can afford?

By all means, let's work to improve the education system for all our keiki. By no means should we base that improvement on ability pay.

Please do not approve SB 171, SD1.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR