



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

House Committee on Finance

Friday, March 29, 2019
2:00 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308

Senate Bill 592, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1, Relating to the Salary of the State Librarian

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education ("Board") would like to testify in support of SB 592, which would limit the State Librarian's salary to an unspecified percentage amount of the Superintendent's salary.

The State Librarian oversees Hawaii's State Public Library System, which is responsible for nurturing the lifelong learning needs of all of the citizens of Hawaii. This includes oversight of 51 physical branches statewide as well as growing online and digital resources. Public libraries are the heart of many of our communities and serve as an essential partner with education in this state.

An increase in the State Librarian's salary cap will provide the Board with the flexibility and discretion it needs to attract and retain high-quality candidates while simultaneously setting a degree of accountability by tying the salary of the State Librarian to another statutory position and ensuring that it never exceeds the salary of the Superintendent.

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