



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

LATE

Date: 03/18/2019
Time: 02:45 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education
Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education
Title of Resolution: SCR 186 ENCOURAGING SUPPORT FOR THE FIRST COHORT OF UNDERPRIVILEGED, ECONOMICALLY-DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS IN HAWAII TO STUDY AT ELITE SCHOOLS IN ASIA THROUGH THE 2020 HAWAII-ASIA YOUTH PROGRAM.

Purpose of Resolution
:

Department's Position:
The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SCR 186.

One-on-one exchanges with students from China will create an opportunity for our Department students to develop cross cultural understanding, appreciation and competence while receiving tutoring in math and science. Tutoring in English will similarly provide interactions and opportunities to negotiate for meaning and receive feedback. Student program participants will deepen their English language skills and knowledge.

The Department currently engages with short-term inbound student visits from other countries; however, it lacks funding to increase opportunities for outbound visits. SCR 186 could possibly provide our students with increased opportunities to enrich and deepen their learning.

Further, the Department respectfully seeks information and details about the proposed student program exchange described in this measure, such as whether inbound students will travel to Nanakuli-Waianae; how long will the program last; and if Mandarin Chinese would be required to apply.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify 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.

SCR-186

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 5:39:37 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/18/2019 2:45:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Mahi	Testifying for Hawaii Dept of Education	Support	No

Comments:

As the Complex Area Superintendent of the Nanakuli-Waianae schools, I support SCR 186 which creates an opportunity for 10 of our high school students to study at elite schools in Asia through the 2020 Hawaii - Asia Youth Program. The need for our students to be global learners is critical as we strive to engage them in STEM, Technology and Design Thinking as part of their preparation for future careers. We are currently providing conversational Chinese, Japanese Language and Early College Hospitality courses for our students as Ko Olina Resort expands to include other Asian partners from China.

The building of interpersonal relationships through math, science and English tutoring allows for a deeper understanding of the ethnic cultures and the global connection of the youth from Asia and Hawaii. There is much to share and learn as the issues of the future extend out beyond nations. The youth of today through these experiences will be better prepared to become contributors not only to our state and country, but also to the larger global community.

My sincere appreciation for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of this initial cohort of students from Nanakuli-Waianae, with hopes that this model partnership can expand to other students from underprivileged communities in Hawaii.

Ann A. Mahi,

SCR-186

Submitted on: 3/16/2019 10:50:14 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/18/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Vote no. We need to improve the caliber of our schools -- not send our students to foreign academic institutions. Use the funds to make the University of Hawaii a world class educational center. There is room for improvement. Let's invest in our own schools. If you want to send our students to a location outside the state, there are many good schools on the mainland. We don't need to enrich another country's economy. Do not pass this bill.