



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

Date: 04/01/2019
Time: 10:20 AM
Location: 211
Committee: Senate Ways and Means

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.

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 the Department's 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 the program will 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.