



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 051 ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT OCEAN SAFETY AND STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION FOR ALL FOURTH GRADE PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SCR 51 related to implementing ocean safety and stewardship education for all fourth-grade public school students, and respectfully offers comments.

According to the Hawaii Department of Health, drowning is the fifth (5th) leading cause of fatal injuries in Hawaii with 83% of drownings occurring in the ocean. For non-residents, the data is even more compelling with drowning being the number one cause of fatalities.

As an island state, the Department recognizes the importance of ocean safety and stewardship education for all of Hawaii's keiki while incorporating place-based cultural values and traditional knowledge. In its efforts to scale the success manifested through the pilot in the Nanakuli-Waianae Complex Area over the last two years, the Department is committed to promoting the outreach and resources provided by Nā Kama Kai to other elementary schools.

Connecting our students to the aina, beaches, ocean and wildlife contributes to increasing the capacity of Hawaii's communities.

The Department embraces this opportunity to advance its partnership with Nā Kama Kai and other programs to support teachers as they access and design water safety and environmental awareness learning opportunities with fourth-grade students across our Hawaii public schools.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 51.

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.