



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

Date: 02/24/2020
Time: 12:00 PM
Location: 308
Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 2150, HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the DOE to employ at least one full-time equivalent teacher for each grade level that has five or more students in grades kindergarten through six in each public school with a student enrollment of one hundred fifty or less students, excluding charter schools, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. Appropriates funds. Takes effect on 7/1/2050. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of this bill to the extent that it seeks additional funding for small schools.

As written, the bill removes the flexibility of principals to staff their schools based upon the unique characteristics of each school. This bill will impact nine schools, after applying the definition of small schools and removing specialty schools that have separate funding sources (e.g., Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind and Olomana School).

The Department's Committee on Weights has consistently acknowledged the needs of small schools and currently provides base funding as part of the Weighted Student Formula (WSF) to support small schools. This allows the school to have the necessary staff to support their schools' needs without having to set aside additional WSF funds to cover these positions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. 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.

HB-2150-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2020 9:03:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| donna lindsey | hawaii department of education | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha e,

I have had first hand experience with small schools as a Title I Linker, School Renewal Specialist, Principal, and parent over the past 30 years. I can attest to definite inequities between schools that have enough funding for a teacher for every grade level and additional staff to provide special classes (e.g., physical education, technology, reading/math intervention, music, etc.), and schools that do not. Small schools should not have to create classes that combine grade levels (e.g., grade 1/2, 2/3, 3/4, 4/5, etc.). To expect teachers to know the curriculum, plan for lessons, and development assessments for TWO DIFFERENT grade levels every single day is not fair to teachers or students. These teachers do not get extra pay, nor are they guaranteed extra planning time since this would require funding for substitutes or stipends that do not exist. In addition to combination classes, students in small schools do not have the same opportunities that students in bigger schools have in terms of the special classes mentioned above.

Some small schools also need to do without other personnel and services that bigger schools have such as Technology Coordinators, Academic Coaches/Curriculum Coordinators, and Vice Principals. Some small schools even have one person serving as the Counselor and Student Services Coordinator (SSC).

ALL STUDENTS in our ONE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM deserve fundamental personnel and services! Let's not only strive to be INNOVATIVE in our work, but to also ensure access to equitable educational opportunities for our haumana.

Mahalo,

Dr. Donna Lindsey, Principal

Kahuku High and Intermediate School

HB-2150-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 3:49:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alexandra Obra | Waiahole Elementary School | Support | Yes |

Comments:

HB-2150-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 12:35:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| cheryl B. | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

All students in our islands deserve to have a dedicated and professional educator.

HB-2150-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 1:28:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Emily Alago | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2150-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 1:42:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pamela Alo | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2150-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 4:40:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sheila Manuel | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

My name is Sheila Manuel, 1st grade teacher at Waiāhole Elementary School. I am urging you to hear House Bill 2150 which would establish one teacher per grade level with a minimum of 5 students per grade level. We (students, teachers, staff, family and community) deserve to have an opportunity to advocate for this bill.

Mahalo!

HB-2150-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 4:43:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Noekealaokalehua Kahalepuna | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha!

I am a constituent born and raised in this beautiful Hawaii. I support House Bill 2150! My son and I have graduated from Waiahole Elementary, 2 of my other sons currently attend, and I have my baby coming up in 2 years time. Waiahole is small in numbers, but strong in heart, it's a small school with big fish!

The way the current annual budget is set up, it's based on enrollment size, which obviously hurts our school from receiving adequate funding. We are currently forced to combine grade levels which is not highly effective nor fair for those in these combination classes. Each grade should be entitled to their own teacher, to ensure they're receiving a full days learning of their own grade level appropriate curriculum. HB 2150 will ensure that all schools have 1 teacher per grade which is crucial for our small but mighty school to receive what is justifiably needed for the success of each grade level. Simply put teachers are essential for our keiki's success. We, as supportive 'ohana, can use our creativity and skills to rally around our small school and provide them with many of their needs. But we can not provide the teacher, that Kuleana(responsibility) is left in your capable hands. Please hear and answer our call for equitable support!

Mahalo Nui Loa!

Noekealaokalehua Kahalepuna

HB-2150-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 4:53:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Napalikuhonua Kahalepuna | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support HB 2150. Our Waiahole Elementary is a small school that will benefit from this bill. It will make sure that each grade has a teacher of it's own. We will no longer be forced to combine grade levels into a single classroom. Every grade will be in their own classroom learning their own class work. Seems pretty basic to me. Please pass this bill to make sure that every school has a teacher for every grade.
Mahalo!

Napalikuhonua Kahalepuna



KAHALU'U NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 29

(He'eia Kea, 'Āhuimanu, Kahalu'u, Waihe'e, Ka'alaea, Waiāhole, Waikāne, Hakipu'u, Kualoa)

Neighborhood Commission Office • 925 Dillingham Boulevard, Suite 160 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov/nco>

February 23, 2020

LATE

RE: Comments on HB 2150 Relating to Education

Aloha Chair and Committee members,

At its regularly scheduled Board meeting on February 12, 2020, the Kahaluu Neighborhood Board #29 unanimously passed a motion to SUPPORT the CONCEPTS articulated in HB 2150 related to the importance of Small Schools.

Our rural community recognizes that small schools are important to the fabric of our community. Waiahole Elementary School is one such small school, established in 1883. For over 100 years, it has been and continues to be the heart of the Waiahole Waikane community.

While we are not educators, as community members we recognize that a local school is part of the infrastructure of a community. And as we face increased risks of natural disasters due to climate change, schools provide facilities that have potential to serve as community resilience hubs and gathering places.

We urge you to support the concepts of retaining small schools throughout the rural communities of our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Luersen", is written over a white background.

Amy Luersen, FAICP

Chair, Kahaluu Neighborhood Board #29

LATE

HB-2150-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 9:19:23 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chriselda Lopes | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support HB2150.

LATE

HB-2150-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 9:37:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mary Kupau | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support Small schools. I live in Waiahole Valley Born and raised with 7 siblings. We all attended Waiahole School.