



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

**Date:** 03/12/2020

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 309

**Committee:** House Lower & Higher  
Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 2295, SD2 RELATING TO SERVICE-LEARNING.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the Department of Education to implement a service-learning curriculum to develop student character, values, self-esteem, civic responsibility, and knowledge of local community issues and concerns through community service volunteer work. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports the overall intent of SB 2295, SD2 and respectfully provides comments.

Within the Department's Authorized Courses and Code Numbers (ACCN), there is a multidisciplinary 0.5 credit elective high school course on Community Service. This course requires a minimum of 60 hours of service, which is overseen by a school faculty member, and counts as part of the six-credit general elective graduation requirement for all students. It provides students with opportunities to develop responsibility, encourages humanitarian attitudes by doing things for others, and encourages cooperative working relationships with peers and adults in the community.

Imposing the requirements contained in this measure may have the unintended consequence of limiting innovation in school design as well as preventing students from enrolling in other elective courses, such as Fine Arts, World Languages, and Computer Science. We urge the legislature to be mindful of these potential impacts.

The Department believes that the existence of the Community Service course, coupled with the potentially adverse impacts on student choice and school design, warrant caution in advancing SB 2295, SD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on SB 2295, SD2.

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](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).

**Hawaii**  
*Holding Power Accountable*Statement Before The  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION**Thursday, March 12, 2020  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309in consideration of  
**SB 2295, SD2**  
**RELATING TO SERVICE LEARNING.**

Chair WOODSON, Vice Chairs HASHEM and QUINLAN, and Members of the House Lower &amp; Higher Education Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 2295, SD2 which would require the Department of Education to implement a service-learning curriculum to develop student character, values, self-esteem, civic responsibility, and knowledge of local community issues and concerns through community service volunteer work.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening democracy through efforts that increase civic engagement, voter turnout, and voter participation in our democratic processes.

SB 2295, SD2 will teach young people the importance of civics, civic responsibility, and our governmental processes. It will also provide the foundation for civil, courteous, and respectful participation in the political systems.

Hawaii has the lowest voter registration rate in the Nation, according to America's Health Ranking from the United Health Foundation. See [https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/voter\\_registration/state/HI](https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/voter_registration/state/HI). Hawaii has one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the Nation, according to Nonprofit VOTE and the U.S. Elections Project. See <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2017/03/16/breaking-news/hawaii-ranks-dead-last-in-voter-turnout-for-2016-election/>. Studies have shown that voting is a habit, which develop through repetition, and can become strongly ingrained if developed early. See <https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/456934-how-voting-becomes-a-habit>. Hopefully, having young people learn the value of civics, a representative government, and democracy will encourage young people to register to voter and actually vote in the primaries and general elections, leading to a more vibrant and robust representative democracy and civil society.

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 2295, SD2, and Common Cause Hawaii respectfully urges the Committee members to pass SB 2295, SD2 out of your Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2295, SD1. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at [sma@commoncause.org](mailto:sma@commoncause.org).

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma  
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

**SB-2295-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 10:42:49 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/12/2020 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lance Jyo	McKinley Community School for Adults	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB 2295 SD2 As a Mandatory Partner under WIOA, Adult Education is tasked to provide educational support to all individuals pursuing post secondary programs and seeking/supporting employment. Students enrolling in High School Equivalency Prep programs (GED/HISET) come to us as early as 16 years old. The majority have not been successfully in the traditional school setting, and turn to Adult Education as an alternative. Work readiness programs provide students with the skills necessary to secure and retain employment. Thus building a stronger workforce. One that contributes to easing the burder on society and government for support.

**SB-2295-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 9:50:58 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/12/2020 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Edward B Hanel Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Concur with CommonCause comments

**SB-2295-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 10:40:06 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/12/2020 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Bickel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I do a service learning component with my Advanced Placement American Government course. It gives students some real life experience and helps the community. I am glad this bill will encourage more of it.

**SB-2295-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 10:46:04 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/12/2020 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Donna Ambrose	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Given the State's abysmal voter registration rate, we need to aggressively encourage young people to participate in our democracy. Teaching them civics, civic responsibility and governmental processes will help that effort.



Healthy Climate  
Communities

**LATE**

**Testimony in support of SB2295 SD2**

**Committee on Lower and Higher Education**

**Hearing Thursday March 11, 2020, 2pm**

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Quinlan, and Committee members,

I am writing in strong support of SB2295 which establishes a service learning curriculum for students attending public High Schools.

I run a program that provides service learning opportunities and I find that our private schools and groups of students within those schools seek out our services more readily due to service learning requirements at those schools. I would like all public-school students to benefit from service learning in the same way that private school students often do. Students can relate what they learn in class to the real world which makes the classwork more meaningful, students that struggle in the classroom environment are given an opportunity to shine and to see there are careers that might fit their strengths, and they have another experience to put on college applications.

Mahalo,

**Dr. Lisa Marten**

Executive Director  
HealthyClimateCommunities.org  
healthyclimate@hawaii.rr.com





**LATE**

Josh Frost - President • Patrick Shea - Treasurer • Kristin Hamada  
Nelson Ho • Summer Starr

Thursday, March 12, 2020

Relating to Service-Learning  
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports SB2295 SD2 Relating to Service-Learning**, which requests the Department of Education to implement a service-learning curriculum to develop student character, values, civic responsibility, and knowledge of local community issues and concerns through community service volunteer work.

Making sure young people understand their civil duties and our government process is essential for democracy. Too many people throughout our communities don't understand how to get involved in their local governments and the legislative process. Hawai'i has the lowest voter turnout in the nation. Unless young people are taught the importance of voting these numbers will remain the same.

For all these reasons, we urge you to vote in favor of this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity,  
Gary Hooser  
Executive Director  
Pono Hawai'i Initiative

**SB-2295-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 5:58:16 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/12/2020 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- SB 2295, SD2 will teach young people the importance of civics, civic responsibility, and our governmental processes. It will also provide the foundation for civil, courteous, and respectful participation in the political systems.
- Hawaii has the lowest voter registration rate in the Nation, according to America's Health Ranking from the United Health Foundation. See [https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/voter\\_registration/state/HI](https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/voter_registration/state/HI).
- Hawaii has one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the Nation, according to Nonprofit VOTE and the U.S. Elections Project. See <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2017/03/16/breaking-news/hawaii-ranks-dead-last-in-voter-turnout-for-2016-election/>.
- Studies have shown that voting is a habit, which develop through repetition, and can become strongly ingrained if developed early. See <https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/456934-how-voting-becomes-a-habit>.
- Hopefully, having young people learn the value of civics, a representative government, and democracy will encourage young people to register to voter and actually vote in the primaries and general elections, leading to a more vibrant and robust representative democracy and civil society.

**SB-2295-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 10:21:49 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/12/2020 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

**SB-2295-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 5:02:27 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/12/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee on Higher and Lower Education,

I am writing in support of SB2295 SD2.

- SB 2295, SD2 will teach young people the importance of civics, civic responsibility, and our governmental processes. It will also provide the foundation for civil, courteous, and respectful participation in the political systems.
- Hawaii has the lowest voter registration rate in the Nation, according to America's Health Ranking from the United Health Foundation. See [https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/voter\\_registration/state/HI](https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/voter_registration/state/HI). Hawaii has one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the Nation, according to Nonprofit VOTE and the U.S. Elections Project. See <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2017/03/16/breaking-news/hawaii-ranks-dead-last-in-voter-turnout-for-2016-election/>. Studies have shown that voting is a habit, which develop through repetition, and can become strongly ingrained if developed early. See <https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/456934-how-voting-becomes-a-habit>.
- Hopefully, having young people learn the value of civics, a representative government, and democracy will encourage young people to register to voter and actually vote in the primaries and general elections, leading to a more vibrant and robust representative democracy and civil society.

Please support this bill for the future of our youth.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

**SB-2295-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 3:32:25 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/12/2020 2:00:00 PM

**LATE**

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	No

Comments: