



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

**Date:** 02/19/2020

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Location:** 211

**Committee:** Senate Ways and Means

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 3086, SD1 RELATING TO INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATIONS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Designates the interscholastic athletic associations for each county in the State. Appropriates funds to support the interscholastic athletic associations for each county in the State. (SD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) strongly supports SB 3086, SD1 and offers additional amendments.

Competitive athletics can provide a critical component to the whole child approach in education. Student-athletes learn the importance of time management, hard work, grit, teamwork, and commitment in achieving success in their respective sport and in the classroom. These qualities are oftentimes what employers seek when hiring prospective employees. Colleges also provide millions of dollars in scholarships to student-athletes who demonstrate a commitment to these values through their academic or athletic achievements.

The Department recognizes the critical role the state's interscholastic athletic associations play in public education through the opportunities they provide in competitive athletics. We are committed to continuing our collaboration with them in ensuring the continuity of these athletic opportunities for our students. State funding for the associations is critical to optimize the services provided to the public high schools for operations, governance, and facility needs for all athletic events in every league.

To ensure the independence of the associations as they continue their critical work, the Department is respectfully requesting the following amendments be made to the bill:

1. Insert the following language on page 1, line 3, to augment that first paragraph: "These interscholastic associations play a critical role in providing competitive athletics for Hawaii's students. Maintaining the independence of the associations in each county is essential to ensuring the associations are able to engage in fundraising and other activities to support competitive athletics in Hawaii. Even with their fundraising efforts, these organizations need financial support to continue operating."

2. Replace SECTION 3 with the following language:

There is appropriated out of general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to support the operations of the following interscholastic athletic associations:

1. City and County of Honolulu: Oahu Interscholastic Association \$
2. County of Hawaii: Big Island Interscholastic Federation \$
3. County of Kauai: Kauai Interscholastic Federation \$
4. County of Maui: Maui Interscholastic League \$

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of education for the purposes of this act.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 3086, SD1.

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).