

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1730

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 08 , 2021

RE: S.C.R. No. 203

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2021
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 203 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO FORM A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OR PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP TO MONITOR AND ACCOUNT FOR HOW THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IS SPENDING ITS FEDERAL RELIEF FUNDS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to urge the Board of Education to form a special committee or permitted interaction group to monitor and account for how the Department of Education is spending its federal relief funds.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hui for Excellence in Education, Hawaii State Teachers Association, and two individuals.

Your Committee finds that the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116-136, created the Education Stabilization Fund to provide emergency funding for education systems, and within that fund is the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, which awards funds to states based on their relative share of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) grants for fiscal year 2019. Your Committee further finds that in May 2020, the Department of

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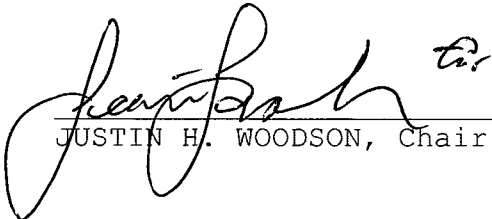


Education applied for Hawaii's share of relief funds from the United States Department of Education and received \$43,385,229.

Your Committee additionally finds that on December 21, 2020, Congress passed the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, Public Law 116-260, 2021, which authorized \$900,000,000,000 in stimulus relief through various programs and a \$1,400,000,000,000 omnibus spending package. Your Committee notes that states that received certain federal funds, including funds from the ESSER Fund established by the CARES ACT and the CRRSA Act, are required to assure that they will maintain support for education programs. Although the Department of Education has reported its use of ESSER funds on a monthly basis, there has been a lack of transparency and accountability in how the Department of Education and their schools have utilized their funds to service students. Furthermore, there are ongoing concerns with the manner in which the Department of Education has been utilizing these ESSER funds, as well as disagreements between the Board of Education and Department of Education on how funds should be spent. This measure urges the Board of Education to form a group to oversee the use of those federal funds and ensure that there is transparency and accountability in how the Department of Education and their schools utilize the funds to service students.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 203 and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Education,


JUSTIN H. WOODSON, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Education

Bill/Resolution No.: SCR 203	Committee Referral: EDN, FIN	Date: 4/6/2021		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
EDN Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. WOODSON, Justin H. (C)	/			
2. KAPELA, Jeanne (VC)	/			
3. BELATTI, Della Au	/			
4. DeCOITE, Lynn				/
5. GANADEN, Sonny	/			
6. GATES, Cedric Asuega				/
7. HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	/			
8. OHNO, Takashi				/
9. QUINLAN, Sean				/
10. TAKAYAMA, Gregg	/			
11. YAMANE, Ryan I.	/			
12. OKIMOTO, Val	/			
TOTAL (12)	8			4
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				