



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

**Date:** 03/19/2021

**Time:** 03:20 PM

**Location:** CR 229 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 0613, HD2 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Makes an emergency appropriation for fiscal year 2020-2021 from elementary and secondary school emergency relief fund (ESSER funds) moneys received by the State from the CARES Act and CRRS Appropriations Act to offset any budget reductions that are identified or proposed by the department of education and the governor that would result in the reduction of personnel who are subject to a collective bargaining agreement pursuant to chapter 89, HRS, and who are employed at the school level, including any budget reduction that results in a layoff, furlough, or pay reduction. Requires BOE and superintendent of education to certify in writing that BOE, superintendent, and DOE agree to certain conditions, including that the funds appropriated shall be used only for salaries and wages of officers and employees who are subject to a collective bargaining agreement and are employed at the school level. Makes an appropriation for fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 from the same source of funding and with the same conditions. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD2)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully offers comments on HB 613, HD 2, which would direct the Department's use of all unexpended Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) grant funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Education.

The Department's top three priorities for this year are:

1. The restoration of the \$100.2 million cut to the base budget;

2. Retaining and maximizing federal relief funds to stabilize public schools; and
3. Exploring with state leaders opportunities to secure a predictable, equitable, and stable source of K-12 funding (<https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/DOE%20Forms/budget/HIDOELegislativePriorities2020-21.pdf>).

This measure does not address these priorities as it seeks to direct all ESSER I and II funds to be used only for salaries and wages of educational officers and employees who are subject to a collective bargaining agreement and are employed at the school level.

This proposal severely precludes the Department's ability to address unmet needs required to support public school students during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which is the primary intent for the federal education relief funds implicated in this measure. The Department has been reporting on a monthly basis its use of ESSER funds here: <https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ConnectWithUs/Organization/Budget/Pages/CARES-spending-reports.aspx>

If enacted, this measure would require the Department to cancel existing encumbrances and retract allocation balances for these funds. This would halt the provision of connectivity for students to access the internet off-campus; health and safety measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and address the security issues that have been exacerbated by the limited use of school facilities; staff training to support the transition to new ways of teaching, learning, and student support in the current educational landscape; and the acquisition of an improved on-line learning platform to increase the capacity for virtual curriculum and instruction.

The Department submitted a proposed plan for the use of the second award of \$183.6 million of ESSER II funds to the Board of Education (Board) for review and approval: [https://boe.hawaii.gov/Meetings/Notices/Meeting%20Material%20Library/02182021\\_GBM\\_Board%20Action%20on%20Department%27s%20Plan%20for%20Federal%20Funds%20in%20the%20New%20COVID-19%20Relief%20Package%20and%20Annual%20Spending%20Bill.pdf](https://boe.hawaii.gov/Meetings/Notices/Meeting%20Material%20Library/02182021_GBM_Board%20Action%20on%20Department%27s%20Plan%20for%20Federal%20Funds%20in%20the%20New%20COVID-19%20Relief%20Package%20and%20Annual%20Spending%20Bill.pdf).

On February 18, 2021, the Board approved the Department's use of funds in the current fiscal year to provide charter schools with a pro-rata share, to address the School Food Service shortfall in the current fiscal year, and to fund the teacher differential for this current fiscal year.

In lieu of piecemeal budgeting for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 and FY 2022-23, the Department would respectfully request an indication from lawmakers on what course of action will be incorporated into the Legislature's financial plan with regards to the current year shortfalls and into HB 200 (the measure introduced as the vehicle for the Executive Branch Biennium Budget for the items proposed to be funded with the federal funds in FY 2021-22), if that is known at this time. This would allow for a holistic assessment of available resources so that a comprehensive expenditure plan may be developed.

In addition, the Department would respectfully request an indication from lawmakers on their interpretation of the maintenance of effort requirement associated with these ESSER funds. Per the federal guidelines, "Under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, a State that receives ESSER III funds must maintain support for elementary and secondary education and higher education in FY 2022 and FY 2023 based on the proportional share of the State's support for elementary and secondary education and higher education relative to the State's overall spending averaged over FYs 2017, 2018, and 2019":

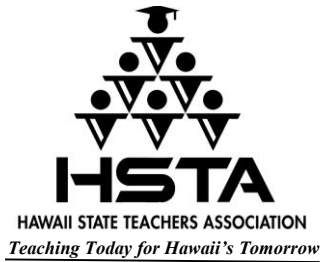
The Department would also point out that the unexpended balance of ESSER I and II funds

would likely be insufficient to off-set the school-level portion of the \$141 million per year cut contained in the Governor's Budget Request that is currently before the Legislature. The inability of the federal funds to meet the shortage this measure seeks to address is complicated by State procedures that require employee fringe costs paid from non-general funds to be passed on to the non-general fund source. The current rate for budgeting purposes is 52%. It may be worthwhile to note that during the Great Recession when federal stabilization funds were allocated to the Department and the University of Hawaii to bridge the gap in general fund support, the Legislature included in the Executive Biennium Budget Bill, Act 162, SLH 2009 the following provision that waived this requirement:

"Section 162. Provided that for the use of Federal Stabilization funds the Department of Education and the University of Hawaii shall not be required to pay fringe benefit costs to the Department of Budget and Finance."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments 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](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Corey Rosenlee  
President  
Osa Tui Jr.  
Vice President  
Logan Okita  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HB 613, HD2 RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING

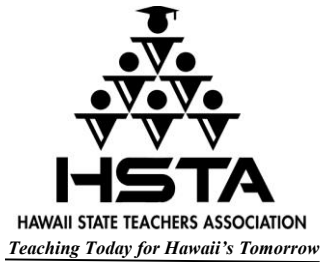
FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2021

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports HB 613, HD2**, relating to education funding. This bill makes an emergency appropriation for fiscal year 2020-2021 from elementary and secondary school emergency relief fund (ESSER funds) moneys received by the State from the CARES Act and CRRS Appropriations Act to offset any budget reductions that are identified or proposed by the department of education and the governor that would result in the reduction of personnel who are subject to a collective bargaining agreement pursuant to chapter 89, HRS, and who are employed at the school level, including any budget reduction that results in a layoff, furlough, or pay reduction. Requires BOE and superintendent of education to certify in writing that BOE, superintendent, and DOE agree to certain conditions, including that the funds appropriated shall be used only for salaries and wages of officers and employees who are subject to a collective bargaining agreement and are employed at the school level. Makes an appropriation for fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 from the same source of funding and with the same conditions. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD2)

Time is of the essence. HSTA was able to work out a compromise with the Department of Education to delay the TATP until March 8. More than 1,000 DOE employees have been told that their positions have been eliminated at their schools. Although some of these DOE employees have been told their positions have been saved, many have not been told this news. Thus to ensure that our teachers and support personnel who are needed to support our students, we ask that you pass this bill to ensure funding needed as a priority. Using a combination of the additional \$123 million added back to the DOE budget, the \$174 million from the COVID Relief Stimulus Bill, and the remainder of the CARES Act, it is HSTA's position that the BOE can eliminate all layoffs and eliminate any pay cuts.



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Originally the cut to the DOE was \$264 million, with the DOE actually planning for a \$164 million cut. Using the Governor's \$123 million added back to the DOE, the first step is to apply a \$100 million of the money to \$100 million that was never cut in the first place, and using the remainder, \$23 million, to defray any school level cuts.

As part of the \$164 million cut to the DOE budget, \$132 million was school level cuts to EDN100 and EDN150. \$23 million of the Governor's \$123 million should be applied to these cuts, which restore 17% of their cuts.

At the last BOE meeting Assistant Superintendent Hallett shared that the original cuts amounted to approximately \$74 million in labor savings from layoffs, which was based on 1316 employee positions, including 798 teachers. By using the \$23 million, it would leave only \$51 million from the stimulus would be needed to avoid layoffs.

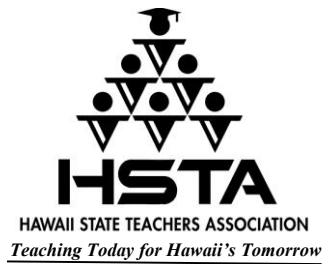
The Governor's budget has restored \$146 million in labor savings or a reduction of 50% the previous budget, using this projection the DOE could avoid pay cuts for its employees at \$64 million a year. At this time, however, the reductions of pay cuts has not been provided to HSTA.

Sections 315, of the federal stimulus bill(HR133) states, "*shall, to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus.*"

In Connecticut's Governor in issuing directions to the local education agencies stated, LEAs "*[s]hall continue to employ or restore to employment if already laid off, and pay school staff who are directly employed by the local or regional board of education, including but not limited to teachers, paraprofessionals and other support staff, cafeteria staff, clerical staff and custodial workers, to the greatest extent practicable.*"

*A legal opinion based on that order stated, "The intent behind the Order is clear; school districts should seek to maintain their employees as best they can."*

HSTA also believes this is a stop gap measure until Biden's 1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan passes sometime in March. If the same formulas are used Hawaii's DOE could see close to \$450 million.



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**Corey Rosenlee**  
President

**Osa Tui Jr.**  
Vice President

**Logan Okita**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Wilbert Holck**  
Executive Director

Actions need to happen as soon as possible in order to avoid potential long term losses of teachers and other support employees within the HDOE and to protect the long term impact to our keiki Thus, HSTA asks your committee to **support** this bill.



Committee on Education  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

March 19, 2021

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee,

**This testimony is in support of HB613 HD2**, which appropriates ESSER funds moneys received by the State from the CARES Act and CRRS Appropriations Act to offset certain budget reductions that are identified or proposed by the DOE and the governor that would result in the reduction of personnel who are subject to a collective bargaining agreement pursuant to HRS Chapter 89, and who are employed at the school level, including any budget reduction that results in a layoff, furlough, or pay reduction. The bill requires the BOE and Superintendent to certify in writing that the BOE, Superintendent, and DOE agree to the conditions established by the Act, including that the funds appropriated shall be used only for salaries and wages of officers and employees who are subject to a collective bargaining agreement and are employed at the school level. The bill also requires that moneys from the appropriation shall lapse at the end of the fiscal biennium.

Throughout the discussions at the BOE on budget reductions and the use of federal funds, HE'E has strongly advocated that along with ensuring health and safety for all, a top priority of the DOE should be maintaining quality instruction in the classroom. This means that positions at the school level, and in particular, in the classroom, should be maintained. Teachers and staff in the classroom are closest to our students and have the greatest influence and impact on our students. Therefore, we suggest that page 4, lines 15-16 to read as follows: "and who are employed at the school level in the classroom;" (Proposed language is underscored.)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support represents a 75% consensus or more of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura  
HE'E Coalition Director



Academy 21  
American Civil Liberties Union  
After-School All-Stars Hawai'i  
Alliance for Place Based Learning  
\*Castle Complex Community Council  
\*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS  
Coalition for Children with Special Needs  
Education Institute of Hawai'i  
\*Faith Action for Community Equity  
Fresh Leadership LLC  
Girl Scouts Hawaii  
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation  
\*HawaiiKidsCAN  
\*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance  
\*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
\*Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists  
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars  
\*Hawai'i Charter School Network  
\*Hawai'i Children's Action Network  
Hawa'i Education Association  
Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition  
\* Hawai'i State PTSA  
Hawai'i State Student Council  
Hawai'i State Teachers Association  
Hawai'i P-20  
Hawai'i 3Rs  
Head Start Collaboration Office  
It's All About Kids  
\*INPEACE  
Joint Venture Education Forum  
Junior Achievement of Hawaii  
Kamehameha Schools  
Kanu Hawai'i  
\*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council  
Keiki to Career Kaua'i  
Kupu A'e  
\*Leaders for the Next Generation  
Learning First  
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds  
Native Hawaiian Education Council  
Our Public School  
\*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning  
\*Parents and Children Together  
\*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i  
Special Education Provider Alliance  
\*Teach for America  
The Learning Coalition  
US PACOM  
University of Hawai'i College of Education

*Voting Members (\*) Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*





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

**Senate Committee on Education**

Friday, March 19, 2021  
3:20 p.m.  
Via Videoconference  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229

**House Bill 613, House Draft 2, Relating to Education**

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education (“Board”) appreciates the intent of HB613 HD2 but has comments. HB613 HD2 would require the Board and Department of Education (“Department”) to use Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (“ESSER funds”) moneys to offset any budget reductions that would result in the reduction of personnel who are subject to a collective bargaining agreement and who are employed at the school level.

While the Board supports proposed legislation that preserves funding and resources for student learning at the classroom level, the Board has concerns with the Legislature directing the Board how to allocate federal funds, especially because the Board and Department, as the State Educational Agency and Local Educational Agency, are accountable for the proper expenditure of such funds.

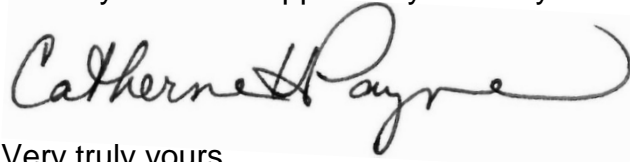
Rather than directing the Board and Department on how to expend non-recurring federal funds, it is more suitable for the Legislature to determine how much general funds it can appropriate to maintain as many resources at the classroom level as practicable. Governor David Ige recently proposed to give back approximately \$123 million in general funds to the Department following the Council on Revenue’s revised revenue projections. The Legislature could ensure as minimal impact to the classroom level as possible by appropriating these previously unavailable general funds as necessary or going a step further and restoring the Department’s base budget.

Additionally, the Board already authorized the Department to expend a portion of the ESSER II funds at its meeting on February 18, 2020 and after considering a significant

volume of testimony from the public, including teachers. The Board authorized the Department to expend a portion of ESSER II funds as necessary to provide charter schools with their pro rata share, to cover shortfalls in the current fiscal year for the teacher differentials and school food services programs, and to cover the teacher differentials program in Fiscal Year 2022. The Board determined these critical areas need these federal funds now.

The Board appreciates the Legislature's eagerness to join the public conversation about the best use of the ESSER funds. The Board directed the Department to return to the Board for further discussions on the use of any remaining relief funds when Congress passes another round of expected federal relief funds and when this Legislature passes the state biennium budget. We look forward to working in concert with the Legislature to ensure adequate funding and resources for student learning at the classroom level, including for our most vulnerable students who are economically disadvantaged, English learners, or receiving special education services.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine Payne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Very truly yours,

Catherine Payne  
Chairperson, Board of Education  
Chairperson, 2021 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 613, H.D. 2

**March 19, 2021**  
**3:20 p.m.**  
**Room 229 & Videoconference**

RELATING TO EDUCATION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on House Bill No. 613, H.D. 2.

This bill does the following:

- Makes an emergency appropriation of an unspecified amount for FY 21 from federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund moneys received by the State from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental (CRRS) Appropriations Act to offset budget reductions proposed by the Department of Education (DOE) and Governor that would result in reduction of personnel who are subject to collective bargaining (CB) agreements and who are employed at the school level, including any budget reduction that results in a layoff, furlough, or pay reduction;
- Requires the Board of Education (BOE) and Superintendent of Education to certify that the BOE, Superintendent, and DOE agree to certain conditions, including that

the funds appropriated shall be used only for salaries of employees who are subject to CB agreements and are employed at the school level; and

- Appropriates \$104,175,932 for FY 22 and for FY 23 from the same sources of funding with the same conditions.

B&F has serious concerns that this bill could have unexpected consequences and would reduce DOE's flexibility to address changing requirements and circumstances during these difficult times caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and its negative economic impacts.

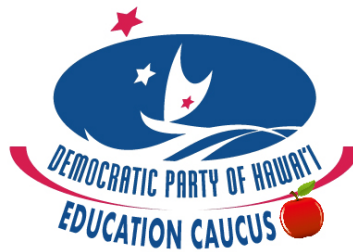
First, it is important to recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic has adversely affected DOE's budget by: 1) severely constraining State general fund support; and 2) increasing costs to address new unbudgeted requirements to maintain student learning and DOE operations. Combined, these two factors have laid to bare various underbudgeted and/or unbudgeted costs that DOE could "eat" in the past.

Second, it is our understanding that the ESSER I funding from the CARES Act has already been expended and/or encumbered for FY 20 expenses and a significant portion of the ESSER II funding from the CRRS Act is needed to meet various unbudgeted and/or underbudgeted requirements in FY 21.

Third, in response to the recent enactment of the American Rescue Plan Act and the Council on Revenues' updated projection last week, the Administration is in the process of revising the general fund financial plan. As announced by the Governor, adjustments to the financial plan will include elimination of planned furloughs and restoration of proposed reductions-in-force in the FB 2021-23 Executive Budget. These adjustments would make moot much of the need for the appropriations proposed in this bill.

Finally, it should be pointed out that the State's budget situation is very fluid and has been so since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is in a state of almost continuous flux as circumstances change, federal funding is made available, general fund revenue projections are updated, and new, unbudgeted expenses and requirements become known. To address this fluid situation, DOE needs to have a high degree of flexibility in utilizing available federal ESSER funding.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



## HOUSE BILL 613, HD 2, RELATING TO EDUCATION

MARCH 19, 2021 · SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
· CHAIR SEN. MICHELLE N. KIDANI

**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports HB 613, HD 2, relating to education, which makes an emergency appropriation for fiscal year 2020-2021 from elementary and secondary school emergency relief fund (ESSER funds) moneys received by the State from the CARES Act and CRRS Appropriations Act to offset any budget reductions that are identified or proposed by the Department of Education and the governor that would result in the reduction of personnel who are subject to a collective bargaining agreement pursuant to chapter 89, HRS, and who are employed at the school level, including any budget reduction that results in a layoff, furlough, or pay reduction; requires BOE and Superintendent of Education to certify in writing that BOE, superintendent, and DOE agree to certain conditions, including that the funds appropriated shall be used only for salaries and wages of officers and employees who are subject to a collective bargaining agreement and are employed at the school level; and makes an appropriation for fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 from the same source of funding and with the same conditions.

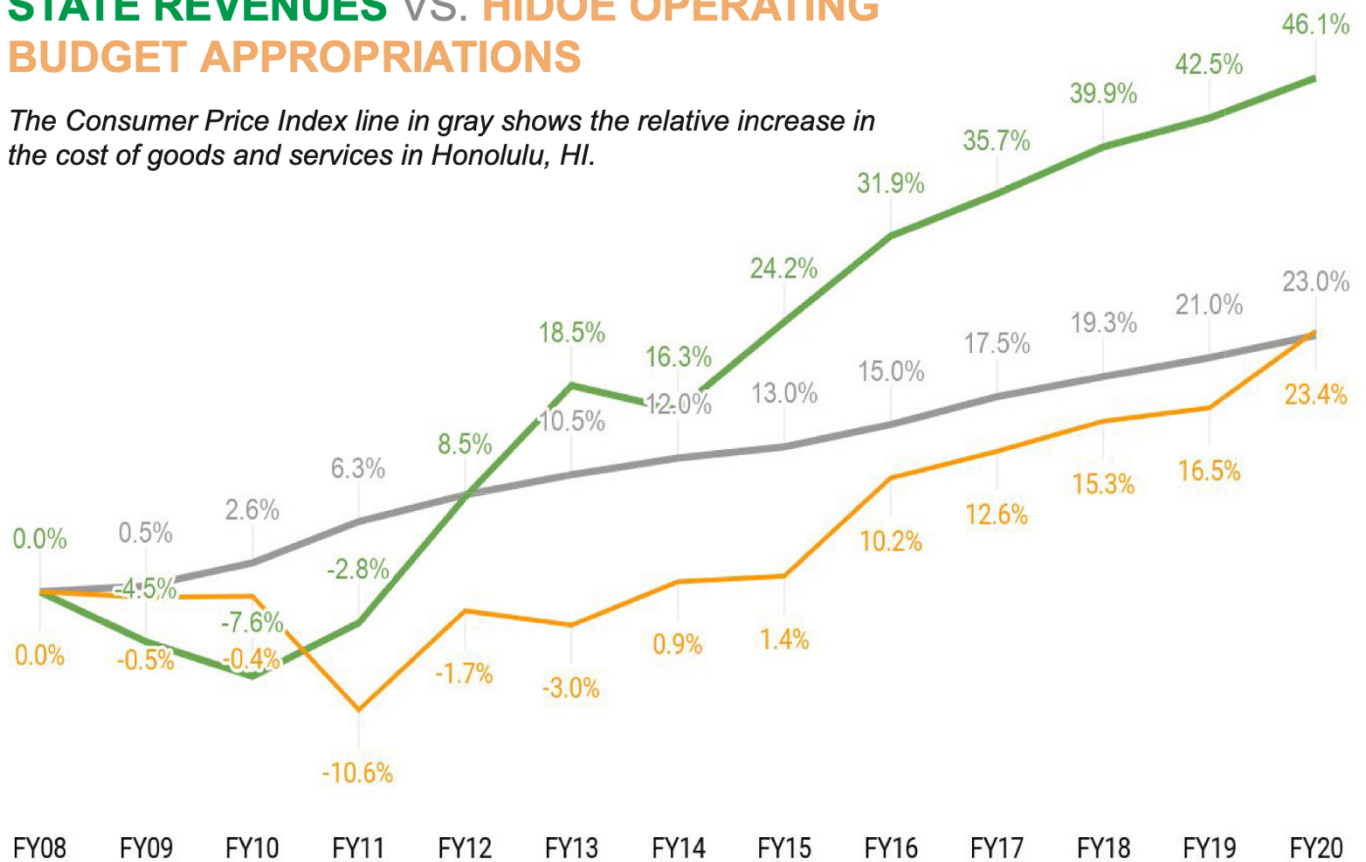
We desperately need to sustain funding for public education. As it has for years, the Aloha State is suffering from a chronic teacher shortage crisis, which could be exacerbated by proposed cuts to the Hawai'i Department of Education's budget amounting to 15 to 21 percent. Approximately

700 teacher positions remain on the chopping block, according to the Hawai'i State Teachers Association, even after Gov. David Ige injected \$123 million into the DOE's budget. Additionally, we continue to lose approximately 50 percent of new hires after five years—the number of teachers exiting the teaching profession has spiked by over 80 percent since 2010.

Prior to the pandemic, the Hawai'i Department of Education saw its budget grow at a pace that was much slower than the rate of increase for general fund revenue. From FY2008 to FY2020, the DOE's budget grew by 23.4 percent, keeping pace with the escalation in the state's cost of living. Yet, general fund revenue grew by 46.1 percent, nearly double the growth reflected in the DOE's budget. This proportional disparity must be rectified, so that our schools and students don't lose out on critical resources or learning opportunities.

## STATE REVENUES VS. HIDEOE OPERATING BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

*The Consumer Price Index line in gray shows the relative increase in the cost of goods and services in Honolulu, HI.*



*FY08-18 Actual Collections per Department of Taxation; FY19 and FY20 based on Council on Rvenues May 23, 2019 projection.*

**Education must be a top priority for our state.** Hawai'i's public schools are entirely funded at the state level, leaving our education system vulnerable to state funding shortages. Thankfully, federal funding has been made available under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds established by the CARES Act and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRS Appropriations Act) that will help. Yet, these programs require states to assure that they will maintain support for education programs during fiscal years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 by meeting certain benchmarks.

Specifically, the DOE must comply with the "maintenance of effort" provisions of the federal Education Stabilization Fund as set forth in sections 18006, 18008, 315, and 317 of the CARES Act in order to receive and spend CARES Act and CRRS Appropriations Act funds, which call for employees who are subject to a collective bargaining agreement to continue to receive their pay; funding for public education to be maintained at the same levels as in fiscal years 2017, 2018, and 2019 for those funds that are part of the CARES Act, and at a proportional level for the CRRS Appropriations Act; and for school staffing levels to be maintained to the greatest extent possible.

We cannot accept furloughs, layoffs or pay cuts as a solution to our state's budget shortfall. We should not balance our budget on the backs of the educators upon whom our learning system depends. Our keiki's and our community's future depends on our resolve.

**Kris Coffield · Chairperson, Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus ·  
(808) 679-7454 · [kriscoffield@gmail.com](mailto:kriscoffield@gmail.com)**



**HB-613-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 2:28:03 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the legislature's position of preventing the funds to be spent by the current superintendent's plan.

Although the Board of Education discussed and voted on their direction to the superintendent, it is still necessary to guard these funds.

This bill puts teachers FIRST! It needs to continue to be teachers first.

Due to the restoration of \$123M funding cuts, funds were sent back to the schools to revise their budgets.

She did not say that guidance and direction were provided to the principals to restore ALL positions. Additionally, the superintendent stated that Weighted School Formula changed to a 1% reduction from 99%.

Everything remains to be seen. Locking in the BOE, DOE and superintendent into a certification in writing will be the only way the Senate can hold them accountable.

All positions still have not been restored.

**HB-613-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:52:51 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2021 3:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT

MAKE SURE THE FUNDS go to the places that they are intended.

March 19, 2021  
Committee on Education  
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee,

I am a student from Kalani High School and proud to support HB613 HD2.

Hawaii has been struggling from a teacher shortage crisis since pre-covid times. According to HSTA, more than 60,000 keiki are not taught by a Hawaii Qualified Teacher each year. With the current budget cut announced by the Department of Education, HSTA expects to lose another 700 teachers across the state and over 1,000 employees due to layoffs this year. This will exacerbate the teacher shortage crisis and degrade the learning of students at a public school because a low number of teachers will lead to higher class sizes and fewer educational programs being operated.

HB 613 HD 2 utilizes Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds to withdraw any budget reductions identified by the department of education, resulting in a layoff, furlough, or pay reduction.

Quality teachers are vital for ensuring the quality education of students. When I go to school, there is always a teacher welcoming me in the classroom. They will help me when I ask for help, even after school and on weekends, when they are technically not being paid. Despite the transition to the online lectures from the pandemic, they try their best for us by frequent email updates and utilization of different google apps to maintain the education quality. Please imagine how the students' lives will change when there will be fewer teachers available in public schools... We will fail to maximize the learning in primary and secondary schools, more students will drop out, the education gap between children from high- and low-income households will widen, and the hope to pursue higher education will be shuttered for some students. We need teachers for our future success.

Teachers do not deserve the pay cuts and unemployment; same for students: we do not deserve the reduction of teachers. The appropriation of ESSER funds will prevent quality teachers from leaving our school for a higher paying profession and it helps to maintain education quality in public schools. HB 613 HD 2 is an indispensable bill for both teachers and students.

Mahalo,

Mana Iketani

Kalani High School Junior