



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

**Date:** 03/18/2021  
**Time:** 02:00 PM  
**Location:** 309 & 430 Via  
Videoconference  
**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Resolution:** HCR 0170 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL BUDGET REQUEST TO THE LEGISLATURE INCLUDES ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR HAWAIIAN EDUCATION.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on House Concurrent Resolution No. 170, requesting the Department of Education to ensure that the Department's annual budget request to the Legislature includes adequate funding for Hawaiian education.

The Department has consistently communicated to the legislature its concerns regarding the detrimental impacts of the budget reductions for the upcoming biennium that are being proposed this session. With the more optimistic State revenue forecast by the Council on Revenues on March 8, 2021 and the new round of federal stimulus funding, the Department implores the legislature to reverse these reductions.

Dramatic decreases in funding and the unpredictability it causes for the Department jeopardizes both access to learning and the existence of critical safety nets for a significant number of students, particularly the Department's most vulnerable learners. The National Conference of State Legislatures lists equity, adequacy, and stability as critical components for maintaining a sound school finance system.

Continuous shortfalls and reductions disrupt the Department's ability to provide consistent, quality education programs, including Hawaiian education. Also impacted is the Department's ability to retain teachers and critical education support personnel in this area.

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).

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: [info@hysn.org](mailto:info@hysn.org)

Carole Gruskin, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hawaii

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of West Hawaii

Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Maui

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm

Reduction Center

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kokua Ohana Aloha (KOA)

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native

Hawaiian Health Care Systems

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG - Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the

Great Northwest and

Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services

& Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

March 17, 2021

To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Education

Representative Nicole Lowen, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 170 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL BUDGET REQUEST TO THE LEGISLATURE INCLUDES ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR HAWAIIAN EDUCATION.**

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HCR 170 Requesting the Department of Education to Ensure that the Department's Annual Budget Request to the Legislature Includes Adequate Funding for Hawaiian Education..

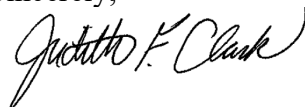
In October 2020, 55 youth gathered over a 3-day period to come to agreement on what the Hawaii Legislature needs to do to make our state a better place to live, learn, and work. More than 1,100 youth then voted to rank the priorities.

Providing more opportunities to study Hawaiian culture and language was one of the top priorities of the youth who participated in the Summit.

Hawaii Youth Services Network urges you to honor the voices of our youth by passing this resolution.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director

**HCR-170**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:26:05 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

This should not even have to be sent as a resolution. Long before the illegal takeover, the Hawaiian Kingdom was one of the most literate countries in the world. This is Hawai'i and the fact that standardized testing \$\$\$, `Å• lelo Haole resources (like Acellus) have taken precedent and pushed Hawaiian education from many of the schools is shameful. It doesn't matter what one's background, everyone who goes to school and/or lives here benefits from a strong Hawaiian education. We have the tools, the resources and knowledgeable personnel. There is no excuse. This should not be a resolution, it should be a demand.

**HCR-170**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:51:44 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anela Iwane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e na elele o ka Aha Olelo,

Kakoo.

Mahalo nui.

**HCR-170**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:26:40 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kahea Faria	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HCR170 as it complies with Article X, Section 4 of the State Consitution, and is one of many actions needed to bring the state into compliance with this aforementioned mandate.

**HCR-170**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:44:18 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tracie Muraki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern,

I am in support of this bill as many native Hawaiians have never gotten adequate education and care in the public school system. I myself NEVER learned the history of my people in the public school system. I was a product of the public school system and was never taught the true history of Hawai'i. I was taught a watered down "Pro-American" version of history which was pro American, patriotic, and wrong.

Students should be taught the real history and be required to learn Hawaiian language, Hawaiian history, and Hawaiian culture. I support this bill and all bills like it.

Mahalo for your time,

Tracie Muraki

**HCR-170**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:33:32 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brittney Hedlund	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou, members of the committee, and fellow constituents. It was a hard blow to receive the MEMO addressed to faculty and staff earlier this year that on January 9th that HDOE had requested and received approval from the BOE to provide shortage differentials in areas of SPED, Hard-to-staff geographical locations, and Hawaiian Language immersion programs. It is extremely difficult to be in my position, an educator of Hawaiian History and Language, in a geographically hard-to-staff area and pursue the impossible with little to no support from the DOE. How I am supposed to have hope for the current generation and future to be able to read, write, and speak in 'Ā• lelo Hawai'i if the system actively works towards suppressing language in the biggest arena, our education system? Reading through the language in this resolution gives me hope to holomua-in its acknowledgment and honoring of what our kā•puna were able to accomplish. That at one point in our history, we were over 90% literate in our own language, and that it was the only language that dictated all types of interactions from the government to business but most importantly, education.

I also wanted to point out problem areas in the resolution addressing areas of need and improvement. When we talk about "significant achievement gaps" in areas of math and language arts proficiency who are the native Hawaiians being compared to? It shames and further isolates our students when we approach them from an educational standpoint of being inadequate to their counterparts. I think that racism towards Native Hawaiians needs to be addressed in this school-to-prison pipeline and our overrepresentation in these areas of in/out of school issues that have life-lasting effects. We need to update our language to fit within current guidelines that are culturally and socially appropriate. They are behind because you put them there.



**HCR-170**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:06:02 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm from Papakāleia, O'ahu now residing in Māhili. I'm writing in support of HCR170. I request that the department of Education ensures that its annual department budget request to the legislature include adequate funding for Hawaiian education. It's important that this education lives on and is taught to ensure these knowledge systems are perpetuated not only with Kānaka Maoli like myself, but others in order to keep this knowledge alive.

Please support HCR 170.

me ke aloha 'Āina,  
Nanea Lo

**HCR-170**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:14:13 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear EDN and FIN Chairs, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I strongly support this bill, HCR170, but with a caveat (at the end).

Every state I've lived in taught its state history in at least two grade levels, usually in grade school and again in middle school (example: Kansas 4th and 7th grades). Hawaii's history, culture and language is so rich (and still relevant), it should not be an afterthought in a keiki's education; it should be front and center.

I remember when kupuna came to nearly every grade school each week to talk and often sing or teach a chant or dance to the students. My son, a 1st grader of mixed race (but not Hawaiian), loved those moments and came home singing Hawaiian songs. He went on to college on the Mainland majoring in Spanish, then came home, got his master's degree in Hawaiian and has been teaching Hawaiian language ever since. Never underestimate the power of early exposure to a language!

We can't bring back the kupuna who remembered the language and chants from earlier times, but the resurgence of Hawaiian language today means that a new generation is learning of its importance. It is critical that we emphasize the value of the Hawaiian experiences of the past to today's students (agricultural practices, oceanography, celestial navigation, hula and other arts and more), so I strongly support this resolution. Please support and fund Hawaiian studies throughout a student's career.

Now for the caveat:

Just as California is a melting pot for many cultures and thus teaches about many of them, room should be made for the study of Hawaii's diverse nationalities as well. Everyone who lives here should be made to feel welcome, so please also remember to include the study of Hawaii's other races in our social studies curriculum.

Thank you for listening and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas – Aiea, Hawaii

