



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/24/2023

Time: 01:30 PM

Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1192, HD1 RELATING TO ADVANCING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the public access room to establish and maintain an outreach and engagement program for primary, secondary, post-secondary, and community education. Requires the department of education and university of Hawaii to assign appropriate staff to coordinate with the public access room for the outreach and engagement program. Appropriates funds for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position to assist in effectuating this requirement. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on HB 1192, HD1, which requires the public access room to establish and maintain an outreach and engagement program for primary, secondary, post-secondary, and community education. This bill requires the Department of Education to assign appropriate staff to coordinate with the Public Access Room with respect to the outreach and engagement program.

The Department supports the focus on civic engagement with an appropriation to fund a full-time position at the Public Access Room; however, the Department has concerns regarding the responsibility for outreach and engagement. Requiring the Department to coordinate with the Public Access Room staff would place a burden on the Department to assign staff and initiate such outreach. Currently, the Department does not have a position dedicated solely to civic education, and the Educational Specialist for Social

Studies has statewide responsibilities related to social studies in all social studies disciplines.

The Department would ask that, if passed, this bill would place the responsibility for outreach on the Public Access Room with any coordination requests due to the position that is being provided to them.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1192, HD1.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 24, 2023

The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Yamashita and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1192 HD1 RELATING TO ADVANCING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB1192 HD1**, which requires the Public Access Room to establish and maintain an outreach and engagement program for primary, secondary, post-secondary, and community education and appropriates funds for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position to assist in effectuating this requirement. Requires the Department of Education and University of Hawai'i to assign appropriate staff to coordinate with the Public Access Room with respect to the outreach and engagement program. Effective 7/1/2112. (SD1).

Encouraging civic engagement can ensure the public's voice is considered in the legislative process. Teaching civic engagement skills in schools may increase the number of young people giving testimony and participating in our legislature. As part of our yearly Day at the Capitol Event, we provide our community advocates with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities the ability to submit practice written and oral testimony. The experience dramatically increases their confidence and likelihood of future involvement. The Public Access Room is such a valuable resource, and we have seen the benefits when they can engage in outreach to our community. This measure will provide a similar confidence-building and education level for Hawai'i's young people.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB1192 HD1**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

Chief Judge Lisa M. Ginoza
Chair

Representative Amy A. Perruso
Vice-Chair

Prof. Troy J.H. Andrade

Philip J. Bossert, Ph.D.

Rosanna Fukuda, MAEd

Debora Halbert, Ph.D.

Nathan G. Kam

Senator Dru M. Kanuha

OHA Board Chair
Carmen Hulu Lindsey

Matt M. Mattice

Prof. Colin Moore

Ruth K. Oh, Esq.

Magistrate Judge
Wes Reber Porter

Testimony to the Thirty-Second Legislature, 2023 Regular Session

Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Friday, February 24, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

Written Testimony Only By
Chief Judge Lisa M. Ginoza, Intermediate Court of Appeals
Chair, Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education
(PACE Commission)

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 1192, H.D. 1
Relating to Advancing Civic Engagement

Purpose: Requires the public access room to establish and maintain an outreach and engagement program for primary, secondary, post-secondary, and community education. Requires the Department of Education (DOE) and University of Hawaii (UH) to assign appropriate staff to coordinate with the public access room for the outreach and engagement program. Appropriates funds for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position to assist in effectuating this requirement.

PACE Commission Position: Support

The PACE Commission supports this bill, which would: (1) revise Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 21G-2 to add that “[a]s part of its duties, the public access room shall establish and maintain an outreach and engagement program for primary, secondary, post-secondary, and community education”; and (2) appropriate funds to establish a full-time position within the Public Access Room.

With regard to amendments in the H.D.1 version of the bill, requiring the DOE and UH to assign staff to coordinate with the Public Access Room, the PACE Commission appreciates the focus on engagement and coordination between entities, but also recognizes that a lack of resources to support civics is a challenge across the state. For instance, in HB741

(which was passed by the House Committee on Education), there is a proposal to provide funding to the DOE to support civic education and to establish two full-time civic education resource teacher positions. Currently, there is no full-time position in the DOE focused solely on civic education. Rather, an Education Specialist with broad responsibilities in social studies, as one part of those duties, supports civic education state-wide for grades K-12. Similarly, the Commission is not aware of any position in the UH System focused solely on civic education. Thus, the PACE Commission supports enhancing resources for civic education.

With regard to amending HRS § 21G-2, establishing the outreach and engagement program in the Public Access Room, this would have a significant impact in reaching and educating students and citizens across the state about the Legislature. It is also crucially important to have a dedicated position to focus on this important effort, and thus it will be highly beneficial to have funds appropriated to establish the full-time position in the Public Access Room. These crucial steps would create a positive and focused engagement with students, educators and citizens to promote learning about the Legislature, understanding of and participation in the legislative process, and further interaction with Legislators. The more direct contact that students, educators and citizens can have with the Legislature, and the more they can see the process in action, the more they will understand and want to participate in this key part of our democracy. The proposals in House Bill 1192 clearly advance the purpose of the Public Access Room to “ensure improved public participation in the legislative process” set forth in HRS § 21G-1.

Although there are many in our community seeking to advance civics in different ways, having a full-time dedicated position within the Legislature will be a tremendous asset. Such an individual could also collaborate with the Judiciary History Center to bring diverse programming on civic education to students and the community. Moreover, in today’s virtual world, having a dedicated position in the Public Access Room would greatly assist students, educators and others with following bills online, watching videoconference hearings, and submitting testimony on issues important to them.

Brief background about the PACE Commission:

The PACE Commission was created pursuant to Rule 23 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai‘i, issued on January 7, 2021, with a purpose to promote and advance civic education for students and citizens throughout Hawai‘i. The commission has fourteen members appointed by the following: Chief Justice of the Hawai‘i Supreme Court, Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Superintendent of the Department of Education, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii, President of the University of Hawai‘i, Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law, Hawaii State Bar Association, Hawai‘i Association of Independent Schools, and two members selected by the other appointed members.

The mission statement adopted by the PACE Commission is: "To create, implement and amplify sustainable programs, resources, and practices that improve place-based, constitutionally informed and culturally sensitive civic education and engagement in Hawai‘i schools and communities."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 24, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

By

Debora Halbert
Vice President for Academic Strategy
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1192 HD1 – RELATING TO ADVANCING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawaii (UH) supports the intent of this measure as it provides educational outreach and engagement programs through the Public Access Room under the Legislative Reference Bureau and supports efforts to enhance civic engagement throughout the state.

However, the bill in its current draft mandates the Department of Education and the University of Hawai'i assign appropriate staff to coordinate with the Public Access Room with respect to outreach but provides no funding to allocate staffing for this purpose. UH is unsure what the Public Access Room is envisioning with its outreach and engagement program. With this uncertainty, UH has reservations about having this language put into statute to mandate this coordination. Having said this, if it is the desire of the Legislature to pass this measure, UH respectfully requests an appropriation and positions to provide the University the ability to effectuate the requirements of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.



HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 904

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Vonnell Ramos, President
Cyd Hoffeld, Vice President
Sione Ford Naeata, Treasurer
Jefferson Gourley, Secretary

Judith F. Clark, Executive
Director

Network Membership

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters 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 'Ohana, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children's Justice

Center of Maui

Get Ready Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kaua'i, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action

Network

Hawaii Health & Harm

Reduction Center

Ho'ola Na Pua

Ho'okele Coalition of Kaua'i

Ka Hale Pomaika'i

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kaua'i Planning and Action

Alliance

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

PHOCUSED

PFLAG—Kona, Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the

Great Northwest, Hawaii

Alaska, Kentucky, Indiana

Residential Youth Services

& Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community

Center

The Catalyst Group

February 22, 2023

To: Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Finance

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 1192 HD 1 RELATING TO ADVANCING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Hawaii Youth Services Network supports HB 1192 HD 1 Relating to Advancing Civic Engagement.

“Youth civic engagement leads to reduced risky behavior, increased success in school and leads to greater civic participation later in life. . . . Civic engagement provides young people with opportunities to gain work experience, acquire new skills, and to learn responsibility and accountability—all while contributing to the good of their communities.”¹

Introducing youth to civic involvement at an early age is important because Hawaii voter turnout has declined in recent years. In the past 5 out of the past 6 presidential elections, Hawaii had the lowest voter turnout of all the states. In 2020, Hawaii was one of the 10 lowest states in voter turnout. Voter participation is at the core of active citizenship and a healthy democracy.

Hawaii Youth Services Network coordinates the annual Hawaii Children and Youth Summit, in which youth are provide recommendations to legislators about what Hawaii needs to be a better place to live, learn, and work. In 2023, youth recommendations about vaping prevention and intervention and sexual abuse and exploitation training for teachers have been incorporated into the Keiki Caucus package of bills.

If the program is funded, HYSN would work in partnership with the Public Access Room and the Department of Education to engage youth in civic affairs. The young people who have participated in the Children and Youth Summit find the experience empowering, and their involvement leads to continued engagement as adults.

I will close with some quotes from Hawaii's youth that have participated in the Hawaii Children and Youth Summit,

"This was my first experience in attending a meeting with other youths where our voices matter. . . . I want to make a difference and attending the Summit gave me the courage to step out and share everything I've learned with my fellow students. I know I will never stop speaking up for what is right."

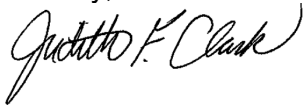
--Alisha Estoy, Junior at Konawaena High School

I have always been passionate about the environment . . . but I never thought I could make a difference now. . . . Thank you for providing that chance to speak out and give me someone to listen. . . . This has been one of the few times that I felt like people listened to me.

--Makena Anderson

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Room 308

2:30 PM

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 1192 HD1 - CIVIC EDUCATION

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 4,028 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars¹ and under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety/Corrections and Rehabilitation on any given day. We are always mindful that 917 (41% of the male imprisoned population²) of Hawai'i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad -- thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons appreciate this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 1192 HD1 that requires the Public Access Room to establish and maintain an outreach and engagement program for primary, secondary, post-secondary, and community education. And also requires the Department Of Education and University of Hawai'i to assign appropriate staff to coordinate with the Public Access Room for the outreach and engagement program. Appropriates funds for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position to assist in effectuating this requirement.

The need for civic education cannot be overstated. We are all surrounded by viral mis- and dis-information that is eroding our democracy. Room 401 at the Capitol is our Public Access Room, to our knowledge, the only one in the country! We cannot say enough about the work of the amazing non-partisan staff there. They are so

¹ Department of Public Safety, Weekly Population Report, February 13, 2023.

https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Pop-Reports-Weekly-2023-02-13_George-King.pdf

² Why are 41% of Hawai'i's male prison population sent thousands of miles from home when the following prisons in Hawai'i have room? Here are the capacity rates of the following prisons: Halawa is at 74.3%; Halawa Special Needs Facility is at 63.6%; Kulani is at 39.5%; Waiawa is at 59% of operational capacity. SEE FN1

helpful in explaining how the government makes laws, how to testify on bills, where to go to learn more about the issues, and how to be involved in the policymaking done by the legislature that affects all our lives.

Kudos to the PACE Commission for promoting civic engagement. Several years ago, civics was removed from the curriculum by the Board of Education and we are all paying a price for that.

There can be no greater benefit to government than an informed community that encourages critical thinking on issues.

Community Alliance on Prisons urges the committee to vigorously support democracy by funding this bill and encouraging all voices to engage in government.

Mahalo.

HB-1192-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 3:47:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenichi Yabusaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-chair Kitagawa and Members of the Finance committee

I fully support HB1192 regarding increasing civic education and learning more about the Legislature and Hawaii's government.. In today's America, it is essential for students as tomorrow's leaders and voters to understand how the government works, bills passed, etc., and how to use the Capitol's excellent website. Civic engagement has no monetary value because the future of Hawaii is based on understanding. It may spark students to become the next legislators and make Hawaii a strong State. Please consider passage of HB1192. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kenichi Yabusaki, Ph.D.

HB-1192-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 8:52:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Ball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong support of bill 1192 to procure necessary resources toward advancing civic education throughout Hawaii. In this moment of a global recession of democratic values, civic education is an essential bulwark for promoting and defending our shared ideals. Civic education is a meta solution, a resource that will aid and heal many of the most pressing problems in our society. Please support this bill to offer Hawaii citizens--particularly its youth--a more meaningful voice in our collective solutions to our most pressing challenges.

Mahalo,

David Ball, Honolulu

Program Coordinator, Davis Democracy Initiative, Punahou School

HB-1192-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 10:08:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara J. Service	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please advance HB1192. Civic engagement is mandatory for a just society. Please do what you can so that the Public Access Room is able to provide these services.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony!

Barbara J.Service. MSW (ret.)

Child Welfare Services supervisor

Kupuna Advocate

HB-1192-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 8:34:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abby Evans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. I am a senior at Radford High School named Abby Evans and I am in support of HB 1192 HD1 relating to Advancing Civil Engagement.

In an ever changing and adapting world, it is crucial that people of all ages and education levels have access to the information about how and why our government works. The point of having such a representative and interactive legislative system in America is to ensure that each and every citizen is able to utilize their ability to have their ideals and opinions heard. It is for this reason that increasing the ability of the Public Access room to accomplish this goal is so important.

As a state, Hawaii should pride itself on how much it cares for its citizens, and allowing more programs to extend involvement and resources only furthers this ideal.

HB-1192-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 8:58:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maya Maxym	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

I am writing as an educator, parent, and pediatrician to express my support for HB 1192. I believe that part of the reason for both apathy and the deep partisan rifts that currently divide our society is the lack of basic civic education in our educational system. In my opinion, civic education for our young people is essential to meaningful engagement by the people and representation by state legislators. Please support this bill to fund an outreach and engagement program in the Public Access Room, because our students and community members deserve to be invited into the conversations about legislation that matters to them and their communities.

Mahalo,

Maya Maxym, MD PhD

HB-1192-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 9:15:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JASON L WAGNER	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am strongly in support of HB1192. I think the PAR and DOE should work together to create opportunities for students to access vital information regarding how the State Legislature works. I would hope that would foster a lifelong passion for community engagement.

Thank you,
Jason

HB-1192-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 10:32:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Tochiki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, and programs that promote civic education. Over the last 10 years I have worked with a youth leadership program called HI HOPES, a group of young people who advocate, educate and collaborate on behalf of their brothers and sisters in foster care. I am constantly awed by the energy they bring to important issues, and the way that their lived experience informs our work. Armed with education and resources in order to authentically engage in government, our youth can be important allies to solve difficult problems.

HB-1192-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 11:36:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Landes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee,

Supporting civic education is a key step towards building a healthy, engaged populous so that our state legislators are able to effectively represent our interests. Please support this bill to fund an outreach and engagement program in the Public Access Room, because our students and community members deserve to be invited into the conversations we have every day in this building, so that we can all have agency in how we seek to improve our communities.

Mahalo,

Mike Landes

Civics teacher at Lahainaluna High School (and parent of two public school students)

HB-1192-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 11:37:39 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvia Yuen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the

House Committee on Finance

By

Dr. Sylvia Yuen

Supporting HB 1192, Relating to Advancing Civic Engagement

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and members of the House Committee on Finance: Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony in support of HB 1192.

The perceptions and knowledge that people have shape their decisions and actions relating to the functioning of our democracy. When faith in the fairness and legitimacy of the foundational pillars of government is eroded, an environment is created that breeds chaos and polarization in our society. This is why it is troubling that a majority of Americans responding to a Gallup poll reported they had *not very much* or *none at all* faith and confidence in the executive, judiciary, and legislative branches of government, with the legislative branch receiving the least favorable rating. Moreover, the Annenberg Public Policy Center reported that less than half of U.S. adults could name all three branches of government, and 25% could not name any of the branches.

By establishing and maintaining an outreach and engagement program in civic engagement for students and citizens, HB 1192 will stem the decline in knowledge and understanding about the legislature. It will encourage participation in the democratic process, activities that better our

community, and interactions that develop acceptance that people of various perspectives can work together for the common good.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of HB 1192, Relating to Advancing Civic Engagement.

HB-1192-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 3:31:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am in total support of HB1192 HD1. This is so important to our democracy! We need to engage our youth in civic engagement from a young age. I think I would have been involved in it myself much earlier as a student if opportunities were made available for me to learn HOW.

Mahalo for your consideration.