



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

Date: 02/08/2022

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2047 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a primary promise pilot program within the Department of Education. Requires the Department to identify elementary schools having low literacy rates or a disproportionate number of students reading below grade level. Appropriates moneys to hire teachers and instructional aides to provide instruction to students in grades K-3 who read below grade level in those identified schools. Sunsets 6/30/2025.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on HB 2047 for the Legislature's consideration. The Department is committed to providing essential learning opportunities and literacy experiences that will prepare our children for academic success.

Currently, the Department's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Educational Plan and Fiscal Plan addresses key strategies that will mitigate learning loss for all students, including data-driven decision-making that will inform their accelerated learning interventions. In addition, schools have adopted an approach to social-emotional learning that will address students' emotional and mental health. This systemic approach utilized by schools will complement their multi-tiered system of support for students and will allow schools to design their intervention supports for their unique communities.

Schools currently utilize their universal screeners to identify students who do not meet grade-level proficiency in literacy and provide tiered supports to best address student needs. Additional learning opportunities are provided before, during, and after the

school day.

Through the use of ESSER funds, various grant allocations, and Elementary and Secondary Education Act funds, schools have contracted various literacy experts to train and support their teachers in current research- and evidence-based strategies that address literacy. Complex area and school personnel follow up on the training to ensure that new ideas are implemented and data are collected to ensure positive impact on student learning. They have also procured literacy programs that address the specific needs of students in foundational reading skills. This, along with key strategies, build a comprehensive system of support for their students.

With this multi-pronged approach, schools are prepared to support all students to become literacy proficient by grade three during this challenging time. Funding primary promise teachers and instructional aides could support these efforts to mitigate learning loss. If this measure is to pass, an educational specialist and resource teacher would be needed to coordinate, monitor, gather and analyze data and provide required reports. As a note, based on recent trends, finding additional highly qualified staff to support these programs may present a challenge as some schools still find it difficult to fill their current positions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2047.

HB-1335

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:31:35 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Keith Hayashi	Hawaii Department of Education	Comments	Yes

Comments:

Comments



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Title of Bill: HB 1335 RELATING TO CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Affixes a seal of career technical education to a student's high school diploma and transcript upon completion of a career technical education program approved by the Department of Education.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 1335, but respectfully provides comments on this measure as it is already being implemented through the Department's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Honors Recognition Certificate, which is one of three certificates a student may earn in addition to the high school diploma. The other two certificates are the Academic Honors and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Honors Recognition Certificates.

Beginning with the Class of 2021, CTE Honors Recognition Certificates are awarded to students who:

- Meet the requirements for the Hawaii High School Diploma;
- Earn a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and above;
- Complete a two-course sequence in an approved CTE Program of Study;
- Earn a B or better in each course of the two course sequence; and
- Meet or exceed proficiency on Performance-Based Assessments for the corresponding Program of Study.

The CTE, Academic, and STEM Honors Recognition Certificates earned by students are included in the student's transcript.

The Department is committed to improving CTE opportunities for students throughout

the state and respectfully finds the provisions of HB 1335 are not needed at this time; however, the Department is open to continuing a dialogue with the Legislature on addressing any specific concerns around the existing CTE, Academic, and STEM Honors Recognition Certificates.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1335.