



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

Date: 03/14/2022

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 1941, HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools through a two-year pilot program. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

Department's Position:

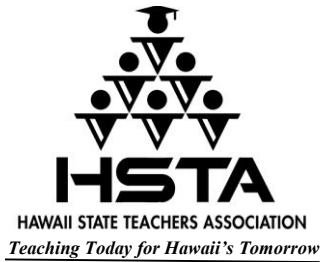
The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the idea of community schools and appreciates the amendments made by the Legislature to implement this program as a two-year pilot program.

The Department supports the idea of focusing on the whole child when providing an educational experience for our students. To do so requires the support of school staff and teachers as well as support from school families and communities. Open communication and collaboration is key in creating these valuable relationships which enrich the lives of our students and their surrounding communities.

The Department remains concerned that the grant program created by this bill is prescriptive in nature and may not meet the unique needs of its varied multi-faceted communities but looks forward to carrying out the pilot program to gauge current demand for a program like this.

Finally, if the decision is made to move forward with this pilot program, then the Department would request an appropriation that would provide for the needed resources and staff to fulfill that mandate.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1941, HD 1.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HB 1941 HD1 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 1941 HD1** relating to education. This bill will require the Department of Education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools through a two-year pilot program.

We support the network of services envisioned in the community schools model with wraparound services, like health care, and amplifies social services' access to school campuses. In employing high quality teaching and culturally sensitive curricula, prioritizing restorative justice, and highlighting community engagement, community schools have been shown to increase graduation rates and college enrollment, while decreasing behavioral referrals and health risks. Under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, up to 7 percent of Title I funding may be used to uplift our state's lowest performing 5 percent of schools. Allowing these grants will allow more investments in community schools that would empower teachers to become change agents in addressing community needs and provide invaluable services to vulnerable keiki.

Community schools provide not only tremendous opportunities for learning and success for students, but they also offer hope, opportunity, and transformation to entire communities. They are schools built with the understanding that students often come to the classroom with challenges that impact their ability to learn, explore, and develop to their greatest potential. Because learning never happens in isolation, community schools provide free healthy meals, health care, tutoring, mental health counseling, and other tailored services before, during, and after school.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support this bill**.



Hawaii
Children's Action Network Speaks!
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: Senator Kidani, Chair
Senator Kim, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

Re: **HB 1941 HD1-relating to education**
3:00 PM, March 14, 2022

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and committee members,

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in support of HB 1941 HD1, relating to education.

Community schools have the potential to better support students and their families. Community school partnerships can offer additional services needed in the community and builds from previous successes like using schools for testing sites, for food distribution, or for mobile health outreach. The community school strategy transforms schools into innovative, thriving hubs of learning that incubate and connect Indigenous wisdom and contemporary knowledge to create and meet local and global opportunities.

There are currently over 1,000 community schools across the continental United States.¹ Since 2010, school districts have been partnering with various stakeholders to stand up community schools and ensure students and their families have their needs met. A study on the New York City Community School Initiative found²:

- A positive impact on student attendance in all grades
- Positive impact on high school students' graduation rates
- A positive effect on students' sense of connectedness to adults and peers for elementary and middle school students

This last finding is of particular importance as we know students have felt isolated during the pandemic.

The coordination of relationships and resources are needed, now more than ever, to help students recover from the pandemic and accelerate equitable outcomes in health, education and employment.

For these reasons, I respectfully request the committee vote favorable on HB 1941 and pass the measure.

Thank you,
Kathleen Algire
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy

¹ National Education Association, Community Schools, <https://www.nea.org/student-success/great-public-schools/community-schools>

² Johnston, William R., John Engberg, Isaac M. Opper, Lisa Sontag-Padilla, and Lea Xenakis, Illustrating the Promise of Community Schools: An Assessment of the Impact of the New York City Community Schools Initiative. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2020. https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR3245.html.

HB-1941-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2022 11:40:55 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/14/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Testifying for Administrator of Mahiku A'o Mai - a Native Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In implementing this bill, the positive implications will be exponential and the programs should also be required from clients in the varying OneStop programs who frequently struggle with stable employment. Far too often, the disenfranchisement of a person who is left behind by an evolving job market can have severe negative impact upon the job seeker, especially is they only have unskilled labor and no stable transportation to offer a potential employer. High employee turnover rates cause company shrinkage and can eventually shut a company down, thus more negative implications on our local economy.

LATE



HOUSE BILL 1941, HD 1, RELATING TO EDUCATION

MARCH 14, 2022 · SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
· CHAIR SEN. MICHELLE N. KIDANI

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports** HB 1941, HD 1, relating to education, which requires the department of education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the implementation of community schools through a two-year pilot program.

Legislators should invest in education programs that deliver wraparound care for students and deal with educational “inputs” that impact student success, like poverty and access to healthcare. An example of such a program is the community schools model of education, which as noted in Hawai'i's Consolidated State Plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act, is a research-based strategy for school improvement that emphasizes high-quality teaching, culturally relevant curricula, wraparound student supports, positive disciplinary practices and restorative justice, parent and community engagement, and inclusive school leadership. **Community schools programs may be instrumental in uplifting the social and emotional learning and healthcare of students as we continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

In prioritizing student wellness, community schools have been shown to increase learning growth and graduation rates, while decreasing behavioral referrals and chronic absenteeism. In New York City, for example, community schools that highlight mental health counseling and consistent

family outreach have seen chronic absenteeism rates fall by 7.8 percent as of 2017, with graduation rates rising 4.8 percent. Engaged learners are more like to acquire the skills necessary to become active citizens and productive members of the workforce. Additionally, since even the most affluent and well-adjusted children face challenges in their maturation processes, guaranteeing that schools have the resources to respond to childhood pressures and trauma with compassion and sensitivity may make the difference between sending a student to college or losing them to social threats, like addiction or our state's prolific sex trade.

To use the case study of sexual wellness, community schools can partner with service providers to run modern sexual health programs that model positive relationships and tackle tough issues, like sexual consent. These programs don't just prevent young women from becoming victims of gender violence. They also teach young men about healthy forms of masculinity that aren't predicated on dominance and physical aggression, ultimately cutting down on acts of aggression in school settings and Hawai'i's violent crime rates.

Launching community schools will require additional money. Yet, their capacity to address a wide range of student needs and help remedy longstanding social problems make their execution an achievement for which education leaders should strive high.

Kris Coffield · Chairperson, DPH Education Caucus · (808) 679-7454 · kriscoffield@gmail.com

Date: March 24, 2022

To: Senate Committee on Education
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
And members of the Committee

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: **Support for HB 1941, Relating to Community Schools**

Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide cross-sector partnership designed to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest children and their families. ECAS partners are working to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources, and improve programs to support our youngest keiki.

ECAS supports passage of HB 1941. This bill will would require the Department of Education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

In Hawai'i, full-service community schools are innovative, thriving hubs of learning in which partnerships and collaboration create a'o aku, a'o mai, reciprocal relationships between learners and place, content and context, and schools and communities. Through community schools, thriving learners, educators, families, 'āina, and communities are supported by nurturing networks that promote reciprocity. The community schools strategy transforms schools into innovative, thriving hubs of learning that incubate and connect Indigenous wisdom and contemporary knowledge to create and meet local and global opportunities.

While the full effects of COVID-19 are still unknown, the pandemic has exacerbated existing stressors on youth and families in our communities, and we are already seeing the growing need for services and support for our most vulnerable children and families. This is why community schools are needed more than ever as schools must look to families, youth, and community partners to help address barriers to learning.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

HB-1941-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 9:42:03 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/14/2022 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica Yamauchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Committee on Finance

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

RE: Support of HB1941 Relating to Education

Dear Chair Luke and members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB1941, which would require the Department of Education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

In Hawai‘i, full-service community schools could be inspirational, innovative hubs of learning and community in which partnerships and collaboration create reciprocal relationships between schools and communities. The community schools strategy has infinite possibilities to make schools thriving hubs of activity that benefit students in new ways by making them a critical place for services benefitting the larger community.

Community schools have been in use for decades in places like California, New York and Texas, and serve as wonderful examples of how the model can bring hope, opportunity and transformation to entire communities.

The coordination of relationships and resources are needed, now more than ever, to help students recover from the pandemic and accelerate equitable outcomes in health, education and employment. These school-community partnerships also yield a strong social return on investment, with one study finding that every dollar invested in such schools produced at least a \$10.30 return in social value. Another study found that for each \$1 invested in the community school coordinator position returned approximately \$7.11 net benefits.

As a mother of two children in our public schools, I urge you to support this bill and appropriate the \$2.4M investment that would fund five community schools in this two-year pilot grant program. Community schools are needed more than ever as schools look to efficiently and

effectively utilize resources to advance the well-being of children and their families now and for future generations.

Very sincerely,

Erica Yamauchi, Kaimukī/Wilhelmina Rise

LATE

HB-1941-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 12:14:10 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/14/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paula Adams	Testifying for Hawaii Afterschool Alliance	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance supports HB1941 that would require the Department of Education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.