



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

**Date:** 03/01/2022

**Time:** 12:30 PM

**Location:** 308 Via Videoconference

**Committee:** House Finance

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 2277, HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds to DOE to promote surfing as an interscholastic sport. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) recognizes the intent of HB 2277, HD1 and respectfully offers comments.

Since 2005, the Department has developed surfing regulations to implement surfing as a high school sport. In 2016, the Board of Education approved Board Policy 101-11 Surfing which established surfing as a high school sport.

While the Department appreciates the appropriations to support surfing in high school athletic programs, this would not address the larger risk factors that make surfing difficult for high schools to sanction. These risks include concerns around accessible and safe surfing areas to conduct practices and the inability to control the practice environment. On Oahu, surfing has not been proposed by any high school principal and an informal survey to principals showed only 6 out of 23 principals interested in surfing as an interscholastic sport on Oahu.

The Department appreciates this proposal and the inclusion of funding but asks that any additional funding does not affect the Department's top budget priorities to restore funds that were reduced as a result of the fiscal fallout from COVID-19 and the funding of existing budget shortfalls that were included in the Department's supplemental budget request. Without those funds, the Department will face severe constraints on its ability to continue to promote equity and access to needed resources and support for all

students.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2277, HD1.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2277, H.D. 1

**March 1, 2022**  
**12:30 p.m.**  
**Room 308 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO EDUCATION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 2277, H.D. 1, appropriates an unspecified sum of general funds for FY 23 to the Department of Education to promote and support surfing as an interscholastic sport.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



OUTRIGGER  
**DUKE KAHANAMOKU**  
FOUNDATION

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair  
Rep. Patrick Pihana Branco, Rep. Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Rep. Daniel Holt, Rep. Greggor Ilagan  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Rep. Lisa Marten, Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Rep. Amy A. Perruso,  
Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Rep. Chris Todd, Rep. Tina Wildberger, Rep. Bob McDermott

**Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 12:30 p.m.**

**Via videoconference**

**RE: HB 2277, Relating to Education**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the Finance Committee:

On behalf of the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation (ODKF), I would like to thank you for hearing **HB 2277** and testify in **strong support** of this bill. **The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to DOE to promote surfing as an interscholastic sport.** Though surfing was declared an interscholastic sport several years back, at most public schools outside of Maui, surfing remains either a club sport, or unincorporated in the school sports opportunities. Funding is needed to provide insurance, organize competitions, subsidize equipment, and provide stipends to coaches (who are often teachers).

It makes sense that Hawaii high schools should include surfing. It's a Native Hawaiian sport and Hawaii is a place with ideal surfing conditions. We could and should be helping all kids have an opportunity to learn and build surfing skills. More local kids of all economic backgrounds would get access and exposure to the sport, as part of a healthy lifestyle, connection to the ocean, and a perpetuation of culture. Further, more school teams mean greater competition for all, producing a higher tide of top performing athletes. We should put the same financial backing behind surfing that we do behind imported sports like football, soccer, and baseball. Just imagine the pride of cheering on our local high school surf teams the way we do for other team sports.

ODKF strongly urges this committee to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Sarah Fairchild

Executive Director

808-292-7694

**HB-2277-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 6:20:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Dane Fujiwara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

My name is Dane Fujiwara. I am a high school educator and a former head coach for the Kamehameha Schools Surf Team. I have been a part of the high school surf scene for the past 5 years. This testimony is in **SUPPORT** of bill HB2277 in regards to the funding of high school surfing. As a Native Hawaiian and a waterman I have great respect and a strong relationship with the ocean. The ocean for me has always been my escape as well as my anchor to center myself. As a student, I participated in the other ocean/water sports provided e.g. canoe paddling, kayaking, and sailing. I would have loved if surfing was offered during my time in school. Fast forward to the present day, I have been a part of the Kamehameha Kapālama Surf Team for the past 5 years. During my time as head coach I have seen a lot of success stories from our student athletes both in and out of the water. There is a small contingency of schools who participate in the current surf series. These schools are benefactors of either private sponsors or out of funding from students. This legislation will provide more opportunities to student athletes to succeed in the classroom and aspire to greater things. To provide a bigger picture: there are opportunities for schools to compete on the national stage. The Kamehameha Surf Team has won 2 National Team titles as well as individual national champions (Ezekiel Lau, Imai Devault, Kayla Moore, Kahanu Cuban) as well as many top finishes in every appearance at Nationals. Other schools have also done well ie Kahuku, Waialua, and Mid-Pacific. The successful record of Hawaii high school performance is just another point of justification for the passing of this bill. There is a common saying that the keiki/children are the future of Hawai‘i. Let us show them that they truly are by providing opportunities for them to succeed at something that many students already do. Students, engaged with aspirations, tend to be more successful in school. By passing this legislation you will be a part of making the future of Hawai‘i's children better as well as the future Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui

Dane Fujiwara

KEITH Y. AMEMIYA  
P.O. BOX 3590  
HONOLULU, HI 96811

February 28, 2022

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee on Finance:

I'm Keith Amemiya, former Executive Director of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association and current Executive Director of the Central Pacific Bank Foundation, and I strongly support HB2277, which will provide funding for high school surfing in our public schools statewide.

Hawai'i is the birthplace of modern surfing, an integral part of our history, culture, and tradition, and is an extremely popular sport, including with our youth.

Already, our State has been at our country's forefront by introducing outrigger canoe paddling, judo, girls wrestling, and more as official high school sports, and all of them have thrived and provided our student-athletes with lifetime memories and even college and Olympic opportunities.

For over 10 years, current World Champion and inaugural Olympic Gold Medalist, Carissa Moore, her father, Chris, and I have worked to make Hawai'i high school surfing a reality.

Now, with the Legislature's help, we're as close as we've ever been to making this long-overdue dream happen for many public high school students statewide.

Based upon the above, I humbly ask for your support and to pass this measure forward.

Please let me know if you have any questions and mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Keith Y. Amemiya

**HB-2277-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 9:46:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carissa Moore	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee on Finance,*

*My name is Carissa Moore, and I stand in strong support of HB2277, the requisite bill needed to support high school surfing programs throughout Hawaii.*

*This past summer, I had the honor and dream of representing the state of Hawaii on the United States Olympic Surfing Team. The sport of surfing, one that I've dedicated most of my life to, is our own uniquely homegrown sport, one that's been adored by millions of people throughout every corner of the globe. Bill HB2277 would help open the door for surfing to be pursued as a serious and legitimate interscholastic sport in Hawaii's schools, which is something that Hawaii's children so desperately deserve.*

*From a financial point of view, one would be hard pressed to dismiss the economic attributes that this Bill would ultimately foster. When surfing thrives in Hawaii, so will local businesses. HB2277 is a Bill that has the unique ability to enhance our underserved youth directly alongside the hard working entrepreneurs of our state. I respectfully urge you to pass this measure forward, as embracing it would amount to a "win/win" for everyone concerned.*

*Thank you so much for the privilege of testifying.*

*Mahalo,*

*Carissa Moore*



**My name is Kim Ball, the owner of Hi-Tech Surf Sports. I have been the volunteer co-coordinator of Maui Interscholastic League surfing since we started in the spring of 2014. I am also a former head wrestling coach for Lahainaluna (1980-1988).**

**This spring we will have student / athletes from 10 Maui County high schools competing in five surf meets near the communities of Lahaina, Napili, Kahului, Paia and Hana.**

**What we have seen since we implemented surfing is student / athletes becoming more disciplined in their schoolwork, and working together to be part of a team. Those are the same ideals we see in other interscholastic sports.**

**Our coaches have more rigorous training than any other coaches, devoting two days to learning ocean risk management, open ocean rescues, lifesaving techniques, CPR and first aid. The only injuries we see are an occasional reef cut or wana in a foot. We've never had a broken bone, bone separation, or concussion.**

**I would urge the lawmakers to pass HB2277. Our MIL surfers would like to participate in a state championship like every other interscholastic sport.**

**Thank-you.**