



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 2494, HD1 RELATING TO CIVIC EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds for the expansion of civic education in the public schools and for one full-time equivalent permanent civic education resource teacher position. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

**Department:** Education

**Testifier** Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill** HB 2494, HD1 RELATING TO CIVIC EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill** Appropriates funds for the expansion of civic education in the public schools and for one full-time equivalent permanent civic education resource teacher position.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2494, HD1, which provides funding for professional development and classroom resources related to the Hawaii Core Standards in Social Studies (HCSSS), adopted by the Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE) in 2018, and the establishment of 1.00 FTE civic education resource teacher position in Social Studies.

Such actions will provide much needed support to help students become critical consumers of information; take civic action such as voting, volunteering, and serving in

leadership positions; increase informational literacy skills; and participate fully in the community.

The realization of these goals will be much more likely with curricular and personnel support. Such support would include materials and resources to assist schools across the state to implement the new shifts of the HCSSS in the following ways:

- From narrow perspectives to global perspectives;
- From a predominately Western viewpoint to multicultural viewpoints;
- From merely learning about citizenship to practicing democratic citizenship within communities;
- From individualism to collaboration, dialogue, and deliberation; and
- From memorizing facts to the application of knowledge to solve real-life issues, problems, and concerns.

Impact on Professional Learning: The paradigm shifts in social studies teaching and learning require focused efforts to provide both the necessary tools in the form of resources and materials and a position to provide the professional development needed to learn, practice, and incorporate these shifts. The supports in this bill will assist schools and complexes by:

- Identifying knowledge gaps;
- Collaboratively developing iterative, data-informed plans for teacher development and student support;
- Providing high-quality professional development;
- Creating structures for standards implementation;
- Strengthening school and complex area social studies leadership and relationships; and
- Focusing on highly effective, student-centered practices that improve schools and raise student achievement.

Impact on Students: One of the longtime goals of public education is to produce young people who are fully ready to participate in the democratic process. This requires high-quality social studies instruction and curricular materials. These materials will assist students to:

- Apply civic virtues and democratic principles;
- Practice source analysis with documents, images, visual and audio media, and artifacts;
- Develop media literacy skills to discern bias, authenticity, and relevance; and
- Engage in collaborative civic dialogue and deliberative processes to address issues and problems in government and civic society.

By supporting students with meaningful and appropriate resources and powerful instruction, they will become critical thinkers and communicators who know how to take meaningful action.

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 testify on HB 2494, 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. 2494, H.D. 1

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

RELATING TO CIVIC EDUCATION

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

House Bill No. 2494, H.D. 1, establishes 1.00 full-time equivalent position and appropriates an unspecified sum of general funds for FY 23 for the expansion of civic education in public schools.

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.

**HB-2494-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2022 5:39:48 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>
Michael Golojuch Jr	Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i (formerly the LGBT Caucus) Hawai'i's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization fully supports HB 2494 HD 1.

We hope you all will support this important piece of legislation.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.  
Chair and SCC Representative  
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH

**HB-2494-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 7:50:21 AM

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>
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Rainbow Family 808	Support	No

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 supports HB2494. Please pass.

Mike Golojuch, Sr. Secretary/Board Member, Rainbow Family 808



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Osa Tui, Jr.  
President  
Logan Okita.  
Vice President  
Lisa Morrison  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: HB 2494, HD1 - RELATING TO CIVIC EDUCATION

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Luke, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 2494, HD1**, relating to civic education. The purpose of this bill is to fund the expansion of civic education in public schools, including professional development and classroom resources related to the Hawaii core standards in social studies. It also appropriates funds for one full-time equivalent permanent civic education resource teacher position.

**The Hawaii State Teachers Association stresses the importance of expanding civic education in our public schools to prepare students to participate in the public and political lives of their communities. Civic education helps develop critical thinking skills in our students that are vital to the functioning of a democratic nation, including how to recognize social problems, evaluate possible solutions to problems, separate evidence-based claims from opinions, and to take action.**

**Hawaii is among the ten states with the lowest voter turnout in the nation.** Cultivating social and political engagement among students through civic education is an important strategy available to increase voter turnout and citizen engagement over the long term, but not just for voting, also to know how to become more involved in community issues as they arise. Civic education helps them evaluate what others have tried, what has worked, and make a plan of action for creating change needed to solve problems together.

In 2018 the Hawaii Board of Education adopted College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) standards. These core standards in social studies integrate and encompass the democratic values and need to be supported more. **We need to help provide more civic education resources to help engage students in the pursuit of active and informed citizenship to help connect our students to the world through informed instructional experiences that are led by teachers who are committed to active civic participation.**

Thus, for the future of our students, and our state, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks you to **support** this bill.



# 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 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's Justice Center of Maui

Get Ready Hawai'i

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

February 26, 2022

To: Senator Sylvia Luke Chair,  
And members of the Committee on Finance

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2494 HD 1 RELATING TO CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 2494 HD 1 Relating to 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.”<sup>1</sup>

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 2022, 5 of the 10 recommendations have been included in legislative bills

If the program is funded, HYSN would work in partnership with 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:

*"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."*

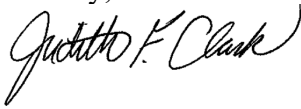
--Alisha Estoy, Junior at Konawaena High School

*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 initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director

Statement Before The  
Tuesday, March 1, 2022  
12:30 PM  
Via Video Conference and Conference Room 308  
in consideration of

in consideration of  
**HB 2494, HD1**  
**RELATING TO CIVIC EDUCATION.**

Chair LUKE, Vice Chair YAMASHITA, and Members of the House Finance Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB 2494, HD1 which appropriates funds for the expansion of civic education in the public schools and for one full-time equivalent permanent civic education resource teacher position.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening democracy through voting modernization efforts that increase civic engagement, voter turnout, and voter participation in our democratic processes.

Given Hawaii's traditional low voter registration and low voter turnout rates, people are not generally engaged in the political process. See <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/08/why-does-hawaii-have-such-low-voter-turnout-heres-what-the-data-says/> (retrieved Jan. 29, 2022). Studies have shown that voting is a habit, which develop over repetition and can become strongly ingrained if developed early. See <https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/456934-how-voting-becomes-a-habit> (retrieved Jan. 29, 2022). Hopefully, HB 2494, HD1 will teach our youth the importance of civic engagement and voting to have engaged future leaders, leading to a strong and vibrant democracy. "We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate." Thomas Jefferson.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2494, HD1. If you have questions of me, please contact me at [sma@commoncause.org](mailto:sma@commoncause.org).

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma  
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

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

Debra 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

Gary H. Yamashiroya

## Testimony to the Thirty-First Legislature, 2022 Regular Session

### House Committee on Finance

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 12:30 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308  
Videoconference

By

Ruth K. Oh, Esq. on behalf of

Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education  
(PACE Commission)

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**Bill No. and Title:** House Bill No. 2494, H.D.1, Relating to Civic Education

**Purpose:** Appropriates funds for the expansion of civic education in the public schools and for one full-time equivalent permanent civic education resource teacher position.

**PACE Commission Position:** Strong support

The PACE Commission strongly supports this bill which would be a significant step toward improving civic education in Hawaii's public schools. Currently, the Department of Education (DOE) does not have a position solely focused and dedicated to supporting civic education. There is also a significant shortage in resources, professional development, training and support for developing teachers to teach civics and to support those who are teaching civics. This bill appropriates necessary funds to expand civic education, including through professional development and classroom resources. Further, and critically, this bill appropriates funds to hire a full-time permanent

civic education resource teacher. Currently, the DOE has an Educational Specialist for Social Studies who has statewide responsibilities related to civic education, but who also has multiple other broad statewide duties beyond civics. To have the type of resources, training and development needed for robust civic education from K-12 in public schools, it is imperative to have focused attention in this important area.

The PACE Commission was created last year because many in our State recognize the need to focus on civic education in our schools and in our community. The more we can improve civic education and civic engagement, the more we can improve civic knowledge and participation in our democracy and in our communities. It is important at this time to take action in this area and this bill is a crucial step in the right direction.

**Brief background on 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. The purpose of the PACE Commission is to promote and advance civic education for students and citizens throughout Hawai'i. The commission has fourteen members appointed according to Rule 23 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 commission began meeting in April 2021 and meets monthly. It also has two committees, one focused on civic education in the schools and one focused more generally on civic engagement in the community. 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.



## Senate Committee on Finance

Tuesday, March 1st, 2022, 12:30a.m. Conference Room 308

### **Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action Supports: HB2494 HD1**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) I am submitting testimony in support of HB1883 HD1.

HB1883 HD1 appropriates funds for the expansion of civic education in the public schools and for one full-time equivalent permanent civic education resource teacher position.

HAPA supports this measure and measures that help to boost civic engagement and help future voters understand the process and importance of their engagement. We are well aware of, and concerned about, the lack of participation in the government process and encourage all measures that will help boost engagement.

This bill is an important step toward improving civic education in Hawaii's public schools. Currently, the Department of Education (DOE) does not have a position solely focused and dedicated to supporting civic education. Like many important areas, there is a shortage of funding and resources for professional development, training and support for developing teachers to teach civics and to support those who are teaching civics.

HAPA supports appropriating necessary funds to expand civic education, including through supporting professional development and classroom resources. We also strongly support funding a full-time permanent civic education resource teacher.

Please pass HB1883 HD1 and help increase civic engagement.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is positioned below the text 'Mahalo for your consideration,'.

Anne Frederick  
Executive Director

**HB-2494-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 11:45:18 AM

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>
John Bickel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a social studies teacher for 33 years, I have seen civic education decline. This would help to reverse that trend.

**HB-2494-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 12:00:50 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>
Susan Dursin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB2494 HD1, which appropriates funds for expansion of civic education in the public schools. It also provides one full-time equivalent permanent civic education resource teacher position.

Hawai`i's low voter turnout is widely recognized. One of the first steps in increasing turnout must be to create strong public school programs that lead to active participation in democratic processes. Such programs will work only if the efforts are funded consistently.

Public school teachers have a myriad of responsibilities. As much as they may recognize the value of teaching and encouraging civic engagement, they may not have time to develop workable programs. Funding a resource teacher will help develop programs and materials specific to Hawai`i's situation.

I see that the dollar amount of funding was removed from HB2494 and left blank in HB2494 HD1. Please ensure that the funding in this bill is adequate to produce real success.



**HB-2494-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 2:25:37 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>
Lisa Huynh Eller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Given Hawaii's traditional low voter registration and low voter turnout rates, people are not generally engaged in the political process.

Studies have shown that voting is a habit, which develop over repetition and can become strongly ingrained if developed early.

That's why I support this measure to support civic education.

**HB-2494-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 4:32:14 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>
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Fin Chair and Committee, I am a volunteer for Common Cause HI and i often agree with CCs philosophical positions on a number of issues and bills. Hawaii often has one of the lowest voter turnouts in the US.

I support [HB2494](#) because it tries to address this by paying someone to try and promote civics and voting. But it seems that the push for mail in ballots, automatic voter registration (via driver license) seems to have a far greater positive effect on voter participation. But having a wide variety of options is a good mix.

Studies have shown that voting is a habit, which develop over repetition and can become strongly ingrained if developed early.

Hopefully, HB 2494, HD1 will teach our youth the importance of civic engagement and voting to have engaged future leaders, leading to a strong and vibrant democracy.

Mahalo for your considerations.

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona HI 96740

**HB-2494-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 4:59:59 AM

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>
David Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Given Hawaii's traditional low voter registration and low voter turnout rates, people are not generally engaged in the political process.

Studies have shown that voting is a habit, which develop over repetition and can become strongly ingrained if developed early.

Hopefully, HB 2494, HD1 will teach our youth the importance of civic engagement and voting to have engaged future leaders, leading to a strong and vibrant democracy.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this bill.

**HB-2494-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 11:03:06 AM

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>
Rosemarie Muller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Rosemarie Muller and I live in Keaau, Hawaii. Please pass this bill, HB2494, hopefully it will teach our youth the importance of civic engagement and voting to have engaged future leaders , leading to a strong and vibrant democracy.

Thank you

**HB-2494-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 1:31:33 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>
Michele Mitsumori	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2494, Relating to Civic Education, appropriating funds for the expansion of civic education in the public schools and for one full-time equivalent permanent civic education resource teacher position.

As a volunteer with the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Hawai`i County, I have seen firsthand the need for more civic education, including of how our state and local government works. Young people were impressed to hear that their right to vote at 18 years of age came as the minimum age for the military draft was lowered to 18, but the minimum voting age remained at 21 ("Old enough to fight, old enough to vote"). In meeting with high school social studies classes, we've been able to respond to questions and misconceptions about elections, voting, the Constitution, and other fundamental topics of civic education, but there's only so much a single, 30- to 45-minute encounter to cover. In addition, we encourage those between the ages of 16 and 18 to pre-register, thereby helping to remove barriers to voting.

Research has shown that voting is a habit which develops through repetition and which can become strongly ingrained if developed early. Other studies have shown the influence young people can have on their families, whether encouraging recycling or dietary changes. Young people can encourage other family members to vote, and, as we've already seen, are influential leaders, in government and beyond.

This is an important investment in all our public schools and needs to be passed.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support of HB 2494.

**HB-2494-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 3:17:58 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>
laurie boyle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support HB2494 for the simple reason that a well-functioning Democracy requires an educated and engaged electorate and by appropriating funds for civic education in schools, our children will have the opportunity to be proud, engaged citizens who are more likely to vote and take that responsibility seriously.

**HB-2494-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 7:39:41 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>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Wast of Money!!

**HB-2494-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 9:55:07 AM

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>
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support.

Civics education begins early and continues through our entire lives. It is one of those areas that impacts every single person. As a retired elementary educator, civics in some form should be a part of every day learning. This is greater than the US system , flag pledging patriotism, in fact, it means taking a critical look at all systems and understanding, looking for facts, issues to form one's own path. For the purposes of k-12 education, I will quote Amy Perruso " The most important purpose of our shared system, in my view, is to prepare young people to own their power, to become fully activated, knowledgeable and compassionate civic humans. It's so critical that they develop sound practices, grounded in this place and in our shared cultures, that enable them to weigh and balance rights and responsibilities thoughtfully and to always put the common good before private gain."

I support this bill.



**HB-2494-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 9:19:07 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>
Stacie M Burke	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Committee On Finance

Rep. Syliva Luke, Chair

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Support for H.B. No. 2494 Relating to Civic Education

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony in strong support of H.B. 2494

A healthy Democracy hinges on civic participation by informed citizens. Hawai'i had the lowest voter turnout of all the states for our 2020 general election, despite having the convenience of all mail in voting.

Let's give our young people a robust civic education curriculum to negate the apathy that yields low voter turnout.

Mahalo

Stacie Burke

'Aiea , Hawai'i

**HB-2494-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 10:38:18 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>
David Ball	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an educator and a private citizen, I implore the committee to give its full support to the immediate provision of resources for teaching civics in our public schools. Doing so is a necessary safeguard to our democratic institutions at a moment of rising threats--misinformation, autocracy, diminished faith in public institutions--at home and around the globe. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

David Ball, Punahou School

Waiialae-Kahala