

**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 55, H.D. 1, RELATING TO EDUCATION.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

DATE: Thursday, March 2, 2023

TIME: 2:30 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 308

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Anne T. Horiuchi, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comment.

The bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

The bill states that the DOE "shall make sustainable community schools operational grants of up to \$_____ a year available to implement a sustainable community school's strategy." (Page 11, lines 12-15.) However, the bill does not state what moneys are to be used to fund this grant program. If general funds are to be used, we suggest adding a section to the bill stating that an appropriation out of the general revenues of the State will be used for the community school pilot program and that the amount shall be expended by the DOE for the purposes of the Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comment.



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

Date: 03/02/2023
Time: 02:30 PM
Location: 308 VIA
VIDEOCONFERENCE
Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0055, 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. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) provides comments on HB 55, HD1.

The Department supports the implementation of community schools programs to provide high-quality educational opportunities by focusing on the whole child when providing educational experiences for our students. To accomplish this, the community school model requires the support of school staff, teachers, families, and communities. Creating these partnerships and valuable relationships enrich students and their surrounding communities.

The Department is concerned that the grant program created by this bill is too prescriptive and may not meet the unique needs of its varied, multi-faceted communities. The Department also does not currently know the community school program's specific demands, as outlined. As such, the Department would have difficulty determining the type and amount of resources that should be committed to this endeavor.

Currently, the Department requires that the schools designated as Comprehensive Support and Improvement with More Rigorous Interventions (CSI-MRI) move to a

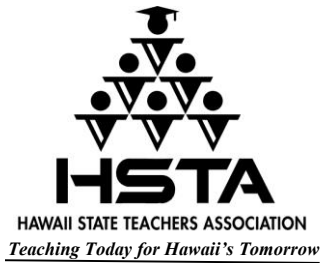
Full-Service Community Schools model. CSI-MRI schools have been identified as the lowest-performing schools in need of support for their students. To bolster the supports, one of the requirements of the CSI-MRI schools is to partner with community organizations to implement the community schools approach fully.

Pursuant to the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, schools receiving federal funding, such as Title IA, must set aside a portion of its funds to promote parent and family engagement. As a requirement of receiving the federal funding, schools must use their comprehensive needs assessment and academic plan to determine the purpose and type of parent and family engagement activities that best meet their needs. Requiring these funds to be integrated into the operations funding of the community school program would limit the authority of the administrator, the staff, and families from local school control and hamper the delegation of its funds.

The Department would suggest allowing its implementation with the CSI-MRI schools to further gauge community interest in the community schools program.

Finally, if the decision is made to create this grant program, then the Department would appreciate an appropriation to fulfill the mandate, provided that this does not affect the priorities identified in the Hawaii State Board of Education approved budget.

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



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

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: HB 55 HD1 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 55, HD1**, relating to education. This bill requires the Department of Education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

We support the network of services envisioned in the community schools model with wraparound services, like health care, and amplified 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 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) 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 our schools 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 that are much needed to support our schools, teachers, and our students.

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



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

March 2, 2023
Conference Room 308

RE: Support of HB 55 Relating to Education

Position: SUPPORT INTENT of bill with comments

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

My name is Kathleen O'Dell, and I am the Network Coordinator for the Hawai'i 'Ohana Support Network (HOSN) which is a state network of government and non-profit organizations supporting the work of school and community based Family Resource Centers (FRCs). This state network was established in 2020 and became members of the National Family Support Network in the same year. We currently have seven community based FRCs known as Neighborhood Places and four school based FRCs.

The National Family Support Network defines a Family Resource Center (FRC) as a community or school-based hub of support, services, and opportunities for families that:

- *Utilizes an approach that is multi-generational, strength-based, and family centered*
- *Reflects and is responsive to community needs and interests*
- *Provides support at no or low cost for participants*
- *Enhances parenting skills*
- *Fosters the healthy development and well-being of children, youth, and families*
- *Prevents child abuse and neglect*
- *Increases school readiness*
- *Connects families to resources*
- *Supports healthy marital and couples relationships*
- *Promotes family economic success*

The goals of a FRC are to:

- *Support families to be strong, healthy, and successful*
- *Contribute to building a strong and healthy community*
- *Reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect by building the researchbased Strengthening Families Protective Factors*

Most FRC programs offer:

- *Parenting Support*
- *Access to Resources*
- *Child Development Activities*
- *Parent Leadership Development*

The HOSN provides resources, training, and coaching, and program evaluation for the FRCs in the network as well as consultation and support for new FRCs. In collaboration with the work of the HOSN, Act 129, SLH 2022 relating to Family Resource Centers was enacted to establish a FRC Coordinator position to further develop and implement a statewide network of school and community based FRCs; to establish definitions, standards, and best practices; to identify and align available services, goals, and outcomes; and to develop referral and data tracking protocols.

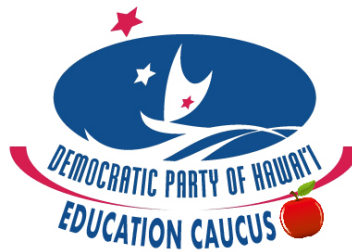
The HOSN is in support the intent of HB1941 for community schools when they are chosen and planned by families and communities in collaboration with schools. We emphasize the importance of having a Family Resource Center on these campuses as an integral part of the community school model to insure there is an accessible and welcoming space on campus with a position dedicated to building relationships with families and working in partnership with them to strengthen families and plan family engagement, in addition to a community liaison position.

The coordination of relationships and resources are needed, **along with purposeful partnership with families** now more than ever, to strengthen families and help students recover from the pandemic to accelerate equitable outcomes in student learning, health, education, and employment.

The HOSN urges collaboration of all stakeholders, including families, to plan and support the community schools strategy and organize the resources in their community towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Sincerely,

Kathleen O'Dell, PhD
HOSN Network Coordinator



HOUSE BILL 55, HD1, RELATING TO EDUCATION

MARCH 2, 2023 · HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE ·
CHAIR REP. KYLE YAMASHITA

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports** HB 55, HD1, relating to education, which requires the department of education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

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 health care. 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

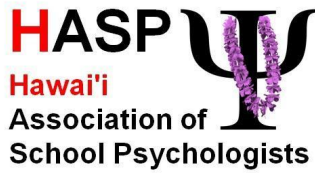
family outreach have seen chronic absenteeism rates fall by 7.8 percent as of 2017, with graduation rates rising 4.8 percent. Engaged learners are more like to acquire the skills necessary to become active citizens and productive members of the workforce. Additionally, since even the most affluent and 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.

Community schools also deliver essential services for working families, including health care, mental wellness programming, dental care, and even social assistance programs like affordable housing connectivity. **In communities that are highly impoverished or remote, these services are critical to mitigating the adverse impact of under-resourced social infrastructure, empowering students to meet their basic needs and sustain their learning trajectories.**

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 creation a laudable strategy for our state's education leaders to pursue.

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



HB55
Relating to Education

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists (HASP) supports HB55:

This bill requires the department of education to establish grant programs to provide funds for planning and implementing community schools.

Research shows that treatment compliance, that is, following through with treatment plans for illness, disease, and other types of treatments offered by community schools, increases by 21 times. Community schools are an effective method to increase the ability of our keiki to receive necessary healthcare services to live healthy lives.

Additionally, community schools can help remove barriers created by transportation insecurity for underfunded communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB55.

Respectfully Submitted:

Alec Marentic, Ed.S., NCSP

HASP President

HB-55-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 8:12:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
phaedra ranges	RAI Hawaii LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Committee on Finance

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

March 1, 2023

RE: Support of HB 55 Relating to Education

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

I support HB1941 that 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.

Community Schools are a proven school improvement strategy focused on student-centered teaching and learning that better serves the holistic needs of all students and their families.

The pandemic made clear that many children lack the support they need to thrive in school. 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.

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.

I urge you to support this bill that would allow more schools to adopt and implement the community schools strategy and organize the resources in their community towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Mahalo for your time in reading this and in supporting the passage of HB55.

With appreciation,

Phaedra Robinson, Ph.D.

HB-55-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 9:10:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martha Rodillas	Island of Hawaii YMCA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- **A time-tested strategy for social and civic needs: Community Schools are a time-tested strategy for connecting students to the supports they need to thrive. They are a proven school improvement strategy, focused on student-centered teaching and learning that better serves the holistic needs of all students and their families.**
- **A strategy that believes in people: In Community Schools, every family and community member is an asset. Each person’s skills, talents, and generosity of time are utilized to build on students’ strengths, engage them as learners, and enable them to reach their full potential.**
- **Community Schools are an investment in children, families, and our shared future. Quality Community Schools support higher student achievement and graduation rates and lead them to become contributing members of society by increasing opportunities for ALL students.**
- **CS is a strategy for transforming high-poverty, low-performing schools into thriving schools. With schools so often serving as centers of community life, transforming schools can lead to transformed communities.**
- **Community Schools work in partnership with community organizations, families, and other agencies to advance student outcomes by integrating student supports, active family and community engagement, collaborative leadership practices, and expanded and enriching learning time. Educators may work with partners such as local companies, nonprofits, and higher education institutions to offer students real-world projects that make learning more relevant and engaging. They build connections that can open the door to future opportunities.**
- **The community schools strategy brings funding and resources into schools that would otherwise not be available to them, resulting in an impressive “return on investment” to the government support provided. [This study](#) shows that each \$1 invested in the Coordinator returns approximately \$7.11 in net benefits.**
- **A Community School strategy is designed and well-suited to address urgent student, family, and community needs in times of crises, as we’ve seen during the global Coronavirus pandemic. It’s a comprehensive recovery plan for our current, unprecedented environment.**
- **Community Schools are able to mobilize their community in times of uncertainty or hardship, through well-established partnerships built on trust. These partnerships can often ensure that basic needs, and other necessities are still available to those who need them.**
- **A CS strategy puts more power in the hands of parents and families.**

- **Kids and families do better when communities work together. More public funding can ensure that ALL students and families benefit from the holistic framework that Community Schools offer--including urban, suburban, and rural communities. It is also a great way to address the needs of parents and students who need specialized support--such as children with disabilities and English language learners.**



Parents And Children Together

BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIPS
THAT MATTER MOST

ParentsAndChildrenTogether.org

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 55 HD1

TO: Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, & Members
House Committee on Finance
FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO
DATE: March 2, 2023 at 2:30 PM

Parents and Children Together (PACT) supports HB 55 HD1 that would require the Department of Education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

In Hawaii, full-service community schools are innovative, thriving hubs of learning in which partnerships and collaboration create reciprocal relationships between learners and place, content and context, and schools and communities. Community Schools are a proven school improvement strategy focused on student-centered teaching and learning that better serves the holistic needs of all students and their families.

The pandemic made clear that many children lack the support they need to thrive in school. Therefore, community schools are needed more than ever as schools must look to families, youth, and community partners to help address barriers to learning.

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.

Founded in 1968, PACT is a statewide community-based organization providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 15,000 people across the state annually, we help identify, address, and successfully resolve challenges through our 20 programs. Among our services are early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.

HB-55-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 10:11:32 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Griffin Bolan	Wai'anae Highschool	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have worked at WHS for the last six years, and can say emphatically that our community would benefit from community school programs' partnerships. As a teacher, I have been stretched thin wearing numerous hats for kids. With programs like this, we can come together as a community and holistically provide for our kids. It's appalling how little we can actually provide for our kids here. Our state as a collective should be ashamed that we are not putting our kids as the number one priority because, as a state, we are going to pay in many ways for the trajectories that our kids have to follow because of a lack of resources and opportunities. Please reach out to me personally at 808-594-7431 if you need any further convincing that our public school system is objectively failing thousands of children.



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

March 2, 2023
Conference Room 308

RE: Support of HB 55 Relating to Education

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

Science Camps of America supports HB55 that 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. Community Schools are a proven school improvement strategy focused on student-centered teaching and learning that better serves the holistic needs of all students and their families.

The pandemic made clear that many children lack the support they need to thrive in school. 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.

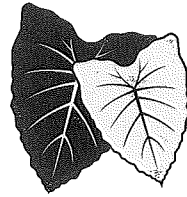
As an organization that offers **intersession STEM Camps and Workshops** in Hawai'i, we have seen first-hand the benefits to the youth that programs like ours provide, not just by expanding their knowledge and understanding of science, engineering, and the environment, but expanding their learning horizons, giving them chances to practice teamwork and collaboration, and enhancing their social skills.

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.

I urge you to support this bill that would allow more schools to adopt and implement the community schools strategy and organize the resources in their community towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Sincerely,

Michael Richards
Executive Director



PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION

March 1, 2023

House Committee on Finance
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Conference Room 308

RE: Support of HB 55 Relating to Education

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

Partners in Development Foundation supports HB1941 that 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. Community Schools are a proven school improvement strategy focused on student-centered teaching and learning that better serves the holistic needs of all students and their families.

The pandemic made clear that many children lack the support they need to thrive in school. 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.

I have personally witnessed the power of the community school model when I visited a community school in McDowell County, WV, a once thriving coal mining town. It is now one of the poorest, drug stricken areas in the U.S. where over 70% of the children had lost their parents to drug use or incarceration and were living with grandparents or in foster care. The community school strategy enabled the school, government agencies, community partners, and the families to unite in order to design innovative solutions that addressed the whole child, the whole family and the whole community. This motivated PIDF to launch the community school model, the Piha Project, on a small scale in North

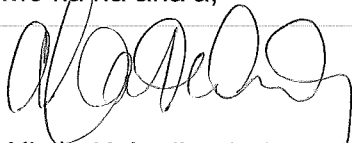
Serving Hawai'i's Families, Living Hawaiian Values

Kohala on the island of Hawai'i. Over the past four years, the Piha Project has worked with the school complex to identify needs and propose and implement solutions for the students and their families to thrive.

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.

Partners in Development Foundation urges you to support this bill that would allow more schools to adopt and implement the community schools strategy and organize the resources in their community towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Masutani', written over a horizontal line.

Alison Kūlanikauha'a Masutani
Vice President of Operations

Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance

1776 University Avenue, WA1-102
Honolulu, HI 96822



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

March 2, 2023
Conference Room 308

RE: Support of HB 55 Relating to Education

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

The Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance supports HB 55, 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 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. Community Schools are a proven school improvement strategy focused on student-centered teaching and learning that better serves the holistic needs of all students and their families.

The pandemic made clear that many children lack the support they need to thrive in school. 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.

Community Schools are an evidence-based strategy that can produce short-term results like improving family engagement and attendance and decreasing behavioral referrals. It is also proven to show long-term results like closing the achievement gap, and improving academic scores and graduation rates. Here are a few examples of impact from the continent:

- Webb Middle School went from the lowest to the highest performing Title 1 middle school in Austin, TX, after five years of being a Community School.
- Cincinnati's Community Schools close the achievement gap between black and white students by 10% in 9 years.
- Durham Public Schools in North Carolina found that teacher turnover rate dropped from a high of 32% to 5% over seven years, and
- A return on investment study in Albuquerque found that for each \$1 invested in a Community School Coordinator, there's a return of \$7.11 net benefits.

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

We urge you to support this bill that would allow more schools to adopt and implement the Community Schools strategy and organize the resources in their community towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Masutani
Program Director
Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance
hawaiiafterschool@gmail.com
www.hawaiiafterschoolalliance.org

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

March 2, 2023
Conference Room 308

RE: Support of HB 55 Relating to Education

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

The **Pioneering Healthier Communities (PHC) Initiative** brings together local, diverse leaders to discuss and support strategies, policies and programs that we can accomplish together to build healthier communities in our island home. The members of PHC Honolulu are involved in supporting efforts that enable children and families to become healthier through schools, afterschool programs, healthcare and more.

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. Community Schools are a proven school improvement strategy focused on student-centered teaching and learning that better serves the holistic needs of all students and their families.

The pandemic made clear that many children lack the support they need to thrive in school. 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.

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.

We urge you to support this bill that would allow more schools to adopt and implement the community schools strategy and organize the resources in their community towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Sincerely,

May Okihiro
Paula Adams
Greg Waibel
Vivian Pham
Lisa Kimura
Diane Tabangay
Ray L'Heureux

HB-55-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 4:57:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angie Miyashiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support community schools it is what keeps us strong.

HB-55-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 10:49:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, 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 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. Community Schools are a proven school improvement strategy focused on student-centered teaching and learning that better serves the needs of all students and their families.

The pandemic made clear that many of our keiki lack the resources and support they need to thrive in school. 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.

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.

As a mother of two children in our public schools, I urge you to support this bill that would allow more schools to adopt and implement the community schools strategy and organize the resources in their community towards the success of our state's learners, families and communities.

Erica Yamauchi, Kaimukī/Wilhelmina Rise

HB-55-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 7:46:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Hoppe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou. I strongly support funding to create grants awarded toward implementing full service community schools. Having worked in education in a student support services center modeled after the community schools model, I have seen first hand the positive effects of approaching the education of our keiki holistically through supporting their basic needs (nutrition and health needs, ‘ohana needs, material needs) in addition to facilitating academic achievement. Schools are hubs for the community, and staff on campus are fortunate enough to interact with families daily, hearing their struggles, celebrations, and where they need the most support. It is only logical that support systems live within these hubs of the community, on the school campus, so that the multitude of needs can be addressed in this central location so we reduce disruption to the student academic time as well as create positive relationships, connection to place, and a broader net of collaborative community support. Mahalo for your time.

HB-55-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2023 11:23:32 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madeline McKinnon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Committee on Finance

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

March 2, 2023

Conference Room 308

RE: Support of HB 55 Relating to Education

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

I personally, along with Waianae High School, support HB1941. I am aware that 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.

Community Schools are a proven school improvement strategy focused on student-centered teaching and learning that better serves the holistic needs of all students and their families.

The pandemic made clear that many children lack the support they need to thrive in school. 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.

Community schools are important to me since I work at a title one school and have seen the barriers to student learning and success. Providing supportive basic foundational care for our students allows them the first step towards equitable access of educational opportunity, and the chance to pursue their dreams.

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.

I urge you to support this bill that would allow more schools to adopt and implement the community schools strategy and organize the resources in their community towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Sincerely,

Madeline McKinnon

10th Biology and Special Education Teacher

Waianae High School