



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

Date: 02/14/2023
Time: 02:15 PM
Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0741 RELATING TO CIVIC EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds to the department of education for the expansion of civic education in the public schools. Establishes two full-time equivalent permanent civic education resource teacher positions, one of which shall be grant funded.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on HB 741, which appropriates funds 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 (Board) in 2018, and the establishment of one 1.00 full-time equivalency (FTE) Civic Education Resource Teacher position in Social Studies to be funded by general appropriations and the establishment of one 1.00 FTE Civic Education Resource Teacher position in Social Studies to be funded by grant funds or private sources.

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.

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 support provided by 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 general funds for the first position, but requiring that the second position be reliant on grant funding could be problematic due to the unpredictable nature of public or private grants which would make funding for the position unreliable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 0741.

Chief Judge Lisa M. Ginoza
Chair

Representative Amy A. Perruso
Vice-Chair

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OHA Board Chair
Carmen Hulu Lindsey

Matt M. Mattice

Prof. Colin Moore

Ruth K. Oh, Esq.

Magistrate Judge
Wes Reber Porter

Testimony to the Thirty-Second Legislature, 2023 Regular Session

House Committee on Education
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Lisa Marten, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 2:15 p.m.
Via Videoconference
Conference Room 309

By
Professor Colin Moore
Member, Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education
(PACE Commission)

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 741, Relating to Civic Education

Purpose: Appropriates funds to the department of education for the expansion of civic education in the public schools. Establishes two full-time equivalent permanent civic education resource teacher positions, one of which shall be grant funded.

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 focused on, and dedicated to, civic education. The DOE has an Educational Specialist for Social Studies who has broad statewide responsibilities related to social studies generally. Just one part of those duties is to address civic education for students in grades K-12. In short, this position has multiple other statewide duties beyond civic education.

Critically, this bill establishes two full-time civic education resource teacher positions, provides funding for one position and that the other position be grant funded. These positions are imperative in order to

have focused attention on everything from training, programs, creating resource materials, and much more, needed for robust civic education in grades K-12 in public schools.

Further, there is a significant shortage in resources for professional development of teachers to teach civics and to support those who are already teaching civics. This bill appropriates necessary funds to expand civic education in public schools, including through professional development and classroom resources related to the existing Hawaii core standards in social studies.

Many in our State recognize the need to focus on civic education in our schools. The more we can improve civic education, the more we can increase civic engagement and have broader participation in our democracy. Indeed, expanding civic education in public schools will provide students with a better understanding about the fundamental workings of government, the rights and responsibilities of citizens, and how each of them can meaningfully engage in making their communities a better place. It is important at this time to take needed action 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 currently 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.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Osa Tui, Jr.
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Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HB 741 - RELATING TO CIVIC EDUCATION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chairs Woodson and and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 741**, relating to civic education. This bill appropriates funds to the Department of Education for the expansion of civic education in public schools. It also establishes two full-time equivalent permanent civic education resource teacher positions, one of which shall be grant funded.

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.

To provide students with meaningful and dynamic learning experiences, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

HB-741

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 2:28:33 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/14/2023 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl B.	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I very much appreciate the intent of this bill and agree that we need more Civics education in our schools starting in the early grades. Because we are looking at allocating funds, I have to question why this is not a part of the Social Studies department or Curriculum/Instruction which already has people working in the departments? I don't want educators to look at Civics education as "one more thing on their plate" in the same way they have done for Nā Hopena Ao. Somehow we need to get our community and educators to understand that Civics (though seemingly US driven) are actually parts of what we know as our island community ways and integrated into all we do. NOT "something more" to fit in.

HB-741

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 2:05:35 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/14/2023 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure for many of the same reasons outlined in my testimony on HB79. For the health and resilience of our democracy, we must nurture and cultivate an informed citizenry that is civically engaged and empowered to participate in democracy. Please support HB741.