



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidsan.org
hawaiikidsan.org

David Miyashiro
Executive Director

March 23, 2023

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

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee,

HawaiiKidsCAN strongly supports HR159/HCR158, which requests the Board of Education, in partnership with the Department of Education, to produce a report on increasing access to tutoring services within and outside of Hawaii's K-12 public schools.

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a local nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawaii has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, has a transformational impact on our children and our state. We strongly believe that all students should have access to excellent educational opportunities, regardless of family income levels and circumstances.

Tutoring is one of the most powerful tools schools and families can use to help kids catch up academically or get ahead. Rigorous research and meta analyses from organizations like MIT's Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) confirm that "tutoring programs consistently lead to large improvements in learning outcomes for students," and that tutoring provides an impact through elements such as additional instructional time, customization of learning, alternative pedagogies, and mentorship bonds.

While the benefits of tutoring seem obvious, access and equity remain challenges for many families. While there may be a proliferation of companies such as Kumon, Sylvan Learning, and Kaplan, these services may not fit into family budgets. This is especially challenging in Hawaii, where the Aloha United Way reports that 33% of residents are defined as ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained) and 9% are living in poverty.

More concerning, experts like Kevin Huffman, a former Tennessee commissioner of education, have found that even the most effective public education systems around the country are only reaching about 5% of their student populations. Even with federal

pandemic recovery funds available to boost tutoring efforts, there is no guarantee that school systems are effectively deploying quality high-impact tutoring programs and making tutoring for all an element of the school system of the future.

While the Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) identified high-dosage tutoring as a priority strategy in its plan for federal ESSER funds, our concern at the time was that other states provided a much higher level of specificity in their plans. For example, Tennessee used funds for a statewide tutoring model, called TN ALL Corps (Tennessee Accelerating Literacy and Learning Corps), that will ensure Tennessee students have access to high-dosage, low ratio tutoring over the next three years. Louisiana has Accelerate, a K-12 just-in-time tutoring initiative, as well as a framework to help schools select from evidence-based programs. Rhode Island launched a math strategy that will provide Eureka specific curriculum implementation supports in the elementary grades, as well as coordinating several tutoring initiatives in the state, such as an expansion of RI's AmeriCorps organizations and a partnership with Schoolhouse.world, Khan Academy's tutoring-focused sister organization, to help align efforts around a common vision for serving students. Meanwhile, HawaiiKidsCAN has not seen any public data relating to the number of Hawaii public school students currently enrolled in tutoring.

HR159/HCR158 is an important step forward for accountability and transparency around tutoring access. Ultimately, we hope this resolution will be the catalyst for how the legislature, BOE, DOE, and community organizations can work together to ensure that every child - regardless of background - can get free or affordable high-quality tutoring support.

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro
Founding Executive Director
HawaiiKidsCAN

HCR-158

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 10:11:10 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/23/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Rafferty	Air Tutors	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 22, 2023

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

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee,

Air Tutors currently provides high-quality tutoring programs on school sites and in communities throughout Hawai'i. Our organization is proud to support HR159/HCR158.

Tutoring is one of the most potent tools that schools, and families can use to close learning gaps and catch students up academically, aiming to get students beyond grade level. Research tells us that additional instructional time, personalized learning, and mentorship through small learning communities have been essential elements for increasing learning. Furthermore, high-quality tutoring programs and high-impact tutoring have been impactful in bolstering learning in a short amount of time.

For example, the efficacy data from our recent randomized controlled trial, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, independently evaluated by Mathematica indicated that [Air Tutors brought 30% more students up to grade level compared to the control group in a 14-week timeline with a 93% student success rate!](#) What if more students throughout Hawai'i had increased access to high-quality tutoring programs?

While the benefits of tutoring have historically only been available to those families that can afford it, access and equity remain challenges for many families. Access to tutoring is limited for families, primarily where the Aloha United Way reports that 33% of residents fall under ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained), and 9% live in poverty.

While the Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE) identified high-dosage tutoring as a priority strategy in its plan for federal ESSER funds, there needs to be public data on the number of Hawai'i public school students currently enrolled in tutoring.

HR159/HCR158 is an important step forward for accountability and transparency around tutoring access so that every child - regardless of background - can receive free or affordable high-quality learning acceleration.

In community,

Megan Rafferty

Growth Lead, Air Tutors

HCR-158

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 10:54:46 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/23/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Preza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting HR159/HCR158