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EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

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
SENATE BILL NO. 2184, S.D. 1

April 5, 2022
1:30 p.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO DIGITAL LEARNING

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

Senate Bill No. 2184, S.D. 1, adds a new section to Chapter 302A, HRS, to establish a Digital Learning Center within the Department of Education to: 1) improve the quality and delivery of digital learning services throughout the public school system; 2) provide resources and services that help students develop and improve their digital literacy skills; and 3) provide resources and services to promote safe computing practices. The measure also establishes an unspecified number of full-time equivalent positions and appropriates an unspecified sum in general funds for FY 23.

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.



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

Date: 04/05/2022

Time: 01:30 PM

Location: 308 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2184, SD1 RELATING TO DIGITAL LEARNING.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a digital learning center within the Department of Education. Appropriates funds to staff and administer the digital learning center. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2184, SD1 and appreciates the Legislature's commitment to digital learning and high-quality educational offerings. The Department is also committed to working with the Legislature and the Hawaii State Board of Education to expand digital learning which will allow for greater educational opportunities for public school students across the state.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the Department to pivot to a virtual learning environment and while in-person learning is still the preferred method for providing the best educational experience for our students, the Department also understands the value of a digital learning center. A digital learning center would provide endless possibilities to support the needs and demands of a technology-rich world. The flexibility in providing courses and opportunities to students in rural areas and smaller schools makes this an opportunity to provide equity of access to content that may not otherwise be available to them.

The digital learning center will serve as a center of innovation for teaching and learning, where curricular materials; instructional strategies; assessments and evaluation tools; and practices to address students' academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs in a virtual setting are developed, implemented, and refined to increase student engagement and achievement.

In the long term, the digital learning center could be a training center to build the pool of virtual learning educators through partnerships with higher education institutions and pre-service students, contributing to the workforce for virtual, blended, and in-person learning.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



Kamehameha Schools®

House Committee on Finance

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Date: April 5, 2022

Where: Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY

By Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona
Vice President, Hi‘ialo

RE: SB 2184, SD1, Relating to Digital Learning

E ka Luna Ho‘omaluku Luke, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omaluku Yamashita, a me nā lālā o ke Kōmike, aloha kākou! My name is Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona, Vice President of Hi‘ialo at Kamehameha Schools.

Kamehameha Schools **supports** SB 2184, SD1, which establishes a digital learning center within the Department of Education and appropriates funds to staff and administer the digital learning center.

Each haumāna (student) is unique and may learn in different ways. Although there were many challenges in education during this pandemic, the wide-spread introduction of digital learning provides all of us an opportunity to reimagine what education looks like in Hawai‘i.

Kamehameha Schools firmly believes in the transformative potential that digital learning offers. As a result, we established KS Digital, a digital tool that offers increased choices, flexibility, and support to help our haumāna (students) discover their personal potential. Additionally, we’ve launched Kaulu by KS Digital, a digital learning portal that will grow to connect haumāna (students) and ‘ohana (families) to a broad range of community-created learning opportunities across Hawai‘i.

This bill will ensure that students in Hawai‘i’s public education system will continue to benefit from the ever-growing advantages and opportunities that digital learning can offer. It also allows us to reimagine what education in our state could be.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an educational organization striving to restore our people through education and advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

Hānai i ke keiki, ola ka lāhui; nurture the child and the people thrive. **Please advance this measure.**



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 1:30 P.M.
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference**

RE: SB 2184 SD1 Relating to Digital Learning

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

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 2184 SD1 which Establishes a establishes a digital learning center within the Department of Education. It also appropriates funds to staff and administer the digital learning center.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Through strategic and deliberate collaboration, the Chamber is investing in K-12 career and technical education, and synergy with business community, resulting in new industry partner connections, sector-driven workforce development solutions, increased certification attainment and high-quality work-based learning (WBL) experiences.

Establishing a digital learning center in Hawaii schools would ensure that students learn the necessary skills that would prepare them for the 21st century economy and for employment after graduation. While digitization offers advantages to employees with extensive digital literacy, it also increases barriers for members of the workforce who lack digital skills. Increasing digital literacy among students and members of the workforce would increase their competitiveness in an economy increasingly defined by the ability to use digital tools.

With the rise in workforce shortages across multiple industries, this bill will help students graduate and participate in the modern-day workplace, while also strengthening and diversifying our economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Tangent



House Committee on Finance

Date: April 5, 2022

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Where: Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

RE: **Supporting SB2184 SD1** Relating to digital learning

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

As members of the Broadband Hui, the listed organizations and individuals **SUPPORT SB2184 SD1**, that establishes a digital learning center within the Department of Education.

For more than 20 months, our organizations have collaborated, each within their own ability, to increase Hawai'i's digital capacity, thereby supporting the continuity of social connections, education, employment, and access to other essential services throughout the pandemic. Through the work of the Broadband Hui, we have supported broadband infrastructure development in rural communities, provided digital devices for students and families, supported the accessibility of telehealth, provided information on low-cost internet options, and adopted a Digital Equity Declaration to set a vision and goals for a more equitable digital future.

As we stated at the outset of the pandemic, addressing digital inequity through broadband access, digital literacy, and digitally-enabled societal systems is one of our greatest opportunities for economic and social recovery, diversification, and resilience. The truth of this statement has been proven throughout the past two years, and is even more urgent as we look toward future recovery -- now with a once-in-a-generation opportunity with robust funding inbound with the American Recovery Act.

In order to build a thriving digital economy in Hawai'i, our keiki need to be equipped with the skills, tools, and experiences to be the next generation of industry leaders.

For these reasons, we kindly request you **PASS SB2184 SD1**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

(Please see names on the following page.)

	Name	Organization	Email Address	Zip
1	Laura Arcibal	Hawaii Department of Health	laura.arcibal@doh.hawaii.gov	96813
2	Mark Iha	Tangent Inc.	mark@tangent.systems	96813
3	Riley Saito	Succeed Hawaii, LLC	rsaito@succeedhawaii.com	96740
4	David Sun-Miyashiro	HawaiiKidsCAN	David.miyashiro@hawaiikids.org	96734
5	Sean Taketa McLaughlin		seantaketa@gmail.com	96817