

**SB-2823-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2022 5:06:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Makayla Fitzpatrick	DOE	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need highly qualified mental health professionals in schools and since there is a shortage of these professionals, allotting more money to recognize those with the national certification will attract more to apply and decrease turnover, which has been a severe issue. Futhermore, a lack of qualified school psychologist is a severe disservice not only to the students, but to staff seeking their updated expertise at school. Students in Hawaii deserve highly qualified professionals, who should be distinguished for attaining national certification in their field of expertise. School psychologists who are nationally certified are ethically required to follow national standards and keep up with relevant professional development which will hold future school psychology applicants to a higher degree of expectation. This will provide quality support in our schools.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**

P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

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. 2823, S.D. 2, H.D. 1

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

**RELATING TO EDUCATION**

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

Senate Bill No. 2823, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, adds a new section to Chapter 302A, HRS, to establish a Nationally Certified School Psychologist Incentive Program (NCSPIP) within the Department of Education (DOE). The bill also appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds to the DOE for FY 23 to offer incentive pay for the NCSPIP.

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 2823, SD2, HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes a nationally certified school psychologist incentive program. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) provides the following comments on SB 2823 SD2, HD1, which establishes a nationally certified school psychologist incentive program and appropriates funds.

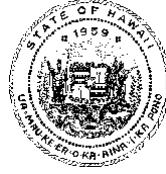
The Department appreciates that HD1 assists our goal of incentivizing school psychologists who provide critical school psychology services to students in need.

The Department does want to point out that employee compensation is more appropriately the subject of collective bargaining. If the proposed bill were to be enacted, the Department would require additional funding to cover the annual costs for the fiscal year 2022-2023 and beyond.

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 promote equity and access to needed resources and support for all students and schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on SB 2823, SD2, HD1.





**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**OFFICE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
235 S. BERETANIA STREET, SUITE 1201  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

**TESTIMONY TO THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

For Hearing on Tuesday, April 5, 2022  
1:30 p.m., Conference Room 308 Via Video Conference

By

RYKER WADA  
CHIEF NEGOTIATOR

**Senate Bill No. 2823 SD2 HD1**  
**Relating to Education**

**(WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY)**

CHAIRPERSON LUKE, VICE-CHAIR YAMASHITA, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The purpose of Senate Bill No. 2823 SD2 HD1 is to establish a nationally certified school psychologist incentive program; and appropriate funds for the program.

The Office of Collective Bargaining (OCB) respectfully **opposes** S.B. 2823 SD2 HD1 based on the following:

- 1) Compensation, including incentives and bonuses, of public sector employees is subject to collective bargaining pursuant to Chapter 89, HRS.
- 2) The OCB believes this measure may set a precedent and create undue inequities. Other similarly situated employees, including psychologists employed in other State departments, will expect the same type of legislated incentive program.
- 3) While the OCB defers to the Department of Budget & Finance with regard to the actual costs associated with this type of incentive payment program, it is OCB's opinion that the immediate and ongoing costs may be significant.
- 4) The OCB is extremely concerned about the unintended consequences this measure may have on current and future negotiations. For example, bargaining units may see this as an opportunity to get "two bites of the apple" by seeking items both at the collective bargaining table and through the legislature.

Based on the above, the OCB respectfully requests that this measure be **held**. Thank you for considering our concerns and for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**SB-2823-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 5:04:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alec Marentic	Hawaii Association of School Psychologists	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke and members of the committee,

I **support** SB2823 SD2 HD1 in its amending Chapter 302A of the Hawai‘i Revised Statutes to establish within the department a school psychologist national certification incentive program. Mental and behavioral health experts are needed in schools now more than ever. This proposed amendment will support the recruitment and retention of highly qualified school psychologists, who are mental and behavioral health experts.

Recruiting and retaining school psychologists with an NCSP, and promoting eligible school psychologists to obtain an NCSP, will benefit keiki and their ‘Ohana. First and foremost, it will support the State’s ongoing efforts to address critical staffing shortages. The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of 1 school psychologist to every 500 students; however, many school psychologists in the State have more than 1,500 students. Equitably allocating stipends for nationally certified staff across all educators will help address this shortage, and with additional federal funds available for schools, it is a good time to expand the Hawai‘i Revised Statutes to include school psychologists. Second, a school psychologist who is nationally certified is legally and ethically required to follow uniform national standards guiding the practice of school psychology, which includes providing keiki and youth with high quality, evidence-based practices in the areas of academic achievement, mental and behavioral health, school and community safety, family-school partnerships, and due process protection against malpractice.

Several grant and federal emergency relief programs are currently available to the State to utilize in financing these expenditures. For example, ESSER-III funds. Additionally, the Biden Administration approved fiscal year 2023 budget includes an additional \$16 million to address shortages in school-based mental health professionals. The state has on average 1 school psychologist to every 2,858 students, yet they receive markedly low shortage differentials, and are not eligible for incentive bonuses that other educators with similar national certifications currently have access to. With additional monies on the table for states to utilize in recruiting, retaining, and developing school-based mental health professionals, now is the time to establish an equitable national certification incentive bonus for school psychologists.

In closing, I hope the legislature will pass this measure without issue. Incentive bonuses have been passed legislatively in the past, and therefore this incentive bonus can also be done legislatively.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alec Marentic, **NCSP**

*School Psychologist, KKP Complex Area*





Committee on Finance  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

April 5, 2022

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

We support SB 2823 SD2 HD1, which establishes a school psychologist national certification incentive program.

HE'E Coalition believes that social-emotional learning (SEL) is essential for the teaching and learning of our students. Qualified school psychologists help provide critical SEL supports. Just as teachers have a national certification incentive program, so should our school psychologists. There should be parity among all educators.

Hui for Excellence in Education, or "HE'E," promotes a child-centered and strength-based public education system in which families, communities and schools are valued and empowered to help every student succeed. HE'E works to bring diverse stakeholders together to harness collective energy, share resources, and identify opportunities for progressive action in education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support represents a 75% consensus or more of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura  
HE'E Coalition Director



Academy 21  
American Civil Liberties Union  
Alliance for Place Based Learning  
\*Castle Complex Community Council  
Coalition for Children with Special Needs  
Education Institute of Hawai'i  
\*Faith Action for Community Equity  
Fresh Leadership LLC  
Girl Scouts Hawaii  
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation  
\*HawaiiKidsCAN  
\*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance  
\*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
\*Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists  
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars  
\*Hawai'i Children's Action Network  
Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition  
Hawai'i Scholars for Education and Social Justice  
\* Hawai'i State PTSA  
Hawai'i State Student Council  
Hawai'i State Teachers Association  
Hawai'i P-20  
Hawai'i 3Rs  
\*Hawai'i Youth Service  
Head Start Collaboration Office  
It's All About Kids  
\*INPEACE  
Joint Venture Education Forum  
Junior Achievement of Hawaii  
Kamehameha Schools  
Kanu Hawai'i

Kaua'i Ho'okele Council  
Keiki to Career Kaua'i  
Kupu A'e  
\*Leaders for the Next Generation  
Learning First  
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds  
Native Hawaiian Education Council  
Our Public School  
\*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning  
\*Parents and Children Together  
\*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i  
Special Education Provider Alliance  
\*Teach for America  
The Learning Coalition  
US PACOM  
University of Hawai'i College of Education

*Voting Members (\*) Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*



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

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: SB 2823, SD2 HD1- RELATING TO EDUCATION

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB2823 SD2 HD1**, relating to education. This bill establishes a nationally certified school psychologist incentive program and makes an unspecified appropriation to the Department of Education (DOE) to offer incentive pay.

**Mental and behavioral health experts are needed in schools now more than ever. This bill will support the recruitment and retention of highly qualified nationally certified school psychologists in our schools. This would be especially helpful since state licensing for school psychologists is not yet available in our state (the only state in the nation without state licensing for school psychologists).**

Recruiting and retaining school psychologists with an NCSP, and promoting eligible school psychologists to obtain an NCSP, will benefit our keiki and their families. First and foremost, it will support the state's ongoing efforts to address critical staffing shortages. **The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of 1 school psychologist to every 500 students; however, in Hawaii many school psychologists have a ratio of more than 1,500 students. This is unacceptable.**

A school psychologist who is nationally certified is legally and ethically required to follow uniform national standards guiding the practice of school psychology, which includes providing keiki and youth with high quality, evidence-based practices in the areas of academic achievement, mental and behavioral health, school and community safety, family-school partnerships, and due process protection against malpractice.

**School psychologists, especially during these pandemic times, when our teachers need them for our students even more than ever, should be better compensated for their essential work as mental health professionals. We need to encourage Nationally Certified School Psychologists to work at our**

**schools and encourage them to stay at our schools, especially those schools with the greatest need.**

Accordingly, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

**RANDY PERREIRA**, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
Committee on Finance

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

April 5, 2022

S.B. 2823, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 — RELATING TO EDUCATION

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 2823, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, which appropriates funds to establish a school psychologist national certification incentive program.

There are currently only 60 school psychologists servicing 180,000 students in nearly 300 public schools and charter schools statewide. This means each psychologist services six times more students than what is recommended by the National Association of School Psychologists. Not only would this program recognize and support those who are already nationally certified, but it would incentivize the many wishing to be certified who find it financially unattainable. Hawaii does not have local graduate programs for school psychologists so this would make Hawaii more competitive with other states who already offer this incentive program.

While this will certainly aid in the recruitment and retention of school psychologists, the program will also help the Hawaii Department of Education to mitigate learning loss resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. School psychologists are critical to supporting the efforts to prioritize students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2823, S.D. 2., H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director



April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 S Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

## SB2823 SD1, School Psychologist National Certification Incentive Program

Aloha Chair Luke and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists supports SB2823 SD1 in its amending Chapter 302A of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to establish within the department a school psychologist national certification incentive program. Mental and behavioral health experts are needed in schools now more than ever. This proposed amendment will support the recruitment and retention of highly qualified school psychologists, who are mental and behavioral health experts.

The Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) is comparable to, or more rigorous than, many national certifications across other school professionals, such as teachers, school counselors, speech and language pathologists, and occupational therapists. The credential promotes excellence in the field of school psychology through rigorous standards of graduate preparation, ethical practice, and competency. Additionally, nationally certified school psychologists must engage in activities designed to maintain, expand, and extend their professional training and skills. Recertification is required every 3 years, with no less than 75 hours of continuing professional development activities.

Recruiting and retaining school psychologists with an NCSP, and encouraging eligible school psychologists to obtain an NCSP, will benefit keiki and their 'Ohana. First and foremost, it will support the State's ongoing efforts to address critical staffing shortages. The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of 1 school psychologist to every 500 students; however, many school psychologists in the State have more than 1,500 students. Equitably allocating stipends for nationally certified staff across all educators will help address this shortage, and with additional federal funds available for schools, it is a good time to expand the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to include school psychologists. Second, a school psychologist who is nationally certified is legally and ethically required to follow uniform national standards guiding the practice of school psychology, which includes providing keiki and youth with high quality, evidence-based practices in the areas of academic achievement, mental and behavioral health, school and community safety, family-school partnerships, and due process protection against malpractice.

In closing, The Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists appreciates this opportunity to testify on SB2823. We are dedicated to maintain, expand, and extend the profession of school psychology, and support the State's efforts to recruit and retain high quality educators. We are available to provide additional information at the Legislature's request.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Baunach  
NASP Delegate-Hawaii & HASP Legislative Co-Chair  
Email: [hasp808@gmail.com](mailto:hasp808@gmail.com)

3/1/2022  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 S Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

SB2823 SD1, School Psychologist National Certification Incentive Program

Aloha members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

I support SB2823 SD1 in its amending Chapter 302A of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to establish within the department a school psychologist national certification incentive program. Mental and behavioral health experts are needed in schools now more than ever. This proposed amendment will support the recruitment and retention of highly qualified school psychologists.

Recruiting and retaining school psychologists with an NCSP, and promoting eligible school psychologists to obtain an NCSP will benefit students and their families. First and foremost, it will support the state's ongoing efforts to address critical staffing shortages. The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) recommends a ratio of 1 school psychologist to every 500 students; however, many school psychologists in the state have more than 1500 students. Equitably allocating stipends for nationally certified staff across all educators will help address this shortage, and with additional federal funds available for schools, it is a good time to expand the Hawaii Revised Statutes to include school psychologists. This will allow Hawaii to be as competitive as the mainland in the recruitment and retention of school psychologists. With the higher cost of living and year round work schedule in Hawaii, we have lost lots of good psychologists to the mainland. As a result, the ones who have continued to stay are becoming overworked, burnt out, and have developed low morale due to taking on additional whole schools.

Second, a school psychologist who is nationally certified is legally and ethically required to follow uniform national standards guiding the practice of school psychology, which includes providing keiki and youth with high quality, evidence-based practices in the area of academic achievement, mental and behavioral health, school and community safety, family-school partnerships, and due process protection against malpractice.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jared Kono

**SB-2823-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2022 1:15:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

These people only screw the Chidren up more we can do with out them!!!



SB2823 SD2 HD1, School Psychologist National Certification Incentive Program

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

I support SB2823 SD2 HD1 in its amending Chapter 302A of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to establish within the department a school psychologist national certification incentive program. Mental and behavioral health experts are needed in schools now more than ever. This proposed amendment will support the recruitment and retention of highly qualified school psychologists, who are mental and behavioral health experts.

Recruiting and retaining school psychologists with an NCSP, and promoting eligible school psychologists to obtain an NCSP, will benefit keiki and their 'Ohana. First and foremost, it will support the State's ongoing efforts to address critical staffing shortages. The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of 1 school psychologist to every 500 students; however, many school psychologists in the State have more than 1,500 students. Equitably allocating stipends for nationally certified staff across all educators will help address this shortage, and with additional federal funds available for schools, it is a good time to expand the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to include school psychologists. Second, a school psychologist who is nationally certified is legally and ethically required to follow uniform national standards guiding the practice of school psychology, which includes providing keiki and youth with high quality, evidence-based practices in the areas of academic achievement, mental and behavioral health, school and community safety, family-school partnerships, and due process protection against malpractice.

In order to obtain National Certification, I have had to accrue more financial burden and endure more rigorous educational programming with additional credits than are required for School Psychologists who only obtain a master's degree and have not needed to pass licensing exams. Therefore, it is imperative that we incentivize all School Psychologists to obtain higher levels of training and more incentives to better support our keiki and their 'Ohana.

In closing, I, Nicole Jones, take this opportunity to testify on SB2823 SD2 HD1, and urge the legislature to pass SB2823 SD2 HD1 and implement a school psychologist national certification incentive program.

Respectfully Submitted,



Nicole Jones, Ed.S., NCSP  
School Psychologist  
Hawai'i Island

**SB-2823-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2022 3:35:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keri Anacker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

4/1/22 SB2823 SD2 HD1

In most school districts in America, teachers and administrators holding national board certification are awarded stipends for this accomplishment; many states and school districts have already succeeded in adopting legislation and school board policies that provide a salary incentive for school psychologists who earn their NCSP as well. These stipends (a) are viewed as good recruitment and retention tools; (b) promote the employment of highly qualified personnel; and (c) support the delivery of high quality mental health services for students and families. To reach National Certification, a School Psychologist must meet the rigorous credentialing standards of the National Association of School Psychology (NASP). Those standards include extensive coursework, a supervised practicum year, an additional supervised 1200-hour internship, the completion of a degree at a Specialists level and/or Doctorate level, and a passing score on the School Psychologist comprehensive exam. Hawaii's keiki deserve highly qualified mental health professionals in schools. In this state, we recognize exemplary teaching practice in our schools through an incentive, which is given to public school teachers who have achieved national board certification under the certification program of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Let's do the same for School Psychologists.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Keri Anacker, MA, (Proud) NCSP

**SB-2823-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2022 3:40:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bonnie Anacker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need this to pass because of the school psychologist shortage in Hawaii, this should encourage more to apply and more importantly, retain these important employees. The national cert holds them to a higher standard, isn't that what our children deserve? Thank you.

**SB-2823-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 9:54:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chia-Chen Lin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**SB2823 SD2 HD1, School Psychologist National Certification Incentive Program Aloha Chair Luke and members of the committee,**

**I support SB2823 SD2 HD1 in its amending Chapter 302A of the Hawai‘i Revised Statutes to establish within the department a school psychologist national certification incentive program. Mental and behavioral health experts are needed in schools now more than ever. This proposed amendment will support the recruitment and retention of highly qualified school psychologists, who are mental and behavioral health experts.**

**Recruiting and retaining school psychologists with an NCSP, and promoting eligible school psychologists to obtain an NCSP, will benefit keiki and their ‘Ohana. First and foremost, it will support the State’s ongoing efforts to address critical staffing shortages. The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of 1 school psychologist to every 500 students; however, many school psychologists in the State have more than 1,500 students. Equitably allocating stipends for nationally certified staff across all educators will help address this shortage, and with additional federal funds available for schools, it is a good time to expand the Hawai‘i Revised Statutes to include school psychologists. Second, a school psychologist who is nationally certified is legally and ethically required to follow uniform national standards guiding the practice of school psychology, which includes providing keiki and youth with high quality, evidence-based practices in the areas of academic achievement, mental and behavioral health, school and community safety, family-school partnerships, and due process protection against malpractice.**

**Several grant and federal emergency relief programs are currently available to the State to utilize in financing these expenditures. For example, ESSER-III funds. Additionally, the Biden Administrations approved fiscal year 2023 budget includes an additional \$16 million to address shortages in school-based mental health professionals. The state has on average 1 school psychologist to every 2,858 students, yet they receive markedly low shortage differentials, and are not eligible for incentive bonuses that other educators with similar national certifications currently have access to. With additional monies on the table for states to utilize in recruiting, retaining, and developing school-based mental health professionals, now is the time to establish an equitable national certification incentive bonus for school psychologists.**

**I am a nationally certified school psychologist (NCSP) working in Kahulu, Hawaii. I work in Pomaikai Elementary, Kahului Elementary, Makawao Elementary and Maui High School. The mission statement of the National Association of School Psychologists of “Helping children and youth thrive. In School. At home. In Life” is my conviction while serving children and their families in Maui, Hawaii. The national certification incentive program is one of the best ways to recognize school psychologists’ dedication and hard work in the State of Hawaii. The implementation of the incentive program will help retain qualified professionals and ensure the quality of psychological services rendered meet the national standards. Additionally, the cost of living is exceptionally high in Hawaii, and it is not easy to make ends meet with the current salary I receive as a school psychologist. I hope that I will be able to continue to work as a NCSP in Hawaii and make enough to support myself. Please feel free to reach out with any questions. Thank you very much for your consideration.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Chia-Chen Lin**

**SB-2823-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 4:59:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Selena Bavaro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

April 3, 2022

Hawai'i State Capitol

415 S Beretania St.

Honolulu, HI 96813

SB2823 SD2 HD1, School Psychologist National Certification Incentive Program Aloha Chair Luke and members of the committee,

I support SB2823 SD2 HD1 in its amending Chapter 302A of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to establish within the department a school psychologist national certification incentive program. Mental and behavioral health experts are needed in schools now more than ever. This proposed amendment will support the recruitment and retention of highly qualified school psychologists, who are mental and behavioral health experts.

Recruiting and retaining school psychologists with an NCSP, and promoting eligible school psychologists to obtain an NCSP, will benefit keiki and their 'Ohana. First and foremost, it will support the State's ongoing efforts to address critical staffing shortages. The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of 1 school psychologist to every 500 students; however, many school psychologists in the State have more than 1,500 students. Equitably allocating stipends for nationally certified staff across all educators will help address this shortage, and with additional federal funds available for schools, it is a good time to expand the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to include school psychologists. Second, a school psychologist who is nationally certified is legally and ethically required to follow uniform national standards guiding the practice of school psychology, which includes providing keiki and youth with high quality, evidence-based practices in the areas of academic achievement, mental and behavioral health, school and community safety, family-school partnerships, and due process protection against malpractice.

Several grant and federal emergency relief programs are currently available to the State to utilize in financing these expenditures. For example, ESSER-III funds. Additionally, the Biden Administrations approved fiscal year 2023 budget includes an additional \$16 million to address shortages in school-based mental health professionals. The state has on average 1 school

psychologist to every 2,858 students, yet they receive markedly low shortage differentials, and are not eligible for incentive bonuses that other educators with similar national certifications currently have access to. With additional monies on the table for states to utilize in recruiting, retaining, and developing school-based mental health professionals, now is the time to establish an equitable national certification incentive bonus for school psychologists.

Respectfully Submitted,

Selena Bavaro, Leeward District Oahu, NCSP

**SB-2823-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 8:11:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kari Arneson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

04/03/2022

Hawai'i State Capitol 415 S Beretania St. Honolulu, HI 96813

SB2823 SD2 HD1, School Psychologist National Certification Incentive Program Aloha Chair Luke and members of the committee,

I support SB2823 SD2 HD1 in its amending Chapter 302A of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to establish within the department a school psychologist national certification incentive program. Mental and behavioral health experts are needed in schools now more than ever. This proposed amendment will support the recruitment and retention of highly qualified school psychologists, who are mental and behavioral health experts.

Recruiting and retaining school psychologists with an NCSP, and promoting eligible school psychologists to obtain an NCSP, will benefit keiki and their 'Ohana. First and foremost, it will support the State's ongoing efforts to address critical staffing shortages. The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of 1 school psychologist to every 500 students; however, many school psychologists in the State have more than 1,500 students. Equitably allocating stipends for nationally certified staff across all educators will help address this shortage, and with additional federal funds available for schools, it is a good time to expand the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to include school psychologists. Second, a school psychologist who is nationally certified is legally and ethically required to follow uniform national standards guiding the practice of school psychology, which includes providing keiki and youth with high quality, evidence-based practices in the areas of academic achievement, mental and behavioral health, school and community safety, family-school partnerships, and due process protection against malpractice.

Receiving a School Psychologist National Certification incentive will recognize school psychologists in the state of Hawai'i with the highest level of certification in the field. This will additionally help maintain the highest level of training and service by school psychologist on behalf of Hawai'i's keiki and Ohana. Additionally, it will incentivize other school psychologist, to reach for this same certification, further supporting the field and the community of the state. As Hawai'i has yet to license school psychologists in the state, the incentive program will also provide additional recognition of a credential to help supplement licensure until the state attains the necessary licensure program. As many other working professionals in the DOE already have



certification bonuses, this will recognize school psychologists in the state with the same much needed and deserved support.

Several grant and federal emergency relief programs are currently available to the State to utilize in financing these expenditures. For example, ESSER-III funds. Additionally, the Biden Administrations approved fiscal year 2023 budget includes an additional \$16 million to address shortages in school-based mental health professionals. The state has on average 1 school psychologist to every 2,858 students, yet they receive markedly low shortage differentials, and are not eligible for incentive bonuses that other educators with similar national certifications currently have access to. With additional monies on the table for states to utilize in recruiting, retaining, and developing school-based mental health professionals, now is the time to establish an equitable national certification incentive bonus for school psychologists.

In closing, insert closing statements.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kari Arneson

**SB-2823-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 8:32:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Taylor Clark	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

04/03/2022

Hawai'i State Capitol

415 S Beretania St.

Honolulu, HI 96813

SB2823 SD2 HD1, School Psychologist National Certification Incentive Program Aloha Chair Luke and members of the committee,

I support SB2823 SD2 HD1 in its amending Chapter 302A of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to establish within the department a school psychologist national certification incentive program. Mental and behavioral health experts are needed in schools now more than ever. This proposed amendment will support the recruitment and retention of highly qualified school psychologists, who are mental and behavioral health experts.

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This bill is important because it will support schools psychologists in Hawai'i. School psychologists especially support students identified with disabilities in Hawai'i, who need professional care to access the type of care/education they need. They can also help aid, guide, and mentor the youth, parents and educators of the community; they provide services,

confidence, and support that can help the school community cope with some of the difficulties that can arise with dealing with kids with special needs, and they can help the school system to strengthen itself and build a better, brighter future for the Ohana of Hawaii.

Several grant and federal emergency relief programs are currently available to the State to utilize in financing these expenditures. For example, ESSER-III funds. Additionally, the Biden Administrations approved fiscal year 2023 budget includes an additional \$16 million to address shortages in school-based mental health professionals. The state has on average 1 school psychologist to every 2,858 students, yet they receive markedly low shortage differentials, and are not eligible for incentive bonuses that other educators with similar national certifications currently have access to. With additional monies on the table for states to utilize in recruiting, retaining, and developing school-based mental health professionals, now is the time to establish an equitable national certification incentive bonus for school psychologists.

In closing, this bill is very important to the community of Hawai'i.

Respectfully Submitted,

Taylor Clark

Testimony Support Regarding SB2823 SD2 HD1  
**National Certification Incentive Program**  
Tuesday April 05, 2022

Aloha e,

I am a School Psychologist from the island of Maui and am writing in support of SB2823 SD2 HD1 to establish the national certification incentive program within the Hawai'i Department of Education to include Nationally Certified School Psychologists (NCSPs).

To reach National Certification, a School Psychologist must meet the rigorous credentialing standards of the National Association of School Psychology (NASP). Those standards include extensive coursework, a supervised practicum year, an additional supervised 1200-hour internship, the completion of a degree at a Specialists level and/or Doctorate level, and a passing score on the School Psychologist comprehensive exam.

Maintaining ones NCSP demonstrates continued professional excellence to the field. In order for a School Psychologist to successfully renew and maintain their NCSP status, documentation of 75 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) hours must be obtained every three (3) years. Qualifying CPD hours are completed in a variety of topics pertaining to the field of School Psychology, to include training in ethics/legal regulation, and from sources such as NASP or American Psychological Association (APA) approved providers. This insures that the NCSP practitioner remains current and informed on best practices.

Those who hold a National Certification in School Psychology meet the established national standards for graduate preparation and continuing professional development. This is a similar standard that is set-forth for teachers who achieve their status as a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT). In Hawai'i, we recognize exemplary teaching practice in our schools through an incentive, which is given to public school teachers who have achieved national board certification under the certification program of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Through the passing of this bill, Hawai'i will also be able to recognize School Psychologists who hold national designations through this incentive program.

Additionally, the passing of this bill will have a positive influence on recruitment efforts of School Psychologists in Hawai'i, as well as in retaining highly qualified professionals in our schools.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Hoke, Ed.S.

Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP)

Treasurer of the Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists

April 4, 2022  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 S Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

## SB2823 SD2 HD1, School Psychologist National Certification Incentive Program

Aloha Chair Luke and members of the committee,

I **support** SB2823 SD2 HD1 in its amending Chapter 302A of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to establish within the department a school psychologist national certification incentive program. Mental and behavioral health experts are needed in schools now more than ever. This proposed amendment will support the recruitment and retention of highly qualified school psychologists, who are mental and behavioral health experts.

Recruiting and retaining school psychologists with an NCSP, and promoting eligible school psychologists to obtain an NCSP, will benefit keiki and their 'Ohana. First and foremost, it will support the State's ongoing efforts to address critical staffing shortages. The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of 1 school psychologist to every 500 students; however, many school psychologists in the State have more than 1,500 students. Equitably allocating stipends for nationally certified staff across all educators will help address this shortage, and with additional federal funds available for schools, it is a good time to expand the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to include school psychologists. Second, a school psychologist who is nationally certified is legally and ethically required to follow uniform national standards guiding the practice of school psychology, which includes providing keiki and youth with high quality, evidence-based practices in the areas of academic achievement, mental and behavioral health, school and community safety, family-school partnerships, and due process protection against malpractice.

As a school psychologist with an NCSP, I participate in on-going professional development opportunities, which is required to maintain my certification. It encourages maintaining a high standard of practice. I feel that this is an important factor to consider to ensure that our keiki are being supported by mental and behavioral health experts who hold certifications at the national level.

Several grant and federal emergency relief programs are currently available to the State to utilize in financing these expenditures. For example, ESSER-III funds. Additionally, the Biden Administrations approved fiscal year 2023 budget includes an additional \$16 million to address shortages in school-based mental health professionals. The state has on average 1 school psychologist to every 2,858 students, yet they receive markedly low shortage differentials, and are not eligible for incentive bonuses that other educators with similar national certifications currently have access to. With additional monies on the table for states to utilize in recruiting, retaining, and developing school-based mental health professionals, now is the time to establish an equitable national certification incentive bonus for school psychologists.

In closing, I am in support of passing bill, SB 2823 SD2 HD1 to help meet the needs of our students in Hawai'i.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jamie Tagomori  
Ed.S., NCSP

4/4/2022  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 S Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

SB2823 SD2 HD1, School Psychologist National Certification Incentive Program

Aloha members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

I support SB2823 in its amending Chapter 302A of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to establish within the department a school psychologist national certification incentive program. Mental and behavioral health experts are needed in schools now more than ever. This proposed amendment will support the recruitment and retention of highly qualified school psychologists, who are mental and behavioral health experts.

Recruiting and retaining school psychologists with an NCSP, and promoting eligible school psychologists to obtain an NCSP, will benefit keiki and their 'Ohana. First and foremost, it will support the State's ongoing efforts to address critical staffing shortages. The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of 1 school psychologist to every 500 students; however, many school psychologists in the State have more than 1,500 students. Equitably allocating stipends for nationally certified staff across all educators will help address this shortage, and with additional federal funds available for schools, it is a good time to expand the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to include school psychologists. Second, a school psychologist who is nationally certified is legally and ethically required to follow uniform national standards guiding the practice of school psychology, which includes providing keiki and youth with high quality, evidence-based practices in the areas of academic achievement, mental and behavioral health, school and community safety, family-school partnerships, and due process protection against malpractice.

There is a crucial shortage in the state of Hawaii for School Psychologists. As a School Psychologist in Central District, I am consumed with three times as many students than what is recommended by the National Association for School Psychologists for a School Psychologist. Passing SB2823 will incentivize qualified School Psychologists to apply and remain in the state of Hawaii as School Psychologists. The cost of living is extremely high compared to what we make and in comparison to what we could be making in the same position on the mainland. Please help us and our keiki get the support that we need.

Several grant and federal emergency relief programs are currently available to the State to utilize in financing these expenditures. For example, ESSER-III funds. Additionally, the Biden Administrations approved fiscal year 2023 budget includes an additional \$16 million to address shortages in school-based mental health professionals. The state has on average 1 school psychologist to every 2,858 students, yet they receive markedly low shortage differentials, and are not eligible for incentive bonuses that other educators with similar national certifications currently have access to. With additional monies on the table for states to utilize in recruiting, retaining, and developing school-based mental health professionals, now is the time to establish an equitable national certification incentive bonus for school psychologists.

In closing, I support SB2823 because I believe that our schools in Hawaii are in dire need of qualified mental health support and we need to be able to retain our School Psychologist positions.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Traci Effinger, School Psychologist, Central District Oahu

Testimony Support Regarding SB2823  
National Certification Incentive Program  
April 4, 2022

Aloha,

I am a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP), currently working within the Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE). I am writing in support of Hawai'i State Legislative Bill SB2823 to amend the provisions of the national incentive program within the DOE to include NCSPs in the state of Hawai'i. Mental and behavioral health experts are needed in schools now more than ever. This proposed amendment will motivate more School Psychologists to achieve this standard, which will protect our keiki by holding professionals to the highest standard. It will also support the recruitment and retention of highly qualified School Psychologists, who are experts in the field.

As School Psychologists, we work in public schools to provide psychoeducational support to students in need to facilitate their educational and social-emotional progress. Our roles as School Psychologists directly impact students' futures on a day-to-day basis. This impact we have on students' futures is tremendous; however, in order for this impact to be the best possible, schools within the state need exemplary practitioners. The stringent requirements of the NCSP credential ensure that School Psychologists have received rigorous training and continue to stay current in the field through Continuing Professional Development (CPD). This NCSP credential, in turn, guarantees that School Psychologists have received the best possible knowledge-base and tools to allow the greatest positive impact possible on students' futures. To encourage this, it would be beneficial for the state to amend the provisions of the national incentive program with the DOE to include NCSPs in the state of Hawaii.

Specifically, the NCSP credential is comparable to the National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) status, in that they both signify impressive professional credentialing. To become an NCSP, rigorous standards need to be met, as this credential does not come easily. The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) has developed and maintains a national set of standards for obtaining and keeping this credential, which includes completion of comprehensive coursework/training, supervised practicums, and a supervised 1,200-hour internship required to earn a graduate degree, followed by an additional requirement to receive a passing score on comprehensive School Psychology Praxis examination. To maintain an NCSP status, it must be renewed every three years. Renewal includes providing evidence of 75 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) hours from approved providers pertaining to topics in School Psychology, of which three credits must be in ethics, and an additional three in equity, diversity, and inclusion. These standards demonstrate a commitment to professional excellence in the field of School Psychology, as they set a high bar for skilled practice. Having an NCSP credential signifies that a School Psychologist advanced above and beyond the requirements of merely obtaining his or her degree to practice in public schools. It demonstrates the individual's desire to not only perform his or her duties, but rather to excel in the field of School Psychology, which in turn will significantly benefit and protect our keiki and their 'ohana. A School Psychologist who is nationally certified is legally and ethically required to follow uniform national standards guiding the practice of School Psychology, which includes providing keiki and youth with high quality, evidence-based practices in the areas of academic achievement, mental and behavioral health, school and community safety, family-school partnerships, and due process protection against malpractice.

Not only will this incentive motivate more School Psychologists to achieve this arduous professional standard, but it will additionally have a positive influence on the recruitment efforts of School Psychologists in Hawai'i, as well as in retaining highly qualified professionals in our schools, which is a significant need that will only further benefit our keiki. Equitably allocating stipends for nationally certified staff across all educators will help address this shortage we are currently experiencing. With additional federal funds available for schools, it is a good time to expand the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to include School Psychologists.

In Hawai'i, incentive is given to public school teachers who have achieved National Board Certification under the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Through the passing of this bill, Hawai'i will also be able to recognize School Psychologists who hold national designations through this incentive program.



Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Garrett, Psy.D.

Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP)

Past President of the Hawaii Association of School Psychologists (HASP)

April 4, 2022  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 S Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

SB2823 SD2, School Psychologist National Certification Incentive Program

Aloha Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

I support SB2823 SD2 in its amending Chapter 302A of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to establish within the department a school psychologist national certification incentive program. Mental and behavioral health experts are needed in schools now more than ever. This proposed amendment will support the recruitment and retention of highly qualified school psychologists, who are mental and behavioral health experts.

Recruiting and retaining school psychologists with an NCSP, and promoting eligible school psychologists to obtain an NCSP, will benefit keiki and their 'Ohana. First and foremost, it will support the State's ongoing efforts to address critical staffing shortages. The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of 1 school psychologist to every 500 students; however, many school psychologists in the State have more than 1,500 students. Equitably allocating stipends for nationally certified staff across all educators will help address this shortage, and with additional federal funds available for schools, it is a good time to expand the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to include school psychologists. Second, a school psychologist who is nationally certified is legally and ethically required to follow uniform national standards guiding the practice of school psychology, which includes providing keiki and youth with high quality, evidence-based practices in the areas of academic achievement, mental and behavioral health, school and community safety, family-school partnerships, and due process protection against malpractice.

Having a certified School Psychologist is important for the state because it helps ensure that the best practices are being applied. Being a certified School Psychologist requires on-going professional development in order to maintain certification, which provides current information and a high standard of practice. This can provide a sense of security for parents and guardians to know that their students are being evaluated and receiving support from highly qualified professionals.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Monica Saldana

04/04/2022  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 S Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

SB 2823 SD2 HD1, School Psychologist National Certification Incentive Program

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am Dr. Angie Graham, the District School Psychologist for East Hawaii. I support SB2823 in its amending Chapter 302A of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to establish within the department a school psychologist national certification incentive program. Mental and behavioral health experts are needed in schools now more than ever. This proposed amendment will support the recruitment and retention of highly qualified school psychologists, who are mental and behavioral health experts.

As an administrator who does try to recruit new School Psychologists to the Islands I can not emphasize enough how much this bill will make the Department of Education much more effective at hiring and retaining professional School Psychologists.

Recruiting and retaining school psychologists with an NCSP, and promoting eligible school psychologists to obtain an NCSP, will benefit keiki and their 'Ohana. First and foremost, it will support the State's ongoing efforts to address critical staffing shortages. The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of 1 school psychologist to every 500 students; however, many school psychologists in the State have more than 1,500 students. Equitably allocating stipends for nationally certified staff across all educators will help address this shortage, and with additional federal funds available for schools, it is a good time to expand the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to include school psychologists. Second, a school psychologist who is nationally certified is legally and ethically required to follow uniform national standards guiding the practice of school psychology, which includes providing keiki and youth with high quality, evidence-based practices in the areas of academic achievement, mental and behavioral health, school and community safety, family-school partnerships, and due process protection against malpractice.

At this time it is very difficult to recruit School Psychologists to Hawaii as we are competing with other states and districts, who already offer this incentive. As the cost of living in Hawaii is already high, it is hard for many professionals to move here, and take a huge cut in pay. This bill would be the first step in honoring the professionals who work closely with our students to help them thrive socially, emotionally, and academically. The bill does one other important thing: it recognizes the years of service, education, and expertise a School Psychologist brings to the Department of Education.

In closing, Please pass SB2823!!

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. Angie Graham  
District School Psychologist  
East Hawaii

Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 S Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

April 4, 2022

SB2823, School Psychologist National Certification Incentive Program

Aloha Chair Luke and members of the committee,

I support SB2823 in its amending Chapter 302A of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to establish within the department a school psychologist national certification incentive program. Mental and behavioral health experts are needed in schools now more than ever. This proposed amendment will support the recruitment and retention of highly qualified school psychologists, who are mental and behavioral health experts.

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I was born and raised here on Oahu and while in California during college, made the decision to become a School Psychologist so I could advocate with children and families within the public school systems. After working as a School Psychologist for 28 years in California, I made the decision to move back to Hawaii last year to help support my ailing parents. I was aware of the differences in the field here before I made this move, however now that I am actually working in Hawaii as a School Psychologist, I can see first-hand how some of these issues are clearly in need of being addressed. My husband recently took a job with the Department of Transportation and is earning more money as an entry-level "unskilled" employee than I am, with credentials and years of experience. I am currently earning less than half of what I was making in California, so I can see why School Psychologists so quickly choose not to work here. Any kind of incentive would help to alleviate the shortage in our field, so that we can expand on our roles and apply the broad range of our training and expertise instead of having limited supports and services from being spread so thin. The proposed amendment is an important step in recognizing the value of School Psychologists within our public school system. It will also ensure that we are held to the high legal and ethical standards set by NASP, which is extremely important when it comes to working with children and families.

Several grant and federal emergency relief programs are currently available to the State to utilize in financing these expenditures. For example, ESSER-III funds. Additionally, the Biden Administration's approved fiscal year 2023 budget includes an additional \$16 million to address shortages in school-based mental health professionals. The state has on average 1 school psychologist to every 2,858 students, yet they receive markedly low shortage differentials, and are not eligible for incentive bonuses that other educators with similar national certifications currently have access to. With additional monies on the table for states to utilize in recruiting, retaining, and developing school-based mental health professionals, now is the time to establish an equitable national certification incentive bonus for school psychologists.

In closing, I highly support the proposed amendment. With the additional strain of the pandemic affecting so many of our keiki and families, as well as our educational and mental health systems, I believe that it is timely and critical that we recognize the importance of aligning School Psychologists with the rest of the country so that we can more appropriately address these educational and mental/behavioral health needs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Dawson, M.S.  
School Psychologist

04/05/2022  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 S Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Luke and members of the committee,

I am writing this testimony in SUPPORT of SB2823 SD2 HD1 to expand the National Incentive Program to include School Psychologists. I am a father and uncle invested in the school community. It is important that we recognize the individuals who support our keiki with incentives such as this program to attract and retain School Psychologists to work in our schools. I urge you to pass this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Dwayne Groff