

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

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 CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2823, S.D. 2

March 21, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Room 329 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, 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



RYKER WADA
CHIEF NEGOTIATOR

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 CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

For Hearing on Monday, March 21, 2022
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 329 Via Video Conference

By

RYKER WADA
CHIEF NEGOTIATOR

Senate Bill No. 2823 SD2
Relating to Education

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

CHAIRPERSON JOHANSON, VICE-CHAIR KITAGAWA, AND MEMBERS OF THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE:

The purpose of Senate Bill No. 2823 SD2 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 because compensation, including incentives and bonuses, of public sector employees is subject to collective bargaining pursuant to Chapter 89, HRS.

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.



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

Date: 03/21/2022

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 329 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Consumer Protection
& Commerce

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2823, SD2 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a Nationally Certified School Psychologist incentive program. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

Department's Position:

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

The Department appreciates that SD2 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.

SB-2823-SD-2

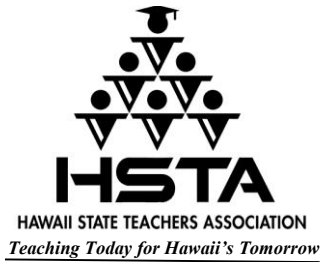
Submitted on: 3/20/2022 11:15:35 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Neilson	DLNR	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am available for questions to DLNR. Please allow me Zoom access.



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

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER
PROTECTION & COMMERCE

RE: SB 2823, SD2 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Johanson, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 2823, SD2**, relating to education. This bill amends Chapter 302A of the HRS to add a section that will 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 bill will support the recruitment and retention of highly qualified school psychologists in our schools.

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.



Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Representative Aaron Johanson, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

March 21, 2022

Dear Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

We support SB 2823 SD2, 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.*

LATE



SB2281, a bill to license School Psychologists

March 21st, 2022
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Yamane and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists (HASP) believes that licensure is important for all professionals that are entrusted to care for students, especially those with special needs. HRS 465 protects the professional integrity of the term "psychology" by ensuring that non-licensed individuals cannot practice psychology. This public protection ensures that specialized training and expertise is required to practice psychology. Currently, School Psychologists are 'exempt' from having to have licensure to practice in the educational setting (HRS465) and have had no credentialing in the state of Hawai'i. Hawai'i is the **only** state in the nation that allows this. This exemption has allowed individuals who do not have graduate training in school psychology and who do not meet the nationally accepted certification standard to practice "psychology" within the educational setting. We are asking for the legislature's support to establish licensing in Hawai'i, in that it nullifies that exemption and ensures that students receive services from highly qualified and licensed professionals. Only certificated or licensed professionals are billable under Medicaid, so the current exemption does not allow for the Department of Education to bill for any services or evaluations conducted by school psychologists at this time. Licensing of school psychologists would be another avenue for the DOE to generate funds under Medicaid.

In addition to testimony provided in previous hearings scheduled by the bill's originating chamber, HASP hereby recommends amendments to page 6, line 21 and page 7, line 1 to henceforth read as follows:

shall also be accepted[-] ; or

(3) Has received a master's degree in school psychology with a minimum one thousand two hundred hour internship, half of which must have been completed in a school setting, obtained in the year 2024 or prior

These amendments will allow Master's-level school psychologists who completed their graduate training prior to the 2024 National Association of School Psychologist's (NASP) updated guidelines to obtain licensure within the State. The 2024 guidelines are new requirements for the minimum training qualifications needed to practice school psychology.

The research is clear that students who are identified with special learning needs are at a higher risk for a number of negative outcomes, such as dropping out of school, qualifying for lower-level jobs, or becoming involved in criminal activity. Raising the standards of practice for all school psychologists working in the state of Hawai'i will in turn increase appropriate service delivery to those students most in need.

Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists asks that you support licensing of school psychologists to ensure that all children in Hawai'i are afforded the same protection of a licensed and credentialed professional working within their scope of practice.

Respectfully Submitted:

Leslie Baunach,

NASP Delegate-Hawaii & HASP Legislative Co-Chair

Email: hasp808@gmail.com



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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

LATE

The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 21, 2022

S.B. 2823, S.D. 2 — 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, 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

Hawai'i Psychological Association

For a Healthy Hawai'i

P.O. Box 833
Honolulu, HI 96808

www.hawaiipsychology.org

Phone: (808) 521 -8995



LATE

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

DATE: March 21, 2022 2:00 P.M. - VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Testimony in support of SB2823 SD2.

The Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA) supports SB2823, which establishes a Nationally Certified School Psychologist incentive program within the Department of Education.

HPA would like to highlight some significant findings on the mental health of school-aged children, highlighted by the American Psychological Association in one of their publications in January 2022.

Prior to the pandemic, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data¹ found 1 in 5 children had a mental disorder, but only about 20% of those children received care from a mental health provider.

After the pandemic hit, one 2020 survey² found that 71% of parents said the pandemic had taken a toll on their child's mental health, and 69% said the pandemic was the worst thing to happen to their child.

Another national survey of 3,300 high schoolers conducted in spring 2020 found close to a third of students felt unhappy and depressed much more than usual.³

The CDC also found that from March 2020 to October 2020, mental health-related emergency department visits increased 24% for children ages 5 to 11 and 31% for those ages 12 to 17 compared with 2019 emergency department visits.⁴

Accordingly, this legislation couldn't be more timely. Mental health services specifically targeted for our youth coping through the pandemic is sorely needed – and incentive programs to draw more competent professionals to this field should be encouraged and adequately resourced.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this important bill.

Sincerely,

Raymond A Folen, Ph.D., ABPP.
Executive Director

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/childrensmentalhealth/access.html>

² <https://www.luriechildrens.org/en/blog/childrens-mental-health-pandemic-statistics/>

³ https://www.americaspromise.org/sites/default/files/d8/YouthDuringCOVID_FINAL%20%281%29.pdf

⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6945a3.htm>

LATE

SB-2823-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 5:29:22 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alec Marentic	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2823 SD2. The Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) certification is similar to or more rigorous than other national certification bonuses available to educators. There is a critical shortage of school psychologists within the State currently, like many other educator roles. Now is the right time to include school psychologists as eligible educators to receive a bonus stipend for maintaining a national certification and for working in hard to staff areas.

Testimony Support Regarding SB2823
National Certification Incentive Program
March 20, 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)

LATE

March 20, 2022
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

SB2823 SD2, School Psychologist National Certification Incentive Program

Aloha members of the 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.

In closing, I am in support of passing bill, SB2823 SD2 to help meet the needs of our students in Hawai'i. I urge the legislature to pass SB2823 SD2 and implement a school psychologist national certification and incentive program.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jamie Tagomori

LATE

March 20, 2022
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

SB2823 SD2, School Psychologist National Certification Incentive Program

Aloha members of the 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.

In closing, I am in support of passing bill, SB2823 SD2 to help meet the needs of our students in Hawai'i. I urge the legislature to pass SB2823 SD2 and implement a school psychologist national certification and incentive program.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Ergina

Testimony Support Regarding SB2823 SD2
National Certification Incentive Program
Monday March 21, 2022

LATE

Aloha e,

I am a School Psychologist from the island of Maui and am writing in support of SB2823 SD2 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

LATE

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

03/21/2022
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813



Aloha,

I am writing this testimony in SUPPORT of SB2823 SD2 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

LATE

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

SB2823 SD2, 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

LATE

3/21/2022
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

SB2823 SD2, School Psychologist National Certification Incentive Program

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

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.

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, and urge the legislature to pass SB2823 SD2 and implement a school psychologist national certification incentive program.

Respectfully Submitted,



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

LATE

SB-2823-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 9:09:25 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keri Anacker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

3/21/22

Hello I am writing in support of SB2823 to establish the national certification incentive program within the DOE to include nationally certified school psychologists. Currently, there is a shortage of school psychologists within our state, and the passing of this bill will have a positive influence on the recruitment and retention of highly qualified mental health professionals in our schools. Those with national certification should be recognized.

Thank you,

Keri Anacker (Proud NCSP)

LATE

2/3/21
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

SB2823, School Psychologist National Certification Incentive Program

Aloha members of the Senate Committee on Education,
I, Traci Effinger, 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.

I am overwhelmed with the amount of schools that I am tasked to covered in Central District Oahu and direly need Nationally Certified School Psychologists to apply to the state of Hawaii. We have open positions that cannot be filled due to the low income that we receive as pay from the state. The annual amount that we receive as pay, works out to be less than a teacher makes per hour, and the positions are very hard to fill. Increasing the pay to School Psychologists that are nationally certified would help attract potential candidates to apply for the positions available.

In closing, I am pleading for help to establish within the department a school psychologist national certification incentive program as to recruit and retain Nationally Certified School Psychologists to the state of Hawaii to better the lives of our keiki and their 'ohana.

Respectfully Submitted,
Traci Effinger,
Nationally Certified School Psychologist