

Chief Judge Lisa M. Ginoza
Chair

Representative Amy A. Perruso
Vice-Chair

Prof. Troy J.H. Andrade

Philip J. Bossert, Ph.D.

Rosanna Fukuda, MAEd

Debora Halbert, Ph.D.

Nathan G. Kam

Senator Dru M. Kanuha

OHA Board Chair
Carmen Hulu Lindsey

Matt M. Mattice

Prof. Colin Moore

Ruth K. Oh, Esq.

Magistrate Judge
Wes Reber Porter

Gary H. Yamashiroya

Testimony to the Thirty-First Legislature, 2022 Regular Session

Committee on Finance

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Monday, April 4, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

By

Chief Judge Lisa M. Ginoza, Intermediate Court of Appeals
Chair, Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education
(PACE Commission)

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 2885, S.D.1, H.D.1 Relating to
Advancing Civic Engagement

Purpose: Appropriates funds for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
position in the Public Access Room to provide educational outreach and
engagement with all schools in the State.

PACE Commission Position: Strong support

The PACE Commission strongly supports this bill to appropriate funds for a full-time position in the Public Access Room, under the Legislative Reference Bureau, to enhance the Legislature's outreach and engagement with schools. It would be highly beneficial to have such a position that could focus on engaging with students and educators to promote learning about the Legislature, understanding of and participation in the legislative process, and further interaction with Legislators. The more direct contact that students and educators can have with the Legislature and see the process in action, the more they will understand and want to be part of the process.

In years past, the Judiciary History Center coordinated student tours with a staff person at the Governor's office so students could visit all three branches of government during excursions to the capitol district. The position envisioned for the Public Access Room could hopefully help to restore such student tours once the current pandemic has subsided. Moreover, in today's virtual world, having a dedicated position in the Public Access Room would greatly assist students and educators with following bills online, watching videoconference hearings, and submitting testimony on issues of interest to them.

The PACE Commission appreciates the amendment that was made in the S.D.1 version of the bill that allows the new position to provide outreach and engagement with *all* schools in the State. This will promote greater access for all schools to the Legislature and enhance the potential for civic learning. The House Committee on Legislative Management heard the bill on March 21, 2022, and recommended it be passed with suggestions and technical amendments.

Brief background of the PACE Commission:

The PACE Commission was created pursuant to Rule 23 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai'i, issued on January 7, 2021. The purpose of the PACE Commission is to promote and advance civic education for students and citizens throughout Hawai'i. The commission has fourteen members appointed according to Rule 23 by the following: Chief Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court, Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Superintendent of the Department of Education, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii, President of the University of Hawai'i, Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law, Hawaii State Bar Association, Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools, and two members selected by the other appointed members.

The commission began meeting in April 2021 and meets monthly. It also has two committees, one focused on civic education in the schools and one focused more generally on civic engagement in the community. The mission statement adopted by the PACE Commission is: "To create, implement and amplify sustainable programs, resources, and practices that improve place-based, constitutionally informed and culturally sensitive civic education and engagement in Hawai'i schools and communities."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi
Director

Shawn K. Nakama
First Assistant

Research (808) 587-0666
Revisor (808) 587-0670
Fax (808) 587-0681



LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 446
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Written Comments

SB2885 SD1 HD1
RELATING TO ADVANCING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Director
Legislative Reference Bureau

Presented to the House Committee on Finance

Monday, April 4, 2022, 1:30 p.m.
Room 308 and Via Videoconference

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon, Chair Luke and members of the Committee, my name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi and I am the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB). Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written comments on S.B. No. 2885, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, Relating to Civic Engagement.

The purpose of this measure is to provide a full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position for the Public Access Room at the State Capitol (PAR) to provide educational outreach and engagement with Hawai'i schools, and to appropriate funds for the position.

The Bureau takes no position on this measure but submits the following comments for your consideration.

PAR was established in 1994 to help enhance the public's ability to participate in the legislative process; it became part of LRB in 1996. PAR's office and services are utilized year-round, offering equipment, services, and facilities to enhance the public's ability to participate in the legislative process. This measure provides funds for a permanent full-time equivalent position, to be placed within PAR, to provide educational outreach and engagement with Hawaii schools.

We appreciate this measure's attempt to provide PAR with additional personnel and resources. However, we note that PAR already provides universal community outreach and civic engagement seminars, workshops, and information that are not limited to one specific target audience, which means that students can and do already benefit from these pre-existing educational sessions and information.

If, however, the Committee would still like PAR to specifically provide educational outreach and engagement to students attending Hawaii schools, the Bureau believes that the more appropriate means to accomplish this purpose is by codifying this responsibility in PAR's governing statutes, specifically section 21G-2(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, and amending the existing appropriation section by deleting the language that explicitly references the duties of the additional staff person. This implementation strategy is preferable to the Bureau since it will most likely accomplish the proponents' original intent while concomitantly authorizing all members of PAR staff to contribute to educational outreach objectives. This will enhance PAR's flexibility in meeting all of its statutory responsibilities. For the Committee's reference, we have provided proposed language to effectuate this recommendation below:

"SECTION 1. The legislature finds that civic engagement provides an opportunity for residents to become involved with improving their local communities and neighborhoods. In 2021, the Hawaii supreme court enacted Rule 23 to establish the commission to promote and advance civic education (PACE commission). One of the main functions of the PACE commission is to provide leadership, oversight, and initiatives to increase civic education in the community and at schools, increase citizens' knowledge about government, and promote informed participation in government and democracy in Hawaii.

The legislature further finds that the public access room, an office under the legislative reference bureau, provides the public with information, equipment, facilities, and services to assist in research activities, educational outreach, and public engagement related to work with the legislature. The legislature additionally finds that the public access room is well-positioned to further civic engagement with the legislature in Hawaii's schools. However, the public access room currently lacks resources to provide outreach services in addition to its current responsibilities.

Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the public access room to establish and maintain an educational outreach and engagement program for Hawaii schools and provide funding for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position to assist in effectuating this requirement.

SECTION 2. Section 21G-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

"(a) There is established in the state capitol a public access room in which members of the public shall be allowed to utilize various equipment, services, and facilities to enhance their ability to participate in the legislative process. As part of its duties, the public access room shall establish and maintain an educational outreach and engagement program for Hawaii schools."

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ _____ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 to establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position within the public access room.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the legislative reference bureau for the purposes of this Act."

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050."

The Bureau would like to note that, regardless of whether the Committee decides to accept our proposed amendments, the scope of additional activities envisioned by this measure is uncertain. If the intent is to include activities such as providing tours to school children, then PAR would need additional space within the Capitol building to ensure that tours do not interfere with PAR's current services. This would be especially critical during the legislative session when, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the PAR room was often filled to capacity.

Finally, the House Standing Committee on Legislative Management requested in its committee report on this measure that this Committee consider, among other things, whether the position being proposed in this measure should be established as a civil service position. The Bureau notes that PAR, as well as the entire Bureau, is part of the legislative branch of state government. Consequently, none of the Bureau's employees, like the rest of the employees of the legislative branch of state government, are covered under Chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes, relating to civil service.

Should the Committee decide that it would like to amend the duties of PAR to explicitly provide educational outreach to Hawaii schools, and authorize PAR to have an additional full-time equivalent position to assist with this augmented purpose, the Bureau would be supportive of that intent. However, if the Committee also envisions that PAR conduct in-person Capitol tours for large groups as part of the educational outreach program once the building has fully reopened, we respectfully ask the Committee to consider the spatial

challenges that such an activity would create for PAR and provide additional space outside of the present room assigned to PAR for this purpose. We also note that, with regard to public schools, in order to truly facilitate the implementation of an effective educational engagement program as envisioned in this measure, providing a dedicated counterpart within the Department of Education to assist with this effort should be considered.

Thank you again for your consideration.

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 FINANCE
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2885, S.D. 1, H.D. 1

April 4, 2022
1:30 p.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO ADVANCING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

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

Senate Bill No. 2885, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, makes an unspecified general fund appropriation in FY 23 to the Legislative Reference Bureau to support one full-time position at the State Capitol's Public Access Room to provide educational outreach and engagement for all Hawai'i schools.

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.

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Monday, April 4, 2022
1:30 PM
Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

in consideration of
SB 2885, SD1, HD1

RELATING TO ADVANCING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.

Chair LUKE, Vice Chair YAMASHITA, and Members of the House Finance Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 2885, SD1, HD1, which appropriates funds for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position at the Public Access Room to provide educational outreach and engagement with all schools in the State.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening democracy through voting modernization efforts that increase civic engagement, voter turnout, and voter participation in our democratic processes.

Given Hawaii's traditional low voter registration and low voter turnout rates, people are not generally engaged in the political process. See <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/08/why-does-hawaii-have-such-low-voter-turnout-heres-what-the-data-says/> (retrieved Jan. 29, 2022). Studies have shown that voting is a habit, which if developed through repetition can become strongly ingrained in an individual. See <https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/456934-how-voting-becomes-a-habit> (retrieved Jan. 29, 2022). Hopefully, SB 2885, SD1, HD1 will teach our youth the importance of civic engagement and voting to have engaged future leaders, leading to a strong and vibrant democracy. "We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate." Thomas Jefferson.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2885, SD1, HD1. If you have any questions, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Carole Gruskin, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawaii

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Maui

Get Ready Hawai'i

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm

Reduction Center

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kokua Ohana Aloha (KOA)

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native

Hawaiian Health Care Systems

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the

Great Northwest and

Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services

& Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community

Center

The Catalyst Group

April 2, 2022

To: Representative Sylvia Luke Chair,
And members of the Committee on Finance

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2885 SD 1 HD 1 RELATING TO ADVANCING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2885 SD 1 HD 1 Relating to Advancing Civic Engagement.

“Youth civic engagement leads to reduced risky behavior, increased success in school and leads to greater civic participation later in life. . . . Civic engagement provides young people with opportunities to gain work experience, acquire new skills, and to learn responsibility and accountability—all while contributing to the good of their communities.”¹

Introducing youth to civic involvement at an early age is important because Hawaii voter turnout has declined in recent years. In the past 5 out of the past 6 presidential elections, Hawaii had the lowest voter turnout of all the states. In 2020, Hawaii was one of the 10 lowest states in voter turnout. Voter participation is at the core of active citizenship and a healthy democracy.

Hawaii Youth Services Network coordinates the annual Hawaii Children and Youth Summit, in which youth are provide recommendations to legislators about what Hawaii needs to be a better place to live, learn, and work. In 2022, 5 of the 10 recommendations have been included in legislative bills

If the youth outreach position is funded, HYSN would work in partnership with the Public Access Office to engage youth in civic affairs. The young people who have participated in the Children and Youth Summit find the experience empowering, and their involvement leads to continued engagement as adults.

I will close with some quotes from Hawaii's youth:

"This was my first experience in attending a meeting with other youths where our voices matter. . . . I want to make a difference and attending the Summit gave me the courage to step out and share everything I've learned with my fellow students. I know I will never stop speaking up for what is right."

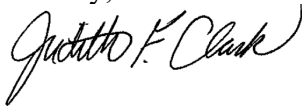
--Alisha Estoy, Junior at Konawaena High School

I have always been passionate about the environment . . . but I never thought I could make a difference now. . . . Thank you for providing that chance to speak out and give me someone to listen. . . . This has been one of the few times that I felt like people listened to me.

--Makena Anderson

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a prominent "F".

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

SB-2885-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 8:17:49 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosemarie Muller	LWVH	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The LWV of Hawaii supports this bill regarding Civic Education for our youth.

Thank you

Rosemarie Muller, VP LWV of Hawaii

SB-2885-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2022 1:20:10 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Wast of Taxe payer Moneys. Cut the Crap out we Know you are trying to Pay somebody Back for Something. You are being Watched Very Closely and Elections are Comeing UP!!!

RYAN KAWAILANI OZAWA

P.O. Box 892727

Mililani, HI 96789-8332

Main: (808) 707-3027

Fax: (808) 427-9227



@hawaii A row of small, black social media icons including Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, Facebook, and others.

Email: hawaii@hey.com

April 1, 2022

Aloha, Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair; and members of the Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my **support** of SB2885 SD1 HD1, relating to advancing civic engagement.

For all the attention paid to, and investments made in, advancing STEM education in Hawaii — which I wholeheartedly support — I believe that civics is a far more important and underserved focus in schools.

And having recently collaborated with Public Access Room Coordinator Virginia Beck, I am even more convinced that her office should be the one of the most robustly equipped and visited rooms in the Hawaii State Capitol.

Mahalo for your consideration.



Ryan Kawailani Ozawa

SB-2885-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 9:10:56 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We should encourage civic engagement to our youths to instill strong civic responsibility. Through civic engagement, the community can work together to address public needs and desires and improve our quality of life.