

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 LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2885, S.D. 1

March 21, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Room 312 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, 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.

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
RELATING TO ADVANCING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Director
Legislative Reference Bureau

Presented to the House Committee on Legislative Management

Monday, March 21, 2022, 2:00 p.m.
Room 312 and Via Videoconference

Chair Kobayashi and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon, Chair Kobayashi 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, 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 Hawai'i schools.

We appreciate this measure's attempt to provide PAR with additional personnel 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 may already benefit from these pre-existing educational sessions and information. The scope of additional activities envisioned by this measure is uncertain; however, if the intent is to include such activities 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.

Should the Committee decide that it would like PAR to have an additional full-time equivalent position to provide educational outreach to clientele of all ages, 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.

Thank you again for your consideration.

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

Debra 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

House Committee on Legislative Management
Representative Dale T. Kobayashi, Chair
Representative John M. Mizuno, Vice Chair

Monday, March 21, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 312 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, Relating to Advancing
Civic Engagement

Purpose: 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.

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 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.

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.

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

Monday, March 21, 2022

2:00 PM

Conference Room 312 and Videoconference

in consideration of

SB 2885, SD1**RELATING TO ADVANCING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.**

Chair KOBAYASHI, Vice Chair MIZUNO, and Members of the House Legislative Management Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 2885, SD1, 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 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. If you have any questions, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii



Committee on Legislative Management
Rep. Dale Kobayashi, Chair, Rep. John M. Mizuno, Vice Chair

Monday, March 21, 2022, 2:00 p.m. VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, Conference Room 312
SB 2885, SD1 RELATING TO ADVANCING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

TESTIMONY
Donna Oba, President, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Kobayashi, Vice Chair Mizuno, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB 2885, SD1, Relating to Advancing Civic Engagement, that appropriates one full-time equivalent position at the Public Access Room to provide educational outreach and engagement with all schools in the State.

For us, encouraging young people to engage with public life is an easy message but difficult to accomplish. There are many demands on a young person's time, usually including finishing school, but often also including holding a job and taking care of family members. These factors can limit a young person's ability to be involved in the democratic process.

The League is very proud to have helped establish the Public Access Room, since now the value of the resources provided here is well recognized throughout the State. In particular we note and applaud the staff's commitment to provide services using broadcast methods which will become even better with the near-term deployment of improved broadband throughout Hawaii.

We observe a high level of interest in public service among young people and think this measure can help equip young citizens with the knowledge and practical tools they need to participate in democracy through the legislative process.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

SB-2885-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 7:27:41 AM

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

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

Comments:

SB2885

Studies have shown that voting is a habit, which if developed through repetition can become strongly ingrained in an individual.

Hopefully, SB2885, will teach our youth the importance of civic education and voting to have engaged future leaders, leading to a strong and vibrant democracy.

For these reasons, we support this bill.

Thank you

SB-2885-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 8:33:02 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Bickel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a high school social studies teacher, I would like to do more to engage my students with the legislature. This position sounds like it could help.

SB-2885-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 9:45:45 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Given Hawaii's traditional low voter registration and low voter turnout rates, people are not generally engaged in the political process.

Studies have shown that voting is a habit, which if developed through repetition can become strongly ingrained in an individual.

Hopefully, SB 2885, SD1 will teach our youth the importance of civic engagement and voting to have engaged future leaders, leading to a strong and vibrant democracy.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this bill.

SB-2885-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 11:56:21 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Mitsumori	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2885, relating to Advancing Civic Engagement through the funding of one FTE position at the Public Access Room to provide educational outreach and engagement with all schools in the state.

Given Hawaii's traditional low voter registration and low voter turnout rates, this initiative to provide a human person (in contrast to a website, however interactive) to engage with schools and young people is much needed. This bill has the potential to teach our youth the importance of civic engagement and voting to have engaged future leaders, and well as encourage young people to mobilize their families, friends and neighbors to get involved.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my **support for SB2885 SD1**.

SB-2885-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 4:02:01 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear LMG Chair and Committee,

I support SB2885 SD1 because it will hopefully make more Hawaiian voters. Hawaii has low voter registration and low voter turnout rates, (however with moves for linking driver's licenses and registered voters - as well as absentee voting - these moves may assist Hawaii's voter turnout).

Studies have shown that voting is a habit, which if developed through repetition can become strongly ingrained in an individual. Hopefully, SB 2885, SD1 will teach our youth the importance of civic engagement and voting to have engaged future leaders, leading to a strong and vibrant democracy. This is a good move to try different methodologies to improve voter turnout.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona HI 96740

SB-2885-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 1:23:46 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacie M Burke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee On Legislative Management

Rep. Dale T. Kobayashi, Chair

Rep. John M. Mizuno , Vice Chair

Monday, March 21, 2022

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony in strong support for S.B. 2885

A healthy Democracy hinges on civic participation by informed citizens. Hawai'i had the lowest voter turnout of all the states for our 2020 general election, despite having the convenience of all mail in voting.

Let's negate the apathy that yields low voter turnout by giving our young people access to a trustworthy resource in civic education.

Mahalo

Stacie Burke

'Aiea, Hawai'i

SB-2885-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 1:44:11 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Morgan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2885 because this bill would increase education about elections that will encourage people to register then vote.. It will improve democracy in our state if more people participate by voting. SB2885 is designed to provide citizens with the knowledge and motivation to vote.

SB-2885-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 7:06:24 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Jaycox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Anything that advances civic engagement is worthy of support.

SB-2885-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 6:46:38 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ben Lowenthal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Civic engagement is key to a democratic future. Please pass this bill.