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HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
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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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2885, S.D. 1

**February 23, 2022**  
**10:05 a.m.**  
**Room 211 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.

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

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 10:05 a.m.  
Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

By

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

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**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.

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi  
Director

Shawn K. Nakama  
First Assistant

Research (808) 587-0666  
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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 Senate Committee on Government Operations

Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 10:05 a.m.  
Room 211 and Via Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Good morning, Chair Dela Cruz 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 could 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 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.

# 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](mailto: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

February 20, 2022

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz Chair,  
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

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

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2885 SD 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.”<sup>1</sup>

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."*

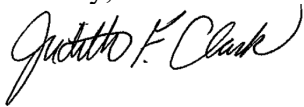
--Alisha Estoy, Junior at Konawaena High School

*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, flowing style.

Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director



Statement Before The  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
Wednesday, February 23, 2022  
10:05 AM  
Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

in consideration of  
**SB 2885, SD1**

**RELATING TO ADVANCING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.**

Chair DELA CRUZ, Vice Chair KEITH-AGARAN, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means 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](mailto:sma@commoncause.org).

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma  
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

**SB-2885-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 10:02:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Alice Kim           | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

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.

**SB-2885-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 12:41:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| tlaloc tokuda | Individual   | Support            | No                         |

Comments:

Aloha WAM Chair and Committee,

I am a volunteer with Common Cause (CC) and i usually support their views on bills coming through our state legislature and local councils. I agree with CC and support SB2885 SD1

- 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.

Mahalo,

tlaloc tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

**SB-2885-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 5:53:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| David Anderson      | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

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: 2/21/2022 11:22:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Susan Dursin        | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

I strongly support SB2885, which takes an important step toward increasing civic education and involvement in Hawai`i's schools.

For several sessions, the calls for educating students as to their role in a democratic society have become more insistent. Involving the Public Access Room, which has done an exemplary job in opening channels between government and the public, is a tangible, well-considered move by the Legislature.

**SB-2885-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 5:55:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Linda Morgan        | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

I strongly support SB2885. We need a better informed public that engages in elections. Through education, this bill would help make this happen, and consequently increase the percentage of citizens who vote.

**SB-2885-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 5:02:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM



| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| laurie boyle        | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB2885 for the simple reason that we need to educate our youth about the importance of civic engagement at an early age to help establish regular voting habits and to improve the probability of participation in our Democracy. With this outreach program, Hawaii's participation could reach new highs and perhaps become a model for the rest of the country, instead of lagging behind the other states.