



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

Date: 03/22/2022

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2893, SD1 RELATING TO A SCHOOL SUPPLY SUBSIDY PILOT PROGRAM.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a one-year school supply subsidy pilot program at all schools composed entirely of students eligible for participation in Title I. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. Repeals on 1/1/2024. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2893, SD1, which expands to all schools composed entirely of students eligible for participation in Title I, including Naalehu Elementary School, a pilot program to subsidize school supplies to alleviate the financial burden of education on low-income families.

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 included in the Department's supplemental budget request for existing budget shortfalls. Without those funds, the Department will face severe constraints on its ability to continue to promote equity and access to needed resources and support for all students.

The pilot program findings and recommendations will be reported by the Department prior to the convening of the 2024 regular session.

Thank you for the opportunity provide testimony in support of this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
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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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2893, S.D. 1

March 22, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Room 309 and Videoconference

RELATING TO A SCHOOL SUPPLY SUBSIDY PILOT PROGRAM

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

Senate Bill No. 2893, S.D. 1: 1) establishes a one-year school supply subsidy pilot program at all schools composed entirely of students eligible for participation in Title I; 2) requires the Department of Education to submit a report of its findings and recommendations regarding the school supply subsidy pilot program, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the 2024 Regular Session; 3) appropriates an unspecified sum of general funds for FY 23; and 4) repeals the measure on January 1, 2024.

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

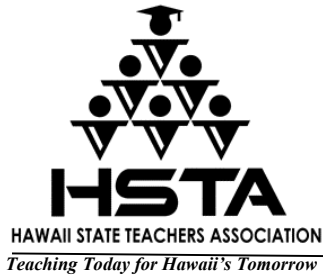
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

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.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB2893 SD1 – RELATING TO A SCHOOL SUPPLY SUBSIDY PILOT PROGRAM.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) asks your committee to **support SB2893 SD1**, relating to a school supply subsidy pilot program. **This bill establishes a one-year school supply subsidy pilot program at all schools composed entirely of students eligible for participation in Title I and appropriates unspecified funds.**

Hawaii's teachers are among the lowest paid in the U.S. when adjust for our high cost of living. They also experience higher health care costs. Add to that the fact that they are time and time again reaching into their own empty pockets to provide supplies for their classrooms. Sure, they submit purchase orders for those supplies, only to hear the all-too familiar reply; "Sorry, we don't have the funds for that." So our low-paid teachers bear the cost. It's certainly true that they "do it for the keiki," but should they have to?

HSTA has previously surveyed its members and found that a jarring 47 percent of teachers are spending between \$250 and \$500 per year on classroom supplies. And many are spending \$1,000 or more per year. We find this unacceptable, given the saddening extent to which our teachers are already struggling to provide for their families.

To make our schools safe for our students, teachers, and staff, right away, the Hawaii State Teachers Association urges you to **support** this bill.