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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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2893

February 4, 2022
3:00 p.m.
Room 229 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: 1) establishes a one-year school supply subsidy pilot program at Naalehu Elementary School; 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.



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

Date: 02/04/2022
Time: 03:00 PM
Location: CR 229 & Videoconference
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

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

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

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a one-year school supply subsidy pilot program at Naalehu Elementary School. Appropriates funds. Repeals on 1/1/2024.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2893 for a one-year pilot program at Na'alehu Elementary School 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 to provide testimony in support of this measure.

SB-2893

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:59:53 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Darlene Javar	Testifying for Na'alehu Elementary School	Support	No

Comments:

Na'alehu Elementary School (NES) students and ohana face many challenges. As of 2/2/22, enrollment is 425 students. Demographics include 69% low socio-economic status, 9% IDEA/SPED, and 28% English language learners. NES is geographically remote with many families commuting to work 70+ miles one way. Many families who work in the local area are laborers or migrant workers in the coffee or macadamia nut industry.

Especially in this time of COVID, families are burdened with not just the “normal” challenges but many unpredictable situations which cause further financial hardship. Life is uncertain in many ways. Providing funding to purchase school supplies is not just a financial endeavor, but also a social-emotional support– this action would reduce not just an anticipated expense but for many families it would reduce a real anxiety of determining how to make these purchases at the beginning of every new school year.

Please support the establishment of a one-year school supply subsidy pilot program at Na'alehu Elementary School.

Sincerely,

Darlene Javar, Principal

SB-2893

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 6:21:59 AM
Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2022 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Karen Veriato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senate Education Committee,

I am Karen Veriato, 3rd grade teacher at Na'alehu Elementary School. The community I serve has a high poverty rate and therefore parents/guardians cannot purchase all of the necessary school supplies. Na'alehu Elementary has been providing school supplies and many teachers spend their own money to fill in the gaps.

Please vote to support this bill. Our community will appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Karen Veriato

LATE

SB-2893

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 1:02:22 PM
Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
D Sales	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

On behalf of the families and staff of Na'alehu School, we would like to extend our appreciation of this school supply subsidy bill for the year 2022-23 so that families and teachers may dedicate their earnings to essential daily living expenditures. When families forego sending in supplies, teachers end up buying what is needed. It sure adds up, but we have no choice. As in any profession, you need the tools necessary to attain your goals. Running a classroom is no different. We either buy the supplies, or sink. Much appreciation, D. Sales