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

Written Comments

HB1192 HD1 RELATING TO ADVANCING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Director-
Legislative Reference Bureau

Presented to the Senate Committee on Government Operations

Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225 and Via Videoconference

Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon, Chair McKelvey 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 H.B. No. 1192, H.D. 1, Relating to Advancing Civic Engagement.

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Amend section 21G-2(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, to require the LRB's Public Access Room at the State Capitol (PAR) to establish and maintain an outreach and engagement program for primary, secondary, post-secondary, and community education;
- (2) Establish a full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position for PAR and to appropriate funds for the position; and
- (3) Insert new statutory language to require the Department of Education and University of Hawaii to assign appropriate staff to coordinate with PAR with respect to the new outreach and engagement program.

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

PAR was established in 1994 with the core mission of enhancing 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 members of the public who seek to participate in the legislative process. We note that PAR already provides, as part of its services, *universal* community outreach and civic engagement seminars, workshops, and information that are *not limited* to one specific target audience. Accordingly, students can and do already benefit from these pre-existing educational sessions and information. However, this measure provides an unspecified amount of funds for a permanent full-time equivalent position, to be placed within PAR, to enable PAR staff to undertake a more targeted educational outreach and engagement program with Hawaii educational institutions. The Bureau notes that if the intent is to provide a mechanism for civics education, it seems that a more effective approach would be to require age-appropriate civics education as part of the primary, secondary, and post-secondary school curriculum.

Should the Committee decide that it still wants PAR to explicitly provide educational outreach to Hawaii educational institutions, rather than requiring age-appropriate civics education as part of the primary, secondary, and post-secondary school curriculum, and the authorization and adequate funding for PAR to have an additional full-time equivalent position to assist with this augmented purpose is provided, the Bureau would do its best to carry out this intent.

The Bureau would also like to express its appreciation for the House of Representatives' inclusion of the statutory requirement that the Department of Education (DOE) and the University of Hawaii (UH) system provide dedicated, complementary counterparts within each entity to coordinate with the Public Access Room to assist with this effort. The inclusion of this language will ensure that the DOE and UH will assign curriculum development or other appropriate personnel to collaborate with PAR in developing age-appropriate civics education material so that PAR will not have to hire its own curriculum development specialists for each age group, especially since the bill in its current form does not authorize such additional positions or appropriate moneys therefor.

Thank you again for your consideration.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/14/2023
Time: 03:00 PM
Location: CR 225 & Videoconference
Committee: Senate Government
Operations

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1192, HD1 RELATING TO ADVANCING CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the public access room to establish and maintain an outreach and engagement program for primary, secondary, post-secondary, and community education. Requires the department of education and university of Hawaii to assign appropriate staff to coordinate with the public access room for the outreach and engagement program. Appropriates funds for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position to assist in effectuating this requirement. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on HB 1192, HD1, which requires the public access room to establish and maintain an outreach and engagement program for primary, secondary, post-secondary, and community education. This bill requires the Department of Education to assign appropriate staff to coordinate with the Public Access Room concerning the outreach and engagement program.

The Department supports the focus on civic engagement with an appropriation to fund a full-time position at the Public Access Room; however, the Department has concerns regarding the responsibility for outreach and engagement. Requiring the Department to coordinate with the Public Access Room staff would place a burden on the Department to assign staff and initiate such outreach since no funding or position is provided to the

Department for this purpose.

The Department would ask to place the responsibility for outreach on the Public Access Room along with any coordination requests due to the position that is being provided to them. If the bill continues to require coordination and outreach by the Department, then the Department would request an appropriation and position be given to the Department for such coordination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Government Operations
Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

By

Debora Halbert

Vice President for Academic Strategy
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1192 HD1 – RELATING TO ADVANCING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawaii (UH) supports the intent of this measure as it provides educational outreach and engagement programs through the Public Access Room under the Legislative Reference Bureau and supports efforts to enhance civic engagement throughout the state.

However, the bill in its current draft mandates the Department of Education and the University of Hawai'i assign appropriate staff to coordinate with the Public Access Room with respect to outreach but provides no funding to allocate staffing for this purpose. UH is unsure what the Public Access Room is envisioning with its outreach and engagement program. With this uncertainty, UH has reservations about having this language put into statute to mandate this coordination. Having said this, if it is the desire of the legislature to pass this measure, UH respectfully requests an appropriation and positions to provide the University the ability to effectuate the requirements of this measure.

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



HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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

Vonnell Ramos, President
Cyd Hoffeld, Vice President
Sione Ford Naeata, Treasurer
Jefferson Gourley, Secretary

Judith F. Clark, Executive
Director

Network Membership

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 'Ohana, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children's Justice

Center of Maui

Get Ready Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kaua'i, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action

Network

Hawaii Health & Harm

Reduction Center

Ho'ola Na Pua

Ho'okele Coalition of Kaua'i

Ka Hale Pomaika'i

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kaua'i Planning and Action

Alliance

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

PHOCUSED

PFLAG - Kona, Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the

Great Northwest, Hawaii

Alaska, Kentucky, Indiana

Residential Youth Services

& Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community

Center

The Catalyst Group

March 10, 2023

To: Senator Angus McKelvey, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Government Operations

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 1192 HD 1 RELATING TO ADVANCING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Hawaii Youth Services Network supports HB 1192 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. 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. Youth voice is reflected in bills about flavored tobacco products, and sexual abuse and trafficking training and other issues

If the program is funded, HYSN would work in partnership with the Public Access Room and the Department of Education 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 that have participated in the Hawaii Children and Youth Summit,

"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."

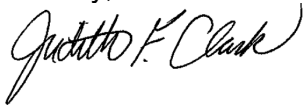
--Alisha Estoy

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, sweeping initial 'J'.

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

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

Testimony to the Thirty-Second Legislature, 2023 Regular Session

Senate Committee on Government Operations
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 1192, H.D. 1
Relating to Advancing Civic Engagement

Purpose: Requires the public access room to establish and maintain an outreach and engagement program for primary, secondary, post-secondary, and community education. Requires the Department of Education (DOE) and University of Hawaii (UH) to assign appropriate staff to coordinate with the public access room for the outreach and engagement program. Appropriates funds for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position to assist in effectuating this requirement.

PACE Commission Position: Support, with comments

The PACE Commission supports the bill in that it would: (1) revise Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 21G-2 to add that “[a]s part of its duties, the public access room shall establish and maintain an outreach and engagement program for primary, secondary, post-secondary, and community education”; and (2) appropriate funds to establish a full-time position within the Public Access Room.

Amending HRS § 21G-2 to establish an outreach and engagement program in the Public Access Room would have a significant impact in reaching and educating students and citizens across the state about the Legislature. It is

also crucial to have a dedicated position to focus on this important effort, and thus it will be highly beneficial to have funds appropriated to establish the full-time position in the Public Access Room. These steps would create a positive and focused engagement with students, educators and citizens 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, educators and citizens can have with the Legislature, and the more they can see the process in action, the more they will understand and want to participate in this key part of our democracy. The proposals in House Bill 1192 advance the purpose of the Public Access Room to “ensure improved public participation in the legislative process” set forth in HRS § 21G-1.

Regarding amendments in the H.D.1 version of the bill -- requiring the DOE and UH to assign staff to coordinate with the Public Access Room -- the PACE Commission appreciates the focus on engagement and coordination between entities, but recognizes that the lack of resources to support civics is a challenge across the state. Currently, there is no full-time position in the DOE focused solely on civic education. Rather, an Education Specialist with broad responsibilities in social studies, as one part of those duties, supports civic education statewide for grades K-12. Also, the Commission is not aware of any position in the UH System focused solely on civic education.

Because the bill establishes a position in the Public Access Room to support the outreach and engagement program, and similar resources are not available in the DOE and UH, the Commission recommends the following changes in sections 2 and 3, respectively:

§302A- Coordination with the public access room; outreach and engagement.
The department The public access room shall assign appropriate staff to coordinate with the ~~public access room~~ department with respect to the outreach and engagement program described in section 21G-2(a)."

"§304A- Coordination with the public access room; outreach and engagement.
The university The public access room shall assign appropriate staff to coordinate with the ~~public access room~~ university with respect to the outreach and engagement program described in section 21G-2(a)."

These suggested changes would preserve coordination between the entities, with recognition of the available resources. Alternatively, the Commission suggests amending the LRB's proposed SD1 by changing the term "shall" to "may."

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

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Angus McKelvey, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Room 225

3:00 PM

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 1192 HD1 - CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 3,981 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars¹ and under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety/Corrections and Rehabilitation on any given day. We are always mindful that 917 - 24.4% of the male imprisoned population² - of Hawai'i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad -- thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons appreciates the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 1192 HD1 requires the public access room to establish and maintain an outreach and engagement program for primary, secondary, post-secondary, and community education and requires the department of education and university of Hawai'i to assign appropriate staff to coordinate with the public access room for the outreach and engagement program. Appropriates funds for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position to assist in effectuating this requirement.

Hawai'i is the only state that has a non-partisan room at the capitol where the community can use computers to write testimony, to ask questions about the legislative process and how to follow bills, and to encourage citizen participation. This is such a wonderful service, especially to students who are interested in how their government

¹ Department of Public Safety, End of Month Population Report, February 28, 2023.

https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Pop-Reports-EOM-2023-23-28_George-King.pdf

² Why are 24.4% of Hawai'i's male prison population sent thousands of miles from home when the following prisons in Hawai'i have room here: Halawa is at 75%; Halawa Special Needs Facility is at 60%; Kulani is at 44%; Waiawa is at 53% of operational capacity.

operates, kupuna who want to share their voices and experience, and advocates, who spend lots of time there between hearings!

We can speak with experience as each session (and even in between sessions) the amazing staff, Virginia Beck and Keanu Young have led some terrific interns each session and it is heartening to long-time advocates that they continue to find new ways to engage the public.

The need for civic education cannot be overstated. We are all surrounded by viral mis- and dis-information that is eroding our democracy. Room 401 at the Capitol is our Public Access Room, the only one in the country! We cannot say enough about the work of the amazing non-partisan staff there. They are so helpful in explaining how the government makes laws, how to testify on bills, where to go to learn more about the issues, and how to be involved in the policymaking done by the legislature.

Kudos to the PACE Commission for promoting civic engagement. Several years ago, civics was removed from the curriculum by the Board of Education and we are all paying a price for that.

There can be no greater benefit to government than an informed and engaged citizenry and no greater benefit to the people than a government that encourages critical thinking on issues affecting all of our lives.

Community Alliance on Prisons urges the committee to vigorously support democracy by funding this bill and encouraging all voices to engage in government.

Mahalo.

HB-1192-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2023 8:30:59 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/14/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

HB-1192-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2023 11:12:21 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/14/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations,

I am in total support of HB1192 HD1. This is so important to our democracy! We need to engage our youth in civic engagement from a young age. I think I would have been involved in it myself much earlier as a student if opportunities were made available for me to learn HOW.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1192-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 9:52:18 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/14/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaili Swan	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

im strong in support of this hb 1192 beacuse students in pubile school needs to learn how to submit testimony online or learn about how the legislative process works and or how current bills that could matter to them are moving in the legislative process please pass this bills thank you.

HB-1192-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 1:08:29 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/14/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this Bill.