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GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
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Date: 03/23/2023

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HCR 0059 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PRIORITIZE FUNDING FOR THE ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRAM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO ADDRESS THE INCREASING POPULATION OF ENGLISH LEARNER STUDENTS.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HCR 59, and respectfully provides comments.

Currently, there are over 17,000 English Learners (EL) enrolled in Department schools. This number has steadily increased from 14,740 in school year 2017-2018 to 16,608 in school year 2021-2022, as reported in the Department's annual Strive HI report. Nationally, EL populations are rising and it is estimated that by 2025, one in four students in public education will be an English Learner.

The Department primarily funds the EL programs through the Weighted Student Formula. To address the increased needs and expand support for ELs, the Department submitted biennium budget requests. The approval of these requests will enable the Department to better support schools with small EL populations, provide additional training to teachers to deliver sheltered instruction to EL students, and increase the number of Bilingual/Bicultural School-Home Assistants to meet the needs of our EL families.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for HCR 59.

