



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

Date: 02/14/2023

Time: 02:15 PM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0246 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of education to employ one full-time equivalent counselor, vice principal, and media specialist at each department school. Appropriates funds.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) offers comments on House Bill 246.

The Reinventing Education Act of 2004 (Act 51) called for the Department to use a new methodology to provide basic operating funding to public schools known as a Weighted Student Formula (WSF). WSF intends to provide funding equity while factoring in each school's unique situational needs. This funding methodology allocates approximately half of the Department's general fund budget to schools based primarily on weighted student units determined by student enrollment and student characteristics at any given school.

The Department, Committee on Weights (COW), and the Hawaii State Board of Education have understood that economies of scale do play a part in how effectively and efficiently those funds can be spent to support student learning. As a result, approximately ten percent of the WSF budget is allocated using non-weighted school characteristics (elementary, middle, high, combination, etc), intended to help overcome lower school enrollments and the resulting relatively smaller budgets.

Once it is decided how much funding a school should be allocated based upon the WSF formula, principals via their school's annual financial plan determine what positions are

most needed for their school. This allows for school-level choice that tailors the needs of each community with the hiring of positions.

While the Department understands the concept of providing certain staff at each school, if this bill were to become law, each principal would be forced to hire each of the named positions instead of other prioritized positions. In addition, each position selected comes with different budget funding levels. Therefore, when principals decide which position and how many of each position their school needs, they are also balancing budgetary considerations while trying to meet their school's academic and financial plans.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



February 10, 2023

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Pacific American Foundation
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Kailua, Hawaii 96734

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www.thepaf.org

House Committee on Education
Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Lisa Marten, Vice Chair

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the Committee,

RE: Support of HB 246

The Pacific American Foundation (PAF) fully supports HB 246 that would require the Department of Education to employ one full-time equivalent counselor, vice principal, and media specialist at each school.

I am writing to express my strong support of HB 246. Providing an additional appropriation of funds will ensure our small schools have essential school-level positions they need to operate functionally.

Waiāhole Elementary and Ka‘a‘awa Elementary are small, rural schools in windward O‘ahu. Yet, because our schools have smaller budgets from smaller enrollments, our teachers and administrators must take on multiple jobs and responsibilities. They do so tirelessly and without complaint because that is what is necessary to keep the school running smoothly, and to keep the campus welcoming to community and families.

Unfortunately, for small schools in Hawai‘i, this is not an isolated reality. But this is not sustainable. Our schools need an operating budget that makes them whole. Without one, administrators are forced to choose between positions or opportunities for students. Our schools cannot maintain a steady course and direction when their budgets are in flux.

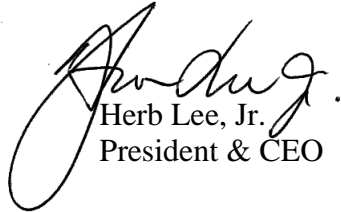
Our schools are absolutely cherished by our communities. They each serve a critical and vital role in the well-being of our communities. Our parents choose to send their children to our schools *because* they are small: they know their child is seen and heard, and they have their teacher on speed dial. Our students say they feel like they belong, it feels like family, and they have a voice. Sustainable, stable funding is what these schools need. It is also what our students deserve.

Ensuring small schools will have the funding for critical positions is an important step towards ensuring that every child in Hawai‘i has equitable access to a quality public school education.

The coordination of relationships and resources are needed, now more than ever, to help students recover from the pandemic and accelerate equitable outcomes in health, education and employment.

PAF urges you to support this bill that would allow our small schools to better implement and organize the resources allocated towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Sincerely,



Herb Lee, Jr.
President & CEO

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Community member, Waiāhole/Ka‘a‘awa

Regarding: H.B. No. 246

Report Title: Department of Education; Mandatory Staff Positions; Appropriation

Purpose: Requires the department of education to employ one full-time equivalent counselor, vice principal, and media specialist at each department school. Appropriates funds.

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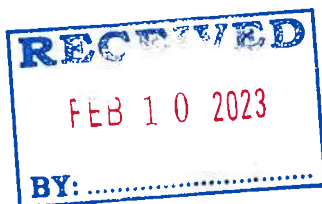
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Doreen Franceschi

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Community member, Waiāhole/Ka‘a‘awa

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Cheryl J. Keim



Department: Education

Person Testifying: Community member, Waiāhole/Ka‘a‘awa

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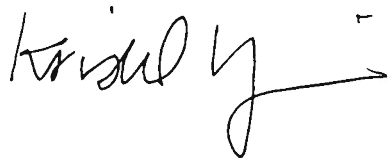
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Department: Education

Person Testifying: Community member, Waiāhole/Ka‘a‘awa

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2/10/23

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Community member, Waiāhole/Ka‘a‘awa

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Jayna Lagapa 2/10/23

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Community member, Waiāhole/Ka‘a‘awa

Regarding: H.B. No. 246

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Amarilis Acevedo 2/10/23
Employee of Waiāhole

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Community member, Waiāhole/Ka‘a‘awa

Regarding: H.B. No. 246

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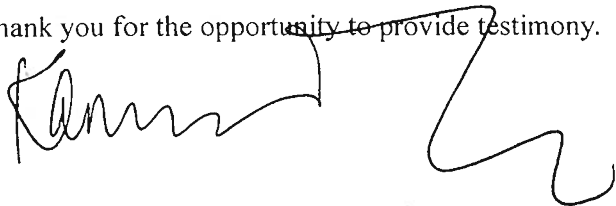
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2/10/23

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Community member, Waiāhole/Ka‘a‘awa

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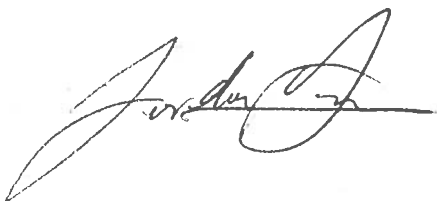
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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Jamie Carahy



Department: Education

Person Testifying: *Enne Howard*
Community member, Waiāhole/Ka‘a‘awa

Regarding: H.B. No. 246

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2/10/23

Department: Education
Person Testifying: Hilary T. White
Community member, Waiāhole/Ka‘a‘awa
Regarding: H.B. No. 246
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2/10/23

Department: Education

Person Testifying: *Joy Uhlachter*
Community member, Waiāhole/Ka'a'awa

Regarding: H.B. No. 246

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Joy Uhlachter

2/10/23

Department: Education
Person Testifying: *Starr Domingo*
Community member, Waiāhole/Ka‘a‘awa
Regarding: H.B. No. 246
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2/10/23

Department: Education

Person Testifying: *Kanoelani Piliamas*
Community member, Waiāhole/Ka‘a‘awa

Regarding: H.B. No. 246

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Our schools need an operating budget that makes them whole. Without one, administrators are forced to choose between positions or opportunities for students. Our schools cannot maintain a steady course and direction when their budgets are in flux.

Our schools are absolutely cherished by our communities. They each serve a critical and vital role in the well-being of our communities. Our parents choose to send their children to our schools *because* they are small: they know their child is seen and heard, and they have their teacher on speed dial. Our students say they feel like they belong, it feels like family, and they have a voice.

Sustainable, stable funding is what these schools need. It is also what our students deserve.

Ensuring small schools will have the funding for critical positions is an important step towards ensuring that every child in Hawai‘i has equitable access to a quality public school education.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Cindy Wong
Waiāhole El. Employee

2/10/23

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Community member, Waiāhole/Ka‘a‘awa

Regarding: H.B. No. 246

Report Title: Department of Education; Mandatory Staff Positions; Appropriation

Purpose: Requires the department of education to employ one full-time equivalent counselor, vice principal, and media specialist at each department school. Appropriates funds.

I am writing to express my strong support of HB 246. Providing an additional appropriation of funds will ensure our small schools have essential school-level positions they need to operate functionally.

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Lynzele E.H. Jones
18 yrs. Health MDE
Waiāhole Elementary
School,
2/10/23

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Community member, Waiāhole/Ka'a'awa

Regarding: H.B. No. 246

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Melissa Drew
Waiāhole Employee

2/10/23

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Community member, Waiāhole/Ka‘a‘awa

Regarding: H.B. No. 246

Report Title: Department of Education; Mandatory Staff Positions; Appropriation

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Jordan Brigoli
Jordan Brigoli

2/10/23

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Community member, Waiāhole/Ka‘a‘awa

Regarding: H.B. No. 246

Report Title: Department of Education; Mandatory Staff Positions; Appropriation

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Micah Brigoli



2/10/23

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Community member, Waiāhole/Ka‘a‘awa

Regarding: H.B. No. 246

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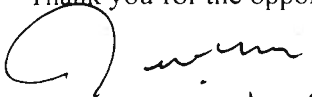
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Waiāhole Employee

2/10/23

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Community member, Waiāhole/Ka‘a‘awa

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Annestine Lanisay
Waiāhole

2/10/23

JOSEPH WAT

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Community member, Waiāhole/Ka‘a‘awa

Regarding: H.B. No. 246

Report Title: Department of Education; Mandatory Staff Positions; Appropriation

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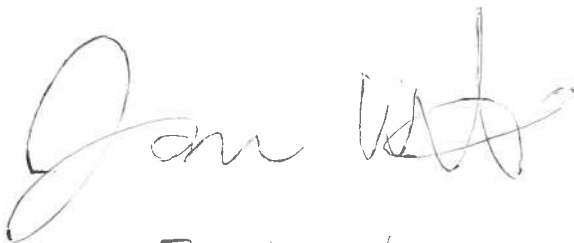
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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



JOSEPH WAT

2/10/23

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Marlene A. Zeug, EdD, MBA
Community member, Kāneʻohe, Oʻahu

Regarding: H.B. No. 246

Report Title: Department of Education; Mandatory Staff Positions; Appropriation

Purpose: Requires the department of education to employ one full-time equivalent counselor, vice principal, and media specialist at each department school. Appropriates funds.

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Zeug', written over the text 'Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.'

HB-246

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 1:11:40 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/14/2023 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chuck Mitsui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a parent of 2 students at Ka'a'awa elementary school. This bill would help fund our small school that is facing financial challenges due to the weighted student formula. I think the formula is flawed and more should be done to determine a minimum budget for a school based on the minimum staffing requirements like what is being proposed in this bill. I am in favor of this bill and future bills that work towards finding a school's true budget instead of the weighted student formula.

Chuck Mitsui

HB-246

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 2:15:21 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/14/2023 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT this bill which requires the department of education to employ one full-time equivalent counselor, vice principal, and media specialist at each department school.

Appropriates funds.

THIS is a better use of funds in our schools than many of the other ideas that I have seen. Counselors are much needed in all schools to help ALL children. Media Specialists play a critical role in supporting students, teachers and the community. A vice-principal, by design, should be invaluable in supporting like counselors and media specialists. They should be knowledgeable about curriculum and ALL of the people at their schools.

HB-246

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 6:50:40 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/14/2023 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Pimentel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support of HB 246. I am an educator at a small rural school that has an enrollment of about 100 students. Majority of our students are of Native Hawaiian decent and come from very disadvantaged households. Many of them come with their own trauma and needs, even the ones as young as preschool. The school staff and educators, like myself, love what we do and care for our keiki (children) so deeply and do whatever we can to help and support them with the resources we have. However, the needs and support that keiki need are so much greater than what we can do alone. These keiki deserve a full time counselor that can dedicate 100% of their time and attention to helping support their growth. All staff at our school are doing multiple roles/jobs and also need the support because we often suffer from burn out. The sad truth is that if teachers are suffering from burn out, they are not able to give their best to the keiki in their room that deserve it so much. Having a vice principle and media specialist to take some of these extra duties off of teachers would be so helpful in preventing burn out and would help boost the level of energy and teaching effectiveness.

We love our small schools dearly and will do whatever we can to help keep them open and thriving. Small schools are essential. We have very close relationships with keiki and their 'ohana. Keiki get a lot more one on one time with their teachers and are able to get differentiated instruction. I hope that you all continue to listen and learn the value of small schools and I ask you to help support small schools by supporting HB 246.

Thank you for your time and listening to my testimony!

HB-246

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 7:55:15 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/14/2023 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica Sanchez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Erica Sanchez and I'm a parent at Waiahole Elementary school. I strongly support this bill being passed. Our school may be small but it has a huge heart. Our children are so smart and talented and kind. They deserve this bill to pass to give them equal opportunities as their peers in larger schools. Please please consider passing this bill.

Much Mahalos,

Erica Sanchez

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Rachel Jacobson
Community member, Waiāhole/Ka‘a‘awa

Regarding: H.B. No. 246

Report Title: Department of Education; Mandatory Staff Positions; Appropriation

Purpose: Requires the department of education to employ one full-time equivalent counselor, vice principal, and media specialist at each department school. Appropriates funds.

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Our schools are absolutely cherished by our communities. They each serve a critical and vital role in the well-being of our communities. I choose to send my child to Ka‘a‘awa Elementary School *because* it is small, and I know my child is seen and heard. Many of the students say they feel like they belong, it feels like family, and they have a voice.

Sustainable, stable funding is what these schools need. It is also what our students deserve.

Ensuring small schools will have the funding for critical positions is an important step towards ensuring that every child in Hawai‘i has equitable access to a quality public school education.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Rachel Jacobson



Department: Education

Person Testifying: Jennifer Luke-Payne
Principal, Ka'a'awa Elementary School

Regarding: H.B. No. 246

Report Title: Department of Education; Mandatory Staff Positions; Appropriation

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Department: Education

Person Testifying: Carrie Caruso
Community member, Waiāhole/Ka‘a‘awa

Regarding: H.B. No. 246

Report Title: Department of Education; Mandatory Staff Positions; Appropriation

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Our schools need an operating budget that makes them whole. Without one, administrators are forced to choose between positions or opportunities for students. Our schools cannot maintain a steady course and direction when their budgets are in flux. Our children need readily accessed **equal** educational opportunities in the communities where they live and play.

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



HB-246

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 10:05:38 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/14/2023 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vivien Lee and Charlie Reppun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are writing to express our strong support of HB 246. Providing an additional appropriation of funds will ensure our small schools have essential school-level positions they need to operate functionally.

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Charlie Reppun and Vivien Lee