

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

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

**Date:** 02/23/2023

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Location:** 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Finance

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 0464, HD1 RELATING TO MAGNET SCHOOLS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes a five-year magnet school pilot program at Waiahole and Ka'a'awa elementary schools. Establishes eight full-time equivalent (8.0 FTE) positions. Appropriates funds. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) provides comments on HB 464, HD 1, which establishes magnet school pilot programs and positions.

The Department appreciates the need for specialized agricultural education at Waiahole and Ka'a'awa Elementary schools. Increased agricultural education opportunities can help bring awareness to food issues in Hawaii and lead towards greater food self-sufficiency over the long run.

Currently, the Department provides a funding allocation to each school based upon a formulaic funding amount established by the Committee on Weights. This structure is designed to distribute the Department's finite resources to the schools based on equity and need.

The Department appreciates this proposal and the inclusion of funding but asks that any additional funding does not affect the priorities identified in the Department's Hawaii State Board of Education approved budget request.

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

Department: Education

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

Regarding: H.B. No. 464

Report Title: Department of Education; Pilot Program; Magnet Schools; Appropriation

Purpose: Establishes a five-year magnet school pilot program at Waiāhole and Ka‘a‘awa elementary schools. Establishes eight full time equivalent (8.0 FTE) positions. Appropriates funds.

I am writing to express my strong support of HB 464, which will set aside funds for positions important to operationalizing a mauka-makai framework for Waiāhole and Ka‘a‘awa Elementary schools.

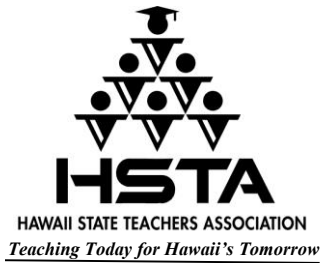
Over the past two years, our Waiāhole and Ka‘a‘awa schools and respective communities have been actively exploring the shared core values and beliefs that should ground and shape teaching and learning for our students. Students, parents and families, and teachers all weighed in and agreed: ‘āina-based teaching and learning will strengthen what schools are already doing well, as part of their core teaching and learning system.

Connecting place, culture, and history to math, english, science, and social studies engages our students’ natural curiosity to learn about and address present-day issues they experience daily as a lived reality. Topics like coastal erosion, water and food security, emergency preparedness in rural and isolated locations, and community resilience are just a few contemporary issues that can be taught while introducing cultural practices and community knowledges alongside core subjects. And, teaching these issues are critical for the economic and environmental future of Hawai‘i. Building an aligned mauka-makai curricular and instructional system across our schools builds our students’ critical thinking and problem solving skills in a relevant context, and helps our students understand who they are and where they come from as they navigate their futures and the planet’s.

I stand with Waiāhole and Ka‘a‘awa as we continue to innovate our teaching and learning to meet the needs of our students, families, and community—and our planet’s and Hawai‘i’s future. Providing the means by which our schools will be able to develop and launch a mauka to makai educational program is a critical step towards supporting this important effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.





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## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: HB 464 HD1 - RELATING TO MAGNET SCHOOLS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 464, HD1**, relating to magnet schools. The bill establishes a five-year magnet school pilot program at Waiahole and Ka‘a‘awa elementary schools. It also establishes eight full-time equivalent positions and appropriates funds.

Magnet schools are public elementary and secondary schools that focus on specific areas of interest, such as performing arts, world languages, leadership, STEM programs, and more.

The bill notes that Waiahole Elementary School has developed a specialized agricultural program and Ka‘a‘awa Elementary School has developed a “mauka to makai” watershed program. These programs have community support and could be valuable learning opportunities in areas beneficial to the State.

We believe in creating positive and interesting learning opportunities for our students and these two schools have developed such programs that both the students and their communities support. As such, creating a pilot program at where foundational work has already begun for magnet schools is a good idea, should be supported, closely monitored, and reported on. Should these pilot programs be successful, they could be duplicated elsewhere in the state.

To provide students with meaningful and dynamic learning experiences, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Mieko Māhealani Treaster  
Kānehūnāmoku Voyaging Academy, K-12 Program Coordinator  
Community partner, Waiāhole/Ka‘a‘awa

Regarding: H.B. No. 464

Report Title: Department of Education; Pilot Program; Magnet Schools; Appropriation

Purpose: Establishes a five-year magnet school pilot program at Waiāhole and Ka‘a‘awa elementary schools. Establishes eight full time equivalent (8.0 FTE) positions. Appropriates funds.

I am writing to express my strong support of HB 464, which will set aside funds for positions important to operationalizing a mauka-makai framework for Waiāhole and Ka‘a‘awa Elementary schools.

Over the past two years, our Waiāhole and Ka‘a‘awa schools and respective communities have been actively exploring the shared core values and beliefs that should ground and shape teaching and learning for our students. Students, parents and families, and teachers all weighed in and agreed: ‘āina-based teaching and learning will strengthen what schools are already doing well, as part of their core teaching and learning system.

Connecting place, culture, and history to math, english, science, and social studies engages our students’ natural curiosity to learn about and address present-day issues they experience daily as a lived reality. Topics like coastal erosion, water and food security, emergency preparedness in rural and isolated locations, and community resilience are just a few contemporary issues that can be taught while introducing cultural practices and community knowledge alongside core subjects. And, teaching these issues are critical for the economic and environmental future of Hawai‘i. Building an aligned mauka-makai curricular and instructional system across our schools builds our students’ critical thinking and problem solving skills in a relevant context, and helps our students understand who they are and where they come from as they navigate their futures and the planet’s.

Kānehūnāmoku Voyaging Academy stands behind Waiāhole and Ka‘a‘awa as they continue to innovate their teaching and learning to meet the needs of our students, families, and community—and our planet’s and Hawai‘i’s future. We have partnered with both schools in providing access to the wa‘a (canoe) and topics that help to strengthen our keiki’s potential to be the future navigators of our islands of Hawai‘i and of our island Earth. Providing the means by which these schools will be able to develop and launch a mauka to makai educational program is a critical step towards supporting this important effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Mieko Māhealani Treaster

**HB-464-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 12:32:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ENTHUSIASTICALLY AND FULLY SUPPORT this bill which establishes a five-year magnet school pilot program at Waiahole and Ka'a'awa elementary schools. Establishes eight full-time equivalent (8.0 FTE) positions. Appropriates funds.

This seems to be a great way to support those communities for whom enrollment has changed. I am excited to see the direction this goes and strongly ask that this bill pass and that we SUPPORT these two very special schools in our community. We are unique and need to find unique solutions.

**HB-464-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 12:59:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dr. Donna Lindsey	hawaii department of education	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support of HB 464, which will set aside funds for positions important to operationalizing a mauka-makai framework for Waiāhole and Ka‘a‘awa Elementary schools.

Over the past two years, our Waiāhole and Ka‘a‘awa schools and respective communities have been actively exploring the shared core values and beliefs that should ground and shape teaching and learning for our students. Students, parents and families, and teachers all weighed in and agreed: ‘āina-based teaching and learning will strengthen what schools are already doing well, as part of their core teaching and learning system.

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Our community stands behind Waiāhole and Ka‘a‘awa as they continue to innovate their teaching and learning to meet the needs of our students, families, and community—and our planet’s and Hawai‘i’s future. Providing the means by which these schools will be able to develop and launch a mauka to makai educational program is a critical step towards supporting this important effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**HB-464-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 1:41:28 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cynthia Hopkins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support of HB464, which will set aside funds for positions important to operationalizing a mauka-makai framework for Waiahole and Ka'a'awa Elementary Schools.

'Aina based teaching and learning will strengthen the connection of place, culture, and history to math, english, science, and social studies which engages our students' natural curiosity to learn about and address present-day issues as they experience daily realities.

I stand behind Waiahole and Ka'a'awa schools as they continue to innovate their teaching and learning to meet the needs of students, families, community, and the world. The mauka-makai educational program is a critical step towards living now and in the future.

My ohana has lived in the valley for three generations. I am an alumni of Waiahole School which I attended from Kindergarten to ninth grade and returned to teach there for a short time after college. I am retired now, but will always be drawn to this wonderful school with caring teachers and staff.

I strongly support HB464.

Mahalo a nui loa,

**HB-464-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 7:29:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Zoe Lewis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, as an alumni of Waiahole Elementary School from the class of 2020, will support this bill for the prosperity of future students. Students will benefit from the increased attraction of this program, allowing them to achieve a higher degree of education.



Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathleen Pua'ikalani Magdaro  
Community member, Waiāhole/Ka'a'awa

H.B. No. 464

Department of Education; Pilot Program; Magnet Schools; Appropriation

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

*Kathleen Pua'ikalani Magdaro*

**HB-464-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 8:16:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Pati Kickland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother I support HB464. This bill addresses multiple objectives: supports aina-based learning, provides resources to communities that sometimes do not get the attention they deserve, perpetuates Hawaiian culture, and creates a sustainable path for keeping small schools open. State government often struggles to do any one of these things. But this bill makes progress on all four objectives. These schools are the heartbeat of our valleys. Please help us as we encourage our children to grow.