

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:** 03/21/2024

**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 0188 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS ARE STAFFED WITH LICENSED SCHOOL LIBRARIANS AND LICENSED SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALISTS.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education supports HCR 0188.

School libraries supported by qualified staff can play a vital role in student success. Licensed librarians possess the expertise to curate resources, teach information literacy, and foster a love of reading.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR 0188.

**HR-168**

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 5:06:49 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diane K Mokuau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Committee on Education*

*Justin H. Woodson, Chair*

*Trish La Chica, Vice Chair*

*HCR188/HR168*

*Urging the Department of Education to ensure that school libraries and school library media centers are staffed with licensed school librarians and licensed school library media specialist*

*Justin H. Woodson, Chair*

*House Committee on Education*

*HCR188/HR168*

*Hearing: Thursday, 3/21/24*

*2:00 pm, Conference Room 309 via videoconference*

*My name is Diane Mokuau, librarian at Molokai High School. I am testifying in support of the resolution to ensure that school libraries are staffed with licensed school librarians.*

*The shocking fact is that I am the sole licensed practicing school librarian on Molokai. All 4 elementary schools and the 1 middle school on my island have no qualified librarian in their library. It is especially disturbing to know that young children on Molokai have limited access to the latest books and online resources. They have no librarian to teach them how to find factual information and how to deal with the dangers of misinformation. Their teachers don't have the services of a librarian who can provide them with the latest exciting curriculum-related resources and technologies. At a time when we need to raise students who can successfully compete in the digital age, we are shortchanging them by not providing them with an*

*indispensable resource. I strongly urge that you support this resolution to give our young learners the benefits of a well-equipped library that is managed by a licensed school librarian. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.*

*Diane Mokuau*

*Molokai High School*

*PO Box 445*

*Hoolehua, HI 96729*

*mokuaudiane@gmail.com*

**HR-168**

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 5:31:13 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alice Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this resolution.

**HR-168**

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 6:45:08 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tara Severns	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha.

I am writing to express my support for HCR188/HR168. Studies have shown that having full-time certified librarians in school libraries has a positive impact on student success. This effect is particularly significant for the most vulnerable and at-risk learners, including low-income students. It is a grave disservice to our keiki that less than a quarter of our school libraries are fully staffed with qualified librarians. We can and must do better. Your support for these resolutions is greatly appreciated.

Mahalo.