

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: 02/07/2023

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0055 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) provides comments on HB 0055.

The Department supports the implementation of community schools programs to provide high-quality educational opportunities by focusing on the whole child when providing educational experiences for our students. To accomplish this, the community school model requires the support of school staff, teachers, families, and communities. Creating these partnerships and valuable relationships enrich students and their surrounding communities.

The Department is concerned that the grant program created by this bill is too prescriptive and may not meet the unique needs of its varied, multi-faceted communities. The Department also does not currently know the community school program's specific demands, as outlined. As such, the Department would have difficulty determining the type and amount of resources that should be committed to this endeavor.

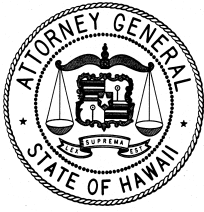
Currently, the Department requires that the schools designated as Comprehensive Support and Improvement with More Rigorous Interventions (CSI-MRI) move to a Full-Service Community Schools model. CSI-MRI schools have been identified as the lowest-performing schools in need of support for their students. To bolster the supports, one of the requirements of the CSI-MRI schools is to partner with community organizations to implement the community schools approach fully.

Pursuant to the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, schools receiving federal funding, such as Title IA, must set aside a portion of its funds to promote parent and family engagement. As a requirement of receiving the federal funding, schools must use their comprehensive needs assessment and academic plan to determine the purpose and type of parent and family engagement activities that best meet their needs. Requiring these funds to be integrated into the operations funding of the community school program would limit the authority of the administrator, the staff, and families from local school control and hamper the delegation of its funds.

The Department would suggest allowing its implementation with the CSI-MRI schools to further gauge community interest in the community schools program.

Finally, if the decision is made to create this grant program, then the Department would appreciate an appropriation to fulfill the mandate, provided that this does not affect the priorities identified in the Hawaii State Board of Education approved budget.

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



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:
H.B. NO. 55, RELATING TO EDUCATION.

BEFORE THE:
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

DATE: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 309

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Anne T. Horiuchi, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) provides the following comment.

The bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

The bill states that the DOE "shall make sustainable community schools operational grants of up to \$_____ a year available to implement a sustainable community school's strategy." (Page 11, lines 13-16.) However, the bill does not state what moneys are to be used to fund this grant program. If general funds are to be used, we suggest adding a section to the bill stating that an appropriation out of the general revenues of the State will be used for the community school pilot program and that the amount shall be expended by the DOE for the purposes of the Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comment.

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

February 2, 2023
Conference Room 309

RE: Support of HB 55 Relating to Education

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

Waimea Middle Public Conversion Charter School supports HB1941 that would require the Department of Education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

In Hawai'i, full-service community schools are innovative, thriving hubs of learning in which partnerships and collaboration create a'o aku, a'o mai, reciprocal relationships between learners and place, content and context, and schools and communities. Community Schools are a proven school improvement strategy focused on student-centered teaching and learning that better serves the holistic needs of all students and their families.

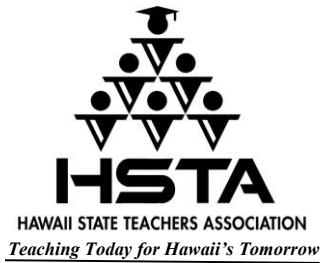
The pandemic made clear that many children lack the support they need to thrive in school. This is why community schools are needed more than ever as schools must look to families, youth, and community partners to help address barriers to learning.

At our local advisory parel meeting, a parents commented about our 5 days of after school programming including transportation. This would not have been possible without our REACH grant.

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.

Waimea Middle Public Conversion Charter School urges you to support this bill that would allow more schools to adopt and implement the community schools strategy and organize the resources in their community towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Sincerely,
Janice English. Principal



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Osa Tui, Jr.
President
Logan Okita.
Vice President
Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer
Ann Mahi
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HB 55 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 55**, relating to education. This bill requires the Department of Education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

We support the network of services envisioned in the community schools model with wraparound services, like health care, and amplified social services' access to school campuses. In employing high quality teaching and culturally sensitive curricula, prioritizing restorative justice, and highlighting community engagement, community schools have been shown to increase graduation rates and college enrollment, while decreasing behavioral referrals and health risks.

Under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, up to 7 percent of Title I funding may be used to uplift our state's lowest performing 5 percent of schools. Allowing these grants will allow more investments in community schools that would empower our schools to become change agents in addressing community needs and provide invaluable services to vulnerable keiki.

Community schools provide not only tremendous opportunities for learning and success for students, but they also offer hope, opportunity, and transformation to entire communities. They are schools built with the understanding that students often come to the classroom with challenges that impact their ability to learn, explore, and develop to their greatest potential.

Because learning never happens in isolation, community schools provide free healthy meals, health care, tutoring, mental health counseling, and other tailored services before, during, and after school that are much needed to support our schools, teachers, and our students.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance

1776 University Avenue, WA1-102
Honolulu, HI 96822



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

February 7, 2023
Conference Room 309

RE: Support of HB 55 Relating to Education

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

The Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance supports HB 55 that would require the Department of Education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

In Hawai'i, full-service community schools are innovative, thriving hubs of learning in which partnerships and collaboration create a'o aku, a'o mai, reciprocal relationships between learners and place, content and context, and schools and communities. Community Schools are a proven school improvement strategy focused on student-centered teaching and learning that better serves the holistic needs of all students and their families.

The pandemic made clear that many children lack the support they need to thrive in school. This is why community schools are needed more than ever as schools must look to families, youth, and community partners to help address barriers to learning.

We humbly ask the committee to consider revising the bill to reflect [HB 1941 HD1 SD1](#) from the 2022 legislative session. This version of the bill was reorganized to include changes recommended by the Department of Education and members of the community. We also recommend making the following changes to HB 1941 HD1 SD1:

- Page 2, line 9, adjust term “applicant” to mean the “lead partner agency and eligible school or consortium”
- Page 3, line 9, delete “consortium” term as it is repetitive of “community school consortium”
- Page 3, line 12, revise eligibility requirements to:
 - a public school or public charter school that is:
 - (1) A title I school OR
 - (2) A public school that has been identified for comprehensive support and improvement, targeted support and improvement, or otherwise has been identified by the State as a school in need of additional support.
- Page 4, line 6, revise definition of “lead partner agency” to include that the lead partner agency hires, supervises and supports the community school coordinator.

- Page 5, line 20, add “community school coordinator” as one of the required members of the school leadership team; make “community partners” a separate line and delete “including a representative or representatives from the lead partner agency”
- Page 6, line 11, and page 8, line 2, increase planning grant awards to \$120,000
- Page 6, line 14, and page 9, line 13, increase implementation grant awards to \$250,000
- Page 9, line 1, change “implementation” to “planning” grant
- Page 10, subsection C, add language on school interest from Section 4(D)(1)
- Page 13, subsection F(3), combine (A) and (B) into one category of “integrated student supports”
- Page 19, line 11, adjust language to “Reports shall be submitted by the lead partner agency *receiving implementation grant funds*, subject to the approval of the school leadership team, to the department...”
- Page 20, line 13, consider changing “academic achievement” to alternative outcomes such as attendance, family engagement, and/or behavior referrals. It is not realistic to see academic results from 1 year of implementation, but community schools have proven to show the short term results listed above.
- Include language to add a DOE staff position to run the program
- Add 10% of total funding will be set aside for evaluation
- Add 10% of total funding will be set aside for technical assistance
- Request for total funding for a 2-year grant program that would fund 5 schools is \$3,080,000

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.

We urge you to support this bill that would allow more schools to adopt and implement the community schools strategy and organize the resources in their community towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Masutani
 Program Director
 Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance
 hawaiiafterschool@gmail.com
www.hawaiiafterschoolalliance.org



Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: Representative Woddson, Chair
Representative Marten, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

Re: HB55, relating to education
2:00 p.m., Feb. 7, 2023

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten and committee members:

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, mahalo for the opportunity to **testify in SUPPORT of House Bill 55, relating to education.**

We hear it said all the time that it takes a village to raise a child. But too often, our system disconnects families, students, educators, local organizations and more from one another and from their communities. Community schools are rebuilding the connections our keiki need to thrive.

Community Schools work in partnership with community organizations, families, and other agencies to advance student outcomes by integrating student supports, active family and community engagement, collaborative leadership practices, and expanded and enriching learning time. They are able to mobilize their community in times of uncertainty or hardship, through well-established partnerships built on trust. These partnerships can often ensure that basic needs, and other necessities are still available to those who need them.

We believe community schools are a promising strategy that deserve your committee's support. **Please advance HB55.**

Mahalo,

Ke'ōpū Reelitz
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy



**Parents And
Children Together**

BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT MATTER MOST

TO: Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the House Committee on Education

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

DATE/LOCATION: February 7, 2023; 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 309

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 55 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

We support HB 55 that would require the Department of Education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

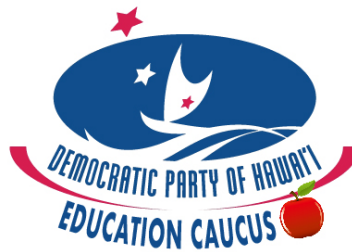
In Hawaii, full-service community schools are innovative, thriving hubs of learning in which partnerships and collaboration create a'o aku, a'o mai, reciprocal relationships between learners and place, content and context, and schools and communities. Community Schools are a proven school improvement strategy focused on student-centered teaching and learning that better serves the holistic needs of all students and their families.

The pandemic made clear that many children lack the support they need to thrive in school. Therefore, community schools are needed more than ever as schools must look to families, youth, and community partners to help address barriers to learning.

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.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to under-resourced families. Assisting more than 17,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address, and successfully resolve challenges through its 20 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community strengthening programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB 55**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.



HOUSE BILL 55, RELATING TO EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 7, 2023 · HOUSE EDUCATION
COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. JUSTIN H. WOODSON

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports** HB 55, relating to education, which requires the Hawai'i Department of Education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

Legislators should invest in education programs that deliver wraparound care for students and deal with educational “inputs” that impact student success, like poverty and access to health care. An example of such a program is the community schools model of education, which, as noted in Hawai'i's Consolidated State Plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act, is a research-based strategy for school improvement that emphasizes high-quality teaching, culturally relevant curricula, wraparound student supports, positive disciplinary practices and restorative justice, parent and community engagement, and inclusive school leadership. **Community schools programs may be instrumental in uplifting the social and emotional learning and healthcare of students as we continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

In prioritizing student wellness, community schools have been shown to increase learning growth and graduation rates, while decreasing behavioral referrals and chronic absenteeism. In New York City, for example, community schools that highlight mental health counseling and consistent

family outreach have seen chronic absenteeism rates fall by 7.8 percent as of 2017, with graduation rates rising 4.8 percent. Engaged learners are more like to acquire the skills necessary to become active citizens and productive members of the workforce. Additionally, since even the most affluent and well-adjusted children face challenges in their maturation processes, guaranteeing that schools have the resources to respond to childhood pressures and trauma with compassion and sensitivity may make the difference between sending a student to college or losing them to social threats, like addiction or our state's prolific sex trade.

To use the case study of sexual wellness, community schools can partner with service providers to run modern sexual health programs that model positive relationships and tackle tough issues, like sexual consent. These programs don't just prevent young women from becoming victims of gender violence. They also teach young men about healthy forms of masculinity that aren't predicated on dominance and physical aggression, ultimately cutting down on acts of aggression in school settings and Hawai'i's violent crime rates.

Community schools also deliver essential services for working families, including health care, mental wellness programming, dental care, and even social assistance programs like affordable housing connectivity. **In communities that are highly impoverished or remote, these services are critical to mitigating the adverse impact of under-resourced social infrastructure, empowering students to meet their basic needs and sustain their learning trajectories.**

Launching community schools will require additional money. Yet, their capacity to address a wide range of student needs and help remedy longstanding social problems make their creation a laudable strategy for our state's education leaders to pursue.

Kris Coffield · Chairperson, DPH Education Caucus · (808) 679-7454 · kriscoffield@gmail.com

Date: February 6, 2023

To: House Committee on Education
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Lisa Marten, Vice Chair
And members of the Committee

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: **Support for HB 55, Relating to Community Schools**

Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide cross-sector partnership designed to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest children and their families. ECAS partners are working to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources, and improve programs to support our youngest keiki.

ECAS supports passage of HB 55. This bill will require the Department of Education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

In Hawai'i, full-service community schools are innovative, thriving hubs of learning in which partnerships and collaboration create a'o aku, a'o mai, reciprocal relationships between learners and place, content and context, and schools and communities. Through community schools, thriving learners, educators, families, 'āina, and communities are supported by nurturing networks that promote reciprocity. The community schools strategy transforms schools into innovative, thriving hubs of learning that incubate and connect Indigenous wisdom and contemporary knowledge to create and meet local and global opportunities.

While the full effects of COVID-19 are still unknown, the pandemic has exacerbated existing stressors on youth and families in our communities, and we are already seeing the growing need for services and support for our most vulnerable children and families. This is why community schools are needed more than ever as schools must look to families, youth, and community partners to help address barriers to learning.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



February 6, 2023

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson

Michael W. Beasley, Esq.

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

RE: Support of HB 55 Relating to Education

BOARD MEMBERS

Ethan Cooper
Herb Lee, Jr.
Brad Cooper
Colette Higgins

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

The Pacific American Foundation (PAF) fully supports HB55 that would require the Department of Education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

ADMINISTRATION

President & CEO

Herb Lee Jr.

Chief Financial Officer

Louis F. Perez II

General Counsel

Ethan Cooper

In Hawai'i, full-service community schools are innovative, thriving hubs of learning in which partnerships and collaboration create a'ō aku, a'ō mai, reciprocal relationships between learners and place, content and context, and schools and communities. Community Schools are a proven school improvement strategy focused on student-centered teaching and learning that better serves the holistic needs of all students and their families.

The pandemic made clear that many children lack the support they need to thrive in school. This is why community schools are needed more than ever as schools must look to families, youth, and community partners to help address barriers to learning.

PAF has built community partnerships with the HIDOE for over 25 years as a way to bridge indigenous wisdom with contemporary knowledge that underscore relevance and inspiration to the learner.

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 more schools to adopt and implement the community schools strategy and organize the resources in their community towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Herb Lee, Jr.", written over a blue horizontal line.

Herb Lee, Jr.
President & CEO

Pacific American Foundation
C/O 111 Hekili Street Suite A
170
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

Phone: (808) 664-3027
www.thepaf.org



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

February 2, 2023
Conference Room 309

RE: Support of HB 55 Relating to Education

Position: SUPPORT INTENT of bill with comments

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

My name is Kathleen O'Dell, and I am the Network Coordinator for the Hawai'i 'Ohana Support Network (HOSN) which is a state network of government and non-profit organizations supporting the work of school and community based Family Resource Centers (FRCs). This state network was established in 2020 and became members of the National Family Support Network in the same year. We currently have seven community based FRCs known as Neighborhood Places and four school based FRCs.

The National Family Support Network defines a Family Resource Center (FRC) as a community or school-based hub of support, services, and opportunities for families that:

- *Utilizes an approach that is multi-generational, strength-based, and family centered*
- *Reflects and is responsive to community needs and interests*
- *Provides support at no or low cost for participants*
- *Enhances parenting skills*
- *Fosters the healthy development and well-being of children, youth, and families*
- *Prevents child abuse and neglect*
- *Increases school readiness*
- *Connects families to resources*
- *Supports healthy marital and couples relationships*
- *Promotes family economic success*

The goals of a FRC are to:

- *Support families to be strong, healthy, and successful*
- *Contribute to building a strong and healthy community*
- *Reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect by building the researchbased Strengthening Families Protective Factors*

Most FRC programs offer:

- *Parenting Support*
- *Access to Resources*
- *Child Development Activities*
- *Parent Leadership Development*

The HOSN provides resources, training, and coaching, and program evaluation for the FRCs in the network as well as consultation and support for new FRCs. In collaboration with the work of the HOSN, Act 129, SLH 2022 relating to Family Resource Centers was enacted to establish a FRC Coordinator position to further develop and implement a statewide network of school and community based FRCs; to establish definitions, standards, and best practices; to identify and align available services, goals, and outcomes; and to develop referral and data tracking protocols.

The HOSN is in support the intent of HB1941 for community schools when they are chosen and planned by families and communities in collaboration with schools. We emphasize the importance of having a Family Resource Center on these campuses as an integral part of the community school model to insure there is an accessible and welcoming space on campus with a position dedicated to building relationships with families and working in partnership with them to strengthen families and plan family engagement, in addition to a community liaison position.

The coordination of relationships and resources are needed, **along with purposeful partnership with families** now more than ever, to strengthen families and help students recover from the pandemic to accelerate equitable outcomes in student learning, health, education, and employment.

The HOSN urges collaboration of all stakeholders, including families, to plan and support the community schools strategy and organize the resources in their community towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Sincerely,

Kathleen O'Dell, PhD
HOSN Network Coordinator

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

February 5, 2023
Conference Room 309

RE: Support of HB 55 Relating to Education

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

Kaimuki Middle School's Voyager Center supports HB1941 that would require the Department of Education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

In Hawai'i, full-service community schools are innovative, thriving hubs of learning in which partnerships and collaboration create a'o aku, a'o mai, reciprocal relationships between learners and place, content and context, and schools and communities. Community Schools are a proven school improvement strategy focused on student-centered teaching and learning that better serves the holistic needs of all students and their families.

Vital Hubs in a Thriving Community Ecosystem

Kaimuki Middle's Voyager Center is a living example of a budding community catalyst, one of many central nodes in the larger societal ecosystem that connects students and teachers with local experts, organizations, and fellow lifelong learners to spark discovery, that is itself a place of bridging—of indigenous with contemporary, people with place, and classroom content with real-world context. Widespread unemployment, teacher fatigue, and learning loss put our community in critical need of not just repair but revitalization, and we took our return to school as an opportunity to build back a new foundation reimagined for the COVID era and beyond, with relationships and project-based and student-centered learning at the forefront.

COVID showed us that we cannot wait; real-world problems are at our doorsteps and in need of innovative solutions. We are dedicated to teaching our students skills and values that will equip them for life so that they may feed themselves and others, *malama 'āina* (take care of the land), reinstate cultures of care, and rise to meet the challenges of our social, political, and environmental climates. We do this to honor our Earth's inheritors, and to honor the land that provides for generations past, present, and—with *aloha 'āina*—far into the future.

Small steps lead to big change...

Kaimuki Middle's Voyager Center is a living example of a budding community school movement within a traditional DOE middle school. A community catalyst that brings together both dreamers and doers, we strive to design quality learning experiences that serve students quickly, and without compromise. We brought the expertise of 38 local practitioners to our school and wrote grants that funded the Voyager Center, Green Lab garden revival, Climate Conscious Inquiry, science fair investigations, and Learning Celebration. We also used grant

funds to coordinate school-wide professional development workshops in project-based learning and culinary safety, along with buying supplies for teachers to implement new curricula, thereby demolishing any foreseeable barriers that might otherwise interrupt the pipeline from idea to lesson.

Within two months of the school year opening in 2021, we launched the “minimum viable product” version of our Voyager Center, serving students via soft opening in September 2021, and have since scaled to serve 70+ classes and ~25 additional students daily during study hall.

We started a peer support *hui* (group) to seed interdisciplinary collaborations like the Learning Celebration, with members contributing to strategic planning, logistics, participant recruitment, and event coordination so that all we needed was a “yes” from admin to bring this transformational event to all the students at Kaimuki Middle. Our *hui* teachers meet after hours and reach a combined 360 students across all grade levels and content areas.

We are also showing up and sharing out in the policy arena, joining the fight to pass bills that will fund community schools state- and nationwide so that all students and families can have access to this critical ecosystem of support.

What we've accomplished since 2020

Outstanding to us is about what students take with them beyond the classroom and into their lives, and how they put *aloha* in action to strengthen the social fabric of the community. Here are some metrics that we feel exemplify the meaningful experiences we created in one year:

-Community experts who shared their time and wisdom with our school: 38 (marine biologists, engineers, project-based learning experts, chefs, etc.).

Learning Celebration

- 24 participating faculty/staff.
- 45 visiting classes (600 students).
- 2 community organization stations.
- 18 community visitors (witness to student sharers).
- 15 elementary student visitors.
- 5 additional teachers inspired to join next year.

Educational Equity for English Learners (ELs)

- 100% EL participation in Science & Engineering Fair (SEF) compared to 0% for all years prior.
- 75% of student-selected SEF investigations were garden-based (*aloha 'āina*).
- 27 EL students serve as Voyager Center *Alaka'i* (leaders).
- Aloha* in Action: Students cooked a garden-picked meal for a teacher's husband hospitalized for a heart-attack, giving student-grown flower arrangements to staff, and sharing the harvest with families.

Climate Consciousness

- 60lbs+ edible plants harvested from Green Lab garden, (student dedication to land stewardship).
- 1486lbs food waste composted, diverted from landfill.
- 13 climate conscious recipes developed.
- 600 climate conscious cuisine samples served at Learning Celebration (students see their impact in action).

School population involvement

- All students have participated in our program (experienced lessons in the Voyager Center or its Green Lab) during their time at Kaimuki Middle.
- All administration, staff, and cafeteria staff and 60% of faculty directly contribute to the program (strong internal support facilitates program delivery).

Improved outcomes for students:

- Our school performs consistently in subject assessments but has always lagged in engagement. Building and launching the Voyager Center has led to several teachers' highest SEL scores yet, with our lead teacher at 90% in Engagement (43% increase over state and district).

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.

As the co-founder of Kaimuki Middle School's Voyager Center, I urge you to support this bill that would allow more schools to adopt and implement the community schools strategy and organize the resources in their community towards the success of learners, families, and communities. If you'd like to learn more about our program, we are happy to host site visits, provide student videos, share lessons and evidence of the positive impacts of our community school efforts.

With gratitude,
Lianna Lam

Lianna Lam | Hui Ho'oulu STEM Teacher

[Kaimuki Middle Voyager Center](#)

631 18th Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i, 96816

Email: lianna.lam@k12.hi.us

Office: (808) 733-4800



HB-55

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 3:36:13 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
De Austin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

February 5, 2023
Conference Room 309

RE: Support of HB 55 Relating to Education

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

I firmly support HB1941, a bill which would require the Department of Education to establish grant programs to provide funds for community schools.

Community Schools are a time-tested strategy for connecting students to the supports they need to thrive. They are a proven school improvement strategy, focused on student-centered teaching and learning that better serves the holistic needs of all students and their families.

The pandemic made clear that many children lack the support they need to thrive in school. This is why community schools are needed more than ever as schools must look to families, youth, and community partners to help address barriers to learning.

The community schools strategy brings funding and resources into schools that would otherwise not be available to them, resulting in an impressive “return on investment” to the government support provided. [This study](#) shows that each \$1 invested in the Coordinator returns approximately \$7.11 in net benefits.

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.

I strongly urge you to support this bill that would allow more schools to adopt and implement the community schools strategy to help our families and our communities.

Sincerely,

D. Austin
Kihei, Maui

HB-55

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 7:04:43 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

House Committee on Education

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Lisa Marten, Vice Chair

February 2, 2023

Conference Room 309

RE: Support of HB 55 Relating to Education

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

As a mother of two children in public schools, I am writing in strong support HB1941 that would require the Department of Education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools.

In Hawai‘i, full-service community schools are innovative, thriving hubs of learning in which partnerships and collaboration create a‘o aku, a‘o mai, reciprocal relationships between learners and place, content and context, and schools and communities. Community Schools are a proven school improvement strategy focused on student-centered teaching and learning that better serves the holistic needs of all students and their families.

The pandemic made clear that many children lack the support they need to thrive in school. This is why community schools are needed more than ever as schools must look to families, youth, and community partners to help address barriers to learning.

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.

I urge you to support this bill that would allow more schools to adopt and implement the community schools strategy and organize the resources in their community towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Erica Yamauchi, Kaimukī/Wilhelmina Rise

LATE

HB-55

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 12:30:40 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Boscole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support HB 55