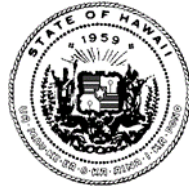


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA  
Office of the Director  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

February 4, 2025

TO: The Honorable Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
House Committee on Education

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 754 – RELATING TO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS.**

Hearing: February 6, 2025, 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 309 & Videoconference, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of the measure, defers to the Department of Education, and provides comments. DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not reduce or replace priorities identified in the executive budget.

**PURPOSE:** This bill will support community schools to help align and leverage resources already in the community to address students' barriers to learning.

DHS shares the same vision through school-based family resource centers, which are a component of community schools. Family resource centers are welcoming spaces on school campuses that utilize a multigenerational, strengths-based, and family-centered approach. Families may access services in a place they are comfortable in that reflects and is responsive to the community's needs and interests. Services are generally at no or low cost and aim to build communities of peer support and increase social connections. Schools, families, and communities benefit from these models that support student learning, reduce chronic absenteeism, and strengthen communities.

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

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:** 02/06/2025

**Time:** 07:00 PM

**Location:** 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Bill Title:** HB 0754 RELATING TO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds to the Department of Education for community schools and a program manager position.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supporting the intent of HB 754, provided that it does not affect the priorities identified in the Board of Education approved budget.

The Department supports the implementation of community schools programs to provide high-quality educational opportunities by focusing on the whole child, their family, and their community 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.

Currently, the Department requires that the schools designated under federal requirements 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 support, one of the requirements of the CSI-MRI schools is to partner with community organizations to implement the community schools approach fully. The Department also has a Memorandum of Agreement in place with the Hawaii Afterschool Alliance, who provides support to our schools who are currently implementing a community schools model.

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

**HB-754**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:26:20 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kathlina Martin	Pacific Resources for Education and Learning	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Committee on Education

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

February 6, 2025

Conference Room 309

RE: Support of HB 754

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the Committee,

Pacific Resources for Education and Learning supports HB 754, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Education for community schools and a program manager position.

It is critical to support community schools as a means of reaching families and improving student learning in other areas. Community schools encourage partnerships and cooperation among families and students. It is a useful tool for maintaining ties between families, educators, and community groups. It fosters a community of achievement, both intellectual and social.

Pacific Resources for Education and Learning urge you to support this bill that would sustain the community schools movement in Hawai'i and organize our resources towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Sincerely,

Kathlina S. Martin

Pacific Resources for Education and Learning



House Committee on Education  
Representative Justin Woodson, Chair  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

February 6, 2025  
Conference Room 309

RE: Support of HB 754

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the Committee,

The YMCA of Honolulu supports HB 754, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Education for community schools and a program manager position.

Community schools are innovative and inclusive in their approach to addressing the needs of our keiki and families in a truly community collaboration. This model is time tested and adapted to local needs. The benefits to our keiki, family, and community are transformative.

I urge you to support this bill that would sustain the community schools movement in Hawai'i and organize our resources towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Sincerely,

Greg Waibel  
CEO  
YMCA of Honolulu

**HB-754**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 3:29:22 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Simmons	Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind with Ceeds of Peace	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**House Committee on Education**  
**Representative Justin Woodson, Chair**  
**Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair**

February 6, 2025  
Conference Room 309

**RE: Support of HB 754**

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the Committee,

My name is David Simmons, a community school coordinator with Ceeds of Peace at Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind (HSDB), supports HB 754, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Education for community schools and a program manager position.

Community schools are a time-tested strategy for meeting social and civic needs by connecting students to the supports they need to thrive. At HSDB, the first Deaf community school in this country, this model has helped Deaf and Hard of Hearing students overcome barriers to learning through services tailored to their unique needs, including Deaf education, American Sign Language (ASL) education, and family engagement programs. We are proud to be a shining example that empowers other Deaf schools and supports Deaf students within public school systems by integrating accessible resources and fostering academic, language acquisition, and personal success.

HSDB is truly grateful for the Community School's leading agency's guidance and partnership in building a model that addresses both the academic and holistic needs of our students and their families. HB 754 will have a significant impact on sustaining this progress and ensuring that other schools in Hawai'i can replicate and expand upon these successes.

Our school is a thriving hub where reciprocal relationships—between learners, educators, families, and local organizations—create nurturing networks. Hawai'i-based community schools reflect who we are, how we live, and what we aspire to become. For example, HSDB's partnerships with local organizations have expanded access to enrichment programs, providing

students with relevant, real-world experiences and strengthening our connection to the community.

Community schools also offer an impressive return on investment, with studies showing that every \$1 invested in a coordinator returns approximately \$7.11 in net benefits. With additional funding, schools like HSDB can continue to mobilize partnerships, bring in crucial resources, and transform student outcomes. The community schools strategy is a sustainable and inclusive way to support learners and their families, ensuring long-term success.

We urge you to support this bill, which would sustain the community schools movement in Hawai'i and organize our resources toward the success of learners, families, and communities.

Sincerely,

David Simmons  
Community School Coordinator  
Ceeds of Peace at Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind

**HB-754**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 4:53:51 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kay Fukuda	Univ of Hawaii PALS (Place-based Afterschool Literacy Support)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RE: Support of HB 754

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the Committee,

The university of Hawaii PALS (Place-based Afterschool Literacy Support) team unanimously supports HB 754, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Education for community schools and a program manager position.

PALS has researched and supported community schools for several years. Community schools reflect who we are, how we live, and what we aspire to become. Community schools intentionally connect schools, ‘āina, indigenous and contemporary knowledge and ensure that learners belong to a thriving community. Systems of support within a community schools framework, form the foundation for community schools that are rooted in organizing resources towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Malama pono,

Kay Fukuda,



**HB-754**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:34:26 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Scott Nishimoto	Ceeds of Peace	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**House Committee on Education**

**Representative Justin Woodson, Chair**

**Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair**

**February 6, 2025**

**Conference Room 309**

**RE: Support of HB 754**

**Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the Committee,**

**Ceeds of Peace supports HB 754, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Education for community schools and a program manager position.**

**Ceeds of Peace has been a community school lead agency for several years now. Our organization has facilitates the community schools model at 6 schools across our islands – Wai‘anae Elementary, Mākaha Elementary, Blanche Pope Elementary, Hawai‘i School for the Deaf and Blind, Hōnaunau Elementary, and Pāhoa High & Intermediate. In this work, we have seen firsthand the impact of community schools. Through the partnerships that our Community School Coordinators have developed, we have seen students receive consistent hot meals, clothing, and access to mental health care. We have seen stronger, more organized partnerships between school staff and families who previously did not have**

**a voice on campus. We have seen schools transform into community hubs that provide for all of our students' basic needs.**

**We understand that state funds must be used wisely, and that our investments must not only be aligned with what feels right, but also what makes economic sense. It is important to note that 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.**

**Ceeds of Peace urges you to support this bill that would sustain the community schools movement in Hawai'i and organize our resources towards the success of learners, families, and communities.**

**Sincerely,**

**Ceeds of Peace**

**Scott Nishimoto and Luella Costales, Co-Executive Directors**



1200 Ala Kapuna Street • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96819  
Tel: (808) 833-2711 • Fax: (808) 839-7106 • Web: www.hsta.org

**Osa Tui, Jr.**  
President

**Logan Okita**  
Vice President

**Cheney Kaku**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Ann Mahi**  
Executive Director

## **TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAI'I HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

Item: **HB 754 - RELATING TO EDUCATION - COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

Position: **SUPPORT**

Hearing: **2/6/2025, Conference Room 309, 2:00pm**

Submitter: **Osa Tui, Jr. – President, Hawai'i State Teachers Association**

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association stands in strong support of HB 754, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Education for community schools and a program manager position.

In Hawai'i, community schools are innovative, thriving hubs of learning in which partnerships and collaboration create a'o mai, a'o aku, reciprocal relationships between learners and place, content and context, and schools and communities. Community schools intentionally connect schools, 'āina, indigenous and contemporary knowledge and ensure that learners belong to a thriving community.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association urges you to support this bill that would sustain the community schools movement in Hawai'i and organize our resources towards the success of learners, families, and communities.



*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: House Committee on Education  
Re: HB 754 Relating to Community Schools

Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 309 & Via Videoconference  
Thursday, February 6, 2025, 2:00PM

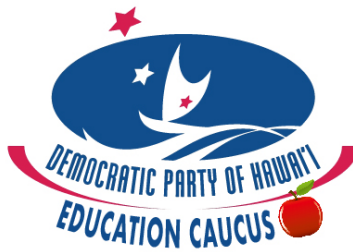
Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Committee Members,

**On behalf of HCANSpeaks!, I am writing in strong support of HB 754, relating to community schools.** This bill appropriates funds to the Department of Education for community schools and a program manager position. Coordinating relationships and resources are needed to help students recover and accelerate equitable outcomes. Through community schools, thriving learners, educators, families, 'āina, and communities are supported by nurturing networks that promote reciprocity.

HB 754 aims to ensure that funding and initiatives are administered in a way that directly benefits Hawai'i's communities, supporting sustainable development and protecting the unique values of communities across the islands.

I urge you to support this bill that would sustain the community schools movement in Hawai'i and organize our resources towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Sincerely,  
Noreen Kohl, Ph.D.  
Policy Researcher and Advocate



## **HOUSE BILL 754, RELATING TO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

FEBRUARY 6, 2025 · EDN HEARING

**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports** HB 754, relating to community schools, which appropriates funds to the Department of Education for community schools and a program manager position.

Policymakers should promote education programs that deliver wraparound care for students and deal with educational “inputs” that impact student success, like poverty and access to healthcare. 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.

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 substance abuse or our state's prolific sex trade.

As the National Education Association states, "Community Schools transform traditional public schools into neighborhood hubs that mobilize students, staff, families and community members to reimagine education and co-construct a shared vision for their school and community. Community Schools are developed with the understanding that every community is different." Community schools rely on integrated student supports, expanded and enriched learning opportunities, active family and community engagement, and collaborative leadership to strengthen educational outcomes. Currently, 25 community schools exist in our state.

## 25 Community Schools in Hawai'i

<b>O'ahu</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Barbers Point El</li><li>• Blanche Pope El</li><li>• Dole Middle</li><li>• Hawai'i School for the Deaf and Blind</li><li>• Kaimukī High</li><li>• Ke'elikolani Middle</li><li>• Nānākuli High &amp; Inter</li><li>• Olomana School</li><li>• Wai'anae El</li><li>• Wai'anae High</li><li>• Waimānalo School</li></ul>	<b>Hawai'i Island</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hōnaunau El</li><li>• Ka'u High &amp; Pahala El</li><li>• Kealakehe El</li><li>• Kealakehe Inter</li><li>• Kohala El</li><li>• Kohala High</li><li>• Kohala Middle</li><li>• Mountain View El</li><li>• Na'alehu El</li><li>• Pāhoa High &amp; Inter</li><li>• Waikōloa El</li><li>• Waimea El</li></ul>	<b>Moloka'i</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maunaloa El</li></ul> <b>Lāna'i</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lāna'i High &amp; El</li></ul>
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Contact: [educationcaucusdph@gmail.com](mailto:educationcaucusdph@gmail.com)



HAROLD K.L. CASTLE  
FOUNDATION

**LATE**

To: Committee on Education, Hawaii State House of Representatives  
From: Maria Quidez, Program Officer  
Date: February 5, 2025  
Re: HB 754 RELATING TO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this topic. For nearly a decade, one of the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation's goals has been to help Hawaii's youth fulfill their most ambitious dreams, by placing public school students on a path to success with college credits and relevant career experiences. To help meet this goal, we've invested in student supports that complement existing school structures, such as expanded summer counseling and family engagement around college and careers pathways.

This mission became even more urgent in the wake of the pandemic, which wiped out more than two decades of progress in reading and math—disproportionately impacting students from low-income communities. Also exacerbated, were longstanding health and economic inequities in vulnerable neighborhoods.

Amid these challenges, federal funding created a once-in-a-generation opportunity to rethink how schools serve students and their communities. Public schools had the chance to transform into *community schools*, places that go beyond good teaching and learning to also support student's health and social needs, expand learning time to out-of-school time and the summer, and actively engage families and the community.

Here in Hawai'i, what began as three community schools in Kohala in 2019, has now rapidly grown to 26 schools, most of which are located in rural and remote regions of the state. These schools are supported by the Hawaii Afterschool Alliance (HAA) that convenes the Hawai'i State Coalition for Community Schools.

We provided a three-year grant to HAA (\$75,000) to help evaluate the impact of the community schools model in twelve public schools across Hawai'i, provide a roadmap for implementation, and share out learnings with the broader education community. Our hope is that this will provide evidence for sustained and consistent public funding for community schools.

At their core, the community schools model helps to remove barriers to learning by connecting students with essential resources—business partnerships, health and social services, parent organizations, and community volunteers—all within the school itself. By addressing a broad spectrum of student needs, particularly for those facing the greatest challenges, these schools create a learning environment where every student has the opportunity to thrive.

We applaud the committee for considering this bill in support of community schools. The Harold K.L. Castle Foundation remains committed to supporting Hawaii's students and schools.

Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance  
1776 University Avenue, WA1-102  
Honolulu, HI 96822



**LATE**

House Committee on Education  
Representative Justin Woodson, Chair  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

February 6, 2025  
Conference Room 309

RE: Support of HB754

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance supports HB754, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Education for community schools and a program manager position.

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 is a proven, time-tested strategy that can bring forth short term results like improving family engagement and attendance and decreasing behavioral referrals. It is also proven to show long term results like closing the achievement gap, improving academic scores and graduation rates.<sup>1</sup>

There are currently 26 community schools in Hawai'i across four islands that are mobilizing their community partners, families, students, and school staff to ensure that all students thrive in their school community. Each school has a Community School Coordinator who facilitates the co-creation of innovative strategies and are building a system of support to address the barriers students and families face. These innovative strategies fall under the following key practices:

- Collaborative leadership, shared power, and voice;
- Expanded, enriched learning opportunities;
- Rigorous, community-connected classroom instruction;
- Culture of belonging, safety, and care;
- Powerful family and student engagement;
- Integrated systems of support; and
- Grounded in Hawai'i.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Maier, A., Daniel, J., Oakes, J. & Lam, L. (2017, December). *Community Schools as an Effective School Improvement Strategy: A Review of the Evidence*. Learning Policy Institute.  
[https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/media/137/download?inline&file=Community\\_Schools\\_Effective\\_REPO\\_RT.pdf](https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/media/137/download?inline&file=Community_Schools_Effective_REPO_RT.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance. (n.d.). *Hawai'i Community Schools Framework*.  
[https://www.hawaiiafterschoolalliance.org/uploads/2/8/4/2/28427169/hawai%E2%80%98i\\_cs\\_framework\\_24.pdf](https://www.hawaiiafterschoolalliance.org/uploads/2/8/4/2/28427169/hawai%E2%80%98i_cs_framework_24.pdf)



The needs and assets assessments completed by our current Community School Coordinators reveal the deep need to have more resources and support organized to address our students' whole child and academic needs, family engagement, and the root causes of chronic absenteeism.

Schools should not be tackling these challenges alone. This is why community schools are needed more than ever as Community School Coordinators can help to leverage the already existing assets and resources available within their school community to remove barriers to learning and accelerate equitable outcomes in health, education and employment.

We urge you to support this bill that would ensure our current schools can continue to support their students and families and create the necessary support within the DOE to lead the state's community school efforts.

Sincerely,

Paula Adams  
Executive Director  
Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance  
hawaiiafterschool@gmail.com  
[www.hawaiiafterschoolalliance.org](http://www.hawaiiafterschoolalliance.org)

**HB-754**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 4:00:56 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha!

I SUPPORT HB 754 which appropriates funds to the Department of Education for community schools and a program manager position. Our community schools are integral to our keiki and their ohana. As a retired educator, I know the importance of keeping our schools and activities funded. In the case of these schools, they not only support the keiki but their families, ‘āina, and communities. Please continue to provide money to these essential funds for community schools.

C. Burghardt

Kou, Oahu

**HB-754**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:14:03 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KIMBERLY Kaai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**RE: Support of HB 754**

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the Committee,

**I, Kimberly Ka'ai of Maunaloa Elementary School supports HB 754, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Education for community schools and a program manager position.**

**As the Principal of Maunaloa Elementary School, being a community school has allowed us to obtain a Community School Coordinator to help strengthen the connection between our school and families. The idea of community schools and the pillars it stands on truly helps in providing opportunities where we partner with families and community resources to strengthen our community as a whole.**

**I urge you to support this bill that would sustain the community schools movement in Hawai'i and organize our resources towards the success of learners, families, and communities.**

Sincerely,

**Kimberly Ka'ai**

**Maunaloa Elementary Principal**

**HB-754**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:00:44 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sanoe Marfil	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Committee on Education

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

February 6, 2025

Conference Room 309

RE: Support of HB 754

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the Committee,

I supports HB 754, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Education for community schools and a program manager position.

The Community Schools model has been implemented at different schools on the Wai'anae Coast. At Nanakuli High and Intermediate, community schools has played a role in the safety and beautification of the school. I have seen an increase in students and parents using their voices and energies to be apart of the solution and vision that leadership is creating.

As the work continues and we put our student needs first, I hope more community engage in the school community. I urge you to support this bill that would sustain the community schools movement in Hawai'i and organize our resources towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Aloha,

Sanoë Marfil

**HB-754**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:04:28 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

as a community homeless concerns liaison and working with homeless students age 0-22 community schools has become such an amazing resource and integral part of my job. just imagine having a homeless family who has no home or transportation and now we are trying to get kids in school and looking for shelter. when i have a community school that has a hub on campus with all of the resources a family needs to feel better and get their needs met in one place!! i had a family with 7 needs and the community school was able to meet 5 of those needs. in one place!!! you have no idea how helpful this is to getting barriers removed from students and thier families.

**HB-754**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:43:10 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill.

**HB-754**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:36:28 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaipo Correa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**House Committee on Education**

**Representative Justin Woodson, Chair**

**Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair**

**February 6, 2025**

**Conference Room 309**

**RE: Support of HB 754**

**Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the Committee,**

**I, Kaipo Correa, support HB 754, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Education for community schools and a program manager position.**

**As a community member invested in supporting my children's education from birth I have grown alongside my children through a Family and Early Childhood Education program called Na Pono No Na Ohana located at Blanche Pope Elementary in Waimānalo. Over time I have worn various hats in our community leading me to accomplishing my BSW and returning to the school where it all started and where my Ohana have been students for over four generations, as the Community School Coordinator at Blanche Pope Elementary ame Ke Kula Kaiapuni O Wainānalo. Through my lived experiences I have seen what works in and for our community. The Community School strategy and framework brings**



together stakeholders within the community and school in order address matters through collaborative leadership, shared power and voice, expanded and enriched learning opportunities, rigorous, community-connected classroom instruction, culture of belonging, safety, and care, integrated systems of support, powerful student and family engagement, and grounded in Hawai‘i. Through the Community School strategy and framework there is significant opportunity in building strong, flourishing schools and communities through sustainable resources, shared governance, continuous improvement, data systems, professional learning opportunities, and strategic partnerships.

Over the past year and a half as the Community School Coordinator here at Blanche Pope Elementary ame Ke Kula Kaiapuni O Waimānalo I have learned that this strategy has a long way to go. Support for Community Schools embedded in the system of education can only benefit our schools and communities across the pae aina. Building a hub, support, and open space for school, families, and community to share and collaborate while focusing on a shared vision and towards a common goal.

Here are some things to know about Hawai‘i Community Schools:

- In Hawai‘i, community schools are innovative, thriving hubs of learning in which partnerships and collaboration create a‘o mai, a‘o aku, reciprocal relationships between learners and place, content and context, and schools and communities.
- Community schools intentionally connect schools, ‘āina, indigenous and contemporary knowledge and ensure that learners belong to a thriving community.
- Systems of support form the foundation for community schools that are rooted in organizing resources towards the success of learners, families, and communities.
- Hawai‘i-based community schools reflect who we are, how we live, and what we aspire to become.
- The intended outcomes of Community Schools in Hawai‘i are:
  - Thriving learners, educators, families, ‘āina, and communities are supported by nurturing networks that promote reciprocity.
  - Innovative, thriving hubs of learning that incubate and connect Indigenous wisdom and contemporary knowledge to create and meet local and global opportunities.
- [Hawai‘i Community Schools Framework](#)
- [Community Schools Storymap](#)

**Benefit and Impact of Community Schools**

- **A time-tested strategy for social and civic needs:** 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.
- **A strategy that believes in people:** In Community Schools, every family and community member is an asset. Each person's skills, talents, and generosity of time are utilized to build on students' strengths, engage them as learners, and enable them to reach their full potential.
- **Community Schools are an investment in children, families, and our shared future.** Quality Community Schools support higher student achievement and graduation rates and lead them to become contributing members of society by increasing opportunities for ALL students.
- **CS is a strategy for transforming high-poverty, low-performing schools into thriving schools.** With schools so often serving as centers of community life, transforming schools can lead to transformed communities.
- **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.** Educators may work with partners such as local companies, nonprofits, and higher education institutions to offer students real-world projects that make learning more relevant and engaging. They build connections that can open the door to future opportunities.
- **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.
- **A Community School strategy is designed and well-suited to address urgent student, family, and community needs in times of crises, as we've seen during the global Coronavirus pandemic.** It's a comprehensive recovery plan for our current, unprecedented environment.
- **Community Schools 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.
- **A CS strategy puts more power in the hands of parents and families.**
- **Kids and families do better when communities work together.** More public funding can ensure that ALL students and families benefit from the holistic framework that Community Schools offer--including urban, suburban, and rural communities. It is also a great way to address the needs of parents and students who need specialized support--such as children with disabilities and English language learners.

**I, Kaipo Correa, urge you to support this bill that would sustain the community schools movement in Hawai'i and organize our resources towards the success of learners, families, and communities.**

**Sincerely,**

**Kaipo Correa**

**Community School Coordinator at**

**Blanche Pope Elementary ame**

**Ke Kula Kaiapuni O Waimānalo**

**41-133 Huli St.**

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**HB-754**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:58:29 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Daniela Spoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the Committee,

I support HB 754, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Education for community schools and a program manager position.

As a parent of two public school students, I appreciate how a solid community schools strategy can empower parents and families to do more in their local communities. This is especially important in a time when social isolation is at an all time high, and our communities need to be coming together to protect our institutions.

As a taxpayer, I believe that Community Schools are also a smart investment. They support higher student achievement and graduation rates and lead them to become contributing members of society by increasing opportunities for ALL students.

I urge you to support this bill that would sustain the community schools movement in Hawai'i and organize our resources towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Thank you for considering this bill.