



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 763 HD1
RELATING TO CIVIC EDUCATION**

House Committee on Finance
Hawai'i State Capitol

February 20, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Room 308

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi and Members of the Committee on Finance,

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) SUPPORTS **HB763 HD1**, which seeks to establish the Hawai'i Civic Education Trust Fund and appropriate funding for the expansion of civic education in our public schools. We recognize that empowering youth with the knowledge and skills to actively engage in their communities is essential for a thriving, democratic society. This bill will significantly enhance the civic education of Hawai'i's students and help foster a new generation of informed, engaged citizens, including Native Hawaiians.

As an organization dedicated to the well-being of Native Hawaiians, OHA understands that civic education is vital in preparing our young people to participate fully in the political and social life of their communities. The purpose of this bill, to increase access to civic education, aligns directly with OHA's Mana i Maui Ola Strategic Plan, which prioritizes education as a key pathway to strengthening the lāhui. The plan emphasizes ensuring that Native Hawaiian students are academically successful, culturally grounded, and prepared to lead in their communities. HB763 HD1 provides a direct opportunity to invest in the next generation of Native Hawaiian leaders by equipping them with the tools they need to understand and influence the world around them.

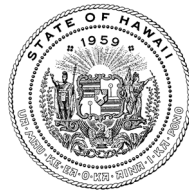
Furthermore, the bill's proposal to establish the Hawai'i Civic Education Trust Fund aligns with OHA's ongoing work to foster civic engagement among Native Hawaiians. As a standing member of the Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education (PACE), OHA has a responsibility to support efforts that increase civic participation among our beneficiaries. This bill provides a structured and sustainable

mechanism to support those efforts by creating a dedicated fund for the promotion and expansion of civic education programs.

We also appreciate the amendments made to the bill, particularly the provision for professional development for teachers and the allocation of funds for the development of culturally appropriate educational materials. These amendments ensure that the bill addresses the needs of all students, including Native Hawaiian students, by ensuring that educators are well-equipped to teach civic education and that the materials used reflect Hawai‘i’s unique cultural and historical context. We also note the emphasis on building partnerships between public and private sectors, which will further support the success of these initiatives.

In tandem with HB763 HD1, we also see the potential to reinvigorate the ‘Aha ‘Ōpio, a statewide youth summit previously facilitated by OHA to encourage young leaders to engage in civic and policy discussions. This alignment underscores OHA’s commitment to work in collaboration with other State agencies in shared initiatives.

For these reasons, OHA **SUPPORTS HB763 HD1** as an investment in the future of Hawai‘i’s youth. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 763, H.D. 1

February 20, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO CIVIC EDUCATION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill (H.B.) No. 763, H. D. 1, amends Chapter 302A, HRS, to establish the Civic Education Trust Fund (CETF), administered by the Department of Education (DOE), to support programs benefiting the civic education of public school students.

This measure appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 26 and FY 27 for the expansion of civic education in public schools, including professional development and classroom resources related to the Hawai'i core standards in social studies; and appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 26 and FY 27 to fund an unspecified amount of permanent full-time equivalent civic education resource teacher positions.

The CETF may receive funds from the State or county, private contributions of cash and other property, and the income and capital gains earned by the CETF. DOE is responsible for determining the moneys that would be deposited into the CETF. If the

CETF is terminated, the unspent appropriations made by the State, if any, shall be distributed to the School-Based Budgeting Program.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of trust funds that require regular general fund appropriations to support its activities. Pursuant to Section 37-62, HRS, a trust fund is defined as a fund in which designated persons or classes of persons have a vested beneficial interest or equitable ownership, or which was created or established by a gift, grant, contribution, devise, or bequest that limits the use of the fund to designated objects or purposes. Regardless of the type of fund, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed CETF would be self-sustaining and thus feasible.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Hon. Lisa M. Ginoza
Chair

Representative Amy A. Perruso
Vice-Chair

Prof. Troy J.H. Andrade

David Day

Philip J. Bossert, Ph.D.

Rosanna Fukuda, MAEd

Debora Halbert, Ph.D.

Nathan G. Kam

Senator Dru M. Kanuha

Kuʻuleianuhea Awo-Chun

Matt M. Mattice

Prof. Colin Moore

Ruth K. Oh, Esq.

Magistrate Judge
Wes Reber Porter

Testimony to the Thirty-Third Legislature, 2025 Regular Session

Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

Written Testimony By
Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education
(PACE Commission)

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 763, HD1
Relating to Civic Education

Purpose: Establishes the civic education trust fund to support programs benefiting civic education of public school students. Appropriates funds for the expansion of civic education in the public schools and for full-time equivalent permanent civic education resource teacher positions.

PACE Commission Position: Strong support

The PACE Commission strongly supports the purposes of the bill to:

(1) establish a Hawaiʻi civic trust fund for the benefit of students in the public school system;

(2) appropriate funds to the Department of Education (DOE) for the expansion of civic education, including for professional development and classroom resources related to the Hawaiʻi core standards in social studies; and

(3) appropriate funds to the DOE for civic education resource teacher positions.

This bill is a significant step in the right direction to enhance necessary civics education for students in Hawaiʻi's public schools.

The PACE Commission just recently completed a report based on an extensive Civics Survey of public and private school educators throughout the state. Significantly, a total of 883 educators—teachers and administrators responsible for civics education in Hawai‘i’s public and private schools—responded to the survey. The results revealed that limited professional development opportunities and a shortage of civics-focused resources are major barriers to effective civics instruction. **See *Civics Survey Report*** (summary and full reports) located on the General Resources page of the PACE website <https://www.civicshawaii.org/resources/>.

Among DOE teachers, only 26% reported satisfaction with the quality of civics teaching and learning at their school. Additionally, 45% reported that available civics education resources were inadequate. In particular, only 13% of teachers in grades 3–5 and 18% of those in grades K–2 indicated they had sufficient materials. This gap highlights a critical area for investment, because elementary teachers play a foundational role in fostering civic understanding from an early age.

Professional development is another key factor in strengthening civics education in Hawai‘i’s public schools. DOE teachers broadly agreed that the highest priority for professional learning is improving civics education pedagogy, especially best practices for engaging students. Three-quarters of administrators and 71% of teachers identified this as the most important area for professional development in civics. Unfortunately, access to civics-specific training remains limited. Only 17% of DOE teachers reported receiving civics-specific training at least once a year.

As the survey results show, one of the major challenges to having a more robust and expansive civics education program in Hawai‘i public schools is the lack of resources. The trust fund created by this bill would provide a way for the DOE to receive funding from a variety of sources, for the purpose of improving and supporting civics education throughout the public school system in Hawai‘i. Focused funding for this purpose will allow the DOE to more fully pursue improvements to civics education on all levels K-12.

Similarly, the proposal for an appropriation in the bill to expand civics in areas such as professional development and classroom resources is similarly crucial. In the Civics Survey, teachers and administrators throughout the state identified the need for much greater resources in these areas.

Further, funding for dedicated positions in the DOE, focused on civics education, is imperative. To have the needed attention on everything from training, professional development programs, creation of resource materials, project learning programs, and much more, there needs to be dedicated positions. Currently, the DOE does not have a position dedicated to civics education. The DOE has an Educational Specialist for Social Studies who has broad statewide responsibilities related to social studies generally. Just one part of those duties is to address civics education for *all* students in grades K-12. This position has multiple other statewide duties beyond civics education. Further, as reflected in the Civics Survey, there is a significant

shortage in resources for professional development of teachers to teach civics and to support those who are already teaching civics. This is a crucial need that must be addressed.

By appropriating funds for full-time civic education resource positions, this bill will multiply the effort toward these important goals.

One great example of how civics education can be enhanced is the DOE's Hawai'i Schools of Democracy program. Last year, Mililani High School and Maui High School were the first to be designated as Schools of Democracy. This year, Kalani High School and Kailua High School have also been designated as Schools of Democracy. Further, the program has expanded to start considering intermediate schools for designation, and next year the program will open up to elementary schools. The designation as a School of Democracy means that, after a review process, these schools have demonstrated a rigorous commitment to civic learning aligned with the core standards for social studies, opportunities for civic learning across the curriculum and through project learning, and a school culture that embraces the Aloha Spirit. This is just a glimpse and start of what is possible in this program alone. With positions and resources dedicated to civics in the DOE, so much more can be accomplished.

In sum, the PACE Commission is in strong support of HB 763 HD1 and requests that the Finance Committee approve appropriations consistent with the original version of the bill.

Brief background on the PACE Commission: The PACE Commission was created pursuant to Rule 23 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai'i, issued on January 7, 2021. The purpose of the PACE Commission is to promote and advance civic education for students and citizens throughout Hawai'i. The commission has fourteen members appointed according to Rule 23 by the following: Chief Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court, Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Superintendent of the Department of Education, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii, President of the University of Hawai'i, Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law, Hawaii State Bar Association, Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools, and two members selected by the other appointed members.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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

Date: 02/20/2025

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: HB 0763, HD1 RELATING TO CIVIC EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes the civic education trust fund to support programs benefiting civic education of public school students. Appropriates funds for the expansion of civic education in the public schools and for full-time equivalent permanent civic education resource teacher positions. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB763 HD1, which seeks to establish the Hawaii Civic Education Trust Fund, appropriates funds for each of the next two fiscal years to expand civic education, and allocates funds for each of the next two fiscal years for full-time equivalent, permanent resource teacher positions dedicated to civic education.

The creation of a dedicated trust fund for civic education demonstrates the State's commitment to fostering informed and engaged citizens by providing a sustainable and reliable repository for public and private contributions to support long-term, impactful civic education programs for Hawaii's students. However, the Department would defer to the Department of Budget and Finance in regards to creating a new trust fund.

The allocation for each of the next two fiscal years would support the expansion of professional development, classroom resources, and culturally responsive materials aligned with the Hawaii Core Standards in Social Studies, promoting critical thinking, democratic values, and global perspectives while addressing gaps in teacher training and civic education resources.

The appropriation for full-time civic education resource teachers would fund positions critical to expand the designing, implementing, and sustaining of comprehensive statewide civic education programs and supporting classroom teachers to ensure civic education thrives in students' learning.

The 2018 Hawaii Core Standards in Social Studies established a strong foundation for K-12 civic education, and the additional investment in teacher training and culturally appropriate resources would be appreciated to expand the Department's work to further equip students with the critical thinking skills necessary to analyze

social issues, evaluate solutions, discern evidence-based claims from opinions, and act responsibly. Investing in civic education is a strategic and necessary measure to foster future civic engagement.

The establishment of the Hawaii Civic Education Trust Fund, combined with targeted appropriations for civic education expansion and resource teacher positions, will advance our shared goal of cultivating informed, engaged, and responsible citizens.

While the Department appreciates the appropriation in this measure, we ask that it does not adversely affect the priorities identified in the Department's Governor-approved budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB763 HD1.



AMERICAN JUDICATURE SOCIETY

Advocating for a fair system of justice

Finance Factors Center
Suite 618, 1164 Bishop Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Web: www.americanjudicaturesociety.org
Email: susan.ajs2020@gmail.com

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY

DR. SYLVIA YUEN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AMERICAN JUDICATURE SOCIETY

HB 763, Relating to Civic Education

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the American Judicature Society (AJS). As an independent, non-partisan membership organization committed to protecting the integrity of the American justice system, the AJS strongly supports HB 763, Relating to Civic Education.

A recent survey conducted by the PACE Commission gathered responses from 883 public and private school teachers and administrators in Hawaii. The findings indicate a significant shortage of civics-focused resources and limited professional development opportunities. Among Department of Education teachers, only 26% reported satisfaction with the quality of civics teaching and learning at their schools. These shortcomings are particularly concerning at a time when knowledge of government and trust in its three branches have declined, while misinformation has significantly increased across the United States.

Civic education is the cornerstone of a healthy, functioning democracy. It empowers individuals to contribute positively to society by providing essential knowledge about governmental functions and the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Furthermore, it teaches critical thinking skills, such as analyzing information, understanding diverse perspectives, and making reasoned decisions. By fostering a sense of responsibility towards the community and environment, civic education encourages active participation in public affairs and community activities.

The American Judicature Society firmly believes in the importance of civic education for a thriving and sustainable democracy and wholeheartedly endorses HB 763.



HOUSE BILL 763, HD1, RELATING TO CIVIC EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 20, 2025 · FIN HEARING

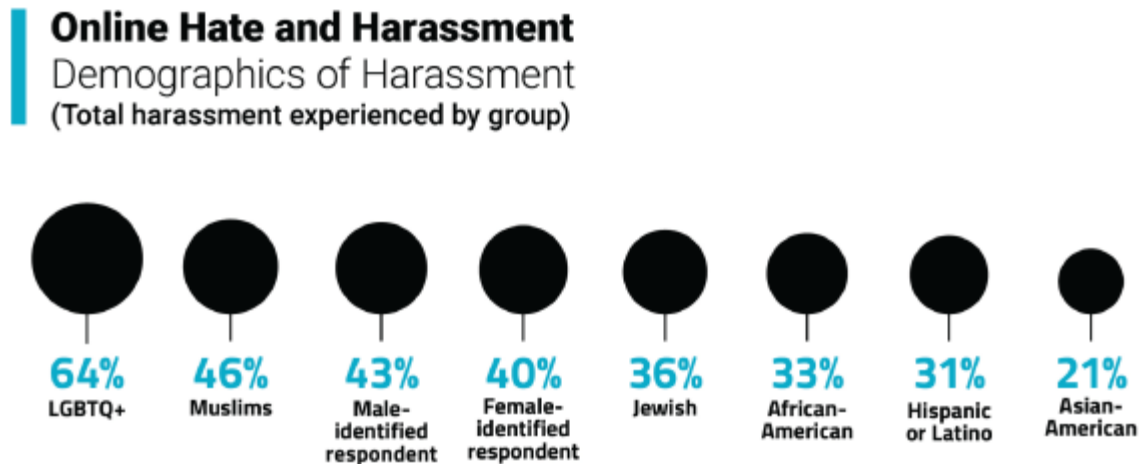
POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports HB 763, HD1, relating to civic education, which establishes the civic education trust fund to support programs benefiting civic education of public-school students and appropriates funds for the expansion of civic education and for full-time equivalent civic education resource teacher positions.

“We must arm today’s young people with innovative civic education that is relevant to them. Bringing high-quality civics to every school in every state of our union is the only way that the next generations will become effective citizens and leaders.” –Sandra Day O’Connor, iCivics Founder and Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice

Civic education is essential to the preservation of our democracy. Today, our society is endangered by xenophobic authoritarians who seek to suppress the rights and perspectives of marginalized people. We are witnessing a resurgence of hate crimes in the U.S., which, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, have surged by nearly 80 percent since 2015. Data from the FBI showed a 168 percent increase in anti-Asian hate crime incidents from 2020 to 2021. These are shocking statistics that reveal the structural violence infecting our national community, which we must take seriously.

Increasingly, social media websites have become platforms for the perpetuation of political resentment and the reproduction of social inequality. Major social media platforms, like those owned by Meta, are currently rolling back fact-checking and misinformation detection efforts in an attempt to appease the despotic prejudices of the Trump administration. According to a 2018 report published by the data clearinghouse Statista, 64 percent of teenagers in the United States have encountered hate speech on social media. At the same time, incidents of political violence have been escalating. Cyberspace is no longer an undiscovered frontier. Today, our virtual and actual lives have become inextricably comingled. If we are not careful, though, technological advancement can generate the digital reproduction of violent extremism.



Source: Anti-Defamation League, *Online Hate and Harassment: The American Experience 2021*

We have a responsibility to empower our keiki with the skills necessary to overcome misinformation and online hate speech, and to become fully engaged members of our civic community. As the nonpartisan organization iCivics, founded by former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, states, "Something special happens when we have confidence in our democracy. We engage. We raise a hand. We lift our voices. We listen to each other. We come together to share ideas and solve common challenges."

Increasing lack of faith in democracy among younger generations, dearth of civic knowledge, susceptibility to false information, and waning public trust contribute to our current levels of polarization, which is further exacerbated by the lack of meaningful, culturally relevant civic education in our schools. Since the earliest days of our constitutional democracy, public schools have played an essential mission in delivering civic learning. Research conducted by the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) at Tufts University found that students who receive quality civic education are:

- **More likely to vote** and discuss politics at home;
- **More likely to complete college** and develop employable skills;
- **Four times more likely to volunteer** and work on community issues; and
- **More confident in their ability to speak publicly** and communicate with their elected representatives.

To preserve the foundations of our democracy for generations to come, we should invest in civic education programming in our public school system.

Contact: educationcaucusdph@gmail.com



Young Democrats of Hawai'i

Executive Board:

Cori Terayama
President

Cameron Deptula
Vice-President

Jimmy Nguyen
Secretary

Isaiah Baclaan
Treasurer

Cindy Ng
**Young Democrats of
America National
Committeewoman**

Maria Glodilet Rallojay
**Membership and Events
Director**

Dave Nagaji
Campaign Director

Jennifer Tse
Internal Affairs Director

February 19, 2025

RE: Testimony in Support of HB763 HD1, Relating to Civic Education
Hearing Date: Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.
Conference Room: 308

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

The Young Democrats of Hawai'i (YDHI) **SUPPORTS HB763 HD1, RELATING TO CIVIC EDUCATION.**

HB763 HD1 would establish the civic education trust fund to support programs benefiting civic education of public school students and appropriates \$84,000 for each of the next two fiscal years to expand civic education in the public schools and allocates \$200,000 for each of the next two fiscal years to hire two full-time equivalent permanent civic education resource teachers.

YDHI supports this bill because we need more young voices engaging in democracy. Civic education is the foundation of a strong democracy. When students understand how government functions, their individual rights and responsibilities, and the significance of civic participation, they are more likely to vote, engage in public service, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. YDHI believes that young voices, who represent the future of our communities, are missing from critical discussions that shape policies affecting us.

Public schools lack the resources to provide robust civic education, leaving students unprepared and unaware of the basics of democracy. This bill would equip educators with the support they need to deliver high-quality instruction. Investing in civic education is an investment in the future of our democracy.

YDHI is an organization whose mission is to increase the political strength of young democrats between 18 and 35 years old by providing opportunities for civic engagement, political advocacy, and participation in the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. YDHI consists of over 1,600 members.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of HB763 HD1, **RELATING TO CIVIC EDUCATION.**



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Osa Tui, Jr.
President

Logan Okita
Vice President

Cheney Kaku
Secretary-Treasurer

Ann Mahi
Executive Director

TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAI'I HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Item: **HB 763 HD 1 - RELATING TO CIVIC EDUCATION.**

Position: **SUPPORT**

Hearing: **Thursday, February 20, 2025, 10:00 am, Room 308**

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

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association stands in strong support of HB 763 HD 1 which establishes the civic education trust fund to support programs benefiting civic education of public school students and appropriates funds for the expansion of civic education in the public schools and for full-time equivalent permanent civic education resource teacher positions.

Civic education is absolutely vital for a healthy and functioning society, and we need it now more than ever. Here's why:

Informed and Engaged Citizens

Understanding Rights and Responsibilities: Civic education teaches individuals about their fundamental rights and responsibilities as citizens. This knowledge empowers them to participate actively in their communities and hold their governments accountable.

Critical Thinking and Decision-Making: It equips individuals with the critical thinking skills needed to analyze information, evaluate different perspectives, and make informed decisions about important issues. This is crucial for participating in public discourse and making sound choices in elections.

Active Participation: Civic education encourages active participation in civic life, whether it's through voting, volunteering, advocating for causes, or simply staying informed about current

events. This engagement strengthens communities and ensures that the voices of citizens are heard.

Stronger Democracy

Preserving Democratic Values: Civic education reinforces the core values of democracy, such as freedom, equality, justice, and the rule of law. It helps individuals understand the importance of these principles and motivates them to uphold them.

Protecting Against Threats to Democracy: By understanding how democratic institutions work and the importance of civic participation, individuals are better equipped to recognize and resist threats to democracy, such as misinformation, apathy, and extremism.

Building Trust in Institutions: When citizens understand how their government works and their role in it, they are more likely to trust and respect democratic institutions. This trust is essential for maintaining social cohesion and political stability.

Social Cohesion and Understanding

Bridging Divides: Civic education can help bridge social and political divides by fostering understanding and empathy towards different perspectives. It encourages respectful dialogue and collaboration, even when there are disagreements.

Promoting Civic Responsibility: It instills a sense of civic responsibility, encouraging individuals to consider the common good and the impact of their actions on others. This contributes to a more just and equitable society.

Building Community: By encouraging civic engagement and participation, civic education helps build stronger and more connected communities where individuals feel a sense of belonging and responsibility towards one another.

Future Generations

Preparing Future Leaders: Civic education is essential for developing future leaders who understand the principles of democracy and are committed to serving their communities.

Empowering Young People: It empowers young people to become active and engaged citizens, ensuring that future generations are equipped to participate in and shape their society.

Civic education is about empowering individuals to become informed, engaged, and responsible citizens who are committed to the well-being of their communities and the preservation of democracy. It's an investment in the future of our society.

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

HB-763-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 9:39:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vanessa Stevens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

I **support SB763 SD1** which establishes the Hawaii Agricultural Crimes Council and expands the duties of the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with and support the Council, authorizes the Council to withdraw and deposit moneys, revenues, and fines into and out of the Animal Industry Special Fund, and appropriates funds.

Thank you,

Vanessa Stevens

HB-763-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 4:10:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Ball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today in strong support of HB763, which will crucially buttress existing civic education resources for Hawai'i's public-school students. As the coordinator of a democracy initiative, an educator, and a parent, I have seen firsthand how needed such resources are for our keiki. As you well know, Hawai'i has one of the lowest voter registration and turnout rates in the nation, and while our civic educators swim heroically upstream when educating our students about their civic duties, they desperately need resources like those guaranteed by this bill. Most troubling to me as a civics educator is the sense from young people that their voices don't matter—passing this bill will be a crucial first step toward assuring them that our elected representatives welcome youth voices when charting the future. Restoring the original budget to achieve these objective will prove especially crucial in your deliberations.

Thank you for your time, attention, and support for civic initiatives statewide.

Sincerely yours,

David Ball, Waialae-Kahala

HB-763-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 4:15:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Civic education important

HB-763-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 6:02:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pati Kickland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

HB-763-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:05:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Bickel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In my thirty-six years as a social studies teacher in Hawai'i (in both public and private schools), I have seen the decline of civics education in our secondary schools. Particular in the George W. Bush years, the emphasis on reading and math came at the expense of a lot of other curricula-including civics education. So little content if any is required today leaving our citizenry at risk of being unable to comprehend the context of the political issues of our day. Thomas Jefferson knew that civics education was a prerequisite for a democracy. At the last day of the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin said of our system it is a republic if you can keep it. We need programs like this one to keep our republic.

HB-763-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:30:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy D Moser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In SUPPORT of HB 763 HD1.

Aloha Chair and members of the Committee,

Please vote YES on this measure.

Nancy Moser in Waikoloa on Hawai'i Island

HB-763-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:11:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
April Bautista	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Civic education is the core for our democracy. I kindly ask that HB763 HD1 passes out of FIN.

Mahalo,

April Kamilah Bagasao Bautista

former State Office of Elections Specialist, 2016-2018

Kalihi-Pālama