



## HAWAI'I YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 904

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: [info@hysn.org](mailto:info@hysn.org)

Vonnell Ramos, President  
Cyd Hoffeld, Vice President  
Sione Ford Naeata, Treasurer  
Greg Tjapkes, Secretary

Judith F. Clark, Executive  
Director

### Network Membership

*Access to Independence*  
*Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawai'i*  
*Bobby Benson Center*  
*Child and Family Service*  
*Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawai'i*  
*Domestic Violence Action Center*  
*EPIC 'Ohana, Inc.*  
*Friends of the Children's Justice*  
*Center of Maui*  
*Get Ready Hawai'i*  
*Hale Kipa, Inc.*  
*Hale 'Opio Kaua'i, Inc.*  
*Hawai'i Children's Action*  
*Network*  
*Hawai'i Health & Harm*  
*Reduction Center*  
*Hawaii Island Community'*  
*Health Center*  
*Ho'ola Na Pua*  
*Ho'okele Coalition of Kaua'i*  
*Ka Hale Pomaika'i*  
*Kokua Kalihi Valley*  
*Kaua'i Planning and Action*  
*Alliance*  
*Lines for Life Youth Line*  
*Maui Youth and Family Services*  
*Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native*  
*Hawaiian Health Care*  
*Systems*  
*P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.*  
*Parents and Children Together*  
*PHOCUSED*  
*Piha Wellness and Healing*  
*Planned Parenthood of the*  
*Great Northwest, Hawaii*  
*Alaska, Kentucky, Indiana*  
*Residential Youth Services*  
*& Empowerment (RYSE)*  
*Salvation Army Family*  
*Intervention Services*  
*Sex Abuse Treatment Center*  
*Susannah Wesley Community*  
*Center*  
*The Catalyst Group*

March 14, 2025

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair,  
And members of the Committee on Education

### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR66/SR44 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A STATEWIDE FINANCIAL LITERACY CURRICULA PLAN FOR PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

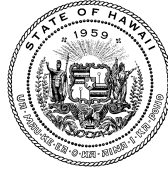
Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SCR66/SR44.

Incorporating financial literacy into public school curricula was a recommendation by the youth and young adults who attended the 2024 Hawaii Children and Youth Summit. It has been recommended in multiple previous Summits as well. Please listen to what our young people are telling us that they need.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director



**STATE OF HAWAII  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Senate Committee on Education**

Monday, March 17, 2025

3:00 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229

**Measure: SCR66 / SR44, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A STATEWIDE FINANCIAL LITERACY CURRICULA PLAN FOR PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.**

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education (Board) supports the intent of Senate Concurrent Resolution 66 and Senate Resolution 44, with requested amendments.

We appreciate the Legislature's concern and recognize the importance of personal finance education for our students.

The Board does believe that rather than adopting administrative rules, the intent would be best achieved through Board policy, which is more adaptable and flexible in regards to the changing needs of students.

Administrative rules would also require a longer period of time and cost more to adopt, due to the required process.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.



DATE: March 16, 2025

TO: Senator Michelle Kidani  
Chair, Committee on Education  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim  
Vice Chair, Committee on Education

FROM: Linda Ezuka

RE: **SCR 66 / SR 44 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A STATEWIDE FINANCIAL LITERACY  
CURRICULA PLAN FOR PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.**

**Hearing Date:** Monday, March 17, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

**Conference Room:** 229

---

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and Members of the Committee on Education:

The Hawaii Bankers Association **supports** SCR 66 / SR 44, which requests the Department of Education to develop and implement a statewide financial literacy curricula plan for public high school students. HBA represents seven Hawai'i banks and one bank from the continent with branches in Hawai'i.

Financial education provides people with the skills, tools and training they need to achieve financial well-being at every stage of their life. It equips and empowers people to save, invest, build generational wealth, reduce debt, protect assets, and afford homes in their neighborhoods. Though a critical skill set, financial education is not universally incorporated into school curriculums. As of December 2024, 10 states have implemented financial education into their school curriculums and 26 have passed laws and are in the process of implementing financial literacy curriculum.

Without a strong foundation in finances, many young adults are underprepared to handle the financial challenges that come with adulthood. In fact, a Bankrate study found that 56% of people across the country have insufficient savings to handle an



808-524-5161



P.O. Box 10065, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816



[director@hawaiiiba.org](mailto:director@hawaiiiba.org)



unexpected \$1,000 bill. Furthermore, nearly 58% of residents across the country live paycheck to paycheck, including nearly one-third of six figure earners. Often, residents turn to credit cards to pay for unplanned expenses. In 2022, credit card debt in the U.S. hit an all-time high of \$930 billion with younger adults having the highest delinquency rate. Rising costs for food, housing, healthcare and energy are making it even harder to save and invest.

Education and real-life financial experiences are crucial to building a generation of financially confident consumers from youth to seniors. Financially literate customers are more likely to purchase a home, save for a college education and invest in a retirement account. With the right tools and resources to get on a path towards financial stability, the entire community benefits.

It is for these reasons we ask the committee to pass this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



808-524-5161



P.O. Box 10065, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816



[director@hawaiiiba.org](mailto:director@hawaiiiba.org)

LAW OFFICES  
OF  
**MARVIN S. C. DANG**  
A Limited Liability Law Company

MARVIN S. C. DANG  
JASON M. OLIVER  
SUMMER OKADA  
RENEE M. FURUTA  
AMY JACKSON

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. BOX 4109  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96812-4109

TELEPHONE: (808) 521-8521  
FAX: (808) 521-8522  
E-MAIL: Marvin@mscdlaw.com  
WEBSITE: www.marvindanglaw.com

March 17, 2025

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair  
and members of the Senate Committee on Education  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **S.C.R. 66 & H.R. 44 (REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A STATEWIDE FINANCIAL LITERACY CURRICULA PLAN FOR PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS)**  
**Hearing Date/Time: Monday, March 17, 2025, 3:00 p.m.**

I'm Marvin Dang and I'm submitting this testimony for **Visa Inc.** ("Visa"). Visa is a global payments network that provides processing services and payment products for consumer, debit, prepaid, and commercial payments. Visa facilitates transactions between consumers, merchants, financial institutions and government entities across more than 200 countries and territories.

Visa **supports** this Resolution.

This Resolution requests the Hawaii State Department of Education to develop and implement a statewide financial literacy curricula plan for public high school students.

One of Visa's goals is to promote financial literacy for people of all ages. Visa believes that people can be best prepared to meet economic challenges by improving their basic financial knowledge and by increasing their financial literacy. Teaching money-management fundamentals to students beginning at an early age and continuing through middle school and high school will give them a real advantage later in life as adults. (And Visa believes that it's always a good idea that people get a "refresher" course on financial fundamentals when they reach new milestones in life, including graduation, marriage, homeownership, and retirement.)

Visa is a private sector leader in financial literacy. Through its partnerships with government agencies, consumer advocates, educators, and financial institutions, Visa developed the ***Practical Money Skills*** program for people of all ages. First launched in the United States in 1991 and expanded globally in 1996 nearly 30 years ago, the award-winning ***Practical Money Skills*** program offers interactive tools and educational resources. These are available for free in 19 languages and 47 countries and they have empowered millions of students, educators, parents, and consumers to take control of their finances. The ***Practical Money Skills*** educational resources include personal finance articles, lesson plans, mobile apps and games. Educational materials include "*Your Money, Your Future - A Practical Money Guide for Students*", "*Practical Money Skills Workbook*", "*Practical Money Guides*", and "*Financial Education for Everyone*". Games include "*Financial Football*" and "*Financial Soccer*". More information is at: <https://www.practicalmoneyskills.com>.

Visa and its partners can assist with increasing financial literacy for students and others in Hawaii, just as Visa has done in other states and around the world.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

  
MARVIN S.C. DANG  
Registered lobbyist for Visa Inc.

(MSCD/Visa)



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education  
Monday, March 17, 2025  
Conference Room 229

Testimony in Support of SCR 66, Financial Literacy Curricula for Public High School Students

To: The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair  
The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Vice-Chair  
Members of the Committee

My name is Stefanie Sakamoto, and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Credit Union League (HCUL), the local trade association for 45 Hawaii credit unions, representing over 877,000 credit union members across the state.

HCUL offers the following testimony in support of SCR 66. This resolution would request the Department of Education to implement a statewide financial literacy curricula plan for public high school students.

As not-for-profit financial cooperatives dedicated to serving our local communities, Hawaii's credit unions witness firsthand the challenges that individuals and families face due to a lack of financial knowledge. Implementing a financial literacy requirement in our school system is a crucial step toward equipping our keiki with the essential skills needed to navigate their financial futures successfully. Financial literacy is a fundamental life skill that empowers individuals to make informed decisions about budgeting, saving, credit management, and investing.

Hawaii's credit unions are deeply committed to promoting financial wellness in Hawaii schools through our in-school credit unions, as well as partnering with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' in their Life Smarts competition. Many of our credit unions also already offer financial literacy resources and workshops, but a standardized, curriculum-based approach in schools will ensure that every student, regardless of background, has access to these critical skills before entering adulthood.

While we certainly appreciate the spirit of this resolution, we would prefer the passage of HB 619, which would require the Board of Education to adopt and enact a policy by the 2026-2027 school year, directing the Department of Education public schools to incorporate financial literacy education in the school's curriculum.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important issue.

**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 3:42:35 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/17/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support. This topic is important to learn and can improve entire lives. It can have a compound effect over generations.