



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

Date: 03/24/2021

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Government
Operations
Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 0155 REQUESTING THE STATE AUDITOR TO PERFORM AN AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S OFFICE OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SCR 155, requesting the state auditor to perform an audit of the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design (OCID).

The Department welcomes an audit of OCID with the goal of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our practices.

OCID's primary responsibility is to develop, coordinate, and implement high-quality practices and systems that embrace student voice, choice and needs to effectuate the priorities of the Board of Education and the Department. The Department is currently revisiting its curriculum management and instructional materials approval process to clearly outline the roles and responsibilities of the school, complex area, and state offices; establish shared leadership of the adoption of curriculum and instructional materials; and further facilitate the Department's digital transformation.

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

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.

SCR-155

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 4:49:18 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/24/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Regarding SCR155 and SR120:

This resolution is impolite -- indeed, quite hostile -- toward the DOE Office of Curriculum and Instruction, in both content and tone. The resolution displays lack of trust toward central office bureaucrats, implying that they are not doing a sufficient amount or quality of work to justify their salaries and benefits.

Congratulations on your perceptiveness, and your willingness to attack the problem! Imua! E 'onipa'a 'oukou. Go forward, and be persistent in holding them accountable.

Once upon a time I was a high school teacher in a small suburb of Boston, with only one high school, two junior highs, and six elementary schools. There was an elected local school board (for each town in the state). The central office had a superintendent, assistant superintendent, a business manager, and a couple of secretaries. No office of curriculum and instruction. Each high school department head selected textbooks and materials for that department, and gave each teacher the textbook along with a guide telling which chapters should be covered during each quarterly marking period. For each course taught by more than one teacher there was a midyear and final exam which all the teachers had to use; and the results were reviewed by the department head to ensure each teacher was getting acceptable student performance. After a textbook had been used for many years the teachers using it were asked to review the curriculum with a view to selecting new textbooks and deciding the pace of coverage. We never felt the need for C&I bureaucrats. Our school was routinely ranked as one of the best in the state. Parents, students, and teachers felt a sense of accomplishment and pride.

What I hear from local teachers is that they are overwhelmed by administrative paperwork which seems irrelevant to their needs; and that they really get very little guidance on what topics to cover at what pace; or what knowledge or skills the students will be expected to master. The teachers basically "make things up as they go along", creating their own lesson plans and methods for evaluating student performance. They are reinventing the wheel every day. The teachers get a list of "standards" which are vaguely stated goals with no specific materials for classroom use. The teachers regard

the C&I bureaucrats, and other central office people, as useless troublemakers whose intrusive demands must be appeased unquestioningly.

Good luck reining them in and holding them accountable for actually creating curriculum and helping our beleaguered teachers!

SCR-155

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 2:24:22 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/24/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

There are many good things that happen in that office but for too long it has been allowed to go unchallenged especially in vetting of resources and effective use of personnel. Keeping this short, Acellus is still happening in schools. Children are still exposed to racist, biased Acellus and other resources. BOE policy is not followed and educators chastised for allowing critical discussions on critical issues of our place. This audit should be one of \$\$\$ but also of policy and procedures.