



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

Date: 03/03/2021

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 308 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 0011, HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the board of education to develop statewide performance standards to be culturally relevant, historically and scientifically accurate, and nondiscriminatory. Requires a standards-based curriculum and its related educational materials to be nondiscriminatory. Establishes certain requirements for school complexes when developing standards-based curricula. Requires reports to the legislature. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 11, HD1.

Advancing equality in the Hawaii public education system is a core belief of the Department demonstrated by the adoption of content and performance standards that set high expectations for all students.

Hawaii Content Standards are essential. The content standards for the various subject areas are carefully developed to meet the needs of our students in Hawaii and require the adoption by the Board of Education.

We share the legislature's desire to provide non-discriminatory and equitable education for all our students, a very high priority for the Department. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 11, HD1.

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.



HB11 HD1
RELATING TO EDUCATION
Ke Kōmike Hale o ka ‘Oihana ‘Imi Kālā
House Committee on Finance

Malaki 3, 2021

2:00 p.m.

Lumi 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB11 HD1, which would require the Board of Education’s statewide performance standards, as well as any standards-based curricula and related educational materials, to be culturally relevant, historically and scientifically accurate, and nondiscriminatory, with standards-based curricula to specifically address the historical injustices, cultural subjugation, and discrimination experienced by Native Hawaiians and underrepresented populations. **This measure will help to provide Hawai‘i’s public school students, including our Native Hawaiian students, with an enriched learning environment that will promote positive educational outcomes, and that will ensure a broader and more critical understanding of the unique social issues and challenges they may see both in their schools, and in our society as a whole.**

This measure is an important step towards the meaningful inclusion of culture-based education in performance standards and curriculum development, which would have a profound impact on Native Hawaiian youth. A 2009 study by Kamehameha Schools found that culture-based education has a positive impact on school engagement, and especially on students’ emotional and cognitive engagement.¹ High levels of school engagement are, in turn, associated with increased academic achievement and greater rates of persistence toward graduation. With Native Hawaiians comprising a large portion of the public school student body,² the culturally relevant curricula contemplated by this measure may potentially result in positive educational outcomes for a substantial number of our public school students.

In addition, the proposed inclusion of historic traumas, cultural subjugation, and discrimination experienced by Native Hawaiians and underrepresented communities in standards-based curricula will provide all public school students with a more critical understanding of social issues and challenges they may observe or experience both in

¹ BRENNAN TAKAYAMA & BRANDON LEDWARD, HAWAIIAN CULTURAL INFLUENCE EDUCATION (HCIE): SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT AMONG HAWAIIAN STUDENTS 1 (2009), *available at* https://www.ksbe.edu/assets/research/collection/09_0133_takayama.pdf.

² Native Hawaiians accounted for 24.3% of the public school student body population in the 2018-19 school year. THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, NATIVE HAWAIIAN DATA BOOK Table 06.01, *available at* http://www.ohadatabook.com/go_updates.19.html (last accessed Mar. 1, 2021).

school, and in our broader society. This in turn will better prepare them to more fully understand and engage in social and civic issues, and work towards realizing a more just and socially conscious society. OHA particularly believes that an accurate and contextual understanding of Hawai'i's history within our public school student body is critical to their ability to understand and address the unique issues and challenges that Native Hawaiians and our broader society continue to struggle with on a day-to-day basis. Thus, HB11 HD1 also has the potential to encourage a more nuanced understanding of the experiences of Native Hawaiians and the underrepresented and less-understood communities that make up our social fabric, and thereby facilitate the realization of a more just and socially harmonious society over the long-term.

Accordingly, OHA respectfully urges this Committee to **PASS** HB11 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

HB-11-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 4:21:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Andrea Quinn | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Please support HB11.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn

HB-11-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 9:44:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/3/2021 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kamalehua Ahn-DiFolco | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support this bill because in the bill it states " That to prepare students to participate in the development of a more equal society, it is important to create educational content that is culturally relevant, nondiscriminatory, and inclusive of the historical injustices endured by marginalized populations." And I feel Like that is very important because some students are still getting judged and discriminatted and i feel like by passing this bill it will help whith these problems.