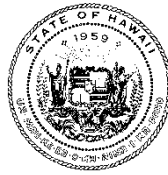


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE  
CHAIRPERSON

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

April 4, 2019

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Catherine Payne  
Chairperson, Ad Hoc Committee on 2019 Legislative Session

AGENDA ITEM: Update on Ad Hoc Committee (a permitted interaction group pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes, Section 92-2.5(b)(2)) concerning 2019 Legislative Session: Hearings and Testimony

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I will provide an oral report on the hearings members of the 2019 Legislative Session Ad Hoc Committee attended since my last report on March 7, 2019. This list is current as of March 29, 2019. Copies of any written testimony submitted by the committee are attached to this memorandum as **Exhibit A**.

**House Committee on Lower and Higher Education Hearing**

Tuesday, March 12, 2019, 2:30 p.m.

Notice: [https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2019/hearingnotices/HEARING\\_LHE\\_03-12-19\\_2\\_.HTM%20](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2019/hearingnotices/HEARING_LHE_03-12-19_2_.HTM%20)

Board Member Attended: Bruce Voss

**Senate Committee on Education Hearing**

Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 2:45 p.m.

Notice: [https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2019/hearingnotices/HEARING\\_EDU\\_03-13-19\\_.HTM](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2019/hearingnotices/HEARING_EDU_03-13-19_.HTM)

Board Member Attended: Catherine Payne

**House Committees on Labor and Public Employment and Lower and Higher Education Hearing**

Friday, March 15, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

Notice: [https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2019/hearingnotices/HEARING\\_LAB-LHE\\_03-15-19\\_.HTM](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2019/hearingnotices/HEARING_LAB-LHE_03-15-19_.HTM)

Board Member Attended: Catherine Payne

**Senate Committee on Education Hearing**

Friday, March 15, 2019, 2:45 p.m.

Notice: [https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2019/hearingnotices/HEARING\\_EDU\\_03-15-19\\_.HTM](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2019/hearingnotices/HEARING_EDU_03-15-19_.HTM)

Board Member Attended: Catherine Payne

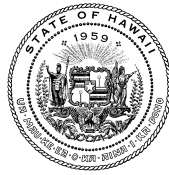
**House Committee on Finance Hearing**

Friday, March 29, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

Notice: [https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2019/hearingnotices/HEARING\\_FIN\\_03-29-19\\_1\\_.HTM](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2019/hearingnotices/HEARING_FIN_03-29-19_1_.HTM)

Board Member Attended: Catherine Payne

**Exhibit A**  
**Testimony**



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

**House Committee on Lower and Higher Education**

Tuesday, March 12, 2019  
2:30 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309

**Senate Bill 84, Senate Draft 2, Making an Appropriation to the Department of Education**

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education ("Board") would like to testify in support of SB 84 SD2, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Education for a Board Analyst II.

Prior to the appointed Board, the Board's support office employed approximately nine to 13 individuals on full and part-time bases. Currently, the Board's support office consists of three permanent positions and one temporary position. Over the past few years, the duties of the Board's support office have increased along with the Board's initiatives, including evening meetings, processes to improve transparency and accessibility, a more comprehensive evaluation of the Superintendent, and initiatives to implement a system for multiple charter school authorizers.

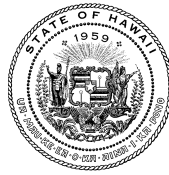
The Board anticipates this trend of increasing duties to continue into the near future as the Board continues to look for ways to improve in fulfilling its responsibilities. The Board would like to hold neighbor island meetings, which will increase the duties of staff. The Board is also in the process of implementing charter school law and developing a system for multiple charter school authorizers, which includes an annual application process for charter school authorizers and the evaluation and oversight of multiple charter school authorizers. This new system creates an additional set of duties and responsibilities that Board support staff will have to fulfill in addition to the existing workload.

The Board's work requiring data and/or evaluation expertise has experienced a considerable uptick, and the Board has shown interest in expanding this kind of work, including improving the evaluation of the State Librarian and data analysis related to policymaking to assist the Board with more data-driven decision making. A Board Analyst II with a particular focus on evaluative work and data analysis will provide the Board's support office with the capacity and expertise to adequately support the Board in its current and planned endeavors, which would in turn benefit the public through better decision-making and increased access and transparency, a strategic priority of the Board.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.

Very truly yours,

Catherine Payne  
Chairperson, Board of Education  
Chairperson, 2019 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee



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

**Senate Committee on Education**

Wednesday, March 13, 2019  
2:45 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229

**House Bill 622, House Draft 2, Relating to Public Charter Schools**

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

The Board of Education ("Board") would like to provide comments on HB 622 HD2, which would require authorizers to establish a purchase order system to pay charter school expenses, require charter schools to be subject to an annual financial audit, require authorizers to select the independent auditors that are to perform the audits on charter schools, and prohibit affiliations between Board or State Public Charter School Commission ("Commission") members and charter schools.

The Board supports legislation that requires charter school authorizers to hold charter schools accountable to academic, financial, and organizational outcomes, including compliance with applicable laws. To that end, the Board supports the intent of the provisions of this measure that require annual financial audits by independent auditors selected by the authorizer and that require charter school employees under federal investigation to inform the authorizer of the investigation.

However, the Board opposes legislation that increases charter school accountability at the expense of the operational autonomy necessary for charter schools to fulfill their missions and act as independent public schools. The provisions establishing a purchase order system and requiring authorizer approval for any charter school expenditures infringe upon the core autonomies charter schools need to be high-quality public schools and conflict with existing statute and national principles and standards for quality authorizing.

Section 302D-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, states, in pertinent part, "All authorizers shall be required to follow nationally recognized principles and standards for quality charter authorizing in all major areas of authorizing responsibilities[.]" The mostly widely recognized national principles and standards for quality authorizing are the National Association of Charter School

Authorizers' *Principles & Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing*,<sup>1</sup> which includes upholding school autonomy as one of its three core principles. This principle states, among other relevant things, that a quality authorizer "honors and preserves core autonomies crucial to school success" and "minimizes administrative and compliance burdens on schools." The aforementioned provisions would prevent authorizers from meeting this principle and section 302D-6, HRS.

**Therefore, the Board respectfully requests that the Committee amend this measure by removing the provisions that establish a purchase order system for charter school expenditures and require authorizers to approve purchase orders before charter schools can expend funds.** Specifically, the Board requests the Committee to remove the proposed new statutory section entitled "Legislative appropriations; state treasury" under Section 1 of the measure (page 1, line 14 to page 2, line 2) and remove Section 3 from the measure (page 2, line 15 to page 4, line 17), which would amend section 302D-28, HRS.

The Board takes no position on the prohibition of affiliations between the Board, Commission, and charter schools, as it relates to the Board's governance structure because the Board believes it is most appropriate for the Legislature and Governor to decide such matters. However, the Board would like to provide comments on this prohibition.

Quality policy-making and oversight requires experience and knowledge in the area being overseen. Charter school experience and knowledge gained while an employee, governing board member, vendor, contractor, agent, or representative gives members of the Board and Commission inside and in-depth knowledge of how schools and organizations work. Eliminating this knowledge from the Board and Commission potentially hinders the ability of these governing entities to effectively and efficiently oversee charter schools and charter school authorizers.

Moreover, as currently drafted, this bill could potentially result in the ineligibility of at least four current Board members and between four to eight Commission members, a great disruption that would not benefit our students.

The Board, like the Legislature and all policymaking bodies, has to make some hard decisions. Each member of the Board believes public education is one of the most important services the State provides, and we want what is best for our students. We leave the important task of determining the best way to govern our public education system to you and the Governor.

The Board's position and comments on this measure are in regards to matters of public policy only, and the Board defers to the State Public Charter School Commission on operational and implementation matters affecting authorizers and to each charter school on operational and implementation matters affecting their respective schools.

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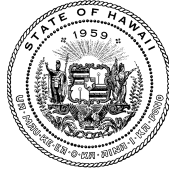
<sup>1</sup> See the National Association of Charter School Authorizer's *Principles & Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing, 2018 Edition*, here: <https://www.qualitycharters.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/NACSA-Principles-and-Standards-2018-Edition.pdf>.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.

Very truly yours,

Catherine Payne  
Chairperson, Board of Education  
Chairperson, 2019 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee





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

**House Committee on Lower and Higher Education**  
**House Committee on Health**

Thursday, March 14, 2019  
2:00 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309

**Senate Bill 383, Senate Draft 2, Relating to Youth Suicide Prevention**

Dear Chairs Woodson and Mizuno; Vice Chairs Hashem, Perruso, and Kobayashi; and  
Members of the Committees:

The Board of Education ("Board") appreciates the intent of SB 383 SD2 but has comments. SB 383 SD2 would require the Board to establish a mandatory youth suicide awareness and prevention training program and model risk referral protocol, based on existing materials created by the Department of Health, for all public schools, including charter schools.

One of the Board's strategic priorities for the 2018-2019 school year relates to safe learning environments that support students' well-being, which seeks to ensure that the appropriate policies, structures, and resources are in place so learning environments that support all students' emotional and physical well-being can be cultivated.

The Board acknowledges that youth suicide is connected to bullying, harassment, and discrimination in schools, and the Board fully supports the intent of initiatives that recognize the importance of addressing these issues.

However, it is difficult for the Board to support proposed legislation that creates additional duties and responsibilities for the Board and the Department of Education ("Department") without appropriating adequate, commensurate resources to accomplish such duties and responsibilities. In its current form, this measure creates substantially more work for the Board and Department without any funding to accomplish their new responsibilities.

In addition, the Board believes the responsibility to implement programs, including the development of programs, should lie with the Department and its administratively attached agencies, as the Board's fundamental purpose is to create educational policy, pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

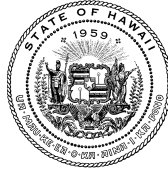
**Therefore, should the Committees decide to pass this measure, the Board requests that the Committees amend it to place the responsibility to develop and implement a youth suicide awareness and prevention training program and a model risk referral protocol with the Department or its administratively attached agencies, as appropriate, and to include an appropriation to fund the development and implementation.**

The Board's position and comments on this measure are in regards to matters of public policy only, and the Board defers to the Department on operational and implementation matters for the public education system. The Board also defers to the State Public Charter School Commission on operational and implementation matters as they relate to charter schools.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.

Very truly yours,

Catherine Payne  
Chairperson, Board of Education  
Chairperson, 2019 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee



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

**House Committee on Lower and Higher Education**

Thursday, March 14, 2019  
2:30 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309

**Senate Bill 171, Senate Draft 2, Relating to Education**

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education ("Board") would like to testify in **strong opposition** to SB 171 SD2, which would create a county education task force to establish a process for the transfer of jurisdiction over all public schools, including all state public education functions and funding, from the State to the county in which the public school is located.

The Board does not support proposed legislation that would prevent or hinder the Board or the Department of Education from addressing their Strategic Priorities for School Year 2018-2019 ("Strategic Priorities"). This measure fits the criterion, as it would result in a task force with a mission to break the statewide public school system—including the public school students, public education professionals, and public education resources—into several systems. It is unclear how this serves the interest of all students and the public.

SB 171 SD2 runs counter to the Strategic Priority of equity and access, which seeks to ensure that "the appropriate policies, structures, and resources are in place to guarantee the advancement of access and support structures that allow all students to engage in learning through the core curriculum design." A statewide system ensures equitable and fair resources across all schools, a feature of which Hawaii has long been proud. Splitting up the system into multiple school districts has the potential to erode equity for our schools and students, likely hurting our least affluent and most vulnerable populations the most, as demonstrated in so many other states across the nation.

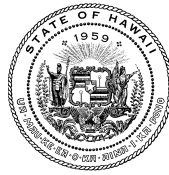
This measure could also lead to greater inefficiencies and decreased economies of scale that we enjoy in our unitary statewide system, hampering progress in addressing the other Strategic Priorities. Divided resources and support could potentially make it more costly to address school facilities needs or design student-centered schools. Rather than focusing on addressing the teacher shortage issue holistically at the statewide level, multiple in-state districts might compete for each other's teachers.

These are just a few examples of the potential but significant impacts this measure could have on the public education system and our students. **Therefore, we urge the Committee not to pass this measure.**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.

Very truly yours,

Catherine Payne  
Chairperson, Board of Education  
Chairperson, 2019 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee



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

**House Committee on Labor and Public Employment**  
**House Committee on Lower and Higher Education**

Friday, March 15, 2019  
2:00 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309

**Senate Bill 592, Senate Draft 1, Relating to the Salary of the State Librarian**

Dear Chairs Johanson and Woodson; Vice Chairs Eli, Hashem, and Perruso; and Members of the Committees:

The Board of Education ("Board") would like to testify in support of SB 592, which would limit the State Librarian's salary to ninety percent of the Superintendent's salary.

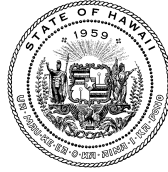
The State Librarian oversees Hawaii's State Public Library System, which is responsible nurturing the lifelong learning needs of all of the citizens of Hawaii. This includes oversight of 51 physical branches statewide as well as growing online and digital resources. Public libraries are the heart of many of our communities and serve as an essential partner with education in this state.

This bill will provide the Board with the flexibility and discretion it needs to attract and retain high-quality candidates while simultaneously setting a degree of accountability by tying the salary of the State Librarian to another statutory position and ensuring that it never exceeds the salary of the Superintendent.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.

Very truly yours,

Catherine Payne  
Chairperson, Board of Education  
Chairperson, 2019 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee



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

**Senate Committee on Education**

Friday, March 15, 2019  
2:45 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229

**House Bill 407, House Draft 1, Relating to the Board of Education**

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

The Board of Education ("Board") would like to testify in opposition to HB 407 HD1, which would grant the Board the authority to appoint complex area superintendents.

The Board agrees that the complex area superintendents play a vital role for their public school communities, and they are an integral component of the Department of Education's ("Department") tri-level leadership structure. The Board currently and appropriately has approval authority over any complex area superintendent appointments made by the Superintendent.

The Board does not support proposed legislation that would prevent or hinder the Board or the Department from addressing their annual strategic priorities. Annually, the Board sets strategic priorities, which the Superintendent uses to develop her own priorities that serve as the Board's primary measures for holding the Superintendent accountable to improving public education.

To achieve her priorities, the Superintendent relies on an expansive tri-level cadre of Department leaders, which includes the complex area superintendents. Without the flexibility to hire or terminate, if necessary, the crucial members of her leadership team, the Superintendent's responsibility to meet her annual priorities and advance public education in Hawaii becomes increasingly challenging.

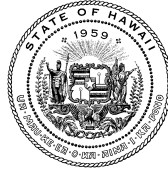
Further, the Board does not believe it is appropriate or effective for the Board to assume management responsibilities over Department employees and believes it should remain focused on its primary roles of education policymaker and supervisor to the Superintendent as envisioned by the Constitution of the State of Hawaii. The Superintendent should remain responsible for managing the Department and its employees, which includes personnel decisions.

**We urge the Committee not to pass this measure.**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.

Very truly yours,

Catherine Payne  
Chairperson, Board of Education  
Chairperson, 2019 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee



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

**Senate Committee on Education**

Friday, March 15, 2019  
2:45 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229

**House Bill 921, House Draft 2, Relating to Education**

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

The Board of Education (“Board”) appreciates the intent of but would like to provide comments on HB 921 HD2, which would, among other things, establish the Executive Office on Early Learning (“EOEL”) as the administrative authority for state-funded prekindergarten programs, except for special education and Title I-funded programs, and define the roles and responsibilities of EOEL and the Department of Education as they relate to public prekindergarten programs.

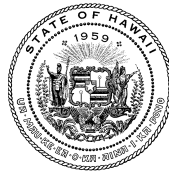
The Board believes the governance structure of the early learning system needs clearer roles, responsibilities, and lines of authority that allow multiple major early learning stakeholders to work in accord, but the Board acknowledges that the major stakeholders have differing views of the ideal governance structure. Thus, the Board supports legislation that would bring the major early learning stakeholders together to collaboratively develop recommended governance structure improvements that would best serve children ages 0 to 5 while ensuring accountability throughout the early learning system. **Therefore, the Board humbly requests that the Committee insert provisions to bring the major stakeholders together to assess the early learning governance structure and make recommendations to the Legislature before the 2020 legislative session.**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.

Very truly yours,

Catherine Payne  
Chairperson, Board of Education  
Chairperson, 2019 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee





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

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

Wednesday, March 28, 2019  
10:20 a.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211

**House Bill 622, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1, Relating to Public Charter Schools**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education ("Board") would like to provide comments on HB 622 HD2 SD1, which would transfer control of public funds disbursed to a charter school to the State Public Charter School Commission ("Commission") upon filing of criminal charges against an employee of the charter school for actions taken in the course of employment at the charter school; require authorizers to establish a banking account system to pay charter school expenses; require authorizers to select the independent auditors that are to perform the audits on charter schools; and prohibit individuals from serving as Board or Commission members if the individual was affiliated with a charter school within four years preceding appointment.

The Board supports legislation that requires charter school authorizers to hold charter schools accountable to academic, financial, and organizational outcomes, including compliance with applicable laws. To that end, the Board supports the intent of the provisions of this measure that require annual financial audits by independent auditors selected by the authorizer.

The Board opposes legislation that increases charter school accountability at the expense of the operational autonomy necessary for charter schools to fulfill their missions and act as independent public schools. The Board appreciates the replacement of the provisions establishing a purchase order system with provisions that would instead establish a banking account system, and the Board supports the intent of the banking account system to the extent that it does not infringe upon the core autonomies charter schools need to be high-quality public schools. However, the Board finds that the provisions transferring control of public funds to the Commission upon filing of criminal charges against an employee of a charter school to be an unnecessary infringement upon charter school autonomy and conflict with existing statute and national principles and standards for quality authorizing.

While a charter school should make its authorizer aware of any federal criminal charges filed against one of its employees for actions taken in the course of employment at the school, such charges of an individual employee do not mean that the charter school violated law or its charter

contract. Even if the charges of the individual employee lead to a finding of the charter school's noncompliance with law or its charter contract, Section 302D-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS"), requires the authorizer to "provide reasonable opportunity for the charter school to remedy the problem[.]" By automatically taking away the school's control over its funds upon the filing of federal criminal charges of an individual, the school is condemned before its authorizer even finds noncompliance, and the school loses the operational autonomy it needs to take necessary corrective actions.

Section 302D-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, states, in pertinent part, "All authorizers shall be required to follow nationally recognized principles and standards for quality charter authorizing in all major areas of authorizing responsibilities[.]" The mostly widely recognized national principles and standards for quality authorizing are the National Association of Charter School Authorizers' *Principles & Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing*,<sup>1</sup> which includes upholding school autonomy as one of its three core principles. This principle states, among other relevant things, that a quality authorizer "honors and preserves core autonomies crucial to school success" and "minimizes administrative and compliance burdens on schools." The aforementioned provisions would prevent authorizers from meeting this principle and Section 302D-6, HRS, and would hinder schools from remedying any problems, pursuant to Section 302D-17, HRS.

**Therefore, the Board respectfully requests that the Committee amend this measure by removing the provisions that transfer control of public funds to the Commission upon filing of federal criminal charges against an employee of a charter school and instead require a charter school with an employee under federal investigation to inform the authorizer of the investigation.** Specifically, the Board requests the Committee to replace the proposed new statutory section entitled "Federal investigation; charges; public funds" under Section 1 of Senate Draft 1 of the measure (page 1, line 5 to line 13) with the proposed new statutory section entitled "Federal investigations" under Section 1 of House Draft 2 of the measure (page 1, line 5 to line 13).

The Board takes no position on the prohibition of affiliations between the Board, Commission, and charter schools as it relates to the Board's governance structure because the Board believes it is most appropriate for the Legislature and Governor to decide such matters. However, the Board would like to provide comments on this prohibition.

Quality policymaking and oversight requires experience and knowledge in the subject matter area, which gives governing entities insight and in-depth knowledge of how the organizations under their oversight jurisdiction work. For example, having Board members who are former Department of Education teachers and principals provides the Board with insight and in-depth of how the Department of Education works. Similarly, charter school experience and knowledge gained while an employee, governing board member, vendor, contractor, agent, or

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<sup>1</sup> See the National Association of Charter School Authorizer's *Principles & Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing, 2018 Edition*, here: <https://www.qualitycharters.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/NACSA-Principles-and-Standards-2018-Edition.pdf>.

representative gives members of the Board and Commission insight and in-depth knowledge of how charter schools and charter school authorizers work. Eliminating this knowledge from the Board and Commission potentially hinders the ability of these governing entities to effectively and efficiently oversee charter schools and charter school authorizers.

**Moreover, even with the added four-year cooling off period in the current draft, this bill could potentially result in the ineligibility of at least three current Board members and between four to eight Commission members, which would be a great disruption that would not benefit our students, unless the prohibition of previous charter school employees, governing board members, vendors, contractors, agents, or representatives serving on the Board and Commission is removed.**

The Board, like the Legislature and all policymaking bodies, has to make some hard decisions. Each member of the Board believes public education is one of the most important services the State provides, and we want what is best for our students. We leave the important task of determining the best way to govern our public education system to you and the Governor.

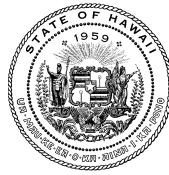
Finally, the Board would like to comment on the bill's references to the Commission and authorizers as it relates to a charter school system with more than one authorizer. The Board is in the process of implementing a system that would allow for more authorizers than just the Commission, as required by Chapter 302D, HRS. Such a system is already complex, and some of the bill's provisions would convolute the lines of authority between the Board, Commission, and other authorizers. **To ensure consistency and clarity for the powers and responsibilities of all authorizers, the Board recommends all of the bill's references to the Commission be changed to include all authorizers.** Specifically, remove "the commission and" on page 2, lines 19 to 20, and (if the Committee decides to keep the provisions the Board opposes, as described above) replace "commission" with "charter school's authorizer" on page 1, line 10, and replace "commission" with "authorizer" on page 1, line 11 and line 12.

The Board's position and comments on this measure are in regards to matters of public policy only, and the Board defers to the Commission on operational and implementation matters affecting authorizers and to each charter school on operational and implementation matters affecting their respective schools.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.

Very truly yours,

Catherine Payne  
Chairperson, Board of Education  
Chairperson, 2019 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee



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

**House Committee on Finance**

Friday, March 29, 2019  
2:00 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308

**Senate Bill 592, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1, Relating to the Salary of the State Librarian**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education ("Board") would like to testify in support of SB 592, which would limit the State Librarian's salary to an unspecified percentage amount of the Superintendent's salary.

The State Librarian oversees Hawaii's State Public Library System, which is responsible for nurturing the lifelong learning needs of all of the citizens of Hawaii. This includes oversight of 51 physical branches statewide as well as growing online and digital resources. Public libraries are the heart of many of our communities and serve as an essential partner with education in this state.

An increase in the State Librarian's salary cap will provide the Board with the flexibility and discretion it needs to attract and retain high-quality candidates while simultaneously setting a degree of accountability by tying the salary of the State Librarian to another statutory position and ensuring that it never exceeds the salary of the Superintendent.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.

Very truly yours,

Catherine Payne  
Chairperson, Board of Education  
Chairperson, 2019 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee



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

**House Committee on Finance**

Friday, March 29, 2019  
2:30 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308

**Senate Bill 383, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1, Relating to Youth Suicide Prevention**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education ("Board") appreciates the intent of SB 383 SD2 HD1 but has comments. SB 383 SD2 HD1 would require the Department of Education ("Department") to establish a mandatory youth suicide awareness and prevention training program and model risk referral protocol, based on existing materials created by the Department of Health, for all public schools, including charter schools. The measure would also require the Department and charter schools to provide the training program and risk referral protocol to all school personnel who work directly with students in Department schools and charter schools, respectively.

One of the Board's strategic priorities for the 2018-2019 school year relates to safe learning environments that support students' well-being, which seeks to ensure that the appropriate policies, structures, and resources are in place so learning environments that support all students' emotional and physical well-being can be cultivated.

The Board acknowledges that youth suicide is connected to bullying, harassment, and discrimination in schools, and the Board fully supports the intent of initiatives that recognize the importance of addressing these issues.

However, it is difficult for the Board to support proposed legislation that creates additional duties and responsibilities for the Department and charter schools without appropriating adequate, commensurate resources to accomplish such duties and responsibilities. In its current form, this measure creates substantially more work for the Department and charter schools without any funding to accomplish their new responsibilities. **Therefore, should the Committee decide to pass this measure, the Board requests that the Committee amend it to include an appropriation to fund the development and implementation of the youth suicide awareness and prevention training program and risk referral protocol.**

The Board appreciates the House Committee of Lower and Higher Education's amendments to place the responsibility to implement the program, including its development, with the

Department and its administratively attached agencies rather than the Board. The Board believes this is most appropriate, as the Board's fundamental purpose is to create educational policy, pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

The Board's position and comments on this measure are in regards to matters of public policy only, and the Board defers to the Department on operational and implementation matters for the public education system. The Board also defers to the State Public Charter School Commission and the individual charter schools on operational and implementation matters as they relate to charter schools.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.

Very truly yours,

Catherine Payne  
Chairperson, Board of Education  
Chairperson, 2019 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee