

October 17, 2017

Hawai'i Board of Education
General Business Meeting
Lance Mizumoto, Chair
Brian De Lima, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Mizumoto, Vice Chair De Lima and Members,

We would like to comment on **Agenda Item V. A. Committee Action on recommendation concerning the Department of Education's Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.**

We are a group of advocates from Native Hawaiian, parent, disability, higher education, multilingual, social justice, and education reform communities who have come together to look at opportunities and risks for advancing equity and improving achievement under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

In the 2017 Legislative Session, we along with other community organizations focused on equity in education successfully advocated for the restoration of line items targeting our high needs students that were removed from the Executive Budget. We believe our advocacy contributed to the legislature funding the line items for the Office of Hawaiian Education, Seclusion and Restraints, School Based Behavioral Health, Homeless Liaisons and the Community Engagement Office for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year.

We continue to advocate for equity in education and applaud the BOE and DOE's current focus on narrowing the achievement gap. For the 2018-2019 supplemental budget, we continue to advocate for the line items and supports addressed in the Strategic Plan to narrow the achievement gap. These include:

EDN100 Weighted Student Formula-in particular, the specific request to increase ELL weighing factor

EDN100 Office of Hawaiian Education Hawaiian Language Immersion Program

EDN100 Office of Hawaiian Education Hawaiian Studies

EDN150 SPED Teacher Differential

EDN200 World Languages and Health

EDN200 English Language Learners Program

EDN300 Community Engagement Office

As we approach 2018 legislative session, we as community members are happy to advocate together with BOE and DOE to support these line items, which are critical for implementing the Strategic Plan and narrowing the achievement gap. We look forward to working with the BOE and DOE on this collaborative effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Martha Guinan
Cheri Nakamura
Sylvia Hussey
Patricia Halagao
Brook Chapman DeSousa
Gavin Thornton
William Pila Wilson
Ka'ano'i Walk
Kanakolu Noa