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David Miyashiro
Executive Director

August 10, 2023

Hawaii State Board of Education
Finance and Infrastructure Committee
Ken Kuraya, Committee Chairperson

Aloha Chair Kuraya and Members of the Committee,

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a local nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawaii has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, has a transformational impact on our children and our state. We strongly believe that all students should have access to excellent educational opportunities, regardless of family income levels and circumstances.

HawaiiKidsCAN would like to offer comments for Discussion Item A: Presentation on Department of Education (“Department”) Fiscal Update: operating budget and carryover funds for Fiscal Year 2023-24, supplemental operating budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (“ESSER”) resources.

We recognize the extremely daunting challenge facing our public education system, and we’re grateful for the perseverance of our educators and DOE staff as they work hard to keep learning front and center despite financial uncertainty. Given that it will take an “all hands on deck” to support our students and families, we urge the DOE and BOE to embrace the power of our broader Hawaii community to accelerate learning. For example, today’s memo does not mention how philanthropic dollars and community partners can add capacity to our schools. With an organized ask and strategy, our amazing ecosystem of non-profits, employers, and foundations can be a significant asset to deploy. Beyond funds, community partners can also take on responsibility to support with the heavy action items in the 2023-2039 Implementation Plan.

It should be noted that the House of Representatives passed two resolutions requesting the BOE to report on ways to increase access to extended learning opportunities or course credits for non-traditional and external learning experiences (HR 185) and

produce a report on increasing access to tutoring services within and outside of Hawaii's K-12 public schools (HR 159). Both of these resolutions could serve as a launching point for articulating the community strategy to support our students.

It's clear that the transition from ESSER funding is sure to be difficult, but there are innovations and cost-efficient solutions. HawaiiKidsCAN's Hawaii Tutoring program provides a virtually-enabled high-dosage tutoring option for rural students through DOE vendor Air Tutors, filling pukas in rural communities. Similarly, the DOE's virtual mental health supports for students through Hazel Health is also a promising model to explore.

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro
Founding Executive Director
HawaiiKidsCAN



August 10, 2023
Finance and Infrastructure Committee Meeting

Dear Chair Kuraya and Members of the Board,

Presentation on Department of Education (“Department”) Fiscal Update: operating budget and carryover funds for Fiscal Year 2023-24, supplemental operating budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (“ESSER”) resources

We are happy to hear that the DOE’s budget will be stable for FY23-24 with supplementary funds from the Governor and ESSER. However, the anticipated shortfalls in FY24-25 concerns us. What is DOE’s plan or contingency plans to adjust to a potential decrease in resources?

Update on status of Department’s capital improvement projects and repair and maintenance

From the status report, it appears the R&M is progressing well, but CIP is still facing challenges. We regularly track <https://cpt.hidoefacilities.org/portal-schools-tracker/cip> and the total unspent CIP funds increased to \$2,207,768,426.96, which is \$200 million more than the amount in June 2023. What is the DOE’s plan to address the CIP challenges?

Presentation on Department student transportation for 2023-2024 school year

We acknowledge that the shortage of bus drivers is a national and local trend. We praise the DOE for its efforts to partner with the counties and try to incentivize drivers with more pay. However, it does not look like the driver shortage will change any time soon. What other out of the box solutions is the DOE considering and how can the community help?

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Cheri Nakamura
HE’E Coalition Director

HE'E Coalition Members and Participants

Academy 21
Alliance for Place Based Learning
American Civil Liberties Union
Atherton YMCA
Education Institute of Hawai'i
*Faith Action for Community Equity
Fresh Leadership LLC
Girl Scouts Hawai'i
*HawaiiKidsCAN
*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance
*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
*Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars
*Hawai'i Children's Action Network
Hawai'i Education Association
Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition
* Hawai'i State PTSA
Hawai'i State Student Council
Hawai'i State Teachers Association
Head Start Collaboration Office
It's All About Kids
*INPEACE
Joint Venture Education Forum
Junior Achievement of Hawaii
Kamehameha Schools
Kanu Hawai'i
Kaua'i Ho'okele Council
Keiki to Career Kaua'i
Kupu A'e
*Leaders for the Next Generation
Learning First

McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds
Native Hawaiian Education Council
Our Public School
*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning
*Parents and Children Together
*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i
Special Education Provider Alliance
*Teach for America
The Learning Coalition
US PACOM
University of Hawai'i College of Education
* Youth Service Hawai'i

Voting Members () Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*