

Susana Browne <scbrowne@hawaii.edu>

09/28/2017 07:59 AM

To testimony_boe@notes.k12.hi.us
cc
Subject Teacher Shortage

My name is Susana Browne and I have been working in education on Maui for over 30 years. I was the education director at Maui Arts & Cultural Center for 18 years, and I am now working for the University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Education, as the Maui Field Supervisor.

I am writing regarding the severe shortage of qualified teachers in the state of Hawaii. I'm sure you know that this lack of highly qualified teachers has reached the crisis level. Fewer people are going into education and more teachers are leaving the field after five years of frustration. The result is that many of our children are being taught by substitute teachers. This is going to have grave consequences if there is not an immediate solution.

I would like to suggest that the DOE and UH provide scholarships for people who want to pursue a degree in education. I have students that are committed to being teachers, but are struggling with the cost of tuition, which is about \$5,000/semester for a state resident. The results is these students graduate with a large student loan that they have to start paying back right away. And remember that Hawaii teachers have the lowest pay in the nation when compared to the cost of living. A single person cannot afford to be a teacher when one whole paycheck per month is going to rent.

The problem of retaining teachers also needs to be addressed. New teachers need support and they need mentor teachers to help them during their first two years in the classroom.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns for our education system in Hawaii and on Maui. I can be reached at 808-283-9285

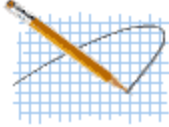
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Susana Browne
Maui Field Supervisor
UH Manoa, Institute for Teacher Education
Statewide Elementary and MEdT Programs

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Paul Janes-Brown <pjanesbrown@gmail.com>

09/28/2017 09:32 AM

To testimony_boe@notes.k12.hi.us
cc tim@hawaiidemocrats.org, Timothy
lara <timlara81@gmail.com>, Susana
Browne <scbrowne@hawaii.edu>,
Subject Listening

Aloha Madame Superintendent, guests, students, teachers, parents and interested community members,

My name is Paul Janes-Brown. When I first came to Maui, I was an English teacher at King Kekaulike H.S. I was also an instructor in Business English at what was then, Maui Community College. I left teaching to become the first development director of Maui Youth & Family Services, then I was Managing Director of Maui Academy of Performing Arts and went on to become Marketing & Development Director at Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. I have an independent consulting company called ForImpact Maui and I do a weekly TV show on the arts for Akaku, our community access station and a semi monthly radio program on Mana'o Radio, an all volunteer station.

I have a B.S. in English from Central CT State College, one of the best teacher's colleges in America, and an [M.ED.in](#) Administration, from Antioch New England.

I was recently appointed to be the Vice Chair of Education for the Maui County Democrats and I am here today to ask you to listen intently to what the community wants. As the father of a teacher, I know that Special Education teachers are desperately needed. I know that charter schools are undermining education all over America. I know teachers in Hawaii have one of the hardest jobs there is. I know that we need to be doing more to create new teachers and support them. I know that this place that you are in Pomaikai Elementary is a paragon of what education can be. I know that teaching through the arts is not only effective, but it produces better humans. But what I am here for today is to listen, to take notes and to bring those notes to the leadership of the Democratic Party and to make sure that we have legislation and policies which move Hawaii from the among the worst schools in America to the best. When the missionaries came in 1820, King Kamehameha II, allowed them to stay because he was eager to have his people become literate. In twenty-five years, Hawaii was the the MOST LITERATE PLACE IN THE WORLD, with 85% of the population able to read and write. Let's make that our goal again to be the best in the world. We live in the best place, but our schools lag far behind. We need to do something about that.

Mahalo nui loa,

Paul Janes-Brown, Vice Chair for Education
Maui County Democrats
572-8000
268-1740 (mobile)

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