

Mireille Ellsworth <ellsworthsta@gmail.com>

10/16/2017 04:49 PM

To testimony_boe@notes.k12.hi.us
cc
Subject TESTIMONY: Finance & Infrastructure
Committee 11 am Oct. 17

TESTIMONY to the Finance and Infrastructure Committee

Oct. 17, 2017 11:00 am

AGENDA ITEMS: V. C. & D. Strategic Priorities & Committee Charter Amendments

POSITION: Comments/suggestions

Aloha Chair Uemura, Vice Chair Kawano, and Committee Members:

My name is Mireille Ellsworth, and I have been teaching at Waiakea High School for the past 13 years.

Regarding your list of strategic priorities (agenda item V. C.), I would like to be assured that all Board members, especially those serving on this committee, are clear as to **what "Student-Centered Learning School Design" actually means and what it looks like**. I seem to have been hearing this ever since our new superintendent has taken office, but I have not as of yet heard any details. Since it is listed third on your committee's list of priorities, I am requesting that the public be given more information and that we know that the Board is aware of the specifics of this direction.

I also have some input to offer on your committee's charter revisions under IV. Authority A. It seems that **the committee is losing the option to retain independent auditors and legal counsel** with the proposed amendments. Wouldn't it be limiting to have to utilize the Attorney General's office? What is the rationale behind this revision?

I very much like the addition of giving the committee the authority (B.) to "meet with and seek any information it requires from the Department and its employees, Board members, or external parties." This is a very welcome change that I believe **adds transparency to the system.**

However, under III. C., it seems **setting the agenda for committee meetings should be expanded to include teachers, parents, and community members.** Why limit the input for agenda-setting just to the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendents or Directors, or Board members?

Also, under "Responsibilities" (V.) it seems the Committee is missing a critical role. I would hope that language would be added for the Committee to review annually the projections for population changes in our various neighborhoods throughout the state in order to **make projections for needed new schools.** This committee ought to be monitoring long term needs throughout our state in order to do long-term planning.

I do like the language in V. B. that says, "Determine the adequacy, condition, and use of existing facilities" as listed in the responsibilities. Instead of some of the line-item supplemental budget requests being proposed today, I would like to see **money set aside for Board members to tour certain schools that DOE teachers identify** (can be done anonymously) as being dilapidated and unfit for our keiki.

Thank you for your service and your consideration,

Mireille Ellsworth

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S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council

919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101

Honolulu, HI 96814

Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129

email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov

October 17, 2017

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Advisory Council**

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Kenneth Uemura, Chair
Finance and Infrastructure Committee
Hawaii State Board of Education
P. O. Box 2360
Honolulu, HI 96804

RE: V. A. Committee Action on recommendation concerning the
DOE's Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019

Dear Chair Uemura and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) welcomes this
opportunity to support the following key components of the
Supplemental Budget Request impacting students with disabilities:

Weighted Student Formula (EDN 100)

SEAC is in strong support of more funding at the school level,
which will improve academic achievement and hopefully facilitate
greater inclusion of students with disabilities in the general education
classroom. \$10 million of these funds are earmarked to provide
additional supports to students who are English Learners, many
of whom are also eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities
Education Act (IDEA). Their current academic performance is
significantly behind their peers, and the Every Student Succeeds Act
(ESSA) places a strong emphasis on improving outcomes for this group
of students.

Special Education Teacher Differential (EDN 150)

While SEAC actively supports the concept of providing additional
resources for special education, we would appreciate clarification on
what these additional dollars are funding. Are the monies for extra pay
for classroom special education teachers or for substitute teachers to
allow time for special education teachers to participate in IEP planning
and take advantage of additional professional development?

We have heard from a number of special education teachers who cite
additional training--particularly in the area of inclusive education--and

-- continued




Special Education Teacher Differential (EDN 150)

time to collaborate with their peers and manage the additional load of IEP planning as high priorities. SEAC agrees with the Department that these additional supports are critical to improve teacher retention for this field of teachers who are already understaffed. In order to advocate effectively for their support at the Legislature, we hope to secure more detailed information prior to the opening of the session.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on these budget items. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Respectfully,


Martha Guinan
SEAC Chair


Ivalee Sinclair
Legislative Committee Chair

October 17, 2017

Hawai'i Board of Education
Finance and Infrastructure Committee
Kenneth Uemura, Chair
Nolan Kawano, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Uemura, Vice Chair Kawano and Members of the Committee,

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