

Council Chair
Kelly T. King

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Riki Hokama
Alice L. Lee
Michael J. Molina
Tamara Paltin
Shane M. Sinenci
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



Director of Council Services
Maria E. Zielinski

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

March 14, 2019

TO: The Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Chair
House Committee on Lower and Higher Education

FROM: Kelly T. King
Council Chair *Kelly King*

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 14, 2019; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 171,
SD2, RELATING TO EDUCATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to 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 Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Decentralizing our school systems could allow the counties greater flexibility in developing and managing our schools. As such, we should take the opportunity to explore this option.
2. However, the counties currently do not have the capacity to fund education, which the measure acknowledges is a State function under the State Constitution. Our Constitution provides that "the State shall provide for the establishment and control of a statewide system of public schools free from sectarian control." This can only be achieved in a decentralized educational system if the State continues to provide funding for education adequate to meet the needs of our constituents.

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.