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April 13, 2023

**RE: Hawaii State Department of Education  
Board of Education Budget Request  
FY 2023-2024 & FY 2024-2025**

Dear:

The Hawaii Business Roundtable supports the Hawaii State Department of Education's (DOE) Budget Request as approved by the Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE).

As you know the Hawai'i Business Roundtable (HBR) is a statewide organization made up of Chief Executive Officers of many of the largest companies in Hawaii. While it is made up of business leaders, the Hawaii Business Roundtable is a community organization focused on broad community issues. The children of our employees make up a very large segment of our public-school population, so taking care of our schools is really about taking care of our ohana. As such, the HBR partners with government, private, nonprofit and other community organizations, to continue to improve our public schools in order to build a stronger future for Hawaii and its keiki.

As Leaders of large organizations, HBR members know the importance and are responsible for developing fiscally sound, stable, and adequate budgets for their organizations. The HBR believes that the BOE budget meets those criteria while allowing the DOE to fulfill its legislative mandates and investing in initiatives to support students. These initiatives include the support of programs that focus on: vulnerable populations, workforce-readiness, leadership development, K-12 alignment, and teacher recruitment. These are focus areas that the HBR has supported in the past and is prepared to continue its work with our Legislature in support of these programs.

Public education has always been a cornerstone of the Roundtable's work. It supports the efforts of the Department of Education, the University of Hawaii and the Legislature to create work-based learning experiences that includes exposure to real-world work places. We also strongly support efforts to reach the Legislature's goals stated in Act 46 of providing 100% of otherwise unserved three and four-year-old children with access to learning by 2032.

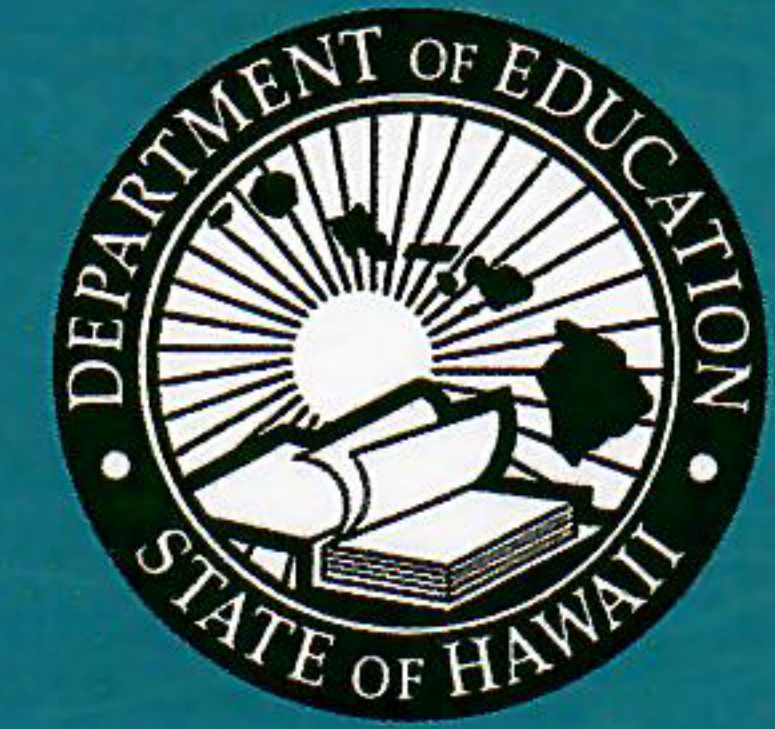
We urge you to support the DOE's Budget request and we look forward to continue our partnership with the State Legislature and the DOE in providing our youth with the outstanding education they deserve.

Mahalo for your support.

Gary K. Kai, Executive Director  
Hawaii Business Roundtable

# Hawai'i State Department of Education

## 2023 Budget Priorities



	<b>Base Budget</b>	<b>BOE Approved Request Above Base</b>	<b>BOE Request Total</b>
FY 2023-24	\$2,024,476,219	\$186,881,176	\$2,211,357,395
FY 2024-25	\$2,047,879,005	\$213,541,202	\$2,261,420,207

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) serves 168,000 students across 295 schools. Our public schools strive to ensure that every student reaches their fullest potential and can be successful and thrive after high school, no matter their background or path they choose. Adequate and predictable funding is critical to the Department's success in carrying out this mission. As such, the following are some of the budget requests that will help ensure we can continue to fulfill our commitment to fully develop the academic achievement, character and social-emotional well-being of all of Hawai'i's students. For more in depth information and analysis, please click on this [link](#) which will provide a detailed breakdown comparing our original Board-approved budgetary ask and the SB 300 HD 1 version.

### **Two Deputy Superintendent Positions, Two Private Secretary Positions: FY24 \$544,808 FY25 \$544,808**

The addition of two deputy superintendents was a measured and necessary first step in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of Department operations and the educational services provided. The Deputy of Operations and Deputy of Strategy will lead the Department's efforts to assess the functions, processes and practices as part of the systemic approach to better our public education system and address the many challenges that impact the system and communities.

### **Extended Learning Opportunities for Middle School Students: FY24 \$5,000,000 FY25 \$5,000,000**

This funding would provide a middle school athletic program for all schools statewide. Middle schools can utilize athletics as an extended learning opportunity to increase participation and improve student achievement.

### **Summer Mental Health Support: FY24 \$1,368,276**

Currently, school counselors are hired as 10-month employees; however, schools would like to hire counselors as 12-month employees. To ensure the Department provides continuity of social, emotional, behavioral and mental health support to students and families involved in summer learning programs across the state, funding is requested for summer counselor services. This initiative supports the statewide strategies of Healthy Habits, Healthy Schools, Action-Oriented Data Decision-Making, Responsive Capacity Building, and Effective Academic Practices.

### **Weighted Student Formula: FY24 \$29,607,302 FY25 \$32,016,281**

This request is to maintain schools' purchasing power for non-payroll costs for instruction and other school operations. This request considers the impact of actual and projected inflation in Hawai'i since 2020, on the non-payroll portion of the WSF budget. These funds will also be used to support underfunded small schools and bolster educational programs and support for English Learner students.

### **Workforce Readiness: FY24 \$2,491,232 FY25 \$2,691,232**

To better prepare students for their future in the workforce, this new branch will facilitate workforce readiness learning opportunities for students. These learning opportunities will increase students' readiness for the workforce by increasing the capacity of teachers to teach the skills that are necessary for student success, establishing work-based learning opportunities for students to practice the skills they learned and learn new skills in a workplace setting, and providing students with avenues to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they acquired through industry credentials and live demonstrations.

### **Workforce Development: FY24 \$1,652,040 FY25 \$1,652,040**

These funds will provide the resources to support workforce readiness and innovation through complex area supports for work-based learning opportunities (e.g., internships, school-based enterprise) that provide students with opportunities for students to apply skills and knowledge in a workplace context. Supports will be customized to the region based on partnerships with local employers and regional economic development priorities.

### **Workforce Development: FY24 \$72,400 FY25 \$72,400**

Adds funds to establish the Workforce Development program's operating costs, computers, office equipment and furniture. The Workforce Development program does not have appropriated funding for operating costs or office computers and equipment to run the program. Establishing funding would allow staff to better prepare students for the current and future workforce by coordinating with existing and emerging business sectors in Hawai'i to effectively facilitate educational opportunities that expose students to viable career paths while allowing them to gain the necessary skills for future employment.