



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

July 6, 2021

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President and Members of the Senate
Thirty First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

I am transmitting herewith HB515 HD1 SD2, without my approval and with the statement of objections relating to the measure.

HB515 HD1 SD2

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION.

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 6, 2021

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 515

Honorable Members
Thirty-First Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i, I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill No. 515, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to the Department of Education."

The purpose of part I of this bill is to require the Auditor to audit the Department of Education's School Food Services Branch to determine the amount of local produce that is being purchased and served to students and to identify the sources of the purchased produce. The purpose of part II of this bill is to require that the Board of Education prioritize for the Superintendent of Education position candidates who have the minimum qualification of ten years of employment in a department of education, including no less than five years serving as a principal or in a higher-level position, and a desired qualification of having a working understanding of the State's tri-level system of educational administration.

This bill is objectionable because the Department of Education's School Food Services branch is already conducting its own system-wide audit of local produce purchased and served in school cafeterias. Requiring the State Auditor to conduct another audit would be a duplication of effort and is unnecessary. The administration fully supports increasing the amount of local produce served in schools as demonstrated by the signing of HB767. Through the Aina Pono program, DOE is increasing local food in student meals as well as connecting our keiki with the 'āina through their food, using products from the local agricultural community. The 'Aina Pono program was created to combine the Farm to School Initiative with our other educational programs, including 'Aina Pono Harvest of the Month, test kitchens, meal programs, menu planning, health and food education, nutrition, and school gardens.

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Regarding part II, the Board of Education (Board) is the primary government entity charged with determining educational policy and appointing the Superintendent of Education. Part II effectively usurps the Board's discretion over hiring, thereby interfering with the Board's statutory obligation to appoint the Superintendent, and may have an unintended consequence of limiting the supply of future candidates for the position.

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning House Bill No. 515 without my approval.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Y. Ige", written in a cursive style.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor of Hawai'i