HEPC does not have a sustainable source of funding within the University. However, in the past the excellent work of graduate students has provided an energetic, professional, and highly motivated “staff” for the center. A fully operative HEPC with funds to hold conferences, provide more timely and in-depth research for policy makers, and generate an annual Status of Education report would require approximately $150-200,000. This bill is a very modest contribution to that goal. Our most recent calculation for the two graduate positions would be approximately $45,000.

HEPC believes this bill serves two purposes: first, to support graduate students, many of whom struggle with the cost of attendance and future debt. Second, to create a form of sustainable staff for the center. HEPC would have no objections to this approach.

In the last year, our Ph.D. student, Ms. Shannon Hillman, has made significant contributions to HEPC studies on English Language Learners, UH tuition issues, UH student views on tuition, school empowerment, and other issues. In addition, she also manages the HEPC web page.

HEPC focuses on public educational policy that is data driven, research based, and thoughtfully implemented. Generally, we try to avoid advocacy. In order to assist you in addressing the subject of this bill, please see the following summary of HEPC.

What is HEPC?
The Hawai‘i Educational Policy Center (HEPC) is an independent policy research organization created in 1999 by the College of Education at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa.

The Research Corporation of the University of Hawai‘i (RCUH) serves as the fiscal body for HEPC and administers funds on its behalf. The responsible UH administrator is the Dean of the College of Education. While RCUH serves as the administrative home for HEPC, it
cannot accept funds directly. Supporting funds for HEPC are transferred to RCUH as they become available. In past years HEPC received funding from the College of Education and contracts from agencies seeking to use its services. Currently, HEPC does not have a sustainable source of funds or contracts.

**HEPC’s Mission**
- Provide timely, concise, relevant and objective policy briefs, reports, articles, studies, forums, and workshops that reflect the needs and requests of Hawai‘i policy makers.
- Become a trusted partner with policymakers in efforts to understand, nurture, improve, and adopt the best and most appropriate policies for our life-long learners in Hawai‘i.

**HEPC Assumptions**
- There are numerous educational studies, theories and information that need to be analyzed and evaluated for quality and application to Hawai‘i’s situation, policies and practices.
- There are important information and research gaps that need to be filled.
- HEPC can make a difference in Hawai‘i’s education system. Through a network of researchers, educators and institutional collaborators, HEPC complements existing efforts and provides timely and targeted information to assist lawmakers, administrators, and educators in their educational decision-making.

**How Does HEPC Serve Policymakers?**
- Works with policymakers to identify what information they need.
- Reviews, collects and distributes information on existing research on issues relevant to Hawai‘i.
- Provides concise, objective, independent analysis of research.
- Provides timely, targeted, interpreted data, briefings and testimony for policymakers.
- Maintains a website with links to cutting-edge research and policy.
- Commissions a range of policy briefs, articles, studies and reports that generate new knowledge and insights that inform policy decisions.
- Conducts, facilitates, and participates in educational forums and workshops. Initiates research on emerging and enduring issues that affect the quality of schools and the quality of learning.

**Recent Policy Work**
In the last year, HEPC has produced policy studies on English Language Learners, A Voters Guide to the Con Am, University of Hawai‘i tuition issues, and school empowerment. A current initiative centers on civic and citizenship education. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this brief overview of HEPC, and to support our graduate students.