

Resolution Opposing a Constitutional Amendment Allowing the State Government to Use Property Taxes for Education

Whereas, SB2922 SD1 HD1 proposing amendments to Articles VII and X of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i to authorize the legislature to establish a surcharge to increase funding for public education will appear on Hawai'i's November 2018 ballot; and

Whereas, Hawai'i spends [\\$13,436](#) per public school pupil which in the 16th highest in the nation with Hawai'i public and charter schools are experiencing a [decrease in enrollment](#) at 179,255 for school year 2017-18 compared to 179,902 last year; and

Whereas, Hawai'i's 8th grade NAEP proficiency is only 30% in math and 25.7% in reading with a high school graduation rate of 82.7%, the 19th lowest of 50 states; and

Whereas, Hawai'i has one of the highest rate of [private school](#) attendance estimated over 36,000 students and [homeschooled](#) children has risen to over 6300 pupils; and

Whereas, in spite of the high tuition at private schools and the time dedicated to homeschool their children, parents are opting for these educational resources to achieve better results and more challenging curricula than are offered at most public schools; and

Whereas, Hawai'i has been identified as the [most expensive state](#) in which to live, has the [second highest tax burden](#) among the 50 states which makes tax increases intolerable; and

Whereas, property tax increases are inevitably passed on to renters, increasing the cost of living; and

Whereas, Hawai'i has the only state-wide education system and it has proven to be unresponsive to the needs of the community and already overly costly in relation to results;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Hawai'i Republican Party in convention in Kane'ohe, Hawai'i on 5 May 2018, that Hawai'i Republicans emphatically oppose the proposed constitutional amendment implement a property tax to supplement Department of Education costs and recommend that all voters rejected the ballot proposition; and

Therefore, be it further resolved, that copies of this resolution be posted on the Hawai'i Republican Party website, transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i; members of Congress, member of the Hawai'i State Legislature and the Mayors of all Hawai'i Counties.