

**The Constitutional Amendment Ballot Measure:
Weighing How It Addresses
Our Hawai'i Public Education Funding Needs...**



OBJECTIONS	RESPONSES For more information visit www.ppsbi.org/FUND
The ballot measure is unconstitutional.	The ballot measure proposes a change to the constitution-- it is not unconstitutional to allow the voters to vote a constitutional amendment.
The ballot measure is too vague.	The ballot measure is simple-- but clear and transparent. It enables the legislature to levy a surcharge on investment property to fund schools.
The amendment language sets up potential law suits over "sufficient"	All parties currently work to determine what is "sufficient". The amendment does not make that discussion more difficult or potentially litigious.
The amendment does not ensure the funding will be spent on schools.	The amendment does limit the funds to be spent for "public education".
Those who want more funding support for schools should try other taxes, not property taxes.	Property taxes more fairly distribute the burden to out of state investors who benefit from services increasing their property values without contributing. Other taxes have been proposed and defeated in the legislature. The measure on the ballot is our only chance right now.
Counties rely on property taxes to function.	The amendment does not reduce county property taxes in any way. We are the ONLY state in the U.S. in which counties do not use property taxes to fund public schools.
A property tax surcharge will discourage investment in Hawaii property.	Discouraging property investment could be good for Hawaii residents. Property values have soared, pricing residents out of ownership and rental opportunities. Off-island investors benefit from price increases without contributing adequately to services that support those gains.
A property tax surcharge will increase rents.	The intent of the legislature, as discussed in multiple hearings over the last two years, is that this surcharge applies only to properties over \$1 million. Even for those properties, the surcharge will not be enough to cause rent increases. Further, property tax increases temper quickly rising property values, which will enable more stable values and rents.
Hawaii residents already pay too much in taxes.	In Hawai'i, too much of the tax burden falls on low-income earners. This tax surcharge on investment properties can help with that imbalance.
The cost of high quality education for all is too high.	Education for all is far cheaper than the alternative in financial and human costs. Prison is more expensive than school. Our nation is founded on the belief that each person has inalienable rights. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness require an education in this 21st century.
We should have an audit of the DOE before voting on school funding.	An audit may find some funds that can be reallocated to student learning, but an audit would take more than three years to complete. Even if all the positions at the top of the HIDOE were eliminated, the savings would not close the funding gap. We need ~\$500 million more a year to bring our public schools up to an acceptable level of service for our keiki. We are losing teachers - more than 1000 positions are vacant each year. We are in a crisis. We must act now to protect the education and future of our young people.
The surcharge is not enough to fund schools.	The surcharge will supplement the general funds used. After this ballot measure passes, it is critical that the surcharge funds be, as intended, above the current general funds appropriated.