

Date of Hearing: March 17, 2008

Committee: Senate Human Services and Public
Housing/Education

Department: After School Programs

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: H.B. 2962, H.S.C.R. 692, Relating To After School Programs

Purpose: Appropriates Funds For the Safe Haven After School Program in the
County of Hawaii.

Department's Position: While the Department of Education (Department) supports the concept of the Safe Haven After-School Program, we do not support H.B. 2962, H.S.C.R. 692 at this time, due to Hawaii's impending fiscal austerity and priority for the current Board of Education's budget priorities. The Department understands that our youth face challenges in remaining drug-free, engaged, and involved in positive activities because of the lack of transportation, facilities, and educational alternatives during the afternoon and evening hours. This measure, through partnerships between the Department, the county of Hawaii, and the local businesses and community organizations, proposes a pilot after-school program for students in the selected schools to participate in recreational and educational programs. Understandably, our schools serve as the center, the hub, and the heart of our communities, and the Department remains committed to ensuring the safety and health of our children.