



**LATE**

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION**

**RE: SB 2167 – RELATING TO STUDENTS.**

February 11, 2008

**ROGER TAKABAYASHI, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association strongly supports SB 2167 and appreciates the Legislature's acknowledgement of the need to reduce class sizes in public elementary, middle, and high schools in Hawaii.

The Association believes class size is crucial to the learning environment of children in Kindergarten to twelfth grade. The current average ratio of twenty-five to twenty-seven students to one teacher is not feasible and adequate. These ratios only heighten safety issues and behavior problems. If our concern as teachers is to ensure that we are offering a high-quality public education to our children of Hawaii, then we need to reduce our class sizes in order to help our children to be successful.

We strongly urge the committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Repetitive from Connections New Public Century Charter School Kelsey Christensen  
You can contact me at telephone number is (808)936-0837  
Address is P.O. Box 247 Keaau Hi 96749

Monday, February 11, 2008

L A T E

Support of SB 2167, Relating to Education

Hi my name is Kelsey Christensen and I am here to represent Connections New Century Public Charter School. I strongly agree with the class reduction act. I think that the DOE should hire more teachers and teacher aid for all classes grades k-12 grade, so that there are less kids per class room and so kids and get more one to one help. I am providing comments on that students should have less student per class and more teachers because when there is less students in a class I feel that when there is less kids per class room it is easier to communicate with your teacher and understand what is going on.

When there is 20 or more student it is very hard to get the right help from your teacher. I have experienced where I had to sign on a schedule to see my teacher and get help from her. I am now in a school were there is less kids per classroom and I feel that I am more willing to do my work and I actually understand it. This could also help with the ratio of the drop outs I bet if there is less kids per class those kids that hate going to school ,because they don't understand it would want to come to school because now that there is more teachers to help them understand. When is less kids per class the teacher can pay more attention to what going on in here class room. Also there is a cut on resources lots of time you would have to share if there is too many kids in your class. I feel that more standards can be meet with less kids and more teacher in the class room.

I feel the ratio of kids should be 10-12 kids per teacher. By reducing class sizes you are helping kids get that extra help from there teachers. You are helping them get some right communication between the teacher and students. I urge that that the committee pass SB 2167 and fund all public even charter school so our kids of Hawai'i can get that help and succeed. Thank you so much for this opportunity to testify.

SB 2107

To:

From: Delegate Joshua Nagle from the 2007 Hawaii Secondary Student Conference

Date: Friday, November 30, 2007

Subject: Support of Resolution #46

We are in the utmost support for Resolution #46 which requests to lower the student to teacher ratio in classrooms because of the unstable learning environment it seeks. Students constantly complain from the lack of help and by passing this resolution, we can put an end to poor standardized test scores and the failure to meet standards and benchmarks. The best environment for learning is where the teacher and students can have one on one student to teacher interaction.

Currently the national average of students to every teacher is 27 students to 1 teacher. The U.S. Department of Education's Senior Analyst reported that the best prediction of a student earning their degree is the high school curriculum and without a teacher to educate the students- accompanied by scarce fundings and outdated and low resources, the students curriculum falls. Nevertheless, the students perform poorly on standardized tests and benchmarks are not met.

Because of this, our student to teacher ratio needs to be lowered as it is not the student's or parents responsibility to take the curriculum into their hands, it's the governments. Therefore it is time for change as the youth will become our doctors, lawyers, teachers, senators, and contributing members of society. This is why I strongly support Resolution #46.

SB 2167

To:

From: Delegate Caselyn Gale Pacpaco from the 2007 Hawaii Secondary Student Conference

Date: Friday, November 30, 2007

Subject: Support of Resolution #46

Secondary Student Conference is an opportunity for students to express their voice by writing resolutions relating to school. As a delegate of the Secondary Student Conference, I would like to support Resolution 46, relating to student learning environments, which would allow the student to teacher ratio to decrease.

Students have had problems with their education because of the lack of attention from their teacher. Teachers are unable to follow up with all their students because there's too much students for just one person. Smaller classes are better and more beneficial. The classes I attend are crowded and it's really difficult to get the teacher's help since a lot of students need it. I've been rejected for help by teacher because many students seem to have series of questions and you're only limited to staying in that class since there's the bell schedule to follow.

The reduction of class size has been tested in other states like Texas and Tennessee and found that students benefited from smaller classes. Studies have shown that lower amount of students per teacher works therefore I strongly agree with Resolution 46. Although it would mean to hire more teachers, it would give the students more time with them.

I am for decreasing student to teacher ratio to better students learning. I urge the committee to pass Resolution 46. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB 2167

To:

From: Delegate Te Jay McGrath from the 2007 Hawaii Secondary Student Conference

Date: Friday, November 30, 2007

Subject: Support of Resolution #46

At the Secondary Student Conference of 2007 General Assembly, student delegates like myself, took part in many discussions of pre-chosen resolutions. We shared views and opinions of both pro and con for each resolution in order for it to pass. One resolution that I strongly support and should definitely be considered is the one about high student to teacher ratio.

This resolution presented itself really well. I would like to go over some of the most important points in this resolution. The most important point is that a smaller class size has been proven that learning performance will improve for the students. Another point was states of Texas and Tennessee played a part in the STAR program. I especially support this point because I transferred here from Tennessee last year. The class size in Tennessee really helped me in my studies and I got to have more time with my teachers. When I moved to Hawaii my education changed drastically.

If class size isn't reduced soon, education of many students will continue to be affected negatively. Passing this resolution will not only help students but the teachers as well.

SB 2167

To:

From: Delegate Randolph Bautista from the 2007 Hawaii Secondary Student Conference

Date: Friday, November 30, 2007

Subject: Support of Resolution #46, Relating to high student to teacher ratio

We are in strong support of Resolution 46, which deals with the high student to teacher ratio. We believe that the main concern is that many students are not receiving the attention nor are they receiving the full education a teacher has to offer if the class is too large to teach adequately.

I believe that the ratio, which is at an average of 25-27 students per class, should be reduced to a reasonable 18-21 students a class. Any reduction in the amount of students can only help to lessen the stress of one more student to teacher has to have.

The better familiarity a student develops with a teacher will lead to an environment that brings comfort to the students. With a comforting environment, the student feels relaxed to learn intently.

With reducing the high teacher to student ratio, it will enhance the learning environment and transform it into a one on one teaching style. We urge to pass Resolution 46. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB 2167

To:

From: William Otte, a delegate of the 2007 Student Secondary Conference

Date: Friday, November 30, 2007

Subject: Support of Resolution 46

I, William Otte, a delegate of the 2007 Secondary Student Conference strongly support and agree with resolution #46, which is in regard to the high student to teacher ratio in Hawaii secondary schools. This is asking permission to a lot more one-on-one teaching with the student from the teacher.

Although some students have the ability to go into their classes after the allotted time given during the day's class schedule. The one problem with this is that not all of the students who need help can not always make it to their teacher's classes in the subjects that they are falling behind in. Although not all students are falling behind, this new student to teacher ratio can benefit them as well. These students can use this new ratio as a tool to help them get more in-depth knowledge on a certain subject. I feel that this new resolution has no negative effects on the student body as a whole. The only difference this would cause would be the fact that schools would have to hire new and more teachers. All though they would have to hire the new teachers, this would give the next generation of highly educated teachers with jobs as well as careers

I strongly feel that the legislature and/or senate support this resolution in its process to become a bill in a future law. One reason they should support this bill is because there are no real negative reasons to go against this resolution. The only strong con, can easily be overcome and can be turned into a really positive affect on the school board.

SB 2167

to:

from: Delegate Laralyn Gose from the secondary student conference

date: Friday, November 30, 2007

subject:----

Currently, there are numerous schools with high student to teacher ratios across Hawaii and the nation. This is a big problem and a disadvantage to education. Schools today are overcrowded and gives teachers a bigger workload than they should have. A bigger classroom of students hinder's a student's learning process and this is why I strongly support resolution 46.

As it states in the 4th whereas statement, "in Texas, a state pointed to as the rolemodel for education reform reductions in class size and increased teacher quantity were central to increasing student achievement and reducing the achievement gap, thereby meeting the standard requirements and surpassing the status quo." if this can be done in the mainland, I believe that it can be achieved in Hawaii as well.

So I urge you to consider the future of the kids of Hawaii in making the decision of supporting this resolution. Thank you for your time.



SB 2167

To:

From: Micah Matsumoto, a Delegate of the SSC

Date: Friday, November 30, 2007

Subject: support of decreasing teacher student ratios

I highly think that in results of lowering the teacher student ratio, this will help better the learning environment of students. This will help the environment for the students because, they will have more time to get the one on one help that they need from the teacher. By lowering this ratio, this will help the students and teacher to build a good relationship between each other, and will enhance the quality of the one on one time with each student.

I also highly think that in the results of lowering the ratio, this will highly improve the teachers work schedule. When I say that, I mean in class, with less kids, the teacher will have an easier time getting to each of the students individually with their questions. I also believe that if the ratio is lowered, teachers will be able to accomplish more tasks throughout the day. On my personal experience, classes that more students, I have a harder time being able to ask my teacher for help on things because there is always someone talking to the teacher. Weather it's getting help, getting in trouble, or just up there talking. With fewer students I believe that teachers and students will benefit greatly. And student's marks in school will improve.

Therefore, I ask you to consider this resolution, because I really think that lowering the student ratio, will help and benefit the teachers and students in many ways. This will help our schools marks and scores improve.

SB 2167

To:

From: Kathy Kim, a Delegate of the SSC

Date: Friday, November 30, 2007

subject: support of decreasing teacher student ratios

Lowering teacher student ratios will help improve the student learning environment. By lowering this ratio, students will be able to spend more quality time with teachers resulting in better test scores or grades in general.

In addition I think that decreasing the teacher student ratio will benefit the teacher's lectures. I've been in classes where there is just too many kids. The students are constantly competing to get the teachers attention. Resulting in total chaos. When I actually get to consult the teacher, time is either up or I forget what I was supposed to ask.

Therefore, put this resolution in mind and help the students of Hawaii by decreasing the teacher student ratio, so that we can have the opportunity to have the best education as possible.

To:

From: Richard Padilla, Hawaii Secondary Student Conference

Date: November 28, 2007

Subject: Support of Resolution 46, School Environment

Resolution 54 requests funding and support from the State of Hawaii to replace all

The Secondary Student Conference is a collaboration of students from the State of Hawaii that input and votes on self-written resolutions that involve strong issues to the youth across the state. We strongly advocate resolution 46, which provides the idea that in order to improve one have a sustainable school environment, the high student to teacher ratio must be decreased.

I'm strongly advocating this resolution for two reasons. The first reason is from my experience as a student in a high student to teacher ratio environment. I believe that these ratios are an incredibly serious problem, and it exists in one of my classes. Since my school had a high student to teacher ratio, my science class has forced to have 32 people. Thirty-two people in a class is not a very good environment, because the disruptiveness level is at an intolerable elevation, and I can't get help in areas that I specifically need help in.

Now, obviously there is indeed a con about this resolution that has been brought to attention, but fortunately, there is a hole in the con that has not been realized. The con is simply defined in two words: teacher shortage. Many people believe that lowering the ratio would indeed create a shortage; however, I think that this con by itself is widely recognized, and many implementations are already used to combat the shortage. I believe that the two ideas will be mainly complimentary to each other, and I don't think a shortage will become intact. Let it be known that this idea does not ideally want to be implemented, so that time can be given for beneficial ideas o supplement the ideas.

All in all, I ask for your consideration in helping this idea become a substantial complement to the school environment. The majority of the conference approved of this (3/4 to be exact), and that it should be made a serious consideration.

SB 2167

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Kapua Adolpho, Hawaii State Secondary Student Conference Delegate (2007)

Date: Friday, November 30, 2007

Subject: Support of Resolution #46

The schools of Hawaii are presently overcrowded with an average of 25-27 students per classroom, which hinders the learning process and makes the learning process and the environment less accommodating to one-one-one to teacher student interaction. This resolution is requesting that the teacher student ration be reduced enabling the teacher to spend more quality time with the students.

Although Molokai High School is not a very big school and were not as affected by this problem as much as the bigger schools are, we can still greatly benefit from this resolution. At Molokai High School, many students don't receive the full education they should be getting because they are not able to get the help they need. This is affecting our test scores. So I ask you to please pass this resolution so the student teacher ration can be reduced enabling students to receive the education they deserve.

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Melanie Ganotisi, Hawaii State Secondary Student Conference Delegate (2007)

Date: Friday, November 30, 2007

Subject: Support of Resolution #46

My name is Melanie Ganotisi and I am a student at Lana'i High and Elementary School. As a delegate from the Maui District, I am committed to improving the quality of education in all Hawaii schools. I strongly support Resolution #46, relating to student-teacher ratios, which would improve the student learning environment by decreasing the high student ratio.

In the Hawaii schools, the classrooms are overcrowded. When there are too much students in a class and only one teacher, not all students get the attention and help that they need. When students aren't receiving the help they need, the quality of their education decreases. Students leave the classes without the general learner outcomes that are expected from the state. This leads to the failure of meeting the standard examination scores.

In Texas and Tennessee, studies were done to improve the quality of education reform. They reformed their schools by reducing class sizes and increasing teacher quantities. This increased student achievement and reduced achievement gaps. I support this resolution because if there are fewer students in a class, more progress can be made. Not all students work at the same pace and if they have to wait for others to catch up, less lessons are covered, which leads to lower chances of meeting general learner outcomes.

We, the students, are the leaders of the future. To be leaders, we need quality education. With the high student to teacher ratios, we aren't receiving a high quality education because students aren't getting the education we need. Helping Hawaii students become leaders is not an individual effort. How we lead Hawaii and what we do for Hawaii will affect everyone, so to the state of Hawaii, please help our schools decrease the student-teacher ratio.

Senate Bill (SB) Number 2167  
Title: Teacher-Student Ratio

Good Afternoon, Senators. My name is Kimberlymae Rodriguez and I am a sophomore at Waipahu High School. I am testifying on SB No. 2167, Teacher-Student Ratio. I am strongly supporting this Bill for the following reasons. With only one teacher and a large amount of students in the class, it is hard to learn the curriculum. For example, there are 31 students in my math class and only one teacher. It is hard enough having a teacher who doesn't teach in a way easy to understand. That only makes it harder for each of us to learn the section we're going over.. Almost everyone has difficulty learning in that class and our teacher doesn't have enough time to help each and every one of us. I asked Candy Sanchez, a sophomore at Waipahu High School, if she felt the same way. She agreed and stated that she would "prefer a smaller class over a larger class because with a smaller class, the teacher will be able to help you more."

Attending to our personal needs in class is important because not all of us can learn simply from when the teacher is speaking to everyone. Some of students, including myself, need extra help from the teacher. Although there is after school and non-instructional time tutoring, that time isn't always available to some students, including myself. I don't have much time available to go to tutoring, because I have other things to attend to like clubs, sports, council, and church. This is a problem a great amount of people in high school face. Although class comes first, we sometimes end up forced to choose between extra-curricular activities and class, which is a hard decision to make. I believe that by reducing the size of the classes instead of offering tutoring alone, it will increase student learning. That is why I approve this bill.

February 11, 2008

Good Afternoon, Senators. My name is Beinana Reiher and I am a Sophomore at Waipahu High School. I am testifying on senate bill number 2167, Teacher to student ratio. I support this bill because I think that having smaller classrooms will give students the chance to understand the different concepts the teacher is trying to teach. I myself am in an over sized classroom at Waipahu and I find that not all the students have the same learning capabilities. Some learn faster then others so the teacher is taking learning time from the more advanced students because he has to stay at the lesson and make sure everyone gets the lesson instead of moving on to another. I understand that if a student needs extra assistance, he/she can get help after school but many students are already involved in extra-curricular activities and don't have the time to do so.

After asking my math teacher who has over 30 students in his class how he feels about his over crowded classroom, I learned that it's harder to watch over a large numbered class. He has also taught me that keeping the students focused in class is more difficult. He feels that if the student is able to have a hands method of teaching then they will be able to learn more. Teachers with mores student struggle when teaching the class because they aren't able to teach as much as possible without stopping to teach the students who are behind in the class.

I think that passing this bill will help students to learn better and if they learn more then the higher the test scores will be and isn't high test scores what schools want?! If you believe this then passing this bill is a smart idea. Thank you.

To:

SB2167

From: Melissa Monette from the 2007 Hawaii Secondary Student Conference

Date: Friday, November 30th, 2007

Subject: Support for resolution #46, related to the student- teacher ratio

Resolution 46 would benefit the students because lowering the student teacher ratio would help the classroom education with focusing more on teaching each child with more valuable focusing time. This will help each child focus in class and it won't be a disadvantage any longer. A lot of classes throughout Hawaii have 30-40 students per class.

According to this resolution, a school in Texas tried lowering the student- teacher ratio and it benefited them greatly. They increased the teacher quantity and reduced the class sizes as it raised and increased student achievement. From then on they met standards and requirements and surpassed the status quo. The study showed that the reduction of the class size found that students greatly benefited from the smaller class sizes.

This resolution should go further because it has a reliable solution and finalized answer. Its a very strong resolution that has a realistic outcome and it would benefit everyone because students would get a better education while teachers have a more manageable class and can have more one- on - one time with their students. Parents can feel good about their students being in a safer education environment and they'll be able to go to college with more knowledge making their future more successful.