

Date of Hearing: February 22, 2008

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. 2254, Relating to Education

Purpose: Directs the department of education to conduct a study of converting hard cover textbooks to e-books. Report to 2009 legislature.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports this study to convert hard cover textbooks to e-books. The report will include a cost comparison of electronic versus print resources and computer accessibility issues for both teachers and students. The Department will provide a report to the 2009 legislature.

State Capitol Room #225 1:15pm February 22, 2008

Andrew D. Friedlander

In support of E-books bill #2254:

E-books will permit teachers to work more effectively with a range of students, allowing faster learners to forge ahead while giving other students more time to grasp certain concepts.

It can be considered stronger, dynamic, interactive versions of traditional textbooks that use computer programs that can respond in real time to a student's work with personalized feedback, thereby tailoring and improving the learning experience to meet the individual needs of the student.

Students are able to learn at their own pace, without the time pressure or fear of answering incorrectly in front of their peers, which can be present in a group learning situation.

It will ultimately save the State of Hawaii schools a lot of money and will be cost effective in the years to come.

testimony

From: kuulei [kuuleikiliona@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2008 9:41 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SB 2254

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 2254

TO: The Senate Committee on Education
Norman Sakamoto, Chair and Jill N.Tokuda, Vice Chair

FROM: Ku'ulei Kilonia, private citizen

Hearing Date: Friday, February 22, 2008
Time: 1:15 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 225

Dear Chairs and Committee Members,

This testimony is in opposition to this well intentioned bill because a very important factor is not considered in SB 2254.

While it seems that e-books would be a good idea, because of "lower costs to schools over time", they are not more "user-friendly... than traditional books."

A child's brain and eyes are still developing during the DOH school years. I have read several articles in mainstream newspapers and magazines about the dangers of young children using computer screens for too many hours a day and on a frequent basis. It affects the development of their brains and their eyes in a way that is negative with long term results. I do not have facts and figures for you, but I do recall reading that there are research studies substantiating the negative affects on children's brain and eyes when computers are over used.

This being the case of cause and affect, the following statements in the body of this bill are incorrect: "lower costs to schools over time" and "e-books can present text in a more user-friendly style than traditional books." When medical problems start showing up, there will be a great cost to the State. Thus, traditional books are more friendly to the brain and eyes.

The body of this bill points out that traditional books can get heavy and they can sometimes get difficult to obtain, however, I propose that teachers use "Xerox" copies of book portions or other e-material needed for teaching. The paper copies can be recycled when their use is over.

The purpose of this Act only directs a feasibility study on converting hard cover text books to e-books. If it should move forward, I would strongly suggest it also include the research done on the affect of e-books on children's health, specifically the brain and eyes. **But my preference would be that a study be done regarding more styles of learning and a study of the positive and negative effects of each style.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Ku'uilei A. Killiona
(sent via email: kuuleikilliona@hawaii.rr.com)