

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2348**

**Friday, February 8, 2008  
1:15 p.m.  
Conference 225  
Senate Education Committee**

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokudo, members of the Senate Education Committee,

I come to you today in strong support of SB 2348.

Medical research tells us that the harmful affects of ultraviolet light on people's bodies is cumulative. This means that a child's exposure to ultraviolet light will have a compounded effect on their skin later in life. Because of this I firmly believe that we must protect our children from these harmful sun rays. One way this can be done is by providing shaded areas at our elementary school. All too often our children are forced to sit in the sun when they are outside for lunch or break time, while at school.

SB 2348 was designed to address this problem. The need for this bill is clear. I strongly urge you to pass this bill out of committee.

Thank you for your time.

  
Representative Joe Bertram III

**Date:** 02/08/2008

**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 2348 RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

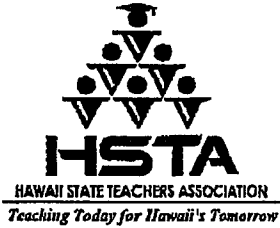
**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the department of education to: (1) include a shaded play area or areas of reasonable size on school grounds in its plans for all new elementary schools; and (2) implement an ongoing program to provide shaded play areas at existing elementary schools.

**Department's Position:** The Department of Education does not concur with this bill. While we agree with the need to protect against sun exposure, we feel there are more appropriate means for doing so than mandating shaded play areas in schools, including educational campaigns encouraging the use of sunscreen for students and the community at-large.

Shaded areas are currently given consideration during the design phase in the form of covered playcourts and landscaping. However, cost is an issue on some projects, and we feel that the participants in the design phase should retain the flexibility to consider various cost reduction alternatives rather than be required to keep the shade components in place of other components that the participants may feel are more appropriate to defer.

Likewise, for existing schools, funding for needed classrooms and compliance projects is always short of what is needed. We feel it would be more appropriate to direct our limited funds toward those types of projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION**

**RE: SB 2348 – RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

**February 8, 2008**

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

**Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:**

**The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports SB 2348.**

**Hawaii, located in the tropic zone, receives mostly sunny weather exposing people of Hawaii to a higher risk of skin cancer due to ultraviolet light exposure. The Association believes there is a need to prevent this from happening to our children at an earlier age. This bill will provide for shaded play areas in schools that are highly exposed to sun due to its geographical location on the islands. Likewise, it can also accommodate those schools that are located in extremely wet locations providing shelter from rain.**

**We urge that the committee pass this bill.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify.**