

Senate Bill (SB) Number 3253
Title:

Good afternoon Senators, My name is Hana Thompson, and I am a junior at James Campbell High School .

I am testifying on behalf of Senate Bill 3253, which is the implementation of penalties to truant students and their parents or guardians. I strongly support this bill because the fact that I am a student in the school. I see day to day what occurs, and how the principal faculty, and security try to cut down on the truancy. As an Ewa Beach resident, I know that this bill will mainly affect the less fortunate families. In my opinion though, it's practically impossible to truly stress to parents the importance of attendance, and how much of a difference their participation on cracking down on the truancy will help.

Drastic times call for drastic measures, true there will be words spoken; there will be students that will be against the law if it were to be passed. But then again, it will be the very students we are targeting that will be against the bill. It is them, who will be angered or frustrated at the new law, but had they been where they were supposed to be, then it would have not come to this point.

"Ignorance is bliss", as people often say. But not so much, when it comes to education, parents often claim that they had no idea or were not notified. But then again the school purchases various programs to notify parents on attendance, grades, and so forth. We have web grader, and online progress report type of program. We also have a program that calls home if a student is absent from any period a day. The calls will show that there was an attempt to notify the parents of the child's whereabouts. Parents also question the teachers on their children. Asking where are they during school, but by the attendance record, they are obviously not in class.

Parents are very quick to point out the negatives, but it's a very few who are willing to actually help with the solution. In no way, does ignorance justify a parent's involvement in their child's education. They should be held accountable for their child just as well. It's sad for those who do not skip, or cut, but then again, they won't have to worry about anything. The base of it all is, had the parents been involved in the child's education from the very beginning, then the student would have nothing to hide. They would be where they are supposed to be, instead of outside of school skipping or just randomly cutting class. Education is a three way street, that includes the teachers, student, and their parents. That needs to be instilled now, before it's too late. Cooperation amongst one another is key.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today on behalf of this bill.

Hana Thompson
Junior at James Campbell High School