

Date of Hearing: March 12, 2008

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.C.R. 74

Purpose: Requesting the Department of Education to convene a working group to develop guidelines to reduce the truancy rate in the public school system.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports the S.C.R.74, requesting the Department to convene a working group to develop guidelines to reduce the truancy rate in the public schools. The Department currently has guidelines and procedures addressing school attendance which includes procedures to deal with reducing the truancy rate. School attendance procedures are developed collaboratively and reviewed by the representatives from the Student Support Section (SSS) and Student Information Services of the Department, Department of the Attorney General, Family Court, and school social workers and school counselors. Furthermore, all public schools have knowledge of the procedures and guidelines to prepare petitions for truancy to family court. The Department appreciates the Legislature's concern for reducing truancy in the public schools and looks forward to working with other state and local agencies to reduce truancy.

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Re: SCR74, Requesting the Department of Education to convene a working group to develop guidelines to reduce the truancy rate in the public school system.
Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Position: Support

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a full time student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, School of Social Work. I approve SCR74 because I attended public schools throughout my entire education and I understand and have experienced the concept of "truant behavior". Students who are truant may lead to substance use, teen pregnancy and are more likely to drop out of school. Prevention should involve the students, parents, school administration and the community.

Therefore, I believe that guidelines should be established in order to reduce the truancy rate in the public school system and increase academic success.

Please support this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

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Re: SCR74, Requesting the Department of Education to convene a working group to develop guidelines to reduce the truancy rate in the public school system
Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Position: Support

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a full time student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, School of Social Work. I approve SCR74 because as an English Language Learner- Part Time Teacher at Waipahu Intermediate School, I continue to witness many of my students "being absent" from many of their classes. Every teacher takes attendance in all of their classes and identify if a student "illegally leaves school grounds." Although every student is knowledgeable of this concept, some continue to be truant. As a result, the administration has tighter security and sometimes involves the police. Although they have taken these drastic measures, students continue to partake in "truant behavior." Some students disclose that this behavior is due to "uninterested subjects" or "conflict with their teachers." Maybe this is a call to our faculty that we may need to teach in desirable ways that keeps our students in the classroom. I approve of this request to develop guidelines because I want parents to know that their child is in a safe environment between the hours of 8:00 am to 2: 30 pm. I believe if we have more interventions involving students' parents and their community, it may prevent students heading down the road of possible destructive behavior.

Please support this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Keri Guerrero
BSW Student