

Date of Hearing: April 14, 2008

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.C.R. 74, S.D. 1, S.S.C.R. 3170

Purpose: To request 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, S.D. 1, S.S.C.R. 3170, 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.