

**Date:** 02/03/2010

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Interim Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 2127 Relating to Education

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the department of education to provide a minimum of 190 instructional days in each school year.

**Department's Position:** The Department of Education (DOE) supports this bill with its focus on the importance of teaching and learning. Consideration must be given to the cost and other resource implications associated with increasing the number of classroom instructional days. Additionally, successful implementation of standards-based education is correlated with the quality of teaching and learning rather than the quantity of instruction. Major cost implications are related to the terms and conditions of employment through collective bargaining, facilities use and before and after school instructional supports for students. Although increasing the minimum number of instructional days and instructional hours for students may be provided through legislation, doing so will most likely require negotiations with various bargaining units regarding compensation.



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The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
Hawaii State House of Representatives  
Committee on Education

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association  
February 03, 2010

H.B. 2127 – RELATING TO  
EDUCATION

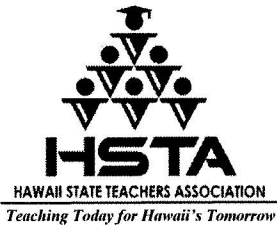
The Hawaii Government Employees' Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the intent of H.B. 2127.

If the legislature decides to statutorily require a minimum number of instructional days in the public school system beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, we are prepared to discuss this matter in negotiations. During the tenure of Governor Cayetano the state added seven instructional days to the school year. This was done through collective bargaining. We respectfully remind the legislature that matters related to wages, hour and working conditions are negotiable with the exclusive representatives.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Leiomalama Desha  
Executive Assistant



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**Wil Okabe**  
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**Karolyn Mossman**  
Vice President

**Joan Kamila Lewis**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Jim Williams**  
Interim Executive Director

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HB 2127 – RELATING TO EDUCATION.

February 3, 2010

**WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT**  
**HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

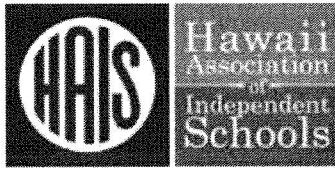
The Hawaii State Teachers Association does not object to a 190-day school year for students but notes that setting the number of student instructional days falls within the purview of the Board of Education.

While it is the Board of Education that should set the minimum number of student instructional days, the number of teacher workdays is subject to collective bargaining. HSTA has always been open to extending the work year for teachers and agreed to do so during the Waihee and Cayetano administrations. Other attempts to increase the work year for teachers have met with failure, not because we were opposed to them but because the state was not willing to pay for the additional work time.

This bill, along with others that propose extending the instructional year for students, was no doubt introduced in response to the furlough situation. However, we believe the issue of furloughs is not the main problem, but a symptom of a much larger problem – inadequate school funding. Even if this bill were enacted, it would prove difficult to implement given the fragile state of our economy. If there is not enough money to pay for 180 days, where will the additional funding come from to pay for 190 days?. Clearly, the state must find other sources of revenue. We believe there are ways to generate this additional revenue, including our proposal, set forth in HB 2991, which provides for measures to increase revenue while reducing inequities in the tax burden born by Hawaii residents from different income groups.

We appreciate the concern the legislature has shown for addressing many issues facing our educational system, but without adequate funding to education establishing a 190-day student instructional year will be for naught.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Wednesday, February 3, 2010

2:00 p.m.

Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HB 2127 – Relating to Education

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Berg, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Witt and I am executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 students statewide.

**The Association is in strong support of the intent of House Bill 2127 – Relating to Education** which requires the department of education to provide a minimum of 190 instructional days in each school year.

HAIS believes that the interest and education of Hawaii's children should be our first priority. Today's students are expected to know more, to meet higher standards, and to achieve proficiency in higher level skills so they can flourish in a highly competitive economic global marketplace. It is an economic imperative that we increase the number of school days to promote the achievement and attainment of Hawaii public school students sufficient for success in college, career and citizenship in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We are in support of interim steps to implement this measure and ultimately to reach the goal of a minimum 200 days of classroom instruction within the next three to five years, returning first – as soon as possible – to a minimum of 180 days of classroom instruction, and then incrementally increasing to 190 days and thereafter, within a period of three to five years to a minimum of 200 days of classroom instruction, thus bringing Hawaii into alignment with both emerging national standards, and, even more importantly, current international standards for advanced nations.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of the intent of this measure.

TRANSMITTAL COVER

TESTIFIER: Jessica Perez-Mesa, Parent  
Melanie Bailey, Parent

To: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2010

Attn: Committee on Education  
Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
Rep. Lyla B. Berg, Vice Chair

Re: HB 2127 RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing Date February 3, 2010 2pm

Date: February 1, 2010

Dear Representative Takumi:

As parents of Hawaii's public school children, we feel it incumbent upon us to express our deep concern for our children's education. We have conducted national research and found the following shocking statistics:

Instructional Hours:

88% of schools contacted have a longer school day.  
Hawaii's students in public schools average less than 6 ½ hours a day.

Number of Instructional Days:

Hawaii schools have the LOWEST number of school days in the U.S. At a mere 163 days, the next lowest States at 173 are not even close. 75% of schools contacted have 180 days or more of instructional time!

Money spent per student:

80% of U.S. schools spend LESS than Hawaii at \$10,200 per student yet we have less instructional time than any other state in the nation.

Can Hawaii students really afford to be in LAST PLACE? The current situation is quite simply shortchanging our children and our future. For the money we are spending for each student we feel the school year must have at least 180 instructional days per year

In addition, think what a difference an extra hour a day of instructional time would make. Hawaii parents would like to see our children have the same length of instructional time as their counterparts on the mainland. We are looking to our elected representatives to work with the Governor, the Board of Education and the HSTA to make this happen.

We trust that you understand our position on this matter. See the attached spreadsheet which shows our findings. Please contact Jessica Perez-Mesa at 220-9863 or Melanie Bailey at 277-5121 with any questions.

Aloha.

## ANALYSIS OF HIGH SCHOOL HOURS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

### INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS ACROSS THE NATION:

*Hawaii Public Schools all have less than a 6 1/2 hour day.*

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Less than 6 1/2 hours/day | 12% |
| 6 1/2 - 7 hours/day       | 47% |
| Greater than 7 hours/day  | 41% |

### INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS ACROSS THE NATION:

*Hawaii Public Schools at 163 days have 10 days less than the any other State.*

|               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| Less than 180 | 25% |
| 180 or more   | 75% |

### AVERAGE COST PER STUDENT ACROSS THE NATION:

*Hawaii Public Schools average cost per student is \$10,200-\$11,300 yet they have less instructional time than any other state in the nation.*

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Less than \$10,200 per student    | 80% |
| Greater than \$10,200 per student | 20% |

| State       | Average Cost Per Student | High School      | Hours Students are in Class              | Minutes Per Week | Hours Per Week | Hours Per Day | School Days | Phone        |
|-------------|--------------------------|------------------|--|------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| Hawaii      | 10,200-11,300            | Baldwin-Maui     | 7:45am-2:05pm MTRF<br>7:45am-1:15pm W    | 1850             | 30.8           | 6.2           | 163-180     |              |
| Hawaii      | 10,200-11,300            | Kailua           | 8:20am-1:50pm MTRF<br>8:20am-1:20pm W    | 1660             | 27.7           | 5.5           | 163-180     |              |
| Hawaii      | 10,200-11,300            | Roosevelt        | 8am-2:00pm M 8am-2:20pm TWR 8am-2:40pm F | 1900             | 31.7           | 6.3           | 163-180     |              |
| Alabama     | 6,500-7,000              | Akron East       | 8am-3:12pm                               | 2160             | 36.0           | 7.2           | 180         | 205-372-3787 |
| Alaska      | 9,300-10,200             | Bartlett         | 7:30am-2pm                               | 1950             | 32.5           | 6.5           | -           | 907-742-1814 |
| Arizona     | 6500                     | Alhambra         | 7:45am-2:37pm                            | 2060             | 34.3           | 6.9           | 180         | 602-764-6022 |
| Arkansas    | 6500                     | J.D. Leftwich    | 7:55am-3:15pm                            | 2200             | 36.7           | 7.3           | 182         | 479-969-2640 |
| California  | 8,700-9,300              | Abraham Lincoln  | 8:00am-3:04pm                            | 2120             | 35.3           | 7.1           | 190         | 323-441-4600 |
| Colorado    | 7,400-7,800              | Boulder          | 7:30am-3:00pm MTRF<br>7:30am-2:05pm W    | 2195             | 36.6           | 7.3           | 173         | 720-561-2200 |
| Connecticut | 11,300-13,000            | Amity Regional   | 7:34am-2:18pm                            | 1880             | 31.3           | 6.3           | 181         | 203-397-4830 |
| Delaware    | 8,700-9,300              | Alexis I. DuPont | 7:40am-2:25pm                            | 2025             | 33.8           | 6.8           | -           | 302-552-3700 |
| Florida     | 7,400-7,800              | Alonso Sr        | 7:24am-3:05pm                            | 2305             | 38.4           | 7.7           | -           | 813-356-1525 |
| Georgia     | 9,300-10,200             | Clarke Central   | 8:35am-2:35pm                            | 1800             | 30.0           | 6.0           | 180         | 706-357-5200 |
| Idaho       | 7,800-8,200              | Borah            | 7:50am-2:56pm                            | 2120             | 35.3           | 7.1           | 180         | 208-854-4370 |
| Illinois    | 6500                     | Auburn           | 9:15am-3:20pm                            | 1825             | 30.4           | 6.1           | 180         | 815-966-3300 |
| Indiana     | -                        | Arlington        | 7:30am-2:30pm                            | 2100             | 35.0           | 7.0           | 180         | 317-226-2345 |
| Iowa        | 8,200-8,700              | Ames             | 7:50am-3:05pm MTRF<br>9:15am-3:05pm W    | 2090             | 34.8           | 7.0           | 180         | 515-817-0600 |
| Kansas      | 6,500-7,000              | Abilene          | 7:55am-3:05pm                            | 2150             | 35.8           | 7.2           | -           | 785-263-1260 |
| Kentucky    | 7,400-7,800              | Ballard          | 7:40am-2:20pm                            | 2000             | 33.3           | 6.7           | 180         | 502-485-8206 |
| Louisiana   | 7,400-7,800              | Alexandria       | 7:19am-2:34pm                            | 2175             | 36.3           | 7.3           | 174         | 318-448-8234 |
| Maine       | -                        | Cheverus         | 8:00am-2:20pm                            | 1900             | 31.7           | 6.3           | 185         | 207-774-6238 |
| Maryland    | 10,200-11,300            | Atholton         | 7:20am-2:10                              | 2050             | 34.2           | 6.8           | 186         | 410-313-7065 |



| State          | Average Cost Per Student | High School    | Hours Students are in Class           | Minutes Per Week | Hours Per Week | Hours Per Day | School Days | Phone        |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| Massachusetts  | 8,200-8,700              | Barnstable     | 7:25am-2:00pm                         | 1975             | 32.9           | 6.6           | 180         | 508-790-6445 |
| Michigan       | 7,000-7,400              | Cadillac       | 8:00am-2:50pm                         | 2050             | 34.2           | 6.8           | 178         | 231-876-5800 |
| Minnesota      | 11,300-13,000            | Arlington      | 7:30am-2:00pm                         | 1950             | 32.5           | 6.5           | 175         | 651-293-6900 |
| Mississippi    | 7,000-7,400              | Callaway       | 8:20am-3:30pm                         | 2150             | 35.8           | 7.2           | 180         | 601-987-3535 |
| Missouri       | 8,200-8,700              | Rock Bridge Sr | 7:50am-3:00pm                         | 2150             | 35.8           | 7.2           | 176         | 573-214-3100 |
| Montana        | 7,000-7,400              | Capital        | 8:00am-2:20pm                         | 1900             | 31.7           | 6.3           | 180         | 406-324-2500 |
| Nebraska       | 7,400-7,800              | Allen          | 8:15am-3:35pm                         | 2200             | 36.7           | 7.3           | 180         | 402-635-2484 |
| Nevada         | 7,000-7,400              | Arbor View     | 7:00am-1:30pm                         | 1950             | 32.5           | 6.5           | 180         | 702-799-6660 |
| New Hampshire  | 9,300-10,200             | Belmont        | 7:25am-2:15pm                         | 2050             | 34.2           | 6.8           | 180         | 603-267-6525 |
| New Jersey     | 13,000+                  | Abraham Clark  | 8:12am-2:42pm                         | 1950             | 32.5           | 6.5           | 182         | 908-298-2000 |
| New Mexico     | 7,000-7,400              | Bloomfield     | 8:24am-3:36pm                         | 2160             | 36.0           | 7.2           | 180         | 505-634-3400 |
| New York       | 13,000+                  | Albany         | 7:50am-3:50pm                         | 2400             | 40.0           | 8.0           | 180         | 518-454-3987 |
| North Carolina | 9,300-10,200             | Alleghany      | 8:00am-2:55pm                         | 2075             | 34.6           | 6.9           | 180         | 336-372-4554 |
| North Dakota   | 10,200-11,300            | Burke Central  | 8:30am-3:25pm                         | 2075             | 34.6           | 6.9           | 173         | 701-933-2821 |
| Ohio           | 8,200-8,700              | Anderson       | 7:20am-2:15pm                         | 2075             | 34.6           | 6.9           | 180         | 513-232-2772 |
| Oklahoma       | 7,000                    | Berryhill      | 8:00am-2:35pm                         | 1975             | 32.9           | 6.6           | 175         | 918-446-1636 |
| Oregon         | 7,000-7,400              | Corvallis      | 7:40am-3:10pm                         | 2250             | 37.5           | 7.5           | 177         | 541-757-5871 |
| Pennsylvania   | 8,700-9,300              | Altoona Area   | 8:00am-2:55pm                         | 2075             | 34.6           | 6.9           | 180         | 814-946-8273 |
| Rhode Island   | -                        | Barrington     | 7:40am-2:11pm                         | 1955             | 32.6           | 6.5           | 180         | 401-247-3150 |
| South Carolina | 7,000                    | Aiken          | 8:00am-3:15pm                         | 2175             | 36.3           | 7.3           | 181         | 803-641-2500 |
| South Dakota   | 6,500-7,000              | Centerville    | 8:15am-3:20pm                         | 2125             | 35.4           | 7.1           | 176         | 605-563-2291 |
| Tennessee      | 8,700-9,300              | Alcoa          | 8:00am-3:00pm                         | 2100             | 35.0           | 7.0           | 180         | 865-982-4631 |
| Texas          | 7,800-8,200              | Anderson       | 9:00am-4:15pm                         | 2175             | 36.3           | 7.3           | 175         | 512-414-2538 |
| Utah           | 7,500                    | American Fork  | 7:45am-1:15pm M<br>7:45am-2:15pm TWRF | 1890             | 31.5           | 6.3           | 180         | 801-756-8547 |
| Vermont        | 10,200-11,300            | Burlington     | 8:05am-3:00pm                         | 2075             | 34.6           | 6.9           | 176         | 802-864-8411 |
| Virginia       | 10,200-11,300            | McLean         | 7:20am-2:10pm                         | 2050             | 34.2           | 6.8           | 183         | 703-714-5700 |
| Washington     | 8,700-9,300              | Ballard        | 8:05am-2:35pm                         | 1950             | 32.5           | 6.5           | 180         | 206-252-1000 |
| West Virginia  | 7,800-8,200              | Buffalo        | 8:03am-3:27pm                         | 2220             | 37.0           | 7.4           | 186         | 304-937-2661 |
| Wisconsin      | 8,700-9,300              | Almond         | 8:10am-3:20pm                         | 2150             | 35.8           | 7.2           | 180         | 715-366-2941 |
| Wyoming        | 11,300-13,000            | Central        | 7:30am-3:28pm MTF<br>8:00am-3:26pm WR | 2326             | 38.8           | 7.8           | -           | 307-771-2680 |

Average Cost Per Student was from My College Options which does a Board of Education survey annually.

To receive a copy of this information or discuss the findings in more detail please contact [jessicaperezmesa@yahoo.com](mailto:jessicaperezmesa@yahoo.com) or [alohamelaniebailey@yahoo.com](mailto:alohamelaniebailey@yahoo.com)

Survey conducted January 2010

Dear Representatives Takumi and Berg, and Education Committee Members:

I am Clare Hanusz, a lawyer in Honolulu, but today I am testifying as a member of Save Our Schools Hawaii, and as the mother of two children who are currently attending public school on Oahu. Our group is completely made up of concerned parents who have children in public schools around the state, and we would like to offer our support for HB 2127, which calls for a minimum school year of 190 days.

As parents who have made a conscious choice to place our children in public schools, we applaud any effort by the state to improve the quality of education. Lengthening both the school year and hours of instruction per day in the coming year may help to offset some of the damage done this academic year through the "Furlough Fridays" that we document in the appendix to our testimony presented here. We support this measure along those lines: although high school seniors who will graduate at the end of this academic year will be beyond help, other students may be able to recoup some of what was lost.

The testimony that follows was collected from the one group whose voices were absent in the debate over the provision of public education last year. We hope that by including those voices here, the debate will be enriched, and you and others in the legislature and elsewhere will be encouraged to consider the impact that reducing the number of school days has on children in Hawai'i.

In early December, we put out the call to find out what students thought about furlough Fridays and education in general. Over 500 submissions have poured in thus far, from Kindergarten to college students, and from Wai'anae to Hawaii Kai. There are some common themes: stress from increased workload without teacher instruction; loss of learning, or as one student put it, "brain cells falling out of my head"; failure, or as one special ed student from Farrington put it, "I have dyslexia, and so now teachers are doubling up on their work and it's getting really hard, and I start to fail"; worry about the future and diminished potential.

When furlough Fridays began, students were angry. As the furloughs continued, kids began to come up with creative ideas to raise money for school, and to cope. Now that we have lived with them for a semester, kids are sad, stressed, and worried about their future. The submissions we received were full of messages like "I care, do you care?" We fear we are in danger of losing the next generation.



**berg1-Matthew**

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**From:** The Proute Family [proutef001@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 02, 2010 4:54 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** Support of bills HB2127 AND HB 2071

February 2, 2010

HB 2127 Relating to Instructional Days and HB 2071 Student Rights  
Wednesday, February 3, 2010  
2:00 p.m.  
Room 309, State Capitol

Dear Committee on Education,

I am writing in support of HB 2127 requiring a minimum of 190 instructional days and HB 2071 set of students rights. I have a fourth grader attending a public school who has been affected by the furlough days. My child looks forward to going to school, but as of last year, she has become very disappointed in the shortening of her school days. I am lucky that I can stay home with her and take her to places to make up for the day she is not in school, but she would rather be in school learning.

In October 2009, out of the 22 days in the month (excluding weekends), she only attended school for 13 days, and in one week, she had only 1 instructional day ( 3 days were for parent/teacher conferences and 1 furlough).

Whatever happened to the saying: "The children are our future." What future are they expected to have when their school year is shorter and the academic expectations continue to be increased. Our children know that they have been deceived. Many years ago, when at her school the administration tried to make changes to the length of one school day, the parents were told how it would not affect the required minutes of instructional time and emphasized how important it was to keep that amount of minutes, the parents voted no to the change. Yet when the furloughs were instituted, those instructional minutes were thrown out the window and did not matter anymore. Making me believe that everything was just an excuse. No one has realized that we have the schools to educate the children not to assert certain political powers.

When our children score low on a test, the parents feel that its their fault for not allotting enough resources and efforts to ensure their success. Now that some of the students are failing in school, who do we attribute it? It's not the parents' fault this time, but a system who thinks that lesser days are better for their education.

Please approve these bills and ensure that our children get the proper amount of schooling they deserve.

Sincerely,

Gracie Prouté  
94-1227 Keahua Loop  
Waipahu, HI 96797  
(808) 688-0179