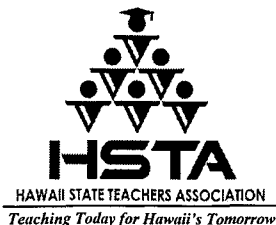


**HB 2486,
HD2, SD1
Testimony**



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Joan Kamila Lewis
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Jim Williams
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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS**

RE: HB 2486, HD2, SD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

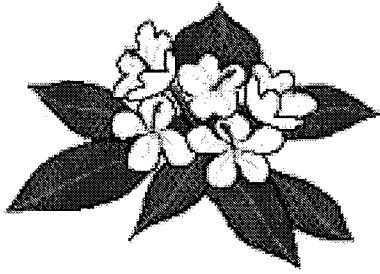
**WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

Chair Kim and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association offers the following comments on HB 2486, HD2, SD1:

- We believe that the Board of Education should set the minimum number of instructional days and instructional hours for students.
- We also believe that the legislature has the discretion to set the boundaries for collective bargaining as long as those boundaries do not infringe upon the constitutional rights of public employees to negotiate the core subjects of wages, hours and other conditions of employment. Article VI of the Unit 5 agreement contains a provision which sets the instructional minutes for teachers. The subject matter has been negotiated since the inception of collective bargaining.
- Like the HSTA, the State's Office of Collective Bargaining has raised concerns about the collective bargaining implications of this bill. The Attorney General's Office has also raised concerns about a similar bill requiring all public schools to implement a fix number of instructional days and instructional hours in the school year.
- Finally, increasing the number of instructional days would require additional funding at a time when there is not enough money for the current 180-day instructional school year.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council

919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101

Honolulu, HI 96814

Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129

email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov

March 31, 2010

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Chair*
Mr. Steve Laracuente, *Vice
Chair*

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta
Ms. Sue Brown
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman
Ms. Annette Cooper
Ms. Phyllis DeKok
Ms. Mary Ellis
Ms. Debra Farmer
Ms. Gabriele Finn
Ms. Martha Guinan
Mr. Henry Hashimoto
Dr. Martin Hirsch
Ms. Tami Ho
Ms. Barbara Ioli
Ms. Shanelle Lum
Ms. Rachel Matsunobu
Ms. Kristy Nishimura
Ms. Connie Perry
Ms. Barbara Pretty
Ms. Kau'i Rezentes
Dr. Patricia Sheehey
Mr. August Suehiro
Ms. Judy Tonda
Ms. Cari White
Ms. Jasmine Williams
Mr. Duane Yee
Mr. Shawn Yoshimoto

Jan Tateishi, Staff
Susan Rocco, Staff

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2486 HD2 SD1 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

Dear Chair Mercado Kim and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **supports** HB 2486 HD2 SD1 which aims to increase the amount of quality time students spend in the classroom by establishing a minimum number of instructional hours and days for the school year.

This bill as amended would require intermediate and high school students to receive more instructional time than most other states--six and a half hours a day over 180 instructional days. Like Colorado, Idaho, Indiana and Wisconsin, this bill offers more instructional time for secondary students than elementary grade students as a means to improve post secondary outcomes.

Currently Hawaii is one of only a handful of states that does not set a minimum of instructional time statutorily, but rather relies on collective bargaining with the Hawaii State Teachers Association. It has been well publicized that the imposition of 17 furlough days for SY 09-10 and SY 10-11 gives Hawaii the shortest instructional year in the nation. According to the Education Commission of the States, Hawaii currently also has one of the shortest school days in the country. This reality is counter to the direction taken by the U.S. Department of Education of encouraging states to increase learning time for students by offering financial incentives.

Students with disabilities typically underperform their non-disabled peers on student achievement tests. SEAC believes they would realize greater educational benefit and have a better opportunity to close the achievement gap through more quality instructional time, either through the addition of school hours or additional days in the school year (or both).



Testimony on HB 2486 HD2 SD1

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March 31, 2010

Having said this, SEAC is well aware of the State's financial crisis and recognizes the difficulty of funding additional classroom instruction. Directing the Department to optimize coordination of bus transportation will ensure greater cost efficiencies in accommodating scheduling differences between elementary and secondary students. It may also be necessary to phase in additional instructional time. What policymakers and educators can do now is to try to optimize the instructional opportunities our students have today and to ensure that teachers have the skills to utilize evidence-based instructional strategies to address the diverse learning needs of their classrooms.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this issue. Should you have any questions, SEAC would be happy to answer them.

Sincerely,

Ivalee Sinclair
Chair

TESTIFIER: Melanie Bailey 277-5121

To: SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2010

Re: HB 2486 RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing Date March 31, 2010

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of this bill. Please see attached.

I look forward to working with you on this important issue.
Aloha.

alohamelaniebailey@yahoo.com

HB 2486

ISSUE

- Hawaii is the only State that does not codify a minimum number of instructional days/hours a year.
- This is an opportunity to increase our Public Schools instructional time to the National Average.

Elementary School

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hawaii Current Instruction 4 hrs 43 min				Misc. 2 hrs 17 min		
National Average Instruction 5 hrs 5 min				Misc. 1 hr 55 min		

Secondary School

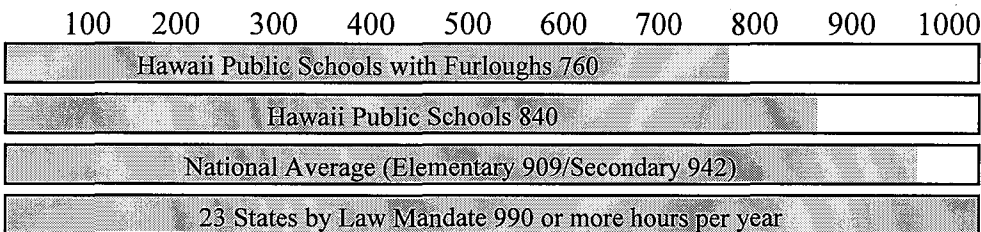
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hawaii Current Instruction 4 hrs 40 min				Misc. 2 hrs 20 min		
National Average Instruction 5 hrs 14 min				Misc. 1 hr 30 min		

Why is it important?

It will show Hawaii is making a commitment to education
 It will prevent another Furlough Friday situation

What are we asking for?

Elementary Schools, a minimum of 915 to 1080 instructional hours per year
 Secondary Schools, a minimum of 990 to 1260 instructional hours per year



Sources: Education Commission of the States, National Council for Teachers Quality, Hawaii State Teachers Association Contract, Hawaii Bell Schedules

Need more information? Contact Melanie Bailey at 277-5121 or Kathy Bryant at 225-9043