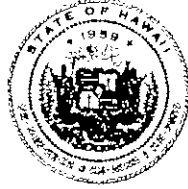


SB2470



LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

MARIE C LADERTA
CHIEF NEGOTIATOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
235 S. BERETANIA STREET, SUITE 1201
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 1, 2010

TESTIMONY to the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING
and the SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR
For Hearing on Tuesday, February 2, 2010
2:45 p.m., Conference Room 224

By

MARIE C. LADERTA
CHIEF NEGOTIATOR

**Senate Bill No. 2470
Relating to Education**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

CHAIRPERSONS SAKAMOTO AND TAKAMINE AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING AND LABOR:

The purpose of S. B. No. 2470 is to require all public schools to implement a minimum of two hundred days of classroom instruction per school year and prohibit any collective bargaining agreement under Chapter 89, HRS, from containing provisions that would shorten the school year for public school employees to less than the minimum.

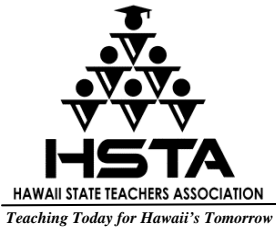
The Office of Collective Bargaining has **concerns** on the proposed amendments to Chapters 302A, 302B, and 89, HRS.

The public employer and the Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) have historically negotiated collective bargaining agreements which contain the number of instructional days and hours within each school year. This is based upon Chapter 89, HRS, where the public employer and the public employee union are required to

negotiate on matters of wages, hours, and conditions of employment. Should this bill pass, the HSTA and other affected unions with members employed in the department of education will negotiate for higher wages since the teachers and other employees will have to work additional instructional days to meet the statutory minimum set forth in this bill. It would also remove the flexibility of the DOE to negotiate the number of instructional days as may be necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

ERD



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Interim Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
EDUCATION & HOUSING AND LABOR

RE: SB 2470 – RELATING TO EDUCATION.

February 2, 2010

WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Sakamoto, Chair Takamine, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **does not object** to a 200-day school year for students but believes 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 sets 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 200 days? Clearly, the state must find other sources of revenue. We believe there are ways to generate this additional revenue, including our proposal, SB 2922, which provides for measures to increase revenue while reducing the 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 for education, establishing a 200-day student instructional year by statute will come to naught.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Tuesday, February 2, 2010
2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 224

TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
EDUCATION AND HOUSING
and LABOR

RE: SB 2470 – Relating to Education

Chairs Sakamoto and Takamine; Vice Chairs Kidani and Taniguchi; and Members of the Committees:

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 Senate Bill 2470 – Relating to Education** which requires all public and charter schools to implement a minimum of two hundred days of classroom instruction per school year and prohibits any collective bargaining from containing provisions that would shorten the school year for public school employees to less than two hundred days of classroom instruction per 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 compete 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 21st century.

We are in support of interim steps to implement this measure and 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 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.

Hawaii Charter Schools Network
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Senate Committee on Education and Housing
Senate Committee on Labor

DATE: Tuesday, February 02, 2010
TIME: 2:45 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 224

We are commenting on SB 2470, relating to education, on behalf of the Hawaii Charter School Network.

The Hawaii Charter School Network represents all of Hawaii's 31 public charter schools, serving more than 8,000 students, their families and the community. We strongly believe that Hawaii charter schools offer community, choice and quality education and play an important role in the future of our state.

*We **support the intent of SB 2470** which is clearly to promote instructional days and quality education for Hawaii's students. We want to use this opportunity to recognize and acknowledge the national movement toward educational reform and the support for quality education. Hawaii must be positioned to have access to federal "Race to the Top" grant funding. Equitable funding and support for all of Hawaii's public educational students is an essential element of having access to the "Race to the Top" grant. Importantly, we believe that all future federal educational funding will have a similar commitment requirement for public charter schools.*

Our support for charters and the desire to access federal funds is, of course, not "just" about the money. What Hawaii's public charter schools support is quality education. We are encouraged that the U.S. Department of Education is equally committed to equitable funding for all public school students.

We ask that you consider amending this measure to incorporate a clear statement of commitment to equitable funding and facilities support for all public school students, including public charter school students. This statement of commitment would go a long way to ensuring the highest levels of quality education in all of Hawaii's public schools.

Again, Hawaii's public charter schools are committed to community, choice and quality. It is that commitment to quality that is so important to ensure Hawaii's success in competing for federal funds. It is also what is required to ensure Hawaii's success.

On behalf of the Hawaii Charter School Network, mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Community. Choice. Quality.