

Date: 02/02/2010

Committee: Senate Education and Housing
Senate Labor

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn Matayoshi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2470 Relating to Education

Purpose of Bill: Requires all public schools, including charter schools, to implement a minimum of two hundred days of classroom instruction per school year. Prohibits any collective bargaining agreement under chapter 89, Hawaii Revised Statutes, 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.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (DOE) supports this bill with its focus on the importance of teaching and learning. The priority now is to restore the furlough days for the remainder of this school year and next, before we consider extending the school year being proposed in this bill. 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 Senate
Committee on Education and Housing
And
Committee on Labor

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
February 02, 2010

S.B. 2470 – RELATING TO
EDUCATION

The Hawaii Government Employees' Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the intent of S.B. 2470.

If the legislature decides to statutorily require a minimum number of instructional days in the public school system beginning with the 2011-2012 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 in support of S.B. 2470.

Respectfully submitted,

Leiomalama Desha
Executive Assistant