

Date: 03/10/2010

Committee: House Education
House Labor & Public Employment

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2790, SD1 (SSCR 2492) Relating to Education

Purpose of Bill: Protects the health, safety, and well-being of children following the occurrence of a situation that may have caused physical, psychological, or emotional harm to children during a school activity. Takes effect 7/1/2050.
(SD 1)

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) does not support SB No. 2790, SD 1. Board Policy 2210 and Department Regulations 2210.1 adequately address parent notification of potentially controversial issues and procedures for the school to follow. The regulations state that "Parents/legal guardians must be notified by the instructional staff or administration when controversial issues will be discussed in the classroom or through other school activities." Parents and/or legal guardians may request that their children be excluded from a specific lesson or activity and provided with an alternative learning activity. This request must be submitted in writing prior to the lesson or activity. The DOE has processes and procedures in place to address personnel issues for instructional staff or school administrators following due process of progressive discipline. Because of the efforts by the Board of Education and the Department, we believe that this Bill is not necessary.