

Date: 02/02/2011

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0688 Relating to Education

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of education to maintain, monitor, and enforce anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies and procedures to protect students or groups of students from bullying, cyberbullying, and harassment.

Department's Position: While the Department of Education (Department) agrees with some of the proposed actions of HB 688, the Department opposes this Bill. The Department currently has in place policies and procedures that address the concerns and the proposed requirements of HB 688. The Board of Education Policy 4211, Anti-Harassment, Anti-Bullying, and Anti-Discrimination Against Student(s) by Employees Policy, strictly prohibits discrimination, including harassment, by any employee against a student. The Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 8, Chapter 19 addresses the identification, the investigative procedures, the accountability, the disciplinary consequences and interventions, and the due process procedures for any student misconduct which includes the offenses related to "bullying, cyberbullying, and harassment." In addition, all schools are guided by the Comprehensive Student Support System framework which provides appropriate and timely interventions and supports for all students with academic, social, emotional, and/or physical needs. Further, the guiding principles of schoolwide positive behavioral interventions and supports (SWPBIS) is a preventative approach being

implemented by schools to enhance and sustain school cultures of safety and respect. The key to reducing incidents of “bullying, cyberbullying, and harassment” is for schools to exemplify teaching and learning environments characterized by physical and psychological safety, adult and student respect for each other, and a responsive system that addresses students’ social emotional and academic needs.

The Department’s investment is with the prevention of “bullying, cyberbullying, and harassment.” It is not the creation of additional rules and regulations that will enhance the action taken by schools to address “bullying, cyberbullying, and harassment;” schools within the public school system must work to implement current policies, procedures, and guidelines with fidelity. The Department is committed to its continued work in addressing this issue that impacts our schools and communities.



**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

P. O. BOX 2380
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

House Comm. on Education
Hearing: Wed., Feb. 2, 2011
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 309

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB688
Relating to Education: SAFE SCHOOLS ACT

Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee on Education:

Thank you for allowing me to testify in my capacity as a member of the Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE); I testify in strong support of HB688, the Safe Schools Act.

According to the most recent U.S. CDC-funded survey, 51% of Hawaii's public high school students and 63% of middle school students "strongly agree or agree that harassment and bullying by other students is a problem at their school." Between surveys conducted in 2007 and 2009, the number of high school students who indicated that they were hurt by cyber-bullying increased by 34%. One of biggest increases of negative behaviors reported in this section of the survey was a 40% increase in the number of Hawaii middle school students indicating that they "had been harassed because someone thought they were gay, lesbian, or bisexual."

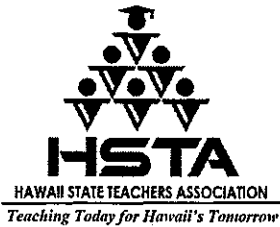
The BOE has updated the student discipline code, Hawaii Administrative Rule Chapter 8-19, to include cyber-bullying and added protected classifications for students. The BOE has adopted Policy #4211 to affirm its stance against bullying, harassment and discrimination of students by employees, and the BOE is scheduled to have a full and final vote on proposed amendments to HAR Chapter 8-41, to bring our student civil rights complaint procedures into compliance with recommendations the BOE received from the DOE's Safe Schools Community Advisory Committee.

The reason why I map the progress made by your BOE is to point out that the details and language of the Safe Schools Act is in alignment with the BOE's policies and administrative rules and the DOE's current practices and purported aspirations. The definitions for bullying, cyber-bullying and harassment are almost identical to those found in HAR Chapter 8-19. The recommendations of the DOE's Safe Schools Community Advisory Committee are reflected throughout the maintenance and enforcement section of the Safe Schools Act.

According to the US Department of Health and Human Services' website, Hawaii is one of only 6 states that does not have anti-bullying legislation. Let's not be the last. For the reasons stated above, I urge this Committee to pass the Safe Schools Act, HB688, as is.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kim Coco Iwamoto, Esq.
State of Hawaii Board of Education Member, Oahu-at-Large



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Interim Executive Director

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION**

RE: HB 688 -- RELATING TO EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 2, 2011

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

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association strongly supports HB 688 which would urge all Hawaii schools to implement standards of conduct to discourage intimidation and promote safe and peaceful schools to create an effective learning environment.

We believe every child should be able to come to school and not feel intimidated or bullied by others. HSTA and NEA believe; bullying robs students of their opportunity to learn and exacts scars that can last a lifetime. Its victims are more likely to fall behind, miss school, and eventually drop out. It is our shared responsibility to ensure that every child can attend a safe public school.

We believe students need a safe environment with a significant adult on campus when confronted with intimidation and bullying.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 531-2198 Fax: (808) 534-1199

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Alan Shinn, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Acadia Hawaii Residential Treatment
Center (Formerly Children's
Comprehensive Services

Adolescent Services Program, Kaiser
Permanente Medical Care System

Aloha House

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii

Assistive Technology Resource Ctrs. of HI
Bay Clinic, Inc.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Blueprint for Change

Bobby Benson Center

Catholic Charities Hawaii

Central Oahu Youth Services Assn.

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

College Connections

Community Assistance Center

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Support Services of West Hawaii

Foster Family Programs of Hawaii

Friends of the Missing Child Center of HI

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Behavioral Health

Hawaii Foster Parent Association

Hawaii Student Television

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition

Hina Mauka Teen Care

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health

Kama'aina Kids, Inc.

KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)
Project

Kids Behavioral Health

Kids Hurt Too

Kokua Kalih Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

The Maui Farm, Inc.

Maui Youth and Family Services

Palama Settlement

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center
Kona Unit

Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.

Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

Turning Point for Families

Waikiki Health Center

Women Helping Women

YouthVision

YWCA of Kauai

January 29, 2011

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
And members of the Committee on Education

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 688 RELATING TO BULLYING

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of more than 50 youth serving organizations, supports HB 688 Relating to Bullying.

According to the Hawaii Youth Behavioral Risk Survey, Hawaii has a low rate of youth violence in almost every area except bullying. The number of youth who have stated that they were afraid to go to school or have missed school due to bullying is much higher than the national average. Bullying prevention and response was one of the top priorities among the 150 youth who participated in the 2010 Children and Youth Summit at Washington Place.

Students who are victims of bullying are not able to take full advantage of their educational opportunities. They are unable to concentrate on their studies, may choose truancy to avoid contact with bullies, and, in extreme cases, find the bullying so intolerable that they choose suicide as the only way to end it.

The Department of Education appears to have adequate rules and regulations that address bullying, but students report that these rules are not being adequately enforced to ensure safety and well-being. When bullying is reported to teachers and other school personnel, they are often told to resolve it among themselves. It is essential that Department of Education personnel provide a quick and appropriate response to bullying by enforcing the existing rules and providing prevention education on bullying and harassment.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Please accept my apologies for not appearing in person to testify; I am traveling on HYSN business on the mainland.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark
Executive Director



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

HONOLULU CHAPTER

P.O. BOX 1291, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96807

PHONE: 523-8464 EMAIL: honolulu@jacl.org

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Alan Murakami

House Committee on Education
Wednesday, February 2, 2011 at 2 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol – Room 309.

Testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 688**, Relating to Education

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Belatti, and Members of the Committee:

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) Honolulu Chapter supports the passage of House Bill 688, which will encourage the Department of Education to maintain and enforce existing anti-bullying policies to protect all children and ensure their right to a safe education.

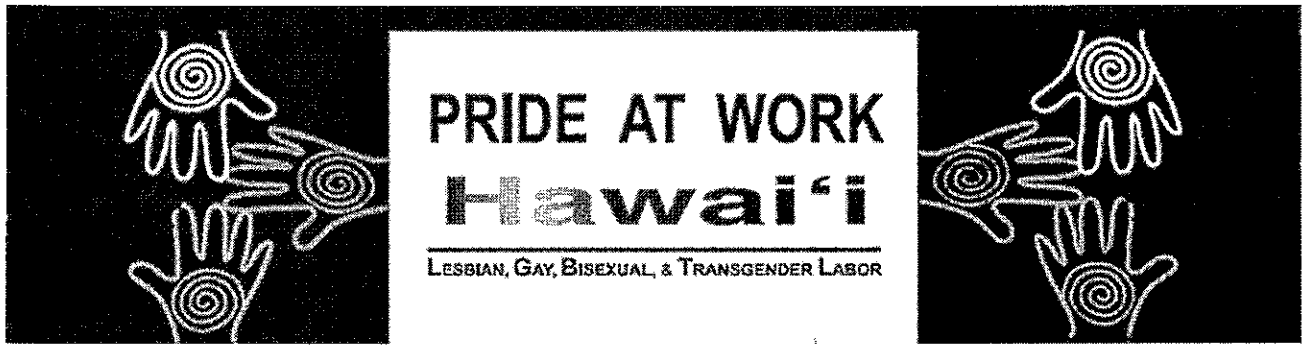
JACL is the nation's oldest and largest Asian Pacific American civil rights organization with over 20,000 members. Locally our organization has consistently supported efforts to provide equal rights to all citizens of this state.

We are in strong support of House Bill 688 because it sets clear and comprehensive expectations of safety for Hawaii's public school students and ensures that all students will be treated equally free from intimidation. House Bill 688 ensures State statutes are aligned with the Department of Education's Policy #4211 (Anti-harassment, Anti-bullying and Anti-discrimination against student(s) by employees) and Hawaii Administrative Rule Chapter 8-19 (prohibiting student conduct including harassment, bullying and cyber-bullying). In addition, the measure will put the recommendations by the Safe Schools Community Advisory Council into statute. What this ultimately means for our students is that they will all be protected from bullying and cyber-bullying and be able to learn in safe environments.

We urge you to pass out the measure. For your time and consideration, thank you.

Respectfully,

/s/ Liann Ebesugawa
1st Vice President



February 1, 2011

House Committee on Education
Chair, Rep. Roy Takumi
Vice Chair, Rep. Della Au Belatti

Testimony in strong support of HB 688 Relating to Education

Pride At Work Hawai'i, as an affiliate of the Hawai'i State AFL-CIO which works to mobilize lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) workers and their supporters for full equality and to build mutual support between the labor movement and the LGBT community, strongly supports HB 688. We believe that all students need to be able to learn and study without the threat of bullying or harassment, and that our public schools should protect and encourage diversity. As drafted, the bill would require the department of education to maintain, monitor, and enforce anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies and procedures to protect students.

Importantly, the Act specifies that bullying includes conduct that is based on a number of categories, including gender identity or expression and sexual orientation. Studies have shown that LGB youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers, and LGBT youth reporting higher levels of at-school bullying and victimization report higher levels of substance use, suicidal thoughts, feelings and actions, as well as engaging in increased risky behaviors than their heterosexual peers and/or those who are not bullied because of their sexual orientation. Lower victimization rates and decreased suicidality among LGBTQ youth has been linked with anti-bullying policies, along with peer support groups, the availability of non-academic counseling, a student judicial court system, staff training on sexual harassment and peer-tutoring systems.

A 2009 survey of 7,261 middle and high school students found that at school nearly 9 out of 10 LGBT students experienced harassment at school in the past year and nearly two-thirds felt unsafe because of their sexual orientation. Nearly a third of LGBT students had skipped at least one day of school in the prior month because of safety concerns.

Families - including families of working people - are deeply affected by their children's experiences in school. When children face harassment or bullying, additional stress and anxiety are placed on parents, many of whom are already stressed by economic conditions. Schools are also workplaces for teachers, administrators, and service personnel. Allowing bullying and harassment - or not enforcing anti-bullying policies - creates a dangerous atmosphere for these workers, and it is time for the State to act and ensure that every effort is made to make sure it stops.

TESTIFIER: Melanie Bailey
Human Resource Professional

To: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

Attn: Committee on Education
Representative Takumi, Chair
Representative Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair

Re: HB 688 RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing Date February 2, 2011 2:00pm

I am in SUPPORT of creating school's that are free from harassment and create safe and positive learning environments.

I work in the field of Human Resource management. My work includes conducting training on creating a respectful workplace and investigating harassment complaints.

I have attached some recommended modifications to the bill that would change the language from focusing on just students. A hostile work environment can also be created by students and/or family members aimed at teachers and administrators. The attached recommendations focus on creating a harassment free environment not just student behavior.

Thank you for your time.

Aloha.
Melanie Bailey
808-277-5121
alohamelaniebailey@yahoo.com

SECTION 2. The legislature finds that all students have the right to participate fully in the educational process, free from bullying, cyberbullying, and harassment. A safe and civil environment in school is necessary for students to learn and to meet high academic standards and teachers to teach. Bullying and harassment, like other disruptive or violent behaviors, are forms of conduct that disrupt both a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its students in a safe environment. The legislature finds that because students learn by example, school administrators, faculty, staff, student family members and volunteers should be expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior, treat others with civility and respect, and refuse to tolerate bullying and harassment.

The purpose of this Act is to require the department of education to maintain, monitor, and enforce anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies and procedures to protect students.

SECTION 4. Section 302A-101, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding three new definitions to be appropriately inserted and to read as follows:

"Bullying" means any written, verbal, graphic, or physical act or acts that:

- (1) A student or group of students is exhibiteds toward another student or group of students;
- (2) Cause mental or physical harm to the other student or group of students; and
- (3) Are sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment.

Bullying includes conduct that is based on a student's actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, physical appearance and characteristic, or socio-economic status; or a student's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

"Cyberbullying" means an act or acts exhibited by one student or group of students to another student or group of students that:

- (1) Are conveyed by electronic transmission via the Internet, a cell phone, a personal digital assistant (PDA), or a wireless hand-held device;
- (2) Cause mental or physical harm to the student or group of students that receives the electronic transmission; and
- (3) Are sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment.

"Harassment" means harassing, bullying, including cyberbullying, annoying, or alarming a student or group of students by or engaging in conduct that includes:

(1) Striking, shoving, kicking, or otherwise physical contact touching a student or group of students in an offensive manner or subjecting that student or group of students to offensive physical contact;

(2) Insulting, taunting, or challenging another student or group of students in a manner likely to provoke a violent response;

(3) Making verbal or non-verbal expressions that cause another student or group of students to feel uncomfortable, pressured, threatened, or in danger because of reasons that include the student's or group's actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, physical appearance and characteristic, and socio-economic status, or association therewith, that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment, or interferes with the education of a student or group of students, or otherwise adversely affects the educational opportunity of a student or group of students;

- (4) Name calling, making rude gestures, insulting, or teasing. ~~another student or group of students who, as a result, feels humiliated, intimidated, threatened, or embarrassed;~~
- (5) Making a telephone call without the purpose of legitimate communication;
- (6) Making repeated communications anonymously, at extremely inconvenient hours, or in offensively coarse language on campus or other department of education premises, on department of education transportation, or during a department of education-sponsored activity or event on or off school property;
- (7) Causing fear as to prevent others ~~students or groups of students~~ from gaining legitimate access to or use of school buildings, facilities, services, or grounds such as restroom facilities; and
- (8) Physically harming, physically restraining, threatening, or stalking, or a combination of the foregoing."

EDNtestimony

From: Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka [lkakatsu@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 2:42 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony for HB 688 on 2/2/2011 at 2:00 PM

Testimony for Committee on Education, 2/2/2011 at 2:00 PM

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Strongly support
Testifier will be present: NO
Submitted by: Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka
Organization: Individual
Address: 45-606 Keole Street; Kaneohe, HI 96744
E-mail: lkakatsu@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2011

Comments: The purpose of this bill requires the Department of Education to maintain, monitor, and enforce anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies and procedures to protect students or groups of students from bullying, cyberbullying, and harassment. Although there is Chapter 19 in place for schools to follow, the enforcement and followup by teachers, counselors, and administrators is needed to assure a safe environment for our youths in the school system from grades K-12. I serve as the Co-Chair of the West Honolulu Community Children's Council. In the past, parents who attend our monthly meetings have expressed frustration with their respective school administration and/or support staff's attitude or lack of followup, when their children are being bullied and harassed by other students or by their teacher. We refer them to talk to their respective school principal. However we are told by the DOE representative attending our CCC meeting that each school handles it differently. This bill will help ensure a safe place for students to learn and not be afraid to go to school as well as knowing that there will be followup action to resolve the bullying, cyberbullying, and/or harassment.

I am in strong support of this bill HB 688. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:16 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: sergio.ellis@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB688 on 2/2/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 2/2/2011 2:00:00 PM HB688

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sergio Ellis
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: 808-457-7306
E-mail: sergio.ellis@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

To the Members of the Committee,

I am writing to show my support for hb 688. My experiences with being bullied when I was growing up in CA are not the fondest of memories. My ethnic background is Costa Rican and many of my bullying situations were because I was different from the majority. A part of me is thankful for having to go through these situations because it made me aware of my capabilities and letting go of the fears. I felt that I would rather take the physical abuse and stand up for myself than just let it go on.

I remember my thoughts when I went through this. Contemplating certain things, inflicting the pain and grief on the people that thought this was entertaining, intentions to hurt them. This was not who I was. I can see why many tragic situations happen in correlation with being bullied and it can be prevented more effectively with better measures in place. Please support this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

EDNtestimony

From: Sheri Ward [sheriward8@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 4:42 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: HB NO 688 Relating to Education

H.B. NO. 688

Status RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Requires the department of education to maintain, monitor, and enforce anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies and procedures to protect students or groups of students from bullying, cyberbullying, and harassment.

Sheri L. Ward, Parent/Mother of bullied Keaau Middle School Student. Now a Stay at Home Homeschooling Mom for a talented and gifted child.

Persons wishing to offer comments should submit testimony at least 24 hours prior to the hearing with a transmittal cover indicating: I did not receive this notification of a committee hearing until the afternoon of 2/1/10, so I hope that it reaches the committee in time to be taken into consideration.

- The Committee the comments are directed to;

<u>COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION</u>
Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair

Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto

Rep. Karen L. Awana

Rep. Scott K. Saiki

Rep. Jerry L. Chang

Rep. K. Mark Takai

Rep. Faye P. Hanohano

Rep. Jessica Wooley

Rep. John M. Mizuno

Rep. George R. Fontaine

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson

The date and time of the hearing; House Education Committee Notice of Hearing for Wednesday, **February 2, 2011, 2:00 p.m.**

The following are my comments and testimony regarding measure number HB No 688:

While I am glad to see that we are attempting to make Hawaii's schools more safe, we already have some of these same things in place. Such as the information from "Impact of Bullying and Harassment: What We Know and Why We Care" by the Safe Schools Community Advisory June 25th 2007. As well as Chapter 19 which is supposed to spell out, define bullying, harassment and the provide the proper guidelines, procedures, punishments, etc...

However, if no one is reading and following the Advisory's Information or the Guidelines of Chapter 19, what good does any of it do? How about this new legislation? How will this change how things are handled? Pencil whipping and lip service do nothing to benefit the children. Unless you put some weight behind it and make it punishable and hold people accountable.

My child was severely bullied, numerous assaulted and harassed at Keaau Middle School during this and the last school year. It has changed him in so many ways, if you read the Safe Schools Community Advisory report you can get a good idea of what he has had to suffer and endure. This may have changed him for the rest of his life as the middle school years developmentally are difficult and important years without abuses.

He is a good child (good grades, well behaved, respectful) and did not do anything to deserve this bullying. I am tired of school officials asking children what they did to deserve this abuse. Or downplaying the offense. Telling the victim that the bully has a rough home life. In reality, the victim does not care because he/she now has a rough school life.

This is for the adults to handle and get the right people involved to get this kid/bully under control or get him out of the classroom.

The Vice Principal and Principal, as well as counselors at Keaau Middle School call this "rough play" or "minimal harassment". And did not follow chapter 19's definitions of bullying, assault, harassment nor the guidelines for what should be done with the bully. If they can not decipher those guidelines and rules, and apply them equally and fairly, then what good are these new ones going to do? If they are continued to be allowed to become contorted and discombobulated?

Unfortunately, I had to remove my son from the Keaau Middle School environment because the school did little to nothing to protect him from these assailants. However, the police did. They arrested one of the bullies for assault and harassment. What could/should have stayed a school matter, has now become a police matter. I begged for a year and a half for help from the school. All I received was lip service. My child was never protected from this abuse.

The Police Officer involved also told the Principal that they should be reporting these assaults and harassments. That these are the exact circumstances that cause the desperation and create school shooters.

Instead of assisting my child, we were ostracized. Instead of listening to me, everyone ran like roaches when the kitchen light clicks on. Instead of jumping in to help and protect we were told we could go somewhere else.

And even after the police arrested this child, the school still refused to suspend or expell the student.

According to the rules of the school as well as Ch 19, the child who has been bullying should no longer be welcome to be taught at that school due to his behavior and danger to others.

Who's right is it to stay at the school and continue attendance? The bully or the victim?

Everyone jumps to aid the bully because something is obviously wrong with him. Yet, no one really does one thing to make sure that this child is psychologically ok to even be around others when he shows no empathy and seems to enjoy torturing others and even disrupts every single class all day long.

No one jumps in to help the victim at all. To make sure they are ok. To validate their feelings and hurt. To get help for the nightmares and terrorization. Instead we are told he's gifted, "he can handle".

We also need to address bullying that comes from Teachers, Counselors, Administrators and even Security. The adults in the schools need to be held accountable for abusing the kids in their school. Yes, adults bully too. And it hurts just as much, if not more.

We need to address inaction and penalties for teachers, security, counselors and administrators who choose not to act to stop a bully in action. Those who watch and do nothing. Those who refuse to take action to discipline the bully, to properly address the situation, contact the parents, and make sure that the victim is really alright.

If the adult is incapable of acting appropriately in the classroom without belittling, yelling and calling kids stupid, maybe we should make that classroom available for a new teacher who is not burnt out or that will choose to follow the rules.

Administrators and counselors need to take bullying, harassment and assaults seriously. They need to be held accountable if they choose not to act, if they choose not to call the police, if they choose to just do nothing. Bullying is not "child's play". It hurts. It seriously damages lives. Not just the child being victimized, but their families and others in the school as well. Those who are afraid to tell the bully to stop. Those who pile on so they won't get bullied. And bullies are about 75% more likely to BE IN JAIL by the time they are 23 years old. This needs to STOP.

There needs to be a ZERO tolerance on bullying for any reason.

If something as large as the United States Military does not allow discrimination and bullying then it should NOT be hard for the schools in Hawaii to accomplish this.

It does not matter what the outside culture of the community is around the school. BJ PENN or not. There are school rules

and they need to be followed. School should be a PRIVILEGE and not a right. If you cannot behave and you can't keep your mouth and hands to yourself, then you cannot not be included at school. PERIOD.

I hope I have added some value and ideas to this anti-bullying subject. These are just the things I have observed and feel need to be addressed.

Submit testimony in ONE of the following ways:

EMAIL: For comments less than 5 pages in length, transmit to EDNtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 10:22 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: mblack@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB688 on 2/2/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 2/2/2011 2:00:00 PM HB688

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marlene Black
Organization: Individual
Address: 3850 Keanu Street Honolulu, HI
Phone: 808-561-8116
E-mail: mblack@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

I am writing to show my support of Bill HB688. As a parent, I have witnessed my daughter experience being tormented constantly when she attended high school. I personally contacted the school and notified them that there was a problem and it was affecting my daughter. Her grades were also affected due to her focus being elsewhere. She was terrified to even attend her classes because of this nuisance. The bullying was really emotionally draining on her. I actually had to call the police because not one person that I spoke with at her school would acknowledge or recognize this as a serious situation.

There is a need for these measures to pass and to be enforced. I had to show concern and take care of the matter personally. For my daughter and I, this was not an easy process to go through. I ask urgently of the members of the House to please support this bill.