

**Date:** 03/16/2011

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 1375,SD1(sscr660) RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires multi-track public schools to have a school year of at least 171 days or a specified percentage of the minimum days for other non-charter public schools and a certain percentage of the minimum student instructional hours. Requires DOE to submit to the legislature a plan to implement a school year for multi-track schools beginning with the 2015-2016 school year of a certain percentage of the minimum instructional days and hours required of other non-charter public schools. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

**Department's Position:** BOE:Supports;DOE:Supports

Multi track schools address overcrowding and limited school facilities by having one fourth of the students on intersession at any given time and rotating in and out of school every 15 days. Once the rotation begins they are in school for 45 days. It is an answer to an economic problem of not being able to build enough schools in areas of ever-increasing populations. Where regular calendar schools have about 7 weeks to transition to a new school year, our students may have 7 days. Our

teachers end the school year on June 30 and begin the next school year on July 1 – overnight! Students in multi-track schools have only state holidays, Thanksgiving and the winter break in common with their siblings in the adjacent elementary, middle or high schools. Hiring experienced teachers is difficult because they do not want to change their way of life to adapt to ours. Teachers cannot attend summer school and neither can students. School custodians, clerical and custodial staffs have no “down time” for deep cleaning or concentrated, uninterrupted work. It is an undesirable system that addresses an economic problem, but we make it work and we work hard at ensuring that our students thrive in a safe, nurturing learning environment. Hopefully, we will be able to convert to traditional calendars when populations decrease or you are able to fund construction of new facilities. In the meantime, with some flexibility, multi-track schools can still provide students the instruction they need while recognizing the realities of families and school staff in these growing communities.

Many bills have been introduced in this legislative

session to amend Act 167 which defines the number of days and hours that our children will receive instruction beginning next school year to give exemptions and flexibility to multi-track schools. HB 1352, SB 190, HB 907 and its companion bill SB 1172, and HB 945 and its companion bill 1375 all have varying degrees of merit and we thank Senators Gabbard, Kidani and Tokuda and Representatives Lee, Pine and Takumi for your support. It is evident that you understand the challenges that we multi-track schools face as we try to meet the demands of Act 167.

As the founding principal of Kapolei Middle School, one of the four multi-track schools, and the current (Acting) Complex Area Superintendent, I know first-hand the challenges that a multi-track calendar poses to our Ewa Beach and Kapolei Communities, their families and school staffs. I am also the grandmother to a soon-to-be Mililani Middle School sixth grader whose family will have to live with two school calendars for the duration that he and his brother are in the Mililani Schools.

I speak today in support of House Bill 1375 which will amend Act 167 and require multi-track schools to meet

at least 171 instructional days or 90% of the minimum number of days required of other non-charter public schools for each respective school year, whichever number is greater, and at least 90% of the minimum number of student instructional hours required of other non-charter public schools for each respective school year. It is critical to note that multi-track schools currently meet the legislation's minimum instructional hours for the first two years of the legislation and all schools meet the NCLB Adequate Yearly Progress requirements for the All Students category in reading and math. Additionally all schools have low to negligible student discipline rates and student retention data - accomplishments done in about 154 days in 2010.

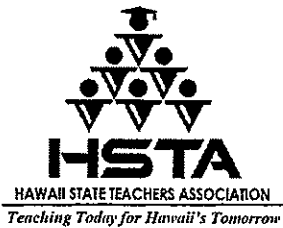
It would be impossible to carve 180 days from a calendar for each of four tracks. **By only focusing on the number of days, students at these facilities – which are already used year-round – could lose holiday breaks with their families, have no common winter break as their siblings/peers in regular calendar schools, and/or have classes on Saturdays.** Family schedules would further be disrupted. Hiring and

retaining top-notch teachers, counselors, administrators and staff to these schools would be even more difficult. Additionally, as the years of implementation go by, the number of instructional hours increases. Allowing the multi-track schools to have flexibility in instructional hours but requiring no less than 90% of that time would allow our students adequate time to be “children” after school. For instance an elementary school could start at 8 am and end at 2:15 pm next year, however by SY 2015, our students could be in school until 3:30 pm. This is a very long time for our little 5 and 6 year olds. Middle schoolers and their teachers could be in school as late as 3:46 pm in SY 2015. If, as suggested, we stagger the time that schools begin and end on a daily basis to save transportation costs, our middle school students could be in school until 4:15 pm. Neither of these scenarios is developmentally appropriate. Consider the impact on family and after-hour activities for these students. When will they be allowed to just be “children”? For our multi-track schools, more could be worse.

Representatives, we have made multi-track work for our

communities and the children. We will continue to provide the education that addresses the whole child so that our students will be equipped with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. We have chosen this profession to truly make an impact on children and give back to the system that gave us our education. We ask that you help us by providing us much needed flexibility. I urge you to support SB 1375 in its current form.

The Board of Education at its March 3, 2011 General Business meeting took a position to support this bill in its current form.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ʻ, Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ʻ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ʻ Web: www.hsta.org

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION

RE: SB 1375, SD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION.

March 16, 2011

WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association has concerns regarding SB1375, SD1, as amended. However, we support the original version of SB1375.

Multi-track schools are distinct from other schools in that groups of students attend the same multi-track school on different schedules as a means of addressing overcrowding. Because of the unique schedules of multi-track schools, the current mandate of one hundred eighty instructional days and minimum instructional hours for all public schools imposes an undue hardship on multi-track school students, parents, and staff. The original version of SB1375, does attempt to address the unique needs of the multi track schools.

Therefore, we have concerns with Senate Draft 1 and support the SB1375 as originally written.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIFIER: Melanie Bailey  
Kathy Bryant  
[alohamelaniebailey@yahoo.com](mailto:alohamelaniebailey@yahoo.com)  
[kathybryant@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kathybryant@hawaii.rr.com)

Attn: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011  
Committee on Education  
Representative Takumi, Chair  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair

Re: SB1375 Relating to Education, Multi-Track  
Hearing Date March 16, 2011 2:00pm

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We are in **OPPOSITION** to the current draft of SB1375, which decreases instructional time for children in multi-track schools. We support an exemption to the 180 days if the instructional time stated in Act 167 is still required.

Other states with multi-track schools do not allow a decrease in instructional time. They have found a way to fit in 180 days or lengthened the school day. Many parents at Hawaii's multi-track schools want 180 days. They have been assured the length of the school day will be increased to make up the instructional time.

Since most of us are in agreement that 171 days is a viable exception we must begin to look at how to achieve the instructional time.

Phase One of Act 167 would be an increase for multi-track schools of 16 minutes for elementary students and 17 minutes for secondary students:

<u>Instructional Time</u>	<u>Traditional-180 days</u>	<u>MultiTrack-171 days</u>
Elementary School	5 hours 5 minutes a day	5 hours 21 minutes a day
Secondary School	5 hours 30 minutes a day	5 hours 47 minutes a day

School Day with Lunch, Recess, and Passing time (shorter on teacher collaboration days)

Elementary School	6 hours 30 minutes a day	8:00am-2:30pm
Secondary School	7 hours 15 minutes a day	8:00am-3:15pm

These hours are comparable to private schools around the island and public schools on the mainland.

Phase Two of Act 167 will be a new HSTA contract, a new Board of Education, experience with Race to the Top, and two additional years with increased instructional time. In 2013, we can reevaluate Act 167, and discuss any necessary modifications at that time.

Today, there is another bill being introduced, SB1171. Its purpose is to increase instructional time to improve educational outcome in students. We can not, in the same session, decrease instructional time for another set of students.

Thank you for your consideration.



## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2011 2:23 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** calltheschatz@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1375 on 3/16/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 3/16/2011 2:00:00 PM SB1375

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Debbie Schatz  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [calltheschatz@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:calltheschatz@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 3/15/2011

### Comments:

I am Debbie Schatz and am in opposition to this bill.

I am speaking as a parent of a public school student focused on student achievement, not just my daughters, but all public school students in Hawaii. I believe the whole system needs to function effectively and efficiently for students to achieve. While the track system used for four schools is different it should not warrant an exemption from the extra 15 or 16 minutes a day of classroom time required by Act 167. It is important that all students in Hawaii receive the same amount of instructional time.

Let's talk money. Each student in the public school goes with an amount of money called the weighted student formula. With this money students are required to have an education at a school with a teacher in the room for the number of minutes/days set by your policies. Technically, Act 167 is tied to these funds. It's an agreement the state has with the DOE requiring students receive the a number of minutes in the classroom.

If policy exemptions are going to be made I recommend they be made on the BOE level for the changes to the bus schedule time that would require schools to start later, recess requirements, and to consider other minutes during the day that could be converted to classroom time. I believe this is not an issue of teachers not being able to provide the time, but the students not being available to be in class for those minutes.

The multi track system is not the same as a non multi track system, and although it takes advantage of resources in an attempt to save money the unintended consequences are the students and teachers miss out on valuable classroom time.

I am asking this room to honor the contract the schools have with the state to deliver every instructional minute to the students and not to give an exemption to Act 167 for classroom minutes.