

February 11, 2011

Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Education  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Via Email: [EDUTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:EDUTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Re: S.B. 1375– Relating to Education-Multi-Track Schools  
Hearing: Friday, February 11, 2011, 1:15 pm, Conf Room 225

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kidani and Committees Members:

My name is Michael Miyamura, Principal of Kapolei Elementary School. As you may be aware, Kapolei Elementary is a public multi-track school serving 1,173 students in grades K-5.

I am in **SUPPORT** of SB1375 to amend Act 167, Section 3, Chapter 302A-251, which mandates the number of instructional days and instructional hours for elementary and secondary students.

As written, Act 167 does not take in to account the physical limitations imposed by the multi-track schedule on school facilities. Quite simply, it will be incredibly difficult for multi-track schools to meet the requirements of Act 167 without large disparities of instructional times between the various groups of students. In order to meet the requirements of Act 167, students and staff would have to attend school on Saturdays, and nearly eliminate any Christmas break. This may create undue hardship on the students, families and staff of multi-track schools.

SB1375 alleviates the concerns expressed by the legislature in regards to all students, except those in charter schools, receiving the same amount of instructional time, whether through days of attendance or hours of instruction.

In closing, I respectfully ask that you pass SB1375 in order to ensure that students in multi-track schools are mandated to receive the number of instructional days and hours that are physically able to be accommodated within the school's facilities.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Miyamura  
Principal  
Kapolei Elementary School

LATE

February 11, 2011

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Committee on Education  
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Via Email: [EDUTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:EDUTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Re: S.B. 1375– Relating to Education-Multi-Track Schools  
Hearing: Friday, February 11, 2011, 1:15 pm, Conf Room 225

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kidani and Committees Members:

My name is Elynne Chung, Principal of Mililani Middle School. As you may be aware, Mililani Middle is a public multi-track school serving 1749 students in grades 6-8.

I am in **SUPPORT** of SB1375 to amend Act 167, Section 3, Chapter 302A-251, which mandates the number of instructional days and instructional hours for elementary and secondary students.

As written, Act 167 does not take in to account the physical limitations imposed by the multi-track schedule on school facilities. Quite simply, it will be incredibly difficult for multi-track schools to meet the requirements of Act 167 without large disparities of instructional times between the various groups of students. In order to meet the requirements of Act 167, students and staff would have to attend school on Saturdays, and nearly eliminate any Christmas break. This may create undue hardship on the students, families and staff of multi-track schools.

SB1375 alleviates the concerns expressed by the legislature in regards to all students, except those in charter schools, receiving the same amount of instructional time, whether through days of attendance or hours of instruction.

In closing, I respectfully ask that you pass SB1375 in order to ensure that students in multi-track schools are mandated to receive the number of instructional days and hours that are physically able to be accommodated within the school's facilities.

Sincerely yours,

Elynne Chun  
Principal  
Mililani Middle School

LATE



February 11, 2011

Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Education  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Via Email: [EDUTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:EDUTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Re: S.B. 1375– Relating to Education-Multi-Track Schools  
Hearing: Friday, February 11, 2011, 1:15 pm, Conf Room 225

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kidani and Committees Members:

My name is Gary Yasui, Principal of Holomua Elementary School in Ewa Beach. As you may be aware, Holomua Elementary is a public multi-track school serving nearly 1,400 students in grades K-6.

I am in **SUPPORT** of SB1375 to amend Act 167, Section 3, Chapter 302A-251, which mandates the number of instructional days and instructional hours for elementary and secondary students.

As written, Act 167 does not take in to account the physical limitations imposed by the multi-track schedule on school facilities. Quite simply, it will be incredibly difficult for multi-track schools to meet the requirements of Act 167 without large disparities of instructional times between the various groups of students. In order to meet the requirements of Act 167, students and staff would have to attend school on Saturdays, and nearly eliminate any Christmas break. This may create undue hardship on the students, families and staff of multi-track schools.

SB1375 alleviates the concerns expressed by the legislature in regards to all students, except those in charter schools, receiving the same amount of instructional time, whether through days of attendance or hours of instruction.

In closing, I respectfully ask that you pass SB1375 in order to ensure that students in multi-track schools are mandated to receive the number of instructional days and hours that are physically able to be accommodated within the school's facilities.

Sincerely yours,

Gary Yasui  
Principal  
Holomua Elementary School

LATE

Aloha,

It has come to our attention that you are proposing extending the school year for all children in Hawaii. The state has a budget shortfall and you're proposing spending more money that you don't have. As representatives of the families of Hawaii, you are to look after our best interests. Will you also be proposing a greater tax burden on already struggling families to fund this?

At this time, because you don't have the money to make the schools the size that they need to be, there are several schools on track schedule. This means that the school is used all year round. How are you going to add days? Will the children have to go to school on Saturday or Sunday?

The only solution for these schools is to extend the school day for these children. Their school day will go from 8am to 4:30pm. They will reach home at 5:00 at the earliest. Most of these children wake up from 6-6:30 am and then have 1-3 hours of homework. This means that each child will be putting in 12 to 14 hour school days every day. This will result in fatigue, falling grades, bad test scores, family stress, and possibly more violence and problems in school. As an adult, could you consistently perform at such a pace, get enough rest and keep up your quality of work, health, and quality of life? These are young children and you affecting their lives in a way that no one should have a right to do.

This will also eliminate the possibility of participation in any organized sports, plays, music or dance lessons, or any other after school activities, which we all know contribute richly to a well rounded and happy child who will normally do better in school.

On a track schedule, all of the students miss out on summer enrichment programs, swimming lessons, camps, trips, and family vacations because they're in school while other children are able to take advantage of these activities. 75% of the children are in school during the entire summer. Since I've had at least one child on track during the past 3 years, we have not had a family vacation for 3 years because the children have different schedules and there's always someone in school. Those times of family memories and bonding can never be replaced.

Track schools are a minority and don't seem to be a priority, even for the DOE who is never ready when the track schools start their new school year early in July.

Let me remind you that we are still citizens of the State of Hawaii whom you were elected to represent. You are affecting entire communities of families who will be very upset with you for not representing us with integrity.

Should you be able to find the funds for this proposal, use it to build the track schools big enough to accommodate all of the children. Then everyone can be on a regular school year and alleviate the stress on the families and the school faculty.

If you want to be like the mainland schools, let me remind you that students are shooting their peers and teachers there. Could it be fatigue and too much stress?

Karen Schleif

LATE

Erin Conner

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 10:57 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** Janine\_Pataray@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1375 on 2/11/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 2/11/2011 1:15:00 PM SB1375

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Janine Pataray  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [Janine\\_Pataray@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:Janine_Pataray@notes.k12.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 2/11/2011

Comments:  
I will be present to speak at the hearing.

Erin Conner

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 10:58 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** Julie\_Bonilla@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1375 on 2/11/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 2/11/2011 1:15:00 PM SB1375

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Julie Bonilla  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [Julie\\_Bonilla@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:Julie_Bonilla@notes.k12.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 2/11/2011

Comments:  
I will be present to speak at the hearing.

LATE

Erin Conner

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 10:59 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** Julie\_Bonilla@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1375 on 2/11/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 2/11/2011 1:15:00 PM SB1375

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Jocelyn Bonilla  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [Julie\\_Bonilla@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:Julie_Bonilla@notes.k12.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 2/11/2011

Comments:  
I will be present to speak at the hearing.



LATE

Erin Conner

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 10:59 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** Janine\_Pataray@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1375 on 2/11/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 2/11/2011 1:15:00 PM SB1375

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Sherry Pataray  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [Janine\\_Pataray@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:Janine_Pataray@notes.k12.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 2/11/2011

Comments:  
I will be present to speak at the hearing.



State of Hawaii  
Department of Education  
**Kapolei Middle School**  
91-5335 Kapolei Parkway  
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707  
Phone: (808) 693-7025 Fax: (808) 693-7030

**LATE**

February 11, 2011

Committee on Education  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: SB1375 Relating to Education-Multi-Track Schools  
Hearing: Friday, February 11, 2011, 1:15 pm, Conf. Room 309

Dear Chairman and Committee members:

My name is Dana Kobashigawa and I am currently the Acting Principal of Kapolei Middle School. I have been at Kapolei Middle school a Vice Principal since SY 2001-02 when conversion to a multi-track took place.

I am in Support of SB1375 to amend Act 167 because it will allow multi-track schools to continue to meet the demands of a quality education in a reasonable and appropriate manner.

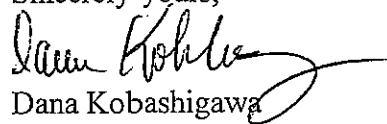
Our teachers work hard everyday to provide their students with quality standards based lessons because they understand the role they play in shaping our students lives. They are willing to plan smart and work hard because they are professionals who are dedicated and feel valued as part of the educational community. In order to insure continued quality in the delivery of service you must make sure that the workplace and work schedule supports our teachers as well.

The impact of Act 167 as it stands will demoralize the teacher ranks at a multi-track school as it does not take into consideration the very people who make learning come alive for students each day. An unreasonably long day would not allow our teachers to recharge their batteries for the next day and suck the life out of teachers who are needed to be on the top of their game daily. In some cases, Act 167 would cause teachers to choose work over family with devastating down stream consequences to both the home and school system.

In addition to this extremely long day for our teachers, please consider the appropriateness Act 167 on our students. Many of our students do not have the physical or mental stamina to be receiving instruction for 7 hours everyday for weeks on end. And I say this because I know that most adults are unable to do this as well.

Multi-track schools will not back down from providing a quality education for all students but we must remember to care for our teaching resources that will do the job. I urge you to support SB 1375 in its current form.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dana Kobashigawa", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dana Kobashigawa  
Acting Principal

LATE

Shelly K. Kaniho  
P.O. Box 60466  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706  
808.782.2644

February 10, 2011

Senator Michelle Kidani  
Committee on Education  
State Capitol  
415 S Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: ~~S~~.B. 1375 Relating to Education-Multi-Track Schools

Aloha Senator Michelle Kidani and Committees Members:

I am in support of SB1375 to amend Act 167 which mandates the number of instructional days and instructional hours for elementary and secondary students.

This bill allows that multi-track schools have 171 days of instruction. This is the most days that multi-track schools can have without teaching the day after Thanksgiving and into the winter recess. As a multi-track school our children no longer have a summer break. Please do not take way our Winter recess too.

Students will also lose out on the many extra curriculum activities our school and community has to offers our youngsters. Yes, education is vital to our State and Nation. Yes, the students we educate today are our leaders for tomorrow. But we want well rounded students, students who have the opportunity to learn in different settings and styles.

In closing, I respectfully ask that you pass SB1375 in order to ensure that students in multi-track schools are mandated to receive the number of instructional days and hours that are physically able to accommodate our school facilities.

Sincerely,



Shelly K. Kaniho

MULTI-TRACK CALENDAR TESTIMONY  
SB1375

February 10, 2011

Aloha, my name is Jocelyn Bonilla, I am a 6th grader in Green Track at Holomua Elementary.

And my name is Sherry Pataray. I am in Blue Track.

Holomua became a multi-track school in June 1999. Our school was built to have 850 students but our enrollment is currently at 1,378 students.

Approximately, 528 students above the limit!

To accommodate all of our students, we have 4 tracks – Yellow, Green, Blue and Red. Each track has approximately 345 students. At any given time, 3 tracks will be on and one track is off. This year, each track has 169 days with approximately 1530 instructional minutes per week.

Last year, Act 167 was passed requiring 180 school days for school year 2011-2013 with 915 instructional hours. From 2013 to 2015, the instructional hours increase to 1080. Beginning 2015, the number will increase to 190 days with 1140 instructional hours.

We are here to show our support for Senate Bill 1375. This bill allows multi-track schools to have 171 school days with 90% of the instructional hours.

If we are required to have 180/190 school days, we will not have a common winter break like the other public schools. Yellow Track will have their break during December, Green Track in January, Blue Track in November and Red Track in February.

When I graduate from Holomua, I will have my winter break in December but my brother will be having his break in January.

If we are required to have the number of instructional hours, that will be the end of our after school activities. When the instructional hours increases to 1080 hours, school will end at 3:05 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. On Wednesdays, school will end at 2:15 pm.

When the instructional hours increases to 1415 hours, school will end at 3:30 and at 2:25 on Wednesdays.

I am in our performing arts program. We meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00-3:30. Our music teacher does not get paid extra for working with us. We give a Christmas concert to our student body and also go out to the community and perform. In May, we put together a musical play and have 5 performances. In 2009, we did "Jungle Book". Last year, we did "A Kid's Life" and this year, we will be doing "Dig It". Currently, we have over 125 students in Performing Arts. If our hours are increased, will future students at Holomua not be able to participate in our Performing Art?

I am in our enrichment class. We participate in the First Lego League Tournament. To compete, we meet after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Our robotics teacher also does not get extra pay. We build a robot for competition and put together a presentation on a different topic each year. Last year, we had to create an idea of a robot helping our traffic situation. This year, the robot we created helped people with asthma. Holomua even sponsored a District Tournament. On Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, we had 12 teams participate in our tournament. We were so excited when both our teams qualified for the state finals. That would not have happened if we didn't have a dedicated teacher to help us work after school. If our hours are increased, will future students at Holomua not be able to be a part of the First Lego League tournament?

On Wednesday, we did a quick survey asking 25 students the question, "How will you feel if we had longer school hours and less time, if any, for after school activities?"

4 students said it would be a good thing

5 students said they weren't sure and

16 students said it would not be a good thing!

Please consider passing House Bill 945. Adding days and hours may work for the other public schools but it will not work for us. We need for you to look at what will be best for the students.

Thank you for listening and Aloha!

Jocelyn Bonilla  
Sherry Pataray

LATE

February 11, 2011

Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Education  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Via Email:EDUTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: S.B. 1375– Relating to Education-Multi-Track Schools  
Hearing: Friday, February 11, 2011, 1:15 pm, Conf Room 225

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kidani and Committees Members:

My name is Julie Bonilla, parent of a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student at Holomua Elementary. I am in **SUPPORT** of SB1375 to amend Act 167.

I am here today with my daughter to ask that consideration be given for students and families of multi-track schools. I know that students must have more time in school to be successful, but there comes a point when too much of a good thing is detrimental. My daughter is in Enrichment, does Robotics, performing arts and sports. If she has to go to school for longer hours in a day, it is likely she will not be able to participate. That would be a shame. Please consider, this bill that holds multi-track schools accountable, while giving them the flexibility they need.

Mahalo

Julie Bonilla

February 11, 2011

Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Education  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Via Email:EDUTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: S.B. 1375– Relating to Education-Multi-Track Schools  
Hearing: Friday, February 11, 2011, 1:15 pm, Conf Room 225

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kidani and Committees Members:

My name is Janine Pataray, parent of a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student at Holomua Elementary. I am in **SUPPORT** of SB1375 to amend Act 167 which mandates the number of instructional days and instructional hours for elementary school students.

As a parent and a teacher I absolutely know the value of education and that children must be in school, have quality teachers and facilities, and have a strong home support network in order to succeed. They also must be well rounded individuals in order to be successful in the real world. Part of the process is participating in extracurricular activities. My daughter is involved in student council representative, performing arts, library club, swimming, acting, piano, Holomua greeters. Because of Act 167, Holomua's school days will be so long that it may be impossible for my daughter to continue in these activities. Please think of these other issues as you weigh your decision.

In closing, I respectfully ask that you pass SB1375 in order to ensure that students in multi-track schools are not being forced to give up other activities so we have a one size fits all system.

Mahalo

Janine Pataray