

House Committee on Judiciary
Hearing: Tuesday, March 22, 2011
2:00 p.m., Room 325

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB934 sd2 hd1 with Amendment
RELATING TO BULLYING AND CYBERBULLYING

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

Thank you for allowing me to testify in my capacity as a member of the Hawaii Safe Schools Coalition. I testify in support of SB934 sd2 hd1 with amendment.

I agree that a policy establishing a bullying and cyber-bullying policy for all public schools – including reporting requirements - is a positive initiative for Hawaii. The requirement of the Department of Education and the charter school review panel to report to the legislature annually will strengthen the monitoring component of this policy. The DOE aspires to integrate positive character development and anti-bullying intervention as a standard part of instructional delivery and maintenance of a safe learning environment.

Implementing SB934 sd2 hd1 should not pose an additional cost to the DOE since it has a pre-existing responsibility to reach those same outcomes. Therefore, I urge this Committee to remove the budget appropriation that the House Education Committee added into the bill as Section 4; leaving this unnecessary section in may have the unfortunate outcome of killing this important bill.

I urge this Committee to pass the SB934 sd2 hd1 with the above stated amendment.

Thank-you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Nancy Kern
Co-Chair, Hawaii Safe Schools Coalition

LATE TESTIMONY