

SCR78

TESTIMONY

Senate Bill SCR78

Public School; Student Cell Phone Ban

Good afternoon. My name is Dustin Telefoni and I am a junior at James B. Castle High School. I am testifying on SB No.SCR78, Public School; Student Cell Phone Ban. I am strongly opposed to this bill. I believe that it is unfair to students who use cell phones appropriately. For example in the leadership training program at Castle High School Cell phones are resources to communicate information on events organized by the students. Using cell phones for that purpose develops communication skills for students and allows them to become self directed learners. In other cases students contact family or friends for personal reasons relating to school needs. Society is changing and is facing the new age of technology. Students should be able to exploit modern technology such as cell phones like schools do with computers. Public schools should look at cell phones as a educational advantage instead of an impediment In focus because of its communication advantages and connections to school needs. Thank you for taking your time to listen to my testimony.

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 9:40 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: livinforart@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR78 on 3/18/2011 1:45:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 3/18/2011 1:45:00 PM SCR78

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Leila Manivong
Organization: Individual
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Submitted on: 3/17/2011

Comments:

I fully support the ban of cell phone use in our public schools.

Senate Concurrent Resolution Number 78

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT A STUDENT CELL PHONE BAN IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Chair Tokuda, Chair Gabbard and members of the committees. Good afternoon. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SCR 78.

My name is Melia Steele and I am a freshman at Moanalua High School. I support this Bill because I believe that the proposal to ban the possession of cell phones during school hours is a good idea.

Too much cell phone usage can weaken students' communication skills. A lot of times, teens prefer to text message one another, rather than actually talking face to face or on the phone. This can result in poor social skills, and students may not be well prepared for college or job interviews.

Too much cell phone usage also results in weak writing skills. On several occasions, when critiquing and peer-editing my classmates' homework assignments, essays, and research papers, I have found them transferring their texting habits into standard or formal writing. For example, using only the letter "u" instead of writing out the word "you"; or substituting number "4" for the word "for".

Because of internet access and text messaging on cell phones, it is easier to cheat. When I take tests at school, I sometimes see other students using their phone. Most times, the teacher doesn't even know, because they are concealing their phone either on their lap or using it while it is inside their backpack. If the teacher is not aware of phone usage during tests, it would be very easy for some students to cheat, either by looking up answers on the Internet, or asking their friends for help.

The speed of text messaging makes it possible to send an instant message, and get an instant reply, but it is not always a good thing. This technology can allow speedy delivery of news, gossip, and rumors. For example, the stabbing at Kalani High School last year became instant news. Students at my school, including myself, heard about it even before school got out. It had spread from Kalani to Moanalua in less than a few hours. This is an example of the speed with which news, gossip and rumors can travel, and which can lead to school fights and cyber harassment.

Lack of focus is also an issue, especially when teens are constantly checking their phone for a reply. Cell phone usage, particularly texting, can easily become an addiction; an addiction that puts students on the losing end when schoolwork becomes secondary.

I hope that this bill will continue through legislature. Banning the possession of cell phones during school hours may not be a popular idea, but I believe that it would be of the best benefit for students, both academically and socially.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify on SCR 78.