

March 18, 2011

To: Senator Jill Tokuda  
and Members of the Senate Education Committee

From: Lindsay San Nicolas

Subject: Opposition of SCR 78

Hi, my name is Lindsay San Nicolas and I am currently attending Kalaheo High School as a senior here on Oahu and I am also a member of the Student Council (ASK). I oppose this bill and this is why. Given the fact that cell phones are a distracting device during school, the cell phone is helpful for instant contact with the student. This may be concerning to a death in the family, or other family related emergencies that may need the student's attendance or attention. Being able to call your child is faster, and also helps the school's administration team in trying to dig up the child's information, and then trying to find the child during recess and/or lunch wastes too much time.

This bill can go both ways. It has many pros and cons to it, but I believe that the benefits of keeping cell phones in school outweigh the cons. Also, the cell phone may be helpful in saving time and can be used as a memory aid. Almost every cell phone has a built-in camera that we can use to take pictures of notes read in class, or for example, in a science class where we are exposed to different types of species such as plants and animals where we will never be able to encounter anywhere else. Pictures are also very useful in step-by-step processes; where the student can review them later and better understand the procedure in mental work and/or hands-on processes. The cell phone also always has a calendar that can be used for setting agendas, reminders, and deadlines. Using this will help the student with important deadlines, and test dates. Paper-based agendas and notebooks can be easily misplaced, lost, forgotten, overlooked or even scribbled over to where you can't tell what was written.

It may be known that many students use these cell phones to start fights, or to promote a fight, but they can also be used to prevent these fights. I strongly oppose this SCR 78 and hope that this may have changed your mind. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.