

Date: 02/06/2012

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2416 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a School Attendance Working Group within the Department of Education to address issues surrounding high absentee rates in K-12 schools. Effective July 1, 2012.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) provides the following comments:

Annually, the Department distributes School Attendance Procedures via a memorandum from the Superintendent that clearly delineates procedures to be implemented by all HIDOE schools. All elementary and secondary schools are expected to adhere to the procedures outlines for taking and reporting daily attendance without school-level variations. The School Attendance Procedures provides guidelines and details to implement the following policies in Regulation 4100 Series-Admissions and Attendance:

4140 Compulsory School Attendance

4145 Admissions and Attendance

Currently, student attendance tracking is supported on a Department-wide information system, Electronic Student Information System (eSIS) and for non-eSIS Schools, Powerschool is an alternative. The Longitudinal Data System (LDS) may also be used as a reporting tool and provides for advanced analytical comparisons from eSIS data elements.

Parental notification letters are generated through eSIS or Powerschool. These letters are sent by the school to the parent or legal guardian.

Schools implement a range of interventions to address a student's attendance concerns. A truancy petition or educational neglect petition is submitted to Family Court for students with chronic absenteeism and truancy after all continuous school level interventions have been exhausted.



HB2416
RELATING TO EDUCATION
House Committee on Education

February 6, 2012

2:05 p.m.

Room 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB2416, which establishes a School Attendance Working Group within the Department of Education to address issues surrounding high absentee rates in K-12 schools. Absenteeism in schools with a high population of Native Hawaiian students is of particular interest to OHA, as this problem persists and has not been adequately addressed for decades. High absenteeism results in students dropping out of school and engaging in risky behaviors that severely compromise their chances of leading safe and productive lives and contributing to society.

OHA asks, however, that the bill be amended to include OHA's administrator or the administrator's designee as a member of the proposed School Attendance Working Group.

Therefore, OHA urges the committee to PASS HB2416, taking our proposed amendment into consideration. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this important measure.



Testimony Reference : HB 2416

Date of Hearing: Feb 6

From: Hawaii Farmers Union United

SUPPORT

Testimony:

The HFUU believes that you cannot educate a student that is not participating. With rumors that up to 1/3 of the student body is absent on any given day.....Something needs to be done.

It is encouraging to see a student representative included.

We feel that if 4H and Future Farmer of America programs were encouraged, that disenfranchised might be engaged.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak for the family farmer in Hawaii.

Glenn Martinez
HFUU President

FYI:

Hawaii Farmer Union United is the largest agriculture organization in the State of Hawaii that represents the small family farmers at the exclusion of GMO and Mega Corporation mono- crop industrial farms. With small family farmers on every island Hawaii Farmers Union is the only Grassroots farm organization where the members have direct voice.

Any testimony given to the Legislature is vetted to the membership. Often the testimony is a blend of opinions voiced directly from membership. We also encourage all individual members to submit testimony directly, particularly where there voice is different then the majority, thus all farmer voices are heard, not just the loudest.