

Date: 02/01/2012

Committee: House Education
House Labor & Public Employment

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2513 Relating to Education

Purpose of Bill: Provides flexibility to Department of Education to implement student health programs by deleting certain operational requirements established by law and deletes the requirement to adopt rules.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2513 as written. The Department currently has 254 full-time school health aide positions, one in each public school. This school year \$5,602,229 was allocated to fund these positions. Of the 254 full-time positions, ten are currently vacant. There are no school health aide positions that are less than full-time. Next school year, 2012-2013, school health aide positions will be placed in Weighted Student Formula.

The Department recognizes the unique qualities of the various communities served by our schools. Thus, schools should be able to provide health programs and services that reflect the needs of their students as well as their school community. In addition, matters regarding work schedule and leave allowances for school health aides and other personnel who provide similar services will continue to be part of the collective bargaining process.

This bill, with the proposed changes as outlined, will provide the Department with the necessary flexibility to provide student health services to meet the continually diverse needs of our student population.