

SB1172

TESTIFIER: Melanie Bailey
Kathy Bryant

To: THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

Attn: Committee on Education
Senator Tokuda, Chair
Senator Kidani, Vice Chair

Re: HB 945 RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing Date February 11, 2011 1:15pm

Testimony in Opposition with Amendments

We are in OPPOSITION to any reduction to instructional time for students in multi-track schools. However we would support an exemption to the 180 days if the instructional time stated in Act 167 is still required. We are confident that a solution can be found to meet the instructional hours in Act 167.

The intention of Act 167 was to insure the students of Hawaii receive the same amount of instructional time as those on the Mainland. The current phase of Act 167 calls for 915 hours of instructional time for Elementary Schools and 990 hours of instructional time for Secondary Schools.

This can be achieved within 170 days with an increase of 18 minutes in Elementary Schools and 20 minutes in Secondary Schools per day.

Instructional Time	Traditional-180 days	Track-170 days
Elementary School	5 hours and 5 minutes a day	5 hours and 23 minutes a day
Secondary School	5 hours and 30 minutes a day	5 hours and 50 minutes a day

We have shown that currently 32% of states instruct 6 or more hours per day, so we do not feel this is an unreasonable request.

In addition, we would like to point out that teaching ten less school days equates to 70 additional hours a year which works out to 25 minutes a day. This should provide adequate flexibility to negotiate a longer work day for track teachers in exchange for working fewer days.

We recognize the complexity of Multi-Track schools, appreciate the creative solutions that have been developed, and realize there may be additional expenses involved. This is an opportunity to discuss our long term objectives for these schools. While the discussion evolves these students deserve the same amount of instructional time as those with traditional schedules.

Of the three pieces of multi-track legislation being proposed today, we recommend SB1172 move forward amended to recognize the unique challenge of operating Multi-Track schools by allowing an exemption from 180 instructional days, but include language that specifies that the schools must meet the instructional hours as stated in Act 167. We look forward to working together to find a solution for multi-track schools without sacrificing instructional time for students.

Thank you for your time.