

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Alohamelaniebailey@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2535 on 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 6:57:01 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2535

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Melanie Bailey, Kathy Bryant
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Alohamelaniebailey@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments:

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Comments:

841 Bishop St., Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

February 26, 2012

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support of SB2535 SD1. We support the changes incorporated in SD1.

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 30 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

SB2535 SD1 states that the Department of Education will devise up to four standard bell schedules that meet the instructional time requirement for the 2014-2015 year, and a school would choose one to implement. For elementary schools, the requirement is 915 hours per year (5 hours and 5 minutes/day) and for secondary schools it is 990 hours per year (5 hours and 30 minutes/day). This would apply for all the public schools except charter schools or multi-track public schools.

The Coalition supports the bill. The four bell schedule options gives schools equitable instructional time, but at the same time, allows flexibility at the school level. For the families and students, this alignment and standardization will make understanding the bell schedules much easier. Military and other new families moving to the state will also have a much easier time understanding the schedules and all families will know that their children are receiving the minimum amount of instructional time set by law. They will also know that in addition to great teachers in the classroom, their children will be receiving an amount of instruction equal to their peers statewide and on the mainland.

Additionally, if there were standardization in bell schedules among schools in a complex or adjoining complexes, students would be able to take an AP, theatre, band or other class at another school which is not available at their home campus (online or in person). Or, an 8th grade student could take an advanced math or science class online or in person

at their nearby high school. This alignment in bell schedule would create opportunities for learning that are currently impossible with the many different schedules. As we consider 21st century learning opportunities, the aligned bell schedules may create an array of options for online, dual enrollment, and project based learning.

We would be glad to work with the legislature, department and unions to make this effort successful. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director



*Academy 21
After-School All-Stars Hawaii
*Castle Complex Community Council
Center for Civic Education
*DOE Windward District
*Faith Action for Community Equity
Fresh Leadership LLC
Girl Scouts Hawaii
*Good Beginnings Alliance
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars
*Hawai'i Charter School Network
*Hawai'i Education Matters
*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition
Hawai'i State Student Council
Hawai'i State Teachers Association
Hawai'i P-20
Hawai'i 3Rs
It's All About Kids
*INPEACE
Joint Venture Education Forum
Kamehameha Schools
*Kanu Hawai'i
Kupu A'e
*Leaders for the Next Generation
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds
*Our Public School
*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning
*Parents and Children Together
*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i
Punahou School PUEO Program
The Learning Coalition
US PACOM
University of Hawai'i College of Education
Voting Members (*)