

SB2542

Relating to Education

EDU

Date: 01/30/2012

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2542 RELATING TO EDUCATION. Education; Attendance

Purpose of Bill: Amends section 302A-1143 to specify when a student may attend a school outside of the student's district

Department's Position: The Department of Education is in support of SB2542 which specifies that a student is required to attend a school in the district where they live, unless they attend a Hawaiian language medium program, a charter school, the department grants a geographic exception, or the department mandates out-of-district attendance.

SB2542 Section 1, item (2), defines a geographic exception as something requested only by a parent, but like the language in Section 302A-1132, a guardian or other adult may have legal responsibility to send the child to school and should be entitled to request a geographic exception as well. We suggest that exception (2) be written as follows:

(2) A geographic exception to attend a school in another district is requested and granted at the discretion of the department.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB2542.



Committee: Committee on Education
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, January 30, 2012, 1:15 p.m.
Place: Room 224
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii offering comments on S.B. 2542, Relating to Education

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee on Education:

The ACLU of Hawaii supports the intent of S.B. 2542, and respectfully requests that you amend the language in section (3) to include "or federal law" to ensure that it complies with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 (Pub. L. 100-77, July 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 482, 42 U.S.C. § 11301).

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 40 years.

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Temple
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