



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/21/2014

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1925, HD1(hscr120-14) RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of education to administer the youth risk behavior survey to all public school and charter school students in odd-numbered years for grades six to twelve. Requires all private schools to administer the youth risk behavior survey to all students in odd-numbered years for grades six to twelve. Allows parents or legal guardians to exempt their child from participating in the survey.

Department's Position:

In light of our understanding that Section 1 of the bill, lines 4-8 simply codifies our current practice and lines 8-12 continues to allow active or passive parental consent, the Department of Education (Department) supports Section 1 of HB 1925 HD1. However, the Department continues to have concern with Section 3 of the bill that holds the Department responsible to administer the youth risk behavior survey to students in Charter Schools. Requiring the survey and the administration oversight should be for the State Public Charter School Commission to decide and administer, rather than the Department.

The Department is also appreciative that a Section in the bill will subsequently allow for a specific appropriation should this measure, in moving forward, increase responsibilities of the Department that will have operational and fiscal impacts. The Department would not otherwise have the means to cover such impacts under our budget appropriation.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

HB1925 HD1, RELATING TO EDUCATION

**Testimony of David Sakamoto, MD, MBA
Deputy Director, Health Resources Administration**

February 21, 2014

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of House Bill 1925 HD1
2 with reservation.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** The current cost for biennial administration of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey
4 (YRBS) and Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) is \$500,000. The DOH provides about 80% of the funding
5 through state special and federal funds. The Department of Education (DOE) funds the remaining 20%
6 of the survey administration costs. Additional data collection and possibly separate reporting for private
7 and charter schools would increase the cost of survey administration.

8 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of House Bill 1925 HD1 is to expand the administration of the
9 YRBS to include students in grades 6-12 attending private and public charter schools. HB1925 HD1
10 also modifies the consent process so that the student may participate in survey unless the parent or legal
11 guardian does not give permission (i.e., "passive permission"). Presently, the YRBS is administered
12 only to students in non-charter ("regular") public schools with secondary grades 6-12; elementary
13 schools with grade six are not included. The existing consent process requires the parent or legal
14 guardian to return the form whether or not they give permission for their child participate in the survey
15 (i.e., "active permission").

1 The DOH agrees with the intent of this bill, to increase student participation in the YRBS in
2 order to have more representative data for Hawaii’s youth population. The YRBS is used by local and
3 national public health professionals, educators, policy makers and researchers to assess the trends and
4 prevalence of health risk behaviors, evaluate policies, and support health promotion programs that are
5 designed for youth.

6 Including students from private and charter schools in the YRBS administration would provide
7 insight into the health behaviors of the approximately 20% of students who do not attend regular public
8 schools. Similarly, adopting a passive permission process could make it easier for students to participate
9 in the survey while still giving parents the opportunity to opt their children out. According to the Centers
10 for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there are 43 other states already using a passive permission
11 process for the YRBS.

12 The DOH does have some reservations about the wording of HB1925 HD1. This measure as
13 written now would require that all students in grades six to twelve at each private and public charter
14 school participate in the survey. A census is not needed to obtain representative data, would
15 substantially increase the cost of administration, and place an unnecessary burden on the schools and
16 their students. Complex sampling procedures are currently utilized to select which schools and students
17 participate in the YRBS.

18 In order to contain costs and increase the likelihood of achieving the CDC required threshold of
19 60% participation for weighted data, the department recommends that the YRBS be administered to a
20 sample of students enrolled in secondary grades 6-12 at regular, private, and charter schools – this
21 process would provide data to represent the Hawaii's students as a whole. The DOH respectfully
22 recommends the following clarifying language that would be consistent with the sampling methodology
23 that is recommended and provided through the CDC: Section 2, “(a) Private schools shall administer
24 the youth risk behavior survey to students in grades six to twelve at select schools in odd-numbered

1 years.“ (page 1, lines 17 to 18); and Section 3, “(a) The department shall administer the youth risk
2 behavior survey to students in grades six to twelve at ~~each~~ select public charter schools in odd-numbered
3 years.“ (page 2 line 10 to 12).

4 Also, the YRBS and YTS are simultaneously distributed to students as the “Hawaii School
5 Health Survey.” For ease of administration, the participant consent processes should be the same for
6 both surveys.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

February 21, 2014

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in strong support for HB1925 HD1, adding the section to allow a student to opt-out of taking the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) with parental consent.

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 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.

The Coalition likes the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) because it is a federal survey, which is widely viewed and allows Hawaii to be compared with other states and the nation. Further, the questionnaire asks specific questions about risk behavior, which may help inform the Department of Education and the Board of Education on risk behavior trends, and consequently help shape policy and planning decisions. Among the topics that are covered in the survey, bullying, physical fighting, depression and attempted suicide are of particular interest to families, with the feeling that if students do not feel safe they will not be able to learn.

As with all surveys, in order for them to be effective, an adequate response rate is critical. We learned that currently, one obstacle about the YRBS was that a parent would have to give consent for a student to take the survey. This bill allows a student not to take the survey only if there is written permission from the parent. This opt-out clause, we believe, will result in more students being able to take the survey, improving response rates. The Coalition also supports the broadening of participation to include private schools students to allow for a meaningful representation for the students of Hawaii.

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

HE'E Member List

Academy 21
After-School All-Stars Hawaii
Alliance for Place Based Learning
*Castle Complex Community Council
Center for Civic Education
Coalition for Children with Special Needs
*DOE Windward District
*Faith Action for Community Equity
Fresh Leadership LLC
Girl Scouts Hawaii
*Good Beginnings Alliance
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and
Economic Justice
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars
*Hawai'i Charter School Network
*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity
Coalition
*Hawaii State PTSA
Hawai'i State Student Council
Hawai'i State Teachers Association
Hawai'i P-20
Hawai'i 3Rs
Head Start Collaboration Office
It's All About Kids
*INPEACE
Joint Venture Education Forum
Junior Achievement of Hawaii
Kamehameha Schools
Kanu Hawai'i
Keiki to Career Kaua'i
Kupu A'e
*Leaders for the Next Generation
Learning First
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
Teach for America
The Learning Coalition
US PACOM
University of Hawai'i College of Education
YMCA of Honolulu
*Voting Member

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Daryl Selman, President
Judith F. Clark, Executive Director
Aloha House
American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
Bay Clinic, Inc.
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu
Big Island Substance Abuse Council
Blueprint for Change
Bobby Benson Center
Catholic Charities Hawaii
Child and Family Service
Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii
Courage House Hawaii
Domestic Violence Action Center
EPIC, Inc.
Family Programs Hawaii
Family Support Hawaii
Hale Kipa, Inc.
Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.
Hawaii Behavioral Health
Hawaii Student Television
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition
Hina Mauka Teen Care
Hui Malama Learning Center
Kaanalike
Kahi Mo'hala Behavioral Health
KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)
Project
Kids Hurt Too
Kokua Kalihii Valley
Life Foundation
Marimed Foundation
Maui Youth and Family Services
Palama Settlement
P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.
Parents and Children Together (PACT)
Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
REAL
Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.
Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.
Sex Abuse Treatment Center
Susannah Wesley Community Center
The Catalyst Group
The Children's Alliance of Hawaii
Waikiki Health Center
Women Helping Women
YWCA of Kauai

February 19, 2014

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
And members of the Committee on Finance

Testimony in Support of HB 1945 HD 1 Relating to Education

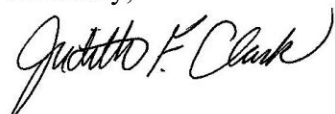
Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1925 HD 1 Relating to Education.

The Youth Behavioral Risk Assessment (YRBS) collects valuable data on the health and well-being of Hawaii's youth that cannot be obtained through other sources. I use YRBS data in successful grant applications that are currently bringing in more than \$1.5 million in federal dollars to meet the needs of Hawaii's youth and their families. YRBS helps us understand where we are doing well with our young people and how we can work with them to reduce risks and increase healthy behavior.

The bill will increase participation in the survey by allowing for passive rather than active consent. When larger numbers of students participate, the data is more accurate and valid, and it allows for data reporting on the county level rather than having only state-level data

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

To: Hawaii State House of Representatives Committee on Finance
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, February 21, 2014, 1:00 p.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 308
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii in support of H.B. 1925, HD1

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee on Finance,

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii writes in support of H.B. 1925, HD1, which will improve the return rates of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (“YRBS”) and provide a more comprehensive picture of Hawaii youth’s health-risk behaviors by increasing the number of students participating in the survey.

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii is dedicated to providing Hawaii’s people with high quality, affordable and confidential sexual and reproductive health care, education, and advocacy. To further that mission, we rely on research and data to help us to understand the needs of the community. The YRBS is a national school-based survey conducted by the U.S. Center on Disease Control designed to, among other things, determine the prevalence of health risk behaviors amongst youth.¹ Currently, public school students are asked to opt in to participate in the survey and private school students are not asked to participate at all. H.B. 1925 will ensure that more public and private students participate unless they opt out, which will increase the number of students participating in the survey and provide us with a better look at our youth’s current health state.

The YRBS has proven to be an important tool in understanding the health-risk behaviors among youth in Hawaii. For example, the YRBS has shown that Hawaii’s teens have the lowest rate of condom use in the country and the highest rate of sexually active teens using any other form of birth control.² This information helps us to determine where and how to focus our resources in order to best provide for the youth of Hawaii. By increasing the number of students participating in the survey, H.B. 1925 will give us an even more accurate look at Hawaii’s youth and help us to determine how to best meet their needs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Laurie A. Temple
Director of Public Affairs & Government Relations

¹ See <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>.

² http://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/yrbs/pdf/hiv/hi_hiv_combo.pdf.

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finance1

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 10:45 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: susan.rocco@doh.hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1925 on Feb 21, 2014 13:00PM

HB1925

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 21, 2014 13:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Rocco	Special Education Advisory Council	Comments Only	Yes

Comments: Students with disabilities often experience a higher risk of harm than their non disabled peers, particularly in the are of bullying and depression leading to suicidal thoughts or attempts. The collection of more accurate data through the changes in administration required by this legislation will aid more targeted prevention and intervention efforts.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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