



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

Date: 01/29/2014

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1925 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:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 1925. However, we must oppose this bill in light of the significant programmatic and fiscal impacts.

Section 1 of the bill impacts the Department's survey pool by expanding the sampling of grade 6-12 schools from approximately 40 percent to 100 percent of DOE schools (not inclusive of Charter Schools). The bill does not provide resources or funds for such an expansion. Through Section 3 of the bill, it also requires the Department to administer the youth risk behavior survey to students in Charter Schools whereas requiring the survey and the administration oversight should be for the State Public Charter School Commission to decide and administer, rather than the Department.

Further, the Department raises concerns with requiring the parent or legal guardian to decline, in order for the student to not participate in the survey. Currently, the Department requires the parent or legal guardian to consent to participation and without such written consent the student cannot participate in the survey. Referred to as "Active consent," this approach ensures that a parent or legal guardian has given his/her permission for their child to take part in the survey. On the other hand, as proposed in HB 1925, unless the Department receives the notice of non-participation, the student would automatically be included in the survey sampling. We believe there is a significant difference between the two approaches and would prefer the current "Active Consent" approach.

In closing, should this measure move forward, the Department will need an appropriation to effectively carry out the provisions of this bill as we would not have the means to do so 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 EDUCATION

HB1925, RELATING TO EDUCATION

Testimony of Gary L. Gill
Acting Director of Health

January 29, 2014

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

3 **Fiscal Implications:** The DOH provides about 80% of the funding through state special and federal
4 funds for the administration of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and the Youth Tobacco Survey
5 (YTS). The DOH also conducts the analysis and online reporting of the school-based surveys. The
6 Department of Education (DOE) funds the remaining 20% of the survey administration costs. Currently
7 the cost of biennial survey administration of regular public secondary schools, and reporting only at the
8 county level costs \$500,000. Additional data collection and possibly separate reporting for private and
9 charter schools would increase the cost of survey administration. Also, as written, the bill requires all
10 schools and students to participate (census); only a representative sample of students are surveyed in
11 selected schools at present.

12 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of House Bill 1925 is to expand the administration of the
13 YRBS to include private and public charter schools with grades 6-12. Currently, the YRBS is
14 administered only in non-charter ("regular") public schools with secondary grades 6-12; i.e., elementary
15 schools with grade six are not included. HB1925 also modifies the survey consent process by allowing

Promoting Lifelong Health & Wellness

1 students to participate in the YRBS unless the parent or legal guardian does not give permission (i.e.,
2 “active refusal”) for their child to participate. The current consent process requires the parent or legal
3 guardian to give permission (i.e., “active consent”) prior to student participation in the survey.

4 The DOH agrees with the intent of this bill, to increase student participation in the YRBS in
5 order to have more representative data for Hawaii’s youth population. The YRBS is used by public
6 health professionals, educators, policy makers and researchers to assess the trends and prevalence of
7 health risk behaviors, and used to evaluate health-related policies and programs. Including students from
8 private and charter schools in the YRBS administration would provide insight into the health behaviors
9 of the approximately 20% of students who do not attend regular public schools. Similarly, modifying
10 the survey consent process could make it easier to achieve the 60% minimum participation level
11 required by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to obtain weighted and representational data
12 for the student population.

13 This measure as written now would require that every school and every student participate in the
14 survey. A census of schools and their students would substantially increase the cost of administration
15 and reporting and is statistically not necessary to provide representative data on youth risk behaviors.
16 Currently, a complex sampling design is utilized to select which schools and students participate. It
17 should be noted that the cost of administering the YRBS to achieve county level data for a sample of
18 secondary students attending regular public schools only is approximately \$500,000. Funding for the
19 survey is currently derived from a combination of special and federal funds that are subject to
20 availability.

21 In order to contain costs and increase the likelihood of achieving the required threshold of 60%
22 participation, the department recommends that the YRBS be administered to a sample of students
23 enrolled in secondary grades 6-12 at regular, private, and charter schools – this process would provide
24 data to represent the Hawaii's students as a whole. The DOH respectfully recommends the following

1 clarifying language that would be consistent with the sampling methodology that is recommended and
2 provided through the CDC: “. . . shall administer the youth risk behavior survey to ~~students in grades~~
3 ~~six to twelve at each~~ at selected schools . . . “ (page 1, lines 5 to 6 and lines 17 to 18; and page 2 line 10
4 to 11).

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

8 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council

919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101

Honolulu, HI 96814

Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129

email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov

January 29, 2014

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Chair*
Ms. Martha Guinan, *Vice
Chair*

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta
Dr. Tammy Bopp
Dr. Robert Campbell
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman
Ms. Annette Cooper
Ms. Shari Dela Cuadra-Larsen,
liaison to the Superintendent
Ms. Jenny Gong
Ms. Gabriele Finn
Ms. Tami Ho
Ms. Barbara Ioli
Ms. Valerie Johnson
Ms. Deborah Kobayakawa
Ms. Bernadette Lane
Ms. Shanelle Lum
Ms. Dale Matsuura
Ms. Stacey Oshio
Ms. Zaidarene Place
Mr. Kenneth Powell
Ms. Barbara Pretty
Ms. Kau'i Rezentes
Ms. Melissa Rosen
Dr. Patricia Sheehy
Mr. Tom Smith
Ms. Lani Solomona
Dr. Daniel Ulrich
Ms. Amy Weich
Ms. Cari White
Ms. Susan Wood

Jan Tateishi, Staff
Susan Rocco, Staff

Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair
House Committee on Education
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 1925 - Relating to Education

Dear Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **supports** HB 1925 that requires all schools, including charter and private schools, to administer the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) to middle and high school students every other year.

The YRBS is part of a national surveillance system with a proven track record of monitoring behaviors among youth that pose a risk to their physical and mental well-being. It monitors violence on campus, bullying and cyberbullying, unsafe sexual practices, substance abuse, physical inactivity and obesity. Students with disabilities often experience a higher risk of harm than their nondisabled peers, particularly in the area of bullying and depression leading to suicidal thoughts or attempts.

This legislation will result in a more accurate measure of student health in Hawaii by requiring all middle and high school students to participate unless their parents provide a written request to opt out. Currently, students' parents have to provide permission (opt in) to take the survey, thus significantly reducing participation. More accurate data will result in more targeted prevention and early intervention programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair



Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

To: Hawaii State House of Representatives Committee on Education
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, January 29, 2014, 2:00 p.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 309
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii in support of H.B. 1925

Dear Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee on Education,

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii writes in support of H.B. 1925, 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.

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 all 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.

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 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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1350 S. King Street, Suite 310
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808-589-1149

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357 Rice Street, Suite 101
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808-482-2756

KONA
Hualalai Medical Center
75-184 Hualalai Road, Suite 205
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
808-329-8211

MAUI
Kahului Office Center
140 Ho’ohana Street, Suite 303
Kahului, HI 96732
808-871-1176



HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 531-2198 Fax: (808) 534-1199

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

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

January 23, 2014

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
And members of the Committee on Education

Testimony in Support of HB 1945 Relating to Education

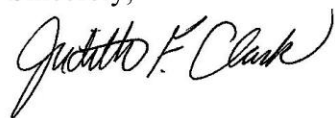
Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1925 Relating to Education.

The Youth Behavioral Risk Assessment collects valuable data on the health and well-being of Hawaii's youth that cannot be obtained through other sources.

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



COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S COUNCIL OF HAWAII
1177 Alakea Street · B-100 · Honolulu · HI · 96813
TEL: (808) 586-5363 · TOLL FREE: 1-800-437-8641 · FAX: (808) 586-5366

January 28, 2014

Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair
Chairs of the Education Committee – State Capitol

RE: HB1925 – Relating to Education
Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

Dear Representative Takumi and Vice-Chair Ohno and Members of the Committee,

The 17 Community Children's Councils (CCCs) **strongly supports** HB1925. 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. The YRBS is a part of a national surveillance system with a proven track record of monitoring behaviors among youth that pose a risk to their physical and mental well-being.

The 17 Community Children's Councils (CCCs) are community-based bodies comprised of parents, professionals in both public and private agencies and other interested persons who are concerned with specialized services provided to Hawaii's students. Membership is diverse, voluntary and advisory in nature. The CCCs are in rural and urban communities organized around the Complexes in the Department of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testimony if there are any questions or you need further information please contact us at 586-5370

Sincerely yours

Tom Smith, Co-Chair

Jessica Wong-Sumida, Co-Chair

(Original signatures are on file with the CCCO)

841 Bishop St., Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

House Committee on Education
Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

January 29, 2014

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in strong support for HB1925, 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.

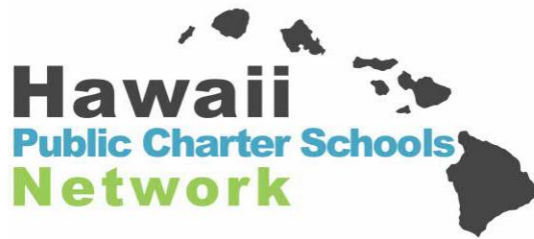
Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration. Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our membership.

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
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 State House of Representatives
Committee on Education

DATE: Wednesday, January 29, 2014

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 309, Hawaii State Capitol

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno and members of the House Education Committee,

Re: HB1925 – No position at this time, comments only

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on HB1745. Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network (HPCSN) is committed to quality education for all public school students in Hawaii through our work with Hawaii's public charter schools.

Although we would agree with the intent of this bill as it collects important information, there is an overburdening of data collection efforts for public schooling at this time that we would also like you to factor into your decision

Mahalo for your support of Hawaii's public students, their families and public charter schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Finnegan". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lynn Finnegan
Executive Director