

SB239

Relating to Education

EDU, WAM



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

Date: 02/06/2013

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0239 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Purpose of Bill: Moves the framework for establishing an annual conference of secondary school students from chapter 317, HRS, to chapter 302A, HRS. Removes the governor's authority to appoint members of the student conference committee. Clarifies that the student conference advisory committee will provide guidance to the student conference committee in carrying out its purpose and duties. Repeals the mandatory legislator and department of education membership and instead clarifies that the department of education shall maintain guidelines and procedures for selecting the student conference advisory committee. Clarifies that the annual student conference is subject to program and funding limitations and removes the three day limit. Repeals the requirement for an evaluation report on student conference proceedings. Repeals chapter 317, HRS.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education supports SB 239. It provides much needed clarity to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 317 in regards to the framework and advisory committee's role for the annual conference of secondary school students. This bill also repeals the requirement of an annual evaluation report of the student conference proceedings.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: ckim97hi@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB239 on Feb 6, 2013 15:00PM
Date: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 8:50:10 PM

SB239

Submitted on: 2/5/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 6, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Kim	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The Secondary Student Conference has truly impacted my life in ways unfathomable. It has opened up groundbreaking opportunities that have molded my future career options and it has provided insight in the law-making process, an important process that all democratic citizens should know and understand.

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6 January 2013

To: Whom it may Concern

From Alana Laanui

Subject: Support for Senate Bill 239

Aloha, I am Alana Laanui from Maryknoll High School and I am in strong support for SB 239.

I strongly support Senate Bill 239 because of the benefits I personally received from attending the Secondary Student Conference. As a planner I had the opportunity to learn valuable skills and meet people that have truly impacted my life. Being able to inspire fellow high school students to write their own personal resolutions on their passions was a truly gifting experience. SSC has truly made an impact on my life, and has inspired me to seek further education in college in political science. This experience was truly unique and unmatched by any other program.

I believe that all of the future leaders of Hawaii should be able to experience this program. It allows students to find their voice and more importantly their passion. By giving those valuable experiences such as lobbying and public speaking this program generates future citizens who will be civically engaged. The benefits to this program are limitless and by not having SSC it is an injustice to all of those who were not able to experience it.



HAWAII STATE STUDENT COUNCIL
475 22nd Avenue, Room 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

February 05, 2013

TO: Jill Tokuda, Chairperson
Michelle Kidani, Vice Chairperson
Hawaii State Senate Education Committee

FROM: *Keagan Sakai-Kawada*
Keagan Sakai-Kawada, Chairperson
Hawaii State Student Council

SUBJECT: Support Senate Bill No. 239

As a Hawaii State Student Council (HSSC) representative for the last three years I have witnessed the effective implementation of the annual Hawaii Secondary Student Conference (SSC) and the positive impact it has had on the student delegate attendees. Therefore, I submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 239 on behalf of the HSSC with the belief that SSC should continue to serve as a legislative opportunity for young adults in Hawaii.

For many years, the HSSC and SSC Planning Committee have maintained a positive and cooperative working relationship. Each year, one HSSC representative from each public school district has been provided the opportunity to attend SSC. Together these representatives have served as a body of support for the public school students of Hawaii, writing resolutions concerning statewide student concerns and testifying on the students' behalf. In addition, HSSC has provided a member from the Council to serve as a liaison on the SSC Planning Committee.

After returning to SSC in 2011 for a second legislative opportunity, I felt that the conference was in need of internal improvements to strengthen the delegate experience. Past state conferences had yielded poorly written resolutions with insubstantial research, which negatively reflected on Hawaii's young adults. However, with the recent implementation of research investigative strategies as a means of encouraging more in depth background explorations, resolutions have shown considerable improvement.

Each year the SSC Planning Committee, consisting of student leaders and adult advisors, evaluates the planning and execution of the conference as a whole. Through late night evaluation sessions that take place every evening of SSC, the Planning Committee has identified flaws in the implementation of the conference. However, such evaluations have resulted in stronger and more effective conferences in following years. As the SSC program undergoes extensive changes and reforms this school year, HSSC believes that it will continue to prosper as a positive program for the students of Hawaii. As a public service and legislative experience, SSC will persist in its efforts to encourage the youth of Hawaii to take a greater and more substantial role in civic action.



HAWAII STATE STUDENT COUNCIL
475 22ND AVENUE, RM. 211
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

February 5, 2013

Bill No. SB 239

Testimony in Support of the Secondary Student Conference

Senate Committee on Education

Aloha Honorable Chair, Senator Jill Tokuda, Honorable Vice Chair, Senator Michelle Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Education,

My name is Samantha Kubota and I am a Junior at Hilo High School serving as both the school First Vice President and the Hawaii State Student Council (HSSC) representative. I am testifying in support of the Secondary Student Conference.

I believe the Secondary Student Conference (SSC) is of extreme importance to students throughout the state of Hawaii. Our students need SSC. It gives them the opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings on the way our governments are run. It gives them not only a voice, but also an identity. These student leaders can finally do something they feel is important, while experiencing the way of our government firsthand.

However, the SSC does not only give student leaders a purpose. It also inspires our youths to pursue careers in government and political sciences. One of the friends I met through HSSC (representing Maui High School) recently told me about how his entire life has been changed by SSC. He thinks very highly about the SSC program and strongly supports it as an influential branch of student leadership. In spite of all the great (and many) achievements my friend has ever had in his life, he is most proud to have been part of SSC. Because of SSC, he has decided to pursue a career in political sciences. His passion for SSC inspired him to reach out and try other government centered programs, such as HSSC. It has always been said that our children are the future of tomorrow. By supporting them, we are ensuring a better, stronger future for everyone in Hawaii.

I strongly believe that the SSC is important to the children of Hawaii and a worthwhile cause. The experience is what made the program so influential. Honestly, how many Hawaii students are able to draft up bills that could change the future? Not many. These

students involved in SSC will move on to do great things in life, as evidenced by many achievements of several alumni SSC before them.

I hope you consider these points while determining the future of SSC. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

To: Jill Tokuda, Chairperson
Michelle Kidani, Vice Chairperson
Members of the Education Committee

From: Hannah Carnes, Kalaheo High School

Subject: Support of SB239, Relating to Education

Aloha! My name is Hannah Carnes and I am currently a Junior at Kalaheo High School in Kailua. I strongly support Senate Bill 239 and ask you to do the same.

I have spent the past two years of my high school career assisting my fellow student leaders to prepare for the Secondary Student Conference, and in those years I noticed one thing. These students weren't participating in the conference because they had to, but because they wanted to. They wanted to make a difference in our community, and they saw the Secondary Student Conference as a vessel to complete that objective. What reason is there to take this opportunity from them? If students are willing to take the initiative to attend this conference, they should also be able to take the initiative to be the primary planners of it. While I do understand the need for adult supervision, this conference needs the right kind of supervision. That supervision should come in the form of those who have prior experience with the conference. Not people who know nothing of the purpose or format of the conference, and are only overseeing it because they were appointed by the governor.

In this world, everyone has a job to do, and they should be doing the job they know best. Our students deserve to be able to both plan and attend this conference for many years to come. But we can't do it alone. We need your help. By passing this bill you are supporting the future of the secondary students of Hawaii in our endeavors to better our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I truly hope you will take our statements into account when you make your decision.



Hawaii State Student Council – Secondary Student Conference Planning Committee

Date: February 5th, 2013

To: Honorable Chair Senator Jill N. Tokuda,
Honorable Vice Chair Senator Michelle N. Kidani, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

From: Jared Sam Agtunong
Maui High School, Grade 12
Hawaii State Student Council Representative
Secondary Student Conference Planner, Maui School District

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 239, Secondary Schools Student Conference

Aloha, my name is Jared Sam Agtunong, a current Senior at Maui High School, serving as its Associated Student Body Vice-President, the school's representative aboard the Hawaii State Student Council, and the Maui School District Planner on the Secondary Student Conference Planning Committee. On behalf of the Hawaii State Student Council, SSC Planning Committee and the many individuals who have been impacted by SSC, I strongly stand in support of Senate Bill 239 in relation to the Secondary School Students Conference (SSC) because of its impact upon my life and many of my peers, and would like to ask for your support on this legislation.

In 1970, the Secondary Student Conference was signed into law by Governor John A. Burns and later incorporated into the Hawaii Revised Statutes as chapter 317 in order to provide secondary school students both public and private across the State of Hawaii an opportunity to voice their concerns on issues that affect their communities and school education; while also allowing these students to familiarize themselves with the legislative process and be an active participant in democracy.

To give you a glimpse of how SSC impacted my life. Looking back and reflecting upon my high school career, my passion for government and to relentlessly serve my school community and island community started with Student Council and more specifically SSC. My sophomore year in high school I had the amazing opportunity to represent my school as a delegate in the 2010 SSC. There, I was so inspired to learn and see the foundations in which our government stood upon as I earnestly learned the legislative

process and marveled at a place where the very laws that affect the land I live in are made.

A spark was lit, and a passion grew, my Junior Year I served as an SSC Planner representing the Maui School District. Not only has this program taught me how our government works but more importantly has taught me the meaning of what a servant leader is and making a positive difference. Being an SSC planner was truly an uneasy job but a capacity that I found truly worthwhile and a blessing to have been in. The countless hours and weekends; spent revising and perfecting student produced resolutions, teaching delegates the legislative process, and preparing for the actual conference itself in the end was well worth it. For seeing my conference delegates from Maui and those who represented each school across the state as well, be inspired by our government, and passionately stand on the issues that they have worked so hard to voice, led me to tears, for I know that my time and exerted effort has truly sparked a flame of servant leadership in the lives of others.

This conference is not a one-time experience but more of an educational journey over the course of a few months. Conference delegates are introduced to the legislative process, research and draft bills on issues that concern them and their peers the most and later on debate and vote on such resolutions on the actual senate floor at the Hawaii State Capitol. This experience, in some way leaves a lasting impact on everyone who takes part in SSC.

This impact can be represented in a flame, a fire, and a relentless passion to be servant leaders that make a positive difference in our society, a spark that started at SSC and now a blazing fire affecting many lives. In all honesty, I would not be the person that I am today if it were not for this conference, its impact was so great that the flame of many others including me started here at SSC. A prime example is Senator Jill Tokuda who currently represents Hawaii's 24th State Senatorial District, in high school she served as an SSC Planner herself, and there a spark for a passion to make difference for Windward Oahu and the people of Hawaii. Many SSC alumni today are passionate Student Council Officers, college students majoring in Political Science, or even actual Politicians or community leaders themselves today.

We cannot fathom the many lives the Hawaii Secondary Student Conference has touched to date. For many, that spark was lit to empower and challenge individuals to serve and make a difference in society, and it is this sense that we must keep the flame and spirit of SSC alive. On behalf of HSSC, the SSC Planning Committee, and the many SSC alumni, I thank you for taking the time for reading my testimony and truly do hope that you stand in support of Senate Bill 239 and keep the spirit and flame of this conference alive.

Mahalo,

Jared Sam Agtunong

Jared Sam Agtunong
SSC Planning Committee, Maui School District Planner