



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 2410(hscr250-14) RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the Board of Education to develop and the Department of Education to implement a pilot program to assist students in achieving annual goals under the Common Core State Standards. Requires the Board of Education to provide web-based data and information aimed at improving student outcomes. Effective July 1, 2014.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) appreciates the intent of HB 2410 to support public education in Hawaii and offers the following comments and concerns.

Section 2:

For the Committee's information, the Department is already communicating the information contained in this bill, via our webpage. Further, as the information we share through our webpage is fluid, such specificity by the proposed new statutory section may be too rigid and could hamper the department's communication efforts. Through our webpage the Department continues to increase its engagement efforts with its audiences, both external and internal.

The hawaiipublicschools.org website provides public information about: (a) School Community Councils efforts to increase community engagement; (b) federal and state fund allocations to each school; (c) the Department's Plan of Organization; (d) average student-to-teacher ratio as noted in the School Status and Improvement (SSIR) report; (e) school academic plans describing their strategies for achieving Common Core State Standards goals and targets; and (f) Strive HI System Targets explain a school's internal evaluation of its success. Once released, the results of the Smarter Balanced Assessments will be posted online. Moving forward, it is the Department's goal to expand its website support to school sites to exhibit and provide the requested applicable links.

The newly launched intranet site allows the Department's offices to share a wealth of useful and timely information for educators and support staff. The Department's Office of Human Resources intranet site has included general information on how an educator can reclassify for pay increases. During its Professional Learning Community meetings with the 15 Complex Area Support Team representatives, the Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Student Support

will vet teacher support practices, research-based best practices to improve student learning, teacher-parent communication practices, and other support services information to share on its webpage.

Section 3:

The Department believes that programs are already in place in lieu of the proposed pilot program. All Hawaii public schools are implementing the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in English language arts and mathematics in kindergarten through grade 12. These internationally-benchmarked standards provide clear and rigorous expectations for what all students should learn at each grade level to graduate ready to succeed in college and careers. School Year (SY) 2013-14 marks year 3 of the Department's Common Core Plan to ensure continuous improvements in student achievement as evidenced by test scores. The Smarter Balanced Assessments will be administered in SY 2014-15 in grades 3-8 and 11. Support systems are of the highest priority for students, teachers and administrators and are built into our Strategic Plan. Therefore, provisions of Section 3, proposed as Session Law but still having the force and effect of law, would appear to be mandates that may not be necessary at this time.

In closing, the Department appreciates the intent behind this measure and the associated generous funding. The Department's Supplemental Budget Request similarly address such priorities and our Strategic Plan and we ask for your support of that measure.

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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 offering comments to HB2410, in particular, Section 2, Department website; student performance; and pedagogy.

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 believes that communication between schools and families is critical, and that good communication can foster positive relationships, and ultimately improve support for students. Therefore, we like that the bill promotes providing more web-based information to families and the community. However, mandating the list items described in Section 2 (a), on a single webpage on the department's official website, we feel, is too prescriptive and inefficient. We hear that most students, families and community members refer to their local school websites as a primary means of getting relevant school information. However, at present, although most schools have their own website, they vary in design, content and purpose. Assisting the schools, either with complex-based staff or additional resources for IT, to provide support in linking clearly to the state website (which has an excellent amount of information) with guidance on where to find key resources, and to improve their individual websites would be very helpful. Another suggestion is to create a template for school websites so that there could be some consistency in design and key information. In addition, many secondary schools have online grading platforms such as Jupiter Grades or Edline, which allow schools to share weekly updates on student performance. These platforms also have an array of communication tools, which are often underutilized by schools and could provide another forum and tool for communicating important school and State based information. We think that improving school-based communication is one issue that the Board of Education should closely look at when developing communication policies.

We also like the intent of Section 2 (b), which promotes an internal intranet to help teachers better communicate with their peers on best practices. We hear that teachers would welcome such a mechanism so that they can collaborate with their colleagues. However, the list of items described, we feel, is too narrow would be difficult to implement.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

LATE



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TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 2410, RELATING TO EDUCATION

**House Committee on Finance
Hon. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Hon. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Hon. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair**

**Friday, February 21, 2014, 1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

Honorable Chair Luke and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 175 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of, with proposed amendments for House Bill 2410, relating to education.

This bill would require the Board of Education to develop and the Department of Education to implement a pilot program to assist students in achieving annual goals under the Common Core State Standards Initiative, while also requiring the BOE to provide web-based data and information aimed at improving student outcomes. The pilot program envisioned in Section 3 of the bill would, we feel, provide an opportunity to evaluate the consonance of CCSSI implementation with comprehensive learning growth assessments and Strive HI metrics. By focusing on early detection of student challenges, the pilot would additionally allow educators to identify and address problem areas at an early stage, ensuring programmatic discrepancies do not impact professional accountability. Put simply, as the department moves toward the simultaneous implementation of high stakes teacher and administrator evaluations and new curriculum standards, it is important to ensure that struggles implementing the latter do not unfairly impact the former.

That said, we note that the webpage called for in Section 2 of the bill encapsulates a significant amount of data that the department already collects and makes available, including AC-FIN reports, student achievement measures, Strive

HI results, class size statistics, and more. Rather than compile all such data on a single *webpage* (as opposed to a *website*), for ease of access it may be more practical to provide direct hyperlinks to school-level data at a single source, with the data hosted on other pages. Accordingly, we encourage the committee to amend page 2, lines 11 to 15 to read: “302A- Department website; student performance; pedagogy. (a) The board, in collaboration with stakeholders deemed necessary by the department, shall provide on a single webpage on the departments official website, **access to** information for each public school, including the following...”. Additionally, we encourage the committee to task the DOE with development of the pilot program (given the department's role in managing and facilitating education reforms systemwide) and mandate inclusion of exclusive representatives—specifically HSTA and HGEA—in the design of the pilot program to ensure compliance with contractual obligations. This can be accomplished by amending page 4, lines 17 to 21 to read: **The department, in collaboration with all appropriate exclusive representatives and other stakeholders deemed necessary,** shall develop a pilot program...”. To include the bargaining units representing teachers and education officers in the design of the pilot program, a similar change would be required on page 6, lines 4 to 8. Finally, we urge the committee to replace references to “the board” and “the board of education” to “the department” on pages 4, 5, and 6 to reflect departmental oversight and reporting requirements.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director

FIN-Jo

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 5:02 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2410 on Feb 21, 2014 13:00PM*

HB2410

Submitted on: 2/20/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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