

SB2922

School Year; School Days;

Instructional Hours

EDU, WAM



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

Date: 01/31/2014

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2922 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the lengthening of the school year from 180 days to 190 days beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. Discontinues the requirements for minimum number of student hours effective at the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education appreciates the intent of this bill to improve our public education system and to increase the number of instructional days to provide more flexibility on the school level than the current law allows. If, with the assistance of the Legislature and other stakeholders, we can overcome the following concerns the Department will be both operationally and fiscally able to implement this measure:

- An increase in the instructional days or as described in the bill as an extension of the school year, to 190 days would have an impact on multiple employees including teachers at the school, complex area and state level, vice-principals, educational assistants, school health aids, school security attendants, and school food service managers. Such impacts include work year, salaries, pay schedules, and additional paid holidays, among other things, that would need to be negotiated with the various exclusive representatives of the affected bargaining units. For example, the current 2013-2017 agreement with the Hawaii State Teachers Association includes a maximum of a 190-day work year that includes 10 days without students (4 days at the beginning of the school year; 1 day between semesters; 1 day at the end of the school year, 1 day for Teacher Institute Day, 2 planning and collaboration days, and 1 day converted to 6 hours to use in ½ hour increments contiguous to the work day). An increase to 190 instructional days would require either the elimination of those 10 days without students (many of which are critical days for teachers' planning, collaboration and professional growth) or an extension of the employees' work year, all of which would require a change to the collective bargaining agreement.
- As indicated above, the current agreement with the Hawaii State Teachers Association is for the period 2013-2017. The proposed increase in the number of instructional days is to take effect with SY 2015-2016. Unless a change can be made to the current collective bargaining agreement the requirements of this bill cannot be met.

- Aside from the issues that would require collective bargaining, the Department must also be prepared to support other increases in costs that would arise from increasing the number of instructional days. In addition to salaries there also would be a need to cover daily operational costs of education including, but not limited to, student transportation, lunch, utilities and other student support services such as those provided for students with disabilities.

We appreciate your consideration of the concerns raised and thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Legislative Director

TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 2922, RELATING TO EDUCATION

**Senate Committee on Education
Hon. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

**Friday, January 31, 2014, 1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 414**

Honorable Chair Tokuda and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMU Alliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 175 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 2922, relating to education.

In May of 2013, the Hawaii State Department of Education scaled back its pilot of extended learning time for low-performing schools in designated “zones of innovation,” signaling a need to ensure that ELT reforms are targeted, strategic, and focused on specific classroom settings, learning objectives, and student populations. While intended as an alternative mode of empowering schools to meet student instructional hours (990 by 2015-2016, 1080 by 2016-2018), this bill would compromise the current BOE-HSTA master agreement by mandating instructional time and academic calendar increases outside of collective bargaining. Teacher pay is broken down on a per diem basis. If teachers are going to be performing additional days of service, they must be fairly compensated for their additional efforts. Thus, we feel that any extension of the academic calendar should take place within the context of collective bargaining, ensuring that teachers' exclusive representative, HSTA, has an opportunity to seek salary and benefit enhancements commensurate with the scope and extent of the increased workload. Moreover, at a time when the state is implementing multiple costly and underfunded education reforms—teacher evaluations, Common Core State Standards Initiative, and public-private preschool partnerships, to name just a few—this proposal may prove to be an unnecessary strain on perpetually scarce educational resources.

If the committee wishes to explore the possible impact of extending the academic calendar on teacher recruitment and retention, student achievement, collective bargaining, and state budgetary resources, we urge the committee to do so in the form of a resolution calling on stakeholders to discuss the idea and report findings, including suggestions for possible legislation, before the opening of next year's biennium.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in opposition to this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION

DATE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2014
RE: S.B. 2922 – RELATING TO EDUCATION
PERSON TESTIFYING: WIL OKABE
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Wil Okabe
President
Joan Kamila Lewis
Vice President
Colleen Pasco
Secretary-Treasurer
Alvin Nagasako
Executive Director

The Honorable Chair Jill Tokuda, The Honorable Vice-Chair Michelle Kidani and the Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **offers the following comments to S.B. 2922, Relating to lengthening the school year and discontinuing the requirements for instructional hours.**

HSTA is the exclusive representative of more than 13,500 public and charter school teachers statewide. As the state affiliate of the 3.2 million members of the National Education Association, HSTA strongly affirms its collective bargaining process.

We raise concerns about the collective bargaining implications of this bill requiring all public schools to lengthen the school year from one hundred eighty to one hundred ninety.

We believe that the Board of Education should set the minimum number of instructional hours/days in a year for students, while the number of instructional hours/days for teachers is clearly a subject of collective bargaining.

We also believe as public employees, we have constitutional rights to negotiate the core subjects of wages, hours, and conditions of employment.

Keep in mind that if the minimum number of student instructional hours increases in a year, the teacher's work year will also need to be increased.

Studies show that a simple "one size fits all" allocation of time will not result in mastery learning for most students. Teachers place a value on the process of allowing time to carefully plan lessons, provide quality-teaching time, and time to assess learning.

HSTA strongly affirms its position with the Board of Education to negotiate the lengthening of the school year.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on **S.B. 2922**

SB2922

Submitted on: 1/28/2014

Testimony for EDU on Jan 31, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Todd Hairgrove | Individual | Support | No |

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