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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2922 on Feb 27, 2014 09:00AM*
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SB2922

Submitted on: 2/26/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments:

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TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 2922, SD1, RELATING TO EDUCATION

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hon. David Y. Ige, Chair
Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

**Thursday, February 27, 2014, 9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

Honorable Chair Ige 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 opposition to Senate Bill 2922, SD1, 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



Senate Ways and Means Committee

February 27, 2014

SB2922: Testimony in Opposition with proposed Amendments Submitted by: Melanie Bailey and Kathy Bryant

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Committee,

Please do not delete the minimum hours instructional time goals for our students.

We would like to start by commending the Department, principals and SCCs who have been working diligently to comply with the initial phase of this law and are making great progress statewide. It has not been easy, and we want to acknowledge their efforts. Also, it should be noted that the compliance will take place within the existing contract at no additional cost.

In researching the most current data on instructional time in states across the nation, we find that our minimum instructional time, particularly at the secondary level (even with the increase to 990 hr/yr beginning in 2014-15), is still below the minimum time in the majority of states.

As such, we oppose the elimination of the next phase, section (d) of the bill, which further increases the minimum student instructional time.

We request the following amendments which we believe will assist with the next phase.

- 1. Push the implementation of the 1080 (6 hours/day) to the 2018-2019 school year.** This will give the department four years to adjust to the first phase (5 hours-30 min/day) and give the stake holders time to negotiate any necessary contract changes.
- 2. We support having the Board redefine Instructional Time.**
- 3. We support 190 school days.**

BACKGROUND:

Act 167, establishing a minimum number of student Instructional Hours and days per year, was passed in 2010 for three primary purposes:

1. Prevent future furloughs for students.
2. Provide instructional time equity between Hawaii students and their mainland peers.
3. Establish transparency and clarity in the definition and amount of instructional time provided by each school.

Act 167 sent a clear message to the community, that the legislature takes education seriously and that reduction of student instructional time would never again be compromised due to budget issues. All Hawaii students would receive the same amount of instructional time as their peers on the mainland. All Hawaii families would know that their child receives the same amount of instruction as every other student in the state.

In 2009, with the implementation of furlough Fridays, it became apparent that student classroom time could be a negotiable budget item. Without a state mandate to protect student instructional time or number of days, the state and unions could adjust the number to meet budget requirements. Act 167 protected students instructional time and made it non-negotiable.

During discussions regarding the increase to 1080 hours, it was always suggested that this increase to a 6 hour student day, could require an increase in teacher time, requiring a funding increase from the legislature. For that reason it was originally targeted at the year of a teacher's contract negotiation.

Finally, Act 167 was implemented to bring transparency and clarity to student instructional time statewide. At the time of implementation research from elementary and secondary schools, showed that student instructional time varied considerably, particularly at the secondary level. This, despite the fact, that Hawaii operates as one school district, with one funding source and one contract for all teachers statewide. Now, after four years of research and information gathering, the DOE and the schools are all moving to successfully comply with the law by the 2014-15 school year. This is a great accomplishment, one that should be acknowledged and appreciated. It was also accomplished without additional resources and within the current contract.

Pushing the implementation date forward would align the increase in student instructional time with the next contract negotiation. This would allow the Department and the unions to address any additional costs associated with the increase in instructional time.

Finally, the law does allow for schools to seek a waiver from the BOE. This is an important and valuable option for schools that can demonstrate a need to be exempt.

We encourage you to consider our proposed amendment and we look forward to working with the Committee and the DOE on this issue.

Thank you.