



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

Date: 02/04/2015
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309
Committee: House Education
House Higher Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0014 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Applies the requirement for all public secondary schools to implement a school year that includes 990 student instructional hours to all school years beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. Repeals the requirement that by the 2016-2018 school years, all public schools implement a school year of 180 days and 1,080 student instructional hours for both elementary and secondary school grades. Clarifies that the definition of "student instructional hours" shall be determined by the board of education in consultation with the exclusive representatives of the appropriate bargaining units.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education offers the following comments on the proposed legislation:

- 1) Elimination of definition of "student instructional hours": The Department supports the bill's elimination of the definition of "student instructional hours" and the directive that the Board of Education provide that definition. The lack of consistency in interpretations of student learning time between the Department and Hawaii State Teachers Association creates confusion and subsequent burden on educators.
- 2) Delayed requirement of 990 instructional hours for secondary schools to School Year (SY) 2015-16: While the Department supports the bill's intention to delay the 990 instructional hours requirement from SY 2014-15 to SY 2015-16, schools are already implementing this requirement.
- 3) Elimination of increased requirements to 1080 instructional hours annually: The Department supports the bill's elimination of the required increases to 1080 instructional hours. It is a challenge for schools to meet the requirements in the context of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement and the Department's budget.

The Department would support replacement of minimum *instructional* hours requirements with a minimum *school* hours requirement to provide an alternative way to ensure equity for student learning time across the state.

4) Elimination of planning for extension of school year to 190 days: The Department supports the elimination of the planning for an extension of the school year from 180 days to 190 days.

Implementing an extension of the school year requires multiple years of planning and coordination to address its impact on every aspect of school and system budget and operations. An extension of the school year impacts costs associated with salaries, daily operational costs of education (including, but not limited to, student transportation, lunch, and utilities) and student support services, such as those provided for students with disabilities, and fringe costs. The Department estimates it would cost \$55 million annually to extend the school by 10 days.

Furthermore, issues including work year, salaries, and pay schedules would need to be negotiated with the affected collective 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). An increase to 190 days with students would require either the elimination of those 10 days without students (which are critical days for teachers' planning, collaboration and professional growth) or a change to the collective bargaining agreement to extend the teacher work year to 200 days.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION AND ON HIGHER EDUCATION

DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2015

RE: H.B. 14 - 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 Chairs Roy Takumi and Isaac Choy, the Honorable Vice-Chairs Takashi Ohno and Linda Ichiyama and the Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **opposes H.B. 14**, relating to instructional time.

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 believes that schools need air conditioning and that the condition of the schools physical plant impacts the health, safety, and welfare of students and staff members.

Since the passage of Act 167, (Session Laws of Hawaii 2010) schools across Hawaii have been working towards implementing a bell schedule to conform to Act 167. Numerous meetings, time, and plans have been spent in order to implement Act 167/52 by the teachers and school officials. The Department of Education (DOE) has also tried to manage a plethora of different bell schedules which all resulted in numerous changes, redefining definitions of instructional time, and revised DOE memos stating issues and errors.

We recognize the intent of this bill is to mitigate any further increase in instructional minutes. This is essential, because any increase at this point would become yet another unfunded mandate for teachers and schools to address.

Unfortunately, it does not go far enough as schools have already been put in the position of creating “frankensteins-schedules” that have either increased class sizes or forced schools to become “creative” in determining what instructional time means.

We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure some level of basic scheduling consistency while providing the schools the flexibility needed to promote student success in their unique learning communities.

As such, at this time we cannot support this bill and continue to support a full repeal of Act 167.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **opposition to H.B. 14.**



Randy Perreira
President

HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

345 Queen Street, Suite 500 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Twenty-Eighth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Telephone: (808) 597-1441
Fax: (808) 593-2149

Testimony by
Hawaii State AFL-CIO
February 4, 2015

H.B. 14 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

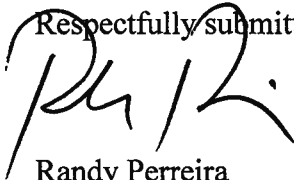
The Hawaii State AFL-CIO opposes H.B. 14 which applies the requirement for all public secondary schools to implement a school year that includes 990 student instructional hours to all school years beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, repeals the requirement that by the 2016-2018 school years, all public schools implement a school year of 180 days and 1,080 student instructional hours for both elementary and secondary school grades and clarifies that the definition of "student instructional hours" shall be determined by the board of education in consultation with the exclusive representatives of the appropriate bargaining units.

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO strongly supports a top-tier public educational system for all of our keiki. We know a good quality education is important to our parents, teachers, and keiki alike and we know investments in our keiki will payoff for future generations.

As a result, no one wants to see our keiki fail and therefore, various policies are proposed and a number of bills are adopted to see that our keiki are provided the best opportunities possible. Sometimes, some well-intentioned policies are proposed or adopted that don't necessarily improve our school system. Unfortunately, H.B. 14 – while well-intentioned does not necessarily improve the success of our school children. Finland, often regarded as having one of the best public educational systems in the world only requires students to have roughly 600 instructional school hours per year. That is nearly 400 instructional school hours less than Hawaii and yet Finland school children thrive. This is partly attributed to teachers having more time in the classroom preparing lesson plans and being able to spend more time on professional development.

Further, we believe Hawaii has many unique communities and a "one size fits all" approach does not necessarily work for determining instructional school hours. Some schools may have a shortage of teachers, while other schools may be overcrowded and in the end best determined by the school administrators.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
President

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

February 4, 2014

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for HB822 on student instructional hours.

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.

Act 167/52, 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 among Hawaii students and their mainland peers
3. Establish transparency and clarity in the definition and amount of instructional time provided by each school

Hawaii is unique; the only state that is one school district, with one funding source, and one union contract for all teachers. This should help ensure that equity exists across the state. Instructional time for students should be no different. Prior to the law, there was great disparity especially in secondary schools on instructional time for students. The law has helped bring schools in line. Therefore, we support the first phase of the law, which requires 180 days and 915 and 990 student instructional hours per year for elementary and secondary schools, respectively.

We agree with eliminating the second phase of the law which requires an increase of all schools to 1080 student instructional hours a year from 2016, in particular, because schools will be challenged with another change in schedules and because schools will not have the financial resources to support the increase in instructional time. However, we also recognize that 1080 student instructional hours per year is average across states, especially in the secondary years (see table attached). Therefore, Hawaii at 915 and 990 hours per year is below national averages.

We also agree with the bill which has the Board of Education in consultation with representatives of collective bargaining units define student instructional time; we recommend that the definition be broadened to give more flexibility to schools with the goal of creating schedules that are best for student learning.

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

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

Academy 21
After-School All-Stars Hawaii
Alliance for Place Based Learning
*Castle Complex Community Council
*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS
Center for Civic Education
Coalition for Children with Special Needs
*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
*Kaho'omiki
Kamehameha Schools
Kanu Hawai'i
*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council
Keiki to Career Kaua'i
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 Members () Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*

While there is not new research to report on this front, the following table has been updated to reflect a change in one state's policies. It is based on research from a Spring 2013 report from the National Center on Teaching and Learning – *Learning Time in America: Trends to Reform the American School Calendar* – and shows the minimum number of instructional hours required by other states' laws, by grade. The cells of the table are color-coded to demonstrate whether the minimum is below (red), equivalent to (yellow), or above (green) Hawaii's minimum of 990 hours. Hawaii requires more time in earlier grades than most states and less time later grades than some states.

Number of minimum instructional hours required by state law, by grade
below 990 990 above 990

STATE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<i>average</i>	930	936	936	976	976	986	1006	1009	1015	1015	1015	1014
AK	740	740	740	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900
AZ	712	712	712	890	890	890	1000	1000	720	720	720	720
CA	840	840	840	900	900	900	900	900	1080	1080	1080	1080
CO	868	868	888	868	868	1056	1056	1056	1056	1056	1056	1056
CT	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900
DE	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1032
FL	720	720	720	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900
GA	810	810	810	900	900	990	990	990	990	990	990	990
ID	810	810	810	900	900	900	900	900	990	990	990	880
KS	1116	1116	1116	1116	1116	1116	1116	1116	1116	1116	1116	1086
KY	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062
LA	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062
MA	900	900	900	900	900	890	990	990	990	990	990	990
MD	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080
MI	1098	1098	1098	1098	1098	1098	1098	1098	1098	1098	1098	1098
MN	835	835	835	835	835	835	1020	1020	1020	1020	1020	1020
MO	1044	1044	1044	1044	1044	1044	1044	1044	1044	1044	1044	1044
MT	720	720	720	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080
NC	1025	1025	1025	1025	1025	1025	1025	1025	1025	1025	1025	1025
ND	851.5	951.5	951.5	951.5	951.5	951.5	951.5	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038
NE	1032	1032	1032	1032	1032	1032	1032	1032	1080	1080	1080	1080
NH	845	845	845	845	845	890	990	990	990	990	890	890
NM	990	990	990	990	990	990	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080
OH	910	910	910	910	910	910	910	910	910	910	910	910
OK	900	900	900	900	900	900	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080
OR	810	810	810	900	900	900	900	900	990	990	990	990
PA	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	990	990	990	990
SD	875	875	875	962.5	962.5	962.5	962.5	962.5	962.5	962.5	962.5	962.5
UT	810	990	990	990	990	990	990	990	990	990	990	990
VA	990	990	990	990	990	990	990	990	990	990	990	990
WA	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080
WI	1050	1050	1050	1050	1050	1060	1137	1137	1137	1137	1137	1137

The Department has not yet researched how other states' and districts' collective bargaining agreements and requirements around teacher work year, day and schedule impact implementation of student learning time requirements.



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

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 14, RELATING TO EDUCATION

House Committee on Education
Hon. Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Hon. Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 4, 2015, 2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Honorable Chair Takumi and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMU Alliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 300 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of the intent of, with proposed amendments for House Bill 14, relating to education.

While we feel that instructional time requirements should be subject to collective bargaining, we understand that variances in instructional time statewide have precipitated difficulty in evaluating achievement outcomes. That said, the link between instructional time and student achievement is an imperfect science at best. For assessment purposes, it is important to ensure that all schools operate from a common baseline. Yet, a number of secondary schools have had difficulty meeting the 990 student instructional hour requirement called for by §302A-251, prompting intraschool debates over school schedules, grievances over process compliance by departmental administrators hastily changing bell schedules, and, ultimately, the reclassification of school activities like homeroom and study hall as instructional time. Such problems are likely to be exacerbated if schools are forced to implement the greater instructional time requirement of up to 1,080 between 2016-2018. Most importantly, when assessing instructional time, we must always remember that quantity does not equal quality, and that increasing the quality of instruction will most directly raise student success.

To meet the requirements of Act 167, which this bill seeks to revise, the Department of Education created different bell schedules to which schools could align (or request a BOE waiver). Teachers found the proposals to be cumbersome, however, compromising their capacity to plan lessons and engage in meaningful professional development. Moreover, this bill subjects the definition of “student instructional hours” to BOE approval, in consultation with collective bargaining units, but we believe that any definition, no matter how broad, will be impractical when employed in tandem with mandatory school hours. Students engage in a variety of activities on public school campuses, including robotics, senior projects, service learning, and project-based learning. Variances in instructional time will persist as long as students are allowed to pursue different activities. The department does not currently have an effective data system for tracking

differences in student output. Even if it could, administrators are unlikely to have time to analyze all of the required data needed to track and standardize these variances, given all of the other reform-oriented tasks they are being asked to perform, including management of the state's new educator effectiveness system. If discrepancies between students remain unaccounted for, then the DOE's purpose in standardizing instructional hours to establish a baseline for learning will be jeopardized. **Thus, the most logical course of action is to repeal Act 167's instructional time mandates. We encourage you to use this bill as a vehicle to repeal Act 167 in its entirety.**

Last February, secondary schools were required to submit bell schedules meeting the 990-hour requirement for departmental review. Unfortunately, many of the proposed schedules were rejected by the department for not meeting the 1,285 weekly *teacher instructional minute* requirement outlined in Article VI of the HSTA-BOE Master Agreement, which the department now interprets as an absolute total, instead of a maximum amount (in the past, teacher instructional minutes have always been interpreted as a maximum figure). Even schools who submitted schedules that met the 990-hour requirement were told to revise their proposals or seek a waiver if their schedules' teacher instructional minutes totaled less than 1,285 by a mere 1 or 2 minutes! This absurdity has been wrought by an untenable focus on increasing instructional hours in state law, leading to a situation in which some schools will be forced to keep their students on campus beyond 3 p.m., and likely much longer when the 1,080-hour requirement becomes the norm.

Since the DOE estimates that each added day will cost approximately \$6.1 million, policymakers should focus on the cost of increasing the number of hours in terms of the equivalent number of calendar days added. Using current averages (approximately 5-hours per day for elementary schools and 5.5 hours per day for secondary schools), forcing elementary schools to increase their hours from 915 to 1,080 hours is tantamount to a 33-day increase, while compelling secondary schools to increase their hours from only 990 to 1,080 equals the hourly equivalent of a 16-day increase. Repealing Act 167, on the other hand, preserves collective bargaining, while providing schools with the flexibility to craft bell schedules that meet the needs of their unique learning communities, so schools can focus on providing *quality* instruction, rather than scrambling to meet *quantity* demands.

If teachers perform additional days of service, they must be fairly compensated for their efforts. Thus, it is imperative that any extension of instructional hours take place within the context of collective bargaining to ensure that teachers' exclusive representative, HSTA, has an opportunity to seek salary and benefit enhancements commensurate with the scope and extent of the increased workload. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in opposition to this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance

Brendan Poff
PO BOX 2322
Kailua kona, HI 96745-2322

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Brendan Poff.

I am a teacher at Kealakehe Intermediate School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. I understand the intention of the Act but your thoughts did not go far enough, even as HSTA lobbied against it with numerous reasons as to why it wouldn't work. I was personally part of those discussions with lawmakers. The one size fits all mentality has never worked in education, that's why teachers are required to use differentiation with students.

Every year we waste so much time with the bell schedule discussions and never have I seen so many changes to schedules. Sad part is these changes aren't being made because we want to but rather to meet an unrealistic requirement made by people who do not get affected by the decision. So now is your opportunity to right a wrong.

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system. Don't pull a Pete Carroll and call for a pass play, when we all know the run will score. Take this off teachers plate once and for all, realize schools are really individual communities with individual needs and make this right.

Sincerely,

Brendan Poff

Brent Mukai
84-707 Kiana Place Apt 109B
Waianae, HI 96792-1727

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Brent Mukai and currently I am a teacher at Waianae Intermediate School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. Teachers have been "blind-sided" to teach curriculum to fill in for the extra minutes that we had little to no input. Also, the bell schedule currently being used has been hotly contested among teachers.

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Brent Mukai
Waianae

Camille Chong
1617 Young St., A101
Honolulu, HI 96826-2044

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Camille Chong.

I am a teacher in the Honolulu District.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to.

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Camille Chong

Christie Yamane
94-455 Farrington Hwy
Waipahu, HI 96797-2527

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Christie Yamane

I am a teacher at Waipahu Intermediate School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. (Give an example)

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Christie Yamane

Christopher Huynh
733 20th avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816-4526

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Christopher Huynh.

I am a teacher at Waipahu High School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. (Give an example)

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Christopher Huynh
8082288363

Colleen Pasco
P.O. Box 597
Kapaau, HI 96755-0597

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Colleen Pasco and I am a teacher at Kohala High School. I am writing in opposition of HB14.

Since the passage of Act 167, we have practically stood on our heads to make a bell schedule that complies with the law. What ends up happening is a creation of unrealistic schedules that cheat the students and the teachers. Just because you give something a different name doesn't mean it is instructional time or not a violation of the teacher bargaining agreement.

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Colleen Pasco
808-884-5042

Cynthia Levy
94-250 Ihuana Pl.
Mililani, HI 96789-2645

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Cynthia Levy.

I am a teacher at Salt Lake Elementary School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. (Give an example)

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Levy
808-779-2426

Elizabeth Pa Nakea
1644 Liholiho Street, Suite P
Honolulu, HI 96822-2950

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

Aloha:

I am a teacher at James B. Castle High School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to, and I'm sure you have been presented with many examples demonstrating this.

We, public school teachers, want you to repeal Act 167! We would like you to instead provide opportunities for all interested parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities, cohesively and collaboratively.

Not that long ago, Hawai'i was one of the most literate nations in the world. There has been an obvious negative progression in the case of public education. If we are serious about our the future of our keiki, we need to do what works for Hawa'i and its public education system. KU'e!
Holomua! EA! Mahalo nui ...

Me ka mana'o nui,

Elizabeth Pa Nakea
(808)234-4407

Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair
Members of the House of Representatives Education Committee

Emily Woitas

Monday, February 2, 2015

Support for HB No. 14, Relating to Student Instructional Hours

Aloha! My name is Emily Woitas and I am currently a sophomore at Kalaheo High School in Kailua. I strongly believe in HB 14, relating to student instructional hours.

Currently, we have 915 instructional hours in each school year. HB 14 is an attempt to raise the number of instructional hours to 990 hours instead of the newly required 1,080 hours. I am in support of this bill because it gives a more reasonable requirement to schools for the number of instructional hours they must comply with. As it stands, teachers in Honolulu, HI are paid at an average of \$48,254 annually. Our schools do not have the funds to pay each teacher another extra 90 hours per year, along with the extra funds for electricity and supplies.

Also, extending school hours will take an extra toll on student athletes, for example. As school ends later, sports practices will begin and end later. Students already struggle with balancing school and other school activities as it is. Raising the hours to 1,080 instructional hours is overall an unreasonable measure, and I completely support this bill to bring the requirement to 990 hours per year.

In raising instructional hours to 990 hours rather than 1,080, we are keeping a balanced schedule in students lives while still having the budget to support this change. I completely support HB 14 and encourage the committee to pass this bill. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.-

Georgia Blas
94-506 Kaikua Place
Waipahu, HI 96797-2707

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Georgia Blas

I am a teacher at Ka'iulani School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. As a Kindergarten teacher, I can not imagine how I can sustain my young students' attention to learn and retain information for an extended amount of time during the school day, if called for. Also, then when do teachers have the time to plan and collaborate to be effective if the instructional day is extended?

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Georgia Blas

Ian Lowland
342 Ainakula Rd
kula, HI 96790-8207

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Ian_Lowland.

I am a teacher at Maui High School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. (Give an example)

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Ian Lowland
808 269 2602

Iolani Kuoha
POB 491
Hoolehua, HI 96729-0491

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Iolani Kuoha.

I am a teacher at Molokai Middle School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. It has caused chaos among many things that has affected our schools, with the bell schedules, with the bus transportation and especially the accommodation of the students learning.

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Iolani Kuoha
8082989686

James Blair
422 manawai place
Haiku, HI 96708-5999

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is James Blair.

I am a teacher at Kalama Intermediate School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. (Give an example)

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

James Blair
808-572-6686

February 2, 2015

To: Roy Takumi
Members of the Senate Education Committee

From: Kelly Segal

Subject: Support of Senate Bill H.B No. 14, Department of Education;
Student Instructional Hours

Aloha! My name is Kelly Segal, and I am currently a senior at Kalaheo High School on Oahu. I believe in Senate Bill H.B No. 14 and would like to ask for your support. Hawaii schools are planning on increasing their instructional hours to 1,080 in the 2016-2018 school year. Senate Bill H.B No. 14 repeals this requirement and wants to remain with the 990 student instructional hours that schools in Hawaii already have.

Department of Education administrators state that according to the statistics, more instructional time "doesn't necessarily translate into sizable learning gains – or mean students at schools with fewer instructional hours are falling behind." In fact, the 12 out of 37 schools meeting the minimum required amount of instructional hours did not meet the yearly math and reading proficiency goals in 2010 according to the statistics of the Department of Education. However, dozens of schools that were well-below the minimum did meet the benchmarks. Moanalua Elementary, "which has the second-shortest day" was one of them. "Some of the schools with a lot of time are not meeting our learning targets, and some who are really short are," said schools Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi.

Having longer school hours will also harm after school clubs, athletics and events. At Kalaheo, extra-curricular activities begin right after school and many of them last at least two hours, ending around four or five o'clock. Extending the school day will make them end even later, leaving students to walk home in the dark if they don't drive. Extending the hours will also prove more costly because teacher salaries would increase. In 2009, the state had furlough Fridays, in which Hawaii public school students were off for 17 Fridays during the school year. The furloughs kept the state from laying off hundreds of teachers and other staff members because they were short a billion dollars. If they extend the school day, the state will lose more money and we may have to have furlough Fridays again.

Maintaining the 990 student instructional hours a year will prevent schools from losing money and teachers, students won't have to walk home in the dark, and they'll have more time for homework.

Thank you for your time. I truly hope that you will support Senate Bill H.B. No. 14.

http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/20110509_Schools_make_strides_despite_length_of_day.html?id=121485638

<http://www.kitv.com/news/hawaii/bills-to-lengthen-school-year-set-instructional-hours-stall/24232752>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/oct/21/hawaii-schools-fridays-furlough>

Re HB14
To EDN
For hearing February 4, 2015

Testimony in opposition
by Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.
Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com

This bill proposes to reduce the required number of instructional hours in future years from 1080 to only 990. That would be a reduction of half an hour per school day. My math is good enough to calculate that a reduction of 90 hours from a base of 1080 hours would be a reduction of 1/12 or about 8.5 percent. Why in the world would we want to do that?

Hawaii's children already perform below the national averages in Mathematics, English, and other core areas on standardized tests such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Does anyone think less time in class will produce improved results?

Only a few years ago the schools suffered furlough days as a way of reducing costs by cutting instructional time. Perhaps legislators can remember how parents and teachers protested loudly.

When there are proposals to lengthen the school day or the number of days in the school year, the teachers' union always demands higher pay for working more hours. So, if this bill proposes to reduce the number of instructional hours by 8.5 percent, then why does the bill not also propose to reduce the salary schedule by 8.5 percent?

Kendra Mizota
99689 kahilina place
Aiea, HI 96701-3538

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Kendra Mizota _.

I was a teacher at Kauluwela School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to.

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Kendra Mizota
808-388-9377

Kristi Miyamae
1441 Hoohulu Street
Pearl City, HI 96782-2917

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Kristi Miyamae.

I am a teacher at Mililani Middle School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. As the Central Chapter President of HSTA, I have heard numerous complaints of having to be 'creative' to put band-aid fixes on schedules.
Teachers are not happy.

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Kristi Miyamae

Landon Barayuga
94-1016 Hoainau Street
Waipahu, HI 96797-3272

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Landon and I am a licensed teacher in the state of Hawaii.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to.

Time cannot be "made up" as it is already lost in the past. Students who were affected by the furloughs are already long long and graduated.

Further, despite the furloughs, my school has shown growth. It is the quality of instruction, not the quantity of instruction that correlates to my student's growth.

The extension of the school day has affected after school activities.

After school practices start later, students get home later, and there less time for them to study in their academics before the night is over.

Games start later which means they end late into the evening. There are issues with having school buses shuttling and transporting people by the "odd" times when buses were needed.

Ultimately, the students take the hit in all of this.

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Landon

Laura Buller
P.O. Box 6
Kualapuu, HI 96757-0006

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Laura Buller,

I am a teacher at Molokai High School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. (Give an example)

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Laura Buller
8086585230

Logan Okita
1914 10th Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816-2910

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Logan Okita.

I am a teacher at Nimitz Elementary School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. By having to find every spare minute to count as instructional time, my students are not truly benefitting from instruction and I do not have time in my day to communicate with their parents about how to help them succeed.

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Logan Okita

Margaret Ohara
91-496 Maohaka Place
Ewa Beach, HI 96706-4531

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Margaret Ohara.

I am a teacher at Leilehua High School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. Numerous meetings, time, and plans have been spent in order to implement Act 167/52 by the teachers and school officials. The Department of Education (DOE) has also tried to manage a plethora of different bell schedules which all resulted in numerous changes, redefining definitions of instructional time, and revised DOE memos stating issues and errors.

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely, Margaret Ohara

Randee Arkin
16-160 Keaau Paho Road
Keaau, HI 96749

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Randee Arkin.

I am a teacher at Keaau Middle School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. (Give an example)

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Randee Arkin

Rene Sodetani
547 Hiilei Place
Wailuku, HI 96793-1522

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Rene Sodetani.

I am a teacher at King Kekaulike High School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. (Give an example) We use those extra instructional minutes for Study Hall that the students use to socialize and wander the campus or attend club meetings.

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Rene Sodetani
8082422786

Romeo Eleno
PO Box 630266
Lana'i City, HI 96763-0266

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Romeo Eleno.

I am a teacher at Lanai High & Elementary School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to.

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Romeo Eleno
8082232482

Russell Riley
42 Laumaewa Loop
Kihei, HI 96753-8257

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Russell Riley.

I saw a local representative on TV explaining why he was in favor of HB 14. He said something like, if students spend more time in school, then they'll learn more. The interviewer prompted the politician to explain more, perhaps cite some research. He couldn't provide any. What a dumb ass.

I teach at Maui Waena Intermediate School and our students produced the greatest gains in statewide testing during the year with the most furlough Fridays.

Stop trying to play catch up with the rest of the nation. Address the needs of the students in Hawaii appropriately, not politically.

Sincerely,

Russell Riley

Opposition to HB 14

This email is my testimony that we cannot continue to add more instructional minutes to our bell schedules. As it is, our 80 minutes per period schedule, with 8 periods per year is too much for our students to handle. Many of them have difficulty juggling all 8 courses simultaneously. They aren't even expected to juggle all 8 courses in college simultaneously, so why would we do that to them in high school? Adding more minutes would also cut into extra & co-curricular time, thus those type of activities would start later & get out later, only for our students to get home late, start their homework later, & then get to sleep later, only to wake up tired the next day & have difficulty focusing in class or even attend for that matter. It's the focus that's wrong here. We really do not need more instructional minutes, but rather the quality of the current instructional minutes that should be reviewed. Maybe the DOE should make it tougher to become a teacher or educator & should recognize good educators from poor educators who are in it for the wrong reasons. Obviously there are those of us who aren't in this job for pay & are in it because we truly have a passion to help educate our youth, but some of us don't even make \$50K, which is a joke because we couldn't afford to survive in Hawaii with that pay & have to remain with our parents. And, the sad thing is, is that our society values professional sports & celebrities more than it's educators. Adding more minutes also doesn't benefit teachers & other staff members. As it is, I am a counselor who puts in 12-13 hour days, every single day, every single week. I consider myself to be thorough & efficient but with more demanding, contentious parents who enable their children, & with more & more students entering schools with disabilities, medical conditions, etc., how can provide a quality education for all? How can we keep up with all that is required of us, teach to every learning style, manage classroom behavior of students who don't come to school already having manners or are disciplined at home? How is our nation & government helping& supporting its educators? The answer is, they are not & they are only setting us up for failure, & in the end, when our educators fail, unfortunately so do our students. Our educational entity, the DOE is one in which students are never held accountable or responsible for taking part in their education. It's always the school who is to blame, but what is the responsibility of student & parents? When these students leave us, & enter college or the world of work, what have we taught them? We've taught them that if they don't want to work hard, all they need to do is complain & get their parent involved. Colleges also don't teach to every learning style, so how do our students learn to navigate this with a plan full of accommodations in high school? If you have a disability, the reality is, that is the hand you were dealt with in life, & while it's unfortunate, you have to learn to cope with that disability & if it means you have to work 10 times harder than others without a disability, then that is just what you have to do. Employers can only make so many accommodations, but can't do much for the employee who just doesn't show up for work, the job still needs to get done, & if you can't do it, they'll find someone else who can. Real life doesn't come to a halt for these individuals, thus we are setting them up for failure & enable them to be non-productive citizens of society, & who does that help in the longrun...not the individual or our society.

Stephanie Takashima

Terence Moniz
17-317 PALAAI ST
KEAAU, HI 96749-8215

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Terence Moniz.

I am a teacher at Keaau High School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. (Give an example)

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Terence T. Moniz
8089378104

Thomas Moriyasu
2230 Dole St
Honolulu, HI 96822-2407

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Thomas Moriyasu.

I am a concerned citizen.

As a taxpayer, I am committed to the students of Hawaii.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. (Give an example)

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Thomas Moriyasu

Victoria Andrus
5620 Ileina Ln
Kapaa, HI 96746-2300

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Victoria Andrus.

I am a teacher at Kapaa Elementary School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Victoria Andrus
7022044786

February 03,2015

To: Roy M. Takumi House Committee Education

From: Breanna Pascua

Subject: In support of the HB14

Aloha! My name is Breanna Pascua, and I am currently a sophomore at Kalaheo High School. I believe in the HB14 bill which addresses the issues on students to have an extension of 990 hours on instructional time. The BOE stresses that students from public education must attend school in order to get the necessary information that meets standards.

This requirement is extending to the years 2015-2016 after previously being recognized in 2011 the BOE agrees in extending the hours to 990 instructional. As a student I can say that this extension on instructional time will allow students comfort that they can learn more information in the time allotted but will not compensate for the extended school hours and financial strait this will cause. Having more school hours doesn't justify that the students will be learning significant information and the state will be having to comply with the extra finances to fund the school and teachers. As it stands the Board has passed the 990 hours of instructional time but exceeding that time will be compromising the students education and Bill HB14 is in support of the teachers and student interest which is what I support.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I am in true support of the Bill HB14

February 2, 2015

To: Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair
Representatives of the Education Committee

From: Jacquelyne Howard

Subject: Support of House Bill 14, Student Instructional Hours

Aloha! My name is Jacquelyne Howard, and I am currently a senior at Kalaheo High School in Kailua. I strongly believe in HB 14, and would like to ask for your support. As it stands at this current time, by the school years 2016-2018 there will be a requirement of 180 school days and 1080 instructional hours. However, the DOE administrators say the statistics, released as parents and lawmakers are pushing to lengthen Hawaii's school day, illustrate that more instructional time doesn't necessarily translate into sizable learning. "There's no real apparent correlation between time and meeting AYP (adequate yearly progress)," said schools Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi. Therefore, the additional 90 hours resulting in about 3 to 5 additional minutes in class will most likely not have significant qualitative value.

The extra 90 hours of instructional time will also result in paying teachers more to teach longer. The DOE has said that fully implementing Act 167 could cost \$45 million to \$55 million in additional personnel costs. Teachers already feel they do not receive a sufficient amount of money in order to live in Hawaii which is ranked one of the highest for cost of living in America. Teachers fear the law will force them to work longer hours without more pay. As said by State Representative Roy Takumi, chairman of the House Education Committee, Act 167 had "good intentions" but that its requirements aren't feasible given the gloomy budget picture.

Given the wide socioeconomic gaps and educational disparities across the United States, the newest idea of extended learning time is merely a pragmatic reform. The Hawaii DOE is trying to create these standards of longer school days in order to try to compete with the education systems across America that do perform well when compared nationally. Finland interestingly enough, whose test scores consistently top international rankings, has school days that are shorter than a typical American day. Balance between time and quality of learning is imperative, however increasing the amount of time without increasing quality allows the educational disparity in Hawaii to continue to grow.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I truly hope you will support Senate Bill 14.

Jodi Kunimitsu
140 Uwapo Rd. #52-103
Kihei, HI 96753-7433

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Jodi Kunimitsu.

I am a teacher at Maui High School School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. (Give an example)

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Jodi Kunimitsu
(808) 645-0305

State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Twenty-eighth State Legislature, 2015

Kim Virtudazo
Ewa Beach, Hi 96706

February 3, 2015

RE: HB 14 – Relating to Instructional Time

The Honorable Chairs Roy Takumi and Isaac Choy, the Honorable Vice-Chairs Takashi Ohno and Linda Ichiyama and the Members of the Committees:

My name is Kim Virtudazo and I am a public school teacher at a James Campbell High School. I am writing you as a parent and teacher. I strongly oppose HB 14 because the increase of instructional time will not benefit the students of Hawaii. As a teacher, I see firsthand that the students, teachers and schools all need additional support, but this has nothing to do with the instructional time—it has everything to do with the working/school conditions, classroom resources, quality of teachers, quality of the students' home lives, and the community and family support systems.

The biggest misconception of education is that increased instructional time will mean an increase in learning and test scores. This however is a fallacy, student learning does not benefit from increased instructional time but rather from quality teachers and work conditions. In 2009 when furlough Fridays took place, test scores increased proving that instructional time does not necessarily matter, rather the quality of instruction does. According to NPR, “40 to 50 percent of new teachers leave within their first five years on the job.” With a revolving door of new teachers, the DOE is forced to put unqualified teachers in the classroom. To force students to spend longer hours school, in poor working conditions, with a lack of resources and with unqualified teachers is not right.

We need to fix the real issues and provide students with better learning opportunities, and not to mask the real issues with “extended instructional time.” As a state, we need to focus on quality of our students' education, not the quantity.

I strongly oppose HB 14. Thank you for your time and for allowing me to testify against HB 14.

Sincerely,
Kim Virtudazo

Roy M. Takumi
House Committee on Education

Sarah Benzing

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Support for H.B. NO. 14, Relating to Education

I, Sarah Benzing, am a sophomore at Kalaheo High School. I strongly support H.B. NO. 14, relating to education, which would require all public secondary schools to implement a school year that includes 990 student instructional hours.

This slight addition to student instructional hours from 915 hours to 990 hours would not terribly alter current student's schedules. After spending at least 6 hours at school, they are expected to spend at least 2 hours outside of school to complete homework. Since colleges are becoming more competitive, students also face the challenge of taking on extracurricular activities to help guarantee a position at a college. I believe that hard-working students who are involved in extracurricular activities while maintaining a high grade point average would be able to maintain these activities and their grade point average even with slightly longer school days or a slightly longer school year.

As a student participating in extracurricular activities, I believe all dedicated students will be able to manage all activities even with the extension of student instructional hours. With the decision that students like myself will not suffer from the addition of student instructional hours, I urge the committee to pass H.B. NO. 14. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

My name is Lehua Yamagata. I am a math teacher at a middle school. I've been teaching for over 8 years. I'd like to add my firm opposition to HB14. I don't believe just because we make the day longer for students that students will learn more. As I look over the bill I do not see supporting documentation of this assumed correlation. We already have added the hours to the day due to ACT 167. At my school we loop. I teach 7th grade and then move up with them and teach 8th grade. This year I have 8th graders (the same students as last year). Since the increase of hours were implemented this year, I honestly do not see my students who were struggling suddenly performing better. In fact I see my students more tired and performing the same.

I also feel ACT 167 should be repealed. Since we've had to increase the student instructional hours there is no longer a short day on wednesday. Now we are unable to have regular faculty/department meetings without exceeding our contract hours. This has made it really difficult to work together and provide the best possible instruction/education for our students. It is only working due to the 21 hours provided for EES. Next year we don't have the 21 hours and we still have EES and you want to increase student hours without increasing teacher hours????

In the future, is there a way the hearing can be when teachers can attend? 2:00 we're still in school. Even if we got out at 2 there's no way I could get there in time. Due to ACT 167 I'm in school every day till 2:45 and that's with a morning prep, otherwise it's 3:15.

Mahalo for your time,
Lehua Yamagata

K. Jaremski-Kahakua
PO Box 377507
Ocean View, HI 96737-7507

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is K. Jaremski_Kahakua.

I am a teacher at Naalehu School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to.

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Why don't you come to our classrooms and see for yourself what extended hours would mean for the students, some of which do not get home until 4 pm.

Teachers already spend many hours at home playing catch up on what we don't have the time to do at school. Many of us do not get to sleep at a decent hour, because we are so busy doing school related business and prepping for the next day.

How much more are you going to ask us to give up??? We already do not have a life because many of us ARE dedicated. What do you want next... a kidney, liver, quart of blood, or maybe our families...because we are already abandoning them!!!

Vote to repeal Act 167!

Respectful but still upset,

K. Jaremski-Kahakua

Dear Sirs

I work as a teacher at Hilo High School. This year we were forced due to legislation to increase the amount of time that students are in class, to a whopping 32 hours per week in class. Full time college students only attend classes for 12 hours to 18 hours and anything over that amount requires special permission from the dean, because it is too much for students to handle successfully. Why are we expecting more from children than adults are capable of?

Many parents have complained that with the longer school day their children don't get home to eat dinner until 8pm as they participate in sports and extracurricular activities. They come to school so tired that it defeats learning.

My classroom is hot! Today I had to take my mid-day class outside so the students didn't pass out. It is only the start of February. The school year needs to end before June begins, and not start up again until the end of August, or buy every classroom air conditioners.

Lets emphasize quality over quantity. That is how we will see an improvement in our students achievement. Keeping students in school for too long hours in these conditions for 40 weeks is too much and becomes self-defeating.

Sincerely,
Nancy Usher

Po Box 908,
Keaau, Hi 96749

February 2, 2016
To: Representative Roy M. Takumi
Representative Takashi Ohno

From: Alyssa Reyes

Subject: Against House Bill 14, Student Instructional Hours

Aloha! My name is Alyssa Reyes, and I'm currently a sophomore at Kalaheo High School on Oahu. I strongly support HB 14, and I would like to ask for your support. Currently Hawaii's 250+ public schools are supposed to have a total of 915 instructional hours. HB 14 is asking to raise the total instructional hours to 990 by the year 2015-2016 and 1,080 hours for the 2017-2018 year.

I believe adding an additional 165 hours to the bell schedule over a span of a couple of years will create negative results and not improve anything. I don't believe an extra 15 minutes of each class will help improve much, if anything at all. Also I do not think adding extra student instructional hours is in the DOE's budget. I do not think we can afford to pay for teachers to work longer hours. Personally, as a current high school student, I believe having longer classes will increase the rate of mis-behavior and mis-conduct in the class room.

Overall, adding additional hours to the school year is not a good idea. It will produce more negative results than positive. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kevin Ng
98402 Koauka Loop #2108
Aiea, HI 96701-4576

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Kevin Ng.

I am a teacher at Pearl Ridge Elementary School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I value each child I speak to each and every day.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to.

Rather than quantity, the emphasis should be on quality. Big class sizes (20+ per teacher lower grades, 30+ for upper, 100+ for secondary), tremendous amounts of paperwork (EES evaluations, compliance documents, etc.), and parents who have no accountability, negate any benefits due to increased instructional hours. 22 children with one busy teacher trying to balance the needs of each child for 1 hour is not as beneficial as 1 teacher spending a quality 30 minutes with 11 children. There is no substitute for time spent sitting down talking and LISTENING to a child.

This is not done through extending the school day. This is done by giving teachers the lower class sizes and resources to focus their energy on talking to Jacob, Luke, Robyn, Aja, Megan...

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Extending the time and making the bell ring later... lip service. Giving teachers the ability to spend quality time with children... productive, progressive, and positive!

Thank you,

Kevin Ng

Star Carlin
PO Box 651
Mountain View, HI 96771-0651

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Star Carlin.

I am a teacher at
Volcano School of Arts and
Sciences.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. Schools are scrambling to concoct schedules that meet a requirement that does not match the hours of teacher contracts.

School is hard work for students. They are tired at the end of a day. Making days longer is not effective since children will be past their optimal learning readiness. Children are not small adults, we must recognize their needs to be children. Asking more of them when they are tired, hungry or cranky will not produce better results.

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Respectfully,

Star Carlin
8089686541

Anne Cross
PO Box 125
Hakalau, HI 96710-0125

February 4, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Anne Cross.

I am a teacher at Chiefess Kapiolani Elementary School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. We expect students to drink water and use the bathroom during passing.

In order to be in compliance with Act 167 schools have been forced to create bell schedules with inadequate passing time even for walking from one clas to another. This does not allow students time for using the bathroom or getting a drink of water. This is just one example of the many problems Act 167 has created.

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Anne CK Cross
8089375671

Dawn Augustin
P.O. Box 2244
Wailuku, HI 96793-7244

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Dawn Augustin.

I am a teacher at PuuKukui Elementary School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. (Give an example)

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Dawn Augustin
(808)357-7111

Dawn Raymond
P.O. BOX
Hilo, HI 96721

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Dawn Raymond.

I am a teacher at Waiakea High School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. (Give an example)

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Dawn Raymond

Edward B.Garcia
220 Keala Place
Kihei, HI 96753-7804

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is ___Edward Garcia_____.

I am a counselor at ___Maui Waena Intermediate_____ School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. (The requirements for this act is not conducive to the learning that's taking place in the classroom. I rather see my quality teaching and resources available for our teachers and students. Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Edward B.Garcia

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Erin Raguindin and I am the counselor at Kaunakakai Elementary School. I am writing in opposition to HB14 because it will not be feasible for us to increase the school day to meet these required instructional minutes. Elementary school students are not going to be able to focus on learning without having more snacks and breaks provided for them. We are not able to provide "study halls" while teachers are using their preparation times, because young children need extra supervision and assistance to complete their work. Teachers are already asked to implement two new curriculum, follow the Educator Effectiveness System, and get used to a new and very rigorous testing system. Teachers need to have their preparation time without having students to supervise students at the same time.

The state will need to compensate teachers if they are going to implement Hb14 and they are going to have to provide more resources to the schools to provide for the children's basic physical needs. Act 167 is not feasible for our teachers or our children.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Erin Raguindin

Gregory Wong
1914 University Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96822-2472

February 4, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is _____Gregory Wong_____.

I am a teacher at __Kalakaua Middle _____ School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. (Give an example)

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Gregory Wong
597-6868

To The Honorable Chairs Roy Takumi and Isaac Choy, the Honorable Vice-Chairs Takashi Ohno and Linda Ichiyama and the Members of the Committees:

My name is James Au and I am an eighth grade history teacher at Wahiawa Middle School. I am in opposition to House Bill 14 and request that you repeal ACT 167.

ACT 167 has become detrimental to our school system. Our faculty and staff have worked and re-worked the minutes to meet the requirements, but due to all the constraints we ended up with more problems than anything else. Student tardies are constantly rising due to the short amount of time allowed between classes (3 minutes). Curriculum departmental meetings have been cut down from once a week to once a month. Collaboration time between me and my co-teacher has been cut down from a daily basis to once a week -- if we're lucky. These meeting times are crucial to the success of our classrooms, yet we struggle to find time to discuss struggling students.

In essence, more contact time with students does not necessarily equate to quality time with students, unless we have more time to plan effectively for our classes and individual special needs and general education students. It's like taking a cake recipe, gathering the ingredients, then placing them in a baking dish and setting it in the oven to bake without measuring, but expecting a great cake to emerge. Didn't it come out? Leave it in the oven a lot longer. It just doesn't work. Baking a cake takes time to plan, measure, and adjust to make it just right. As with our students, it takes time to plan, measure, and adjust to make sure all our students' needs are met to be successful in life.

Once again, I ask that you repeal ACT 167 and thank you for allowing me to testify in opposition to House Bill 14.

Aloha,

James Au
Wahiawa Middle School

Testimony for HB 14

In response to the phrase the term "student instructional hours," I believe that instructional hours should encompass time for reflection much like Denmark, the leading nation in education that provides collaboration and reflection of lessons during the work day. An examination needs to be considered and found in this model since they are successful and have proven their status academically despite Japan's and South Korea's need to increase "student instructional hours." If we are to be a leading nation in education we need to take heed of the best in the world and reexamine the structure of "student instructional hours." I believe Hawaii can be a lead in the nation's education system but educational hours are not just the solution but part of a bigger picture. The educational model needs to assist the needs of our individual needs of students and the community that they exist in. I hope that hours are not just the answer to student achievement and that the "one size fits all" model is not the model. I'm a teacher in Waianae and we deal with a variety of needs not just more contact hours but cultural understanding needs to be established and worked well into the curriculum for achievement to work.

Janelle Gomez
53-567 Kamehameha Hwy #108
Hauula, HI 96717-9677

February 4, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Janelle Gomez.

I am a teacher at _Laie Elementary School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. I barely have time to prepare my lessons, tutor my kids for free after school, then go home and grade papers on top of feeding my family and getting them to bed. The extra time spent with school doesn't add up to the wage a teacher salary is so by this ACT i have felt so stressed as a teacher due to too much time spent on instruction. I even coached an after school sports program and my schedule was too much to match my desire to help serve the community. If you add more instructional time at school, where do the students have family time or learn basic character and moral values? Not everything learned is academic but by increasing student instructional time it creates a stressful and burdened environment. You are taking the joy away from learning. Look at China and how they increase their academics and although they may succeed in knowledge, many lack how to communicate or build lasting relationships because they are too busy behind books. Look at the Suicide rate with all the pressure. As teachers we already do more than expected. It is my sincere interest for the students to repeal this act. It wont work. It will not benefit our school and community environment. Our extra curricular activities in high school went past 11pm due to an increased school instructional time. Now you are taking away sleep...which counters my teaching about healthy habits. Please repeal this act. It is not healthy, not beneficial, and is takes away from the true purpose of education which is to help our future keiki find success.

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Janelle Gomez

Joy Agard
73-978 Ahulani St.
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740-9414

February 4, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Joy Salinas Agard. I am a teacher at Kealakehe Elementary School. I am writing in opposition of HB14. As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. Our bell schedule has changed every year. An unstable bell schedule creates a stressful work environment for staff and faculty of a school with enrollment of over 1000 students, 25% of which are ELL, and 75% at poverty level. Our test scores have not progressed from school years 2012-2013 to 2013-2014. Perhaps keeping a stable bell schedule will help.

HSTA was finally able to settle on a contract. Teachers received a pay increase after 3 years of no contract and Furlough Fridays. Approving increased instructional hours at this time is not reasonable as teachers will not be compensated for additional work hours as this change will mean that HSTA would only be negotiating hours, and not pay.

If this motion included negotiations on increased compensation to teachers, then I would not be testifying today. I believe an amendment to HB14 is necessary before voted upon by constituents. The amendment must include a mandatory pay increase for all teachers to compensate them for working additional hours. As it stands, I work a second job because as a single mother, I cannot make ends meet with a huge debt from schooling for my Master's Degree, high cost of living in Kailua-Kona, and one of the lowest paying teaching positions in the country. Please be fair to teachers.

Most effectively, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Joy Agard
8089600605

Krista Tatum
1060 Eha Street #105
Wailuku, HI 96793-2085

February 4, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Krista Tatum.

I am a teacher at Pu'u Kukui Elementary School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. As a result of Act 167, we've had to reduce recess times for students and teach from bell to bell, leaving very little time for passing and other things like hand-washing before lunch. This year's bell schedule is so tight that I can not even imagine how it will be possible to increase the instructional time any more as mandated for school year 2016-17.

Increased instructional time also means that teachers will need extra time to make preparations for that additional instruction. Act 167 does not provide teachers with the extra prep time that we'll need nor does it compensate us for additional time added to the work day.

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Krista Tatum

Aloha, esteemed legislators,

My name is Laurel Clay and I live at 73-4665 Old Mamalahoa Hwy in Kailua-Kona.

I am a classroom teacher at Kealakehe Intermediate School, and I am writing you today in regards to HB 14.

When the opportunity arises tomorrow, please vote to oppose this bill. It simply isn't working for schools, especially secondary schools like mine. As a result of trying to comply with Act 167, this year, we have a crazy bell schedule that is hard on students and teachers both. By the end of each long school day, students leave mentally and physically exhausted, and so do my colleagues and I.

HB 14 is well-intentioned, but doesn't change much, and my school is still looking at trying to run by another crazy bell schedule next year to be in compliance. Please help us! Our schedule for next year is different, but promises to be just as bad as the one we are implementing this year.

Tomorrow, please make a choice that supports schools again by opposing HB 14, and then in the near future, please choose to return decision making authority for school bell scheduling and the structuring of student instructional minutes to schools and the communities they serve..

MAHALO for your consideration! Sincerely, Laurel Clay

Maria Guardino
2916 Date St. 20C
Honolulu, HI 96816-1189

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Maria Guardino.

I am a teacher at Kawanānakoā Middle School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

This year, our bell schedule has changed twice to try to accommodate Act 167. Still, it does not fully accommodate after-school program start-times and support of extracurricular club/activities for our students. Additionally, valuable teacher-collaboration time necessary for grade-level curriculum alignment has been cut. Planning time is essential in preparing to teach students of various levels our new rigorous Common Core curriculum.

Teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

Sincerely,

Maria Guardino
8087345258

Michael Kline
P.O. Box 1201
Kilauea, HI 96754-1201

February 4, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Michael Kline.

I am a teacher at Kilauea Elementary School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to.

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Michael Kline
651-9992

Nathanial Mickelson
992 South Kihei Rd. Apt B102
Kihei, HI 96753-9119

February 4, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Nathanial L. Mickelson. I am a teacher at Maui High School. I am writing in opposition of HB14. As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. Our "creative" bell schedule has added an extra 5 minutes of "non instructional" time to each class throughout the day, 6 periods/day. This results in the majority of teachers violating their contract because classroom management quickly becomes an issue when students are given "non instructional time". In other words, we are all teaching that extra 30+minutes per day, 5 days a week equaling an extra 150 minutes of 30+unpaid time. Also, this longer day creates a terrible working environment for both students and teachers. My chemistry lab gets extremely hot whenever we do labs. Why? Because we absolutely must close all of our jalousies so that the wind doesn't blow our scales all over or our bunsen burners out, or even worse blow the flame towards a student! Imagine all that heat from the sun, the burners, the students bodies. I have been there since 2003 and have only been late to work at most twice. Since this new bell schedule, I have been late numerous times because our 2000+ students and parents are competing to get to school on time against the grade school a football field away from us. It is chaos! When it rains, it can take 20 minutes to get from Papa and Puunene to Maui High. Extreme bottle neck. Also, lets not forget the importance of sports and extra curricular activities. These poor kids and coaches are getting home late! To do what? Homework and be ready for another day. We only have so much day light here so why keep us all that extra hour? The longer schedule will also push us into the hotter summer. Kids are not in any condition to learn when they are melting.

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Nathanial L. Mickelson
808 250-4207

Shannon Kealoha-Kaia
371 Liholiho Street
Wailuku, HI 96793-2509

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is ____Shannon Kealoha-Kaia_____.

I am a math teacher at ____Maui Waena Intermediate_____ School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. (The requirements for this act is not conducive to the learning that's taking place in the classroom. I rather see my quality teaching and resources available for our teachers and students. Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Aloha,

Shannon Kealoha-Kaia

Teri Freitag
p.o. box 601
Eleele, HI 96705-0601

February 4, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is _____Teri Freitag_____.

I am a teacher at _____Waimea High School_____ School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. (Give an example)

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Teri Freitag
338-6800

Victoria Gonder
181 Hui Rd F #19
Lahaina, HI 96761-9191

February 3, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is _____Victoria Gonder_____.

I am a teacher at _____Lahainaluna_____ School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. We have a schedule now that requires students to be at school 20 minutes 4 days a week, while teacher required time does not cover this time. We currently have this as study hall for students and since teachers are not required to teach in this time it is wasted time for both students and teachers. Better planning should have been done before we implimented this. I do believe our students would benefit from longer instruction time but I don't think we teachers should have to do this with out pay.

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Victoria Gonder
8178991943

Erik Jennings
1353 Hoapili Street
Lahaina, HI 96761-1733

February 4, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Erik Jennings_____.

I am a teacher at Lahainaluna High School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. (Give an example)

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Erik Jennings

Julie Javar
PO Box 869
Keaau, HI 96749-0869

February 4, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Julie Javar.

I am a teacher at Waiakea High School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. (Give an example)

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Julie Javar
(808)938-1031

Submitted by: Melanie Bailey and Kathy Bryant

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the Committee,

House Committee on Education

February 5, 2015

1:00 pm

HB 14: Testimony in Opposition with proposed Amendments

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 minimum amount of instruction as every other student in the state.

After reviewing the most current data on state statutes relating to instructional time, we find that Hawaii could meet the next phase of the law which is 1080 hours a year, or an approximately 6 hour student day. It is the definition, not the amount of time that is the issue. Amending the definition would allow us to retain our commitment to our students and teachers to provide equity, and not take a step backwards in the eyes of the community and other states.

As such, we oppose the elimination of the next phase, section (d) of the bill, and instead propose that the definition of student instructional time be simplified and align with definitions in other states that have a 1080 hour per year minimum.

Background:

Prior to Act 167, Hawaii was the only state that did not set by law a minimum number of student instructional days or hours per year. Instructional time has been determined through the collective bargaining process between the state and Hawaii State Teachers Association. In 1997, Ben Cayetano increased teacher salaries and the number of days of student instruction from 173 to 180.

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, establishes that schools must provide a minimum of 180 of student instructional days and a minimum number of instructional hours: 915 hours for elementary and 990 hours for secondary school per year, and expanding to 1080 in the 2016-17.

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 (as much as 200 hours a year, the equivalent of 33 school days!). This, despite the fact, that Hawaii operates as one school district, with one funding source and one contract for all teachers statewide. The first phase has been implemented statewide and without additional cost. It has however, been challenging. In part due to the very prescriptive language in the definition in the law. Changes in the definition could maintain the 1080 minimum number of hours, keep Hawaii on pace with the national average, and provide more flexibility to the schools in creating their bell schedules.

Recommendation and Amendment:

HB14 proposes to eliminate the increase to 1080 student instructional hours per year in the year 2016-18 years. We oppose the deletion of this section (d). Rather **we would like to see the legislature amend the definition of student instructional time to align with other state statutes.**

According to the most current report from the Education Commission of the States, in their October, 2014 update titled “Number of Instructional Days/Hours in the School Year”, states are moving more toward having both minimum days per year and minimum number of hours per year or hours per day. The document is attached and can be accessed at www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/01/15/05/11505.pdf

In order to give the BOE, DOE, Complex Areas and/or schools more flexibility in meeting the minimum requirement and to align the Hawaii state definition to other statutes we propose the following amendment to the law:

For elementary and middle schools: Student instructional time is “bell to bell” and includes lunch and recess.

For secondary schools: Student instructional time is “bell to bell” and excludes lunch and recess*.

*It should be noted that in our research, Hawaii high schools are unique in offering recess. The recess time was created to coincide with a 15 break period in the teacher contract and also to support a wellness guideline to encourage exercise. When passing time is included, Hawaii high school students have 25-30 minute “recess” and another 30 -35 minute “lunch” period in their day or a total of 55-65 minutes of non-classroom time. While the state law does not need to address this issue, excluding lunch and recess from the 1080 minimum would require the BOE to look more closely at the issue and find alternatives that provide time for teachers to have a break without taking so much time for students.

Our statute should be simple and easy to understand. The law is intended to create a minimum number of hours and days. The BOE, DOE and schools can further refine the definition by policy if needed to clarify length of passing time, bell schedule options, etc. It is also important to note that the law allows for a waiver from the minimum time, for any school that can demonstrate student success. This is an important component of the law and should be retained.

We look forward to working with you. We encourage you to look at the ECS report and look favorably on our request.

Thank you.



School Calendar

Length of School Year

Education Commission of the States

www.ecs.org

700 Broadway, Suite 810 • Denver, CO 80203-3442 • 303.299.3600 • Fax: 303.296.8332 •

Number of Instructional Days/Hours in the School Year

Updated by Julie Rowland

October 2014

Introduction

While state requirements vary on the number of instructional days and/or hours in the school year, the majority of states require 180 days of student instruction. Most also specify the minimum length of time that constitutes an instructional day. Some states set instructional time in terms of days, some specify hours, and some provide specifications for both and may require districts to meet either or both. Two states, Ohio and Wisconsin, recently changed the unit of measurement for an instructional year from days to hours.

Because staff development and parent conference days are handled differently across the states and often are included in the overall “school calendar” requirements, we have attempted to separate those from the minimum instructional time. However, in some cases, statute is unclear. Please send any corrections (with supporting state policy) to Julie Rowland at jrowland@ecs.org.

The following table lists the minimum number of instructional days/hours in a school year and the start dates prescribed by law, where specified. Thirty-six states and the District of Columbia allow local districts or regions to determine when the school year begins.

State Policies Related to the School Year

State [citation]	Minimum Amount of Instructional Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable)		Minimum time for any day to count as instructional day	School Start/Finish
	In Days	In Hours		
Alabama [ALA. CODE § 16-13-231(a)(1) and (b)(1)(c)] Admin. Code 290-3-1-.02	180 days Or the hourly equivalent	N/A	6 hours (Excludes lunch and recess)	District option
Alaska [ALASKA STAT. § 14.03.030, 14.03.040]	180 days (Includes up to 10 in-service days)	Grades K-3 ~ 740 hours Grades 4-12 ~ 900 hours ¹	Grades 1-3 ~ 4 hours Grades 4-12 ~ 5 hours (Excludes intermissions)	District option

* The minimum number of instructional days refers to the actual number of days that pupils have contact with a teacher. Teacher in-service and professional development days are specified when available.

State [citation]	Minimum Amount of Instructional Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable)		Minimum time for any day to count as instructional day	School Start/Finish
	In Days	In Hours		
Arizona [ARIZ. REV. STAT. § 15-341.01; § 15- 901(A)(1), (5)]	180 days ²	Kindergarten ~ 356 hours Grades 1-3 ~ 712 hours Grades 4-6 ~ 890 hours Grades 7-8 ~ 1000 hours Grades 9-12 ~ students must enroll in at least four subjects that meet at least 720 hours	N/A	District option
Arkansas [ARK. CODE ANN. § 6-16-102; 6-10- 106]	178 days (Includes a minimum of 10 days [60 hrs] professional development/in-service) ³	N/A	6 hours/day or 30 hours/week	<i>Start</i> On or after the Monday of the week in which 8/19 falls; no earlier than 8/14 and no later than 8/26 ⁴
California [CAL. EDUC. CODE § 46200] 41420(a), 46201.2(b), 46112,46113,461 14, 46117,46141, 46201(b)	180/175 days ⁵	Kindergarten ~ 600 hours (36,000 minutes) Grades 1-3 ~ 840 hours (50,400 minutes) Grades 4-8 ~ 900 hours (54,000 minutes) Grades 9-12 ~ 1080 hours (64,800 minutes)	Kindergarten ~ 3 hours (180 minutes) Grades 1-3 ~ 3.83 hours (230 minutes) Grades 4-12 ~ 4 hours (240 minutes)	District option
Colorado [COLO. REV. STAT. § 22-32-109(1)(n)]	160 days	Half-day K ~ 435 hours Full-day K ~ 870 hours Grades 1-5 ~ 968 hours Grades 6-12 ~ 1056 hours (Excludes parent-teacher conferences and staff in- service programs)	N/A	District option
Connecticut [CONN. GEN. STAT. § 10-16]	180 days	Half-day K ~ 450 hours Full-day K ~ 900 hours Grades 1-12 ~ 900 hours	N/A ⁶	District option
Delaware [DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 14, § 1049(a)(1)]	N/A	Grades K-11 ~ 1060 hours Grade 12 ~ 1032 hours	3.5 hours (Excludes lunch)	District option
District of Columbia [D.C. MUN. REGS. tit. 5, § 305] A-2100.4, A-2100.5	180 days	N/A	Grades 1-12 ~ 6 hours (Includes lunch and recess)	District option (single district)
Florida [FLA. STAT. ch. 1003.02(1)(g); 1001.42; 1011.61]	180 days	Grades K-3 ~ 720 hours Grades 4-12 ~ 900 hours ⁷	N/A	District option, but: <i>Start</i> no earlier than 14 days before Labor Day

State [citation]	Minimum Amount of Instructional Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable)		Minimum time for any day to count as instructional day	School Start/Finish
	In Days	In Hours		
Georgia [GA. CODE ANN. § 20-2-168(c); GA. COMP. R. & REGS. r. 160-5-1-.02(2)]	180 days	Grades K-3 ~ 810 hours Grades 4-5 ~ 900 hours Grades 6-12 ~ 990 hours	Grades K-3 ~ 4.5 hours Grades 4-5 ~ 5 hours Grades 6-12 ~ 5.5 hours	District option
Hawaii [HAW. REV. STAT. § 302A-251]	180 days (Does not apply to charter and multi-track schools) (Excludes professional development)	Grades K-6 ~ 915 hours Grades 7-12 ~ 990 hours (for 2014-15 and 2015-16 school years) Grades K-12 ~ 1080 hours (for 2016-18 school years) Grades K-12~1146 hours (for 2018-19 school years) ⁸ (All of the above do not apply to charter or multi- track schools)	N/A	District option (single district)
Idaho [IDAHO CODE § 33- 512(1)]	N/A	Kindergarten ~ 450 hours Grades 1-3 ~ 810 hours Grades 4-8 ~ 900 hours Grades 9-12 ~ 990 hours ⁹ (Includes 22 hours for staff development)	N/A	District option
Illinois [105 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/10-19, 5/18-8.05 (F)]	180 days (Includes not more than four professional development days)	N/A	Half-day K ~ 2 hours Full-day K-1 ~ 4 hours Grades 2-12 ~ 5 hours	District option
Indiana [IND. CODE § 20- 30-2-2, 3]	180 days	N/A	Grades 1-6 ~ 5 hours Grades 7-12 ~ 6 hours	District option
Iowa [IOWA CODE § 256.7(19), 279.10]	180 days	1080 hours	Grades 1-12 ~ 6 hours/day or 30 hours/week (Includes parent- teacher conferences)	<i>Start</i> No earlier than a day of the week in which 9/1 falls. If 9/1 falls on Sunday, school may begin on a day of the week immediately preceding 9/1.
Kansas [KAN. STAT. ANN. § 72-1106(a),(b), 72-1111(h)(3)]	Grades K-11 ~ 186 days Grade 12 ~ 181 days	Kindergarten ~ 465 hours Grades 1-11 ~ 1116 hours Grade 12 ~ 1086 hours	5 hours/day	District option

State [citation]	Minimum Amount of Instructional Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable)		Minimum time for any day to count as instructional day	School Start/Finish
	In Days	In Hours		
Kentucky [KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 158.070; 702 Ky. Admin. Regs. 7:140]	170 days (185-day calendar that includes 170 instructional plus four days for professional development)	1062 hours	N/A	District option
Louisiana [LA. REV. STAT. ANN. § 17:154; LA. ADMIN. CODE tit. 28 pt., CXV §333, 1103]	177 days ¹⁰ (Includes two days for staff development)	1062 hours	6 hours (360 minutes) (Excludes recess)	District option
Maine [ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 20-A, § 4801]	175 days (Plus no more than five days for in-service education, parent- teacher conferences, similar activities)	N/A	N/A	District option ¹¹
Maryland [MD. CODE ANN., EDUC. § 7-103; Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.03.02.12A]	180 days	1080 hours Grades 8-12 ~ 1170	N/A	District option
Massachusetts [MASS. GEN. LAWS ch. 69, § 1G; MASS. REGS. CODE tit. 603, § 27.03, 27.04]	180 days	Kindergarten ~ 425 hours Grades 1-5 ~ 900 hours Grades 6-12 ~ 990 hours	N/A	District option
Michigan [MICH. COMP. LAWS §§ 388.1701 (3)(a); 380.1284b]	175 days ¹² (Beginning 2016-17, minimum ~ 180 days)	K-12 ~ 1098 hours	N/A	<i>Start</i> No earlier than Labor Day
Minnesota [MINN. STAT. §§ 120A.40, 41]	Grades 1-11 ~ 165 days ¹³	Kindergarten ~ 425 hours All-day kindergarten ~ 850 hours Grades 1-6 ~ 935 hours Grades 7-12 ~ 1,020 hours	N/A	<i>Start</i> No earlier than Labor Day (although there are exceptions to the requirement)
Mississippi [MISS. CODE ANN. §§ 37-13-61, 63,67]	180 days	N/A	5.5 hours	District option

State [citation]	Minimum Amount of Instructional Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable)		Minimum time for any day to count as instructional day	School Start/Finish
	In Days	In Hours		
Missouri [MO. REV. STAT. § 160.041, 171.031]	Five-day week ~ 174 days Four-day week ~ 142 days	1044 hours	5-day week ~ 3 hours 4-day week ~ 4 hours	District option, but: <i>Start</i> no earlier than 10 days prior to first Monday in September
Montana [MONT. CODE ANN. § 20-1-301, 302; MONT. ADMIN. R. 10.65.101]	N/A	Half-day K ~ 360 hours Grades K-3 ~ 720 hours Grades 4-12 ~ 1080 hours ¹⁴ (Includes an additional three days for instructional and professional development)	N/A	District option
Nebraska [NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 79-211, 212]	N/A	Kindergarten ~ 400 hours Grades 1-8 ~ 1032 hours Grades 9-12 ~ 1080 hours	N/A	District option
Nevada [NEV. REV. STAT. 385.080, 388.090 Nev. Admin. Code ch.387.120, .131]	180 days (May include up to five days for professional development with approval of Superintendent of Public Instruction)	N/A	Kindergarten ~ 2 hours Grades 1-2 ~ 4 hours Grades 3-6 ~ 5 hours Grades 7-12 ~ 5.5 hours (All include recess and time between lessons, exclude lunch)	District option
New Hampshire [N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 189:1, 24; N.H. CODE ADMIN. R. ANN. EDUC. 306.18(a)(1-3), (b), & (c)]	180 days	Kindergarten ~ 450 hours Grades 1-5 ~ 945 hours Grades 6-12 ~ 990 hours ¹⁵	Grades 1-5 ~ 5.75 hours Grades 6-12 ~ 6 hours (K-6 hours include recess)	District option
New Jersey [N.J. STAT. ANN. § 18A:7F-9, 18A:36- 1, -2; N.J. Admin. Code tit. 6A:32- 8.3]	180 days	N/A	Full-day K ~ 2.5 hours Grades 1-12 ~ 4 hours	District option
New Mexico [N.M. STAT. ANN. §§ 22-8-9(A)(1), 22-2-8.1]	N/A	Half-day K ~ 450 hours Full-day K ~ 990 hours Grades 1-6 ~ 990 hours ¹⁶ Grades 7-12 ~ 1080 hours	Half-day K ~ 2.5 hours Full-day K ~ 5.5 hours Grades 1-6 ~ 5.5 hours Grades 7-12 ~ 6 hours	District option

State [citation]	Minimum Amount of Instructional Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable)		Minimum time for any day to count as instructional day	School Start/Finish
	In Days	In Hours		
New York [N.Y. EDUC. LAW § 3204(9), 3604(7)]	180 days	N/A	Half-day K ~ 2.5 hours Full-day K ~ 5 hours Grades 1-6 ~ 5 hours Grades 7-12 ~ 5.5 hours ¹⁷	District option
North Carolina [N.C. GEN. STAT. § 115C- 84.2(a)(1),(d)]	185 days	1025 hours	N/A	District option, but: <i>Start</i> no earlier than Monday closest to 8/19 with approval, otherwise Monday closest to 8/26 <i>Finish</i> No later than Friday closest to June 11
North Dakota [N.D. CENT CODE § 15.1-06-04, 05]	175 (182-day calendar, with 175 days required for instruction; two days must be used for professional development and up to two days must be used for parent-teacher conferences)	Any reconfigured school year must include at least: Grades K-8 ~ 951.5 hours Grades 9-12 ~ 1038 hours	Grades K-6 ~ 5.5 hours Grades 7-12 ~ 6 hours	District option
Ohio [OHIO REV. CODE ANN. § 3313.48, 481]	N/A (Changed from minimum days to minimum hours in 2014)	Half-day K ~ 455 hours Full-day K ~ 910 hours Grades 1-6 ~ 910 hours Grades 7-12 ~ 1001 hours (K-6 includes two 15- minute recesses) (All grades: include up to two days professional development and up to two days for parent conferences and reporting)	N/A	District option
Oklahoma [OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 1-109, 111]	180 days	1080 hours (Includes up to 30 hours used for professional meetings and 6 hours per semester for parent- teacher conferences)	6 hours	District option

State [citation]	Minimum Amount of Instructional Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable)		Minimum time for any day to count as instructional day	School Start/Finish
	In Days	In Hours		
Oregon [OR. ADMIN. R. 581-022-1620]	N/A	Kindergarten ~ 405 hours Grades 1-3 ~ 810 hours Grades 4-8 ~ 900 hours Grades 9-12 ~ 990 hours ¹⁸ (May be reduced by up to 30 hours for staff development, pupil transportation schedules, or other local program scheduling arrangements)	N/A ¹⁹	District option, but no fewer than 265 consecutive calendar days between first and last instructional day
Pennsylvania [22 PA. CODE § 11.1, 3; 22 PA. CODE § 51.61]	180 days	Kindergarten ~ 450 hours Grades 1-8 ~ 900 hours Grades 9-12 ~ 990 hours	Kindergarten ~ 2.5 hours Grades 1-8 ~ 5 hours Grades 9-12 ~ 5.5 hours	District option
Rhode Island [R.I. GEN. LAWS § 16-2-2]	180 days	1080 hours (May total less than 180 days using longer school day as long as minimum hours are met)	Kindergarten ~ 2.75 hours Grades 1-12 ~ 5.5 hours (Excludes recess and lunch) ²⁰	District option
South Carolina [S.C. CODE ANN. § 59-1-425]	180 days (Plus three days for mandatory professional development, up to two days for professional development and up to five days for planning, parent conf., etc. to total 190 days)	N/A	6 hours (Elementary includes lunch; secondary excludes lunch)	District option, but: <i>Start</i> no earlier than third Monday in August
South Dakota [S.D. CODIFIED LAWS §§ 13-26-1, 2, 9; S.D. ADMIN. R. 24:43:09:05]	N/A	Kindergarten ~ 437.5 hours Grades 1-5 ~ 875 hours Grades 6-12 ~ 962.5 hours ²¹	N/A	<i>Start</i> No earlier than the first Tuesday following the first Monday in September ²²
Tennessee [TENN. CODE ANN. § 49-6-3004]	180 days (Plus five days for in- service and one day for parent-teacher conferences)	N/A	6.5 hours	District option, but: <i>Start</i> no earlier than August 1
Texas [TEX. EDUC. CODE ANN. §§ 25.081, 0811, .082 §§ 29.0822]	180 days	N/A	7 hours (Includes recess and break hours)	<i>Start</i> No earlier than the fourth Monday in August (unless a waiver is granted)

State [citation]	Minimum Amount of Instructional Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable)		Minimum time for any day to count as instructional day	School Start/Finish
	In Days	In Hours		
Utah [UTAH ADMIN. CODE R277-419-1, 4, 5]	180 days or 990 hours	Kindergarten ~ 450 hours Grade 1 ~ 810 hours Grades 2-12 ~ 990 hours	Kindergarten ~ 2 hours Grades 1-12 ~ 4 hours	District option
Vermont [VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 16, § 1071]	175 days	N/A	Kindergarten ~ 2 hours/day or 10 hours/week Grades 1-2 ~ 4 hours/day or 20 hours/week (includes recess, excludes lunch) Grades 3-8 ~ 5.5 hours/day (includes recess, excludes lunch) or 27.5 hours/week Grades 9-12 ~ 5.5 hours/day (excludes recess and lunch) or 27.5 hours/week ²³	Determined regionally
Virginia [VA. CODE ANN. §§ 22.1-79.1, 98; VA. ADMIN. CODE 20- 131-150]	180 days	Kindergarten ~ 540 hours Grades 1-12 ~ 990 hours	Kindergarten ~ 3 hours Grades 1-12 ~ 5.5 hours (excludes recess and lunch)	District option, but: <i>Start</i> after Labor Day (unless waiver granted)
Washington [WASH. REV. CODE §§ 28A.150.220]	180 days	Kindergarten ~ 1000 hours ²⁴ Grades 1-9 ~ 1000 hours Grades 9-12 ~ 1080 hours ²⁵	N/A	District option
West Virginia [W. VA. CODE § 18- 5-45(b)]	180 days	N/A	Kindergarten-4 ~ 5.25 hours Grades 5-8 ~ 5.5 hours Grades 9-12 ~ 5.75 ²⁶	District Option
Wisconsin [WIS. STAT. § 121.02(1)(f)] Wis. STAT. § 118.045] [WIS. STAT. § 121.004(7), 121.02(1)(f), WIS. STAT. § 118.045]	N/A (Changed from minimum days to minimum hours in 2014)	Half-Day K ~ 437 hours Full-Day K ~ 1050 hours Grades 1-6 ~ 1050 hours Grades 7-12 ~ 1137 hours (Includes recess and passing time but not lunch, excludes professional develop- ment and parent-teacher conferences)	N/A	<i>Start</i> No earlier than 9/1

State [citation]	Minimum Amount of Instructional Time/Year* (by grade, if applicable)		Minimum time for any day to count as instructional day	School Start/Finish
	In Days	In Hours		
Wyoming [WYO. STAT. ANN. § 21-4-301; WYO. RULES CHAP. 22, SEC. 5]	175 days	Kindergarten ~ 450 hours Elementary ~ 900 hours Middle/Jr. High ~ 1050 hours Secondary ~ 1100 hours	N/A	District option
TERRITORIES: Virgin Islands [17 V.I. CODE § 61]	N/A	1080 hours	N/A	<i>Start</i> No later than second Tuesday after second Monday in August <i>Finish</i> No later than the first Friday in June

Other ECS Resources on Instructional Time

- For information on what cannot count toward official instructional time, please see the ECS report, *What Cannot Count Toward Official Instructional Time?*, or follow this [link](#).

This ECS report was updated by Julie Rowland, researcher. Contact her at jrowland@ecs.org.

¹ For all grades, hours only apply if board submits an acceptable plan under which students will receive the educational equivalent of 180 days.

² Or equivalent number of minutes of instruction per year.

³ 2009 Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation, accessed at:

http://www.arkansased.org/public/userfiles/Public_School_Accountability/Standards_Assurance/ADE_Rules_Governing_Standards_for_Accreditation_July_2009.pdf

⁴ School year may begin on 8/18 only if it falls on a Monday; otherwise, the school year may begin no earlier than 8/19.

⁵ Through 2014-15, districts are allowed to shorten instructional year by five days without fiscal penalty.

⁶ Districts may count up to 7 hours/day towards the total required for the year.

⁷ For schools on double-session or approved experimental calendar: Grades K-3 ~ 630 hours; Grades 4-12 ~ 810 hours

⁸ 2014 Legislative Report of the Department of Education of the State of Hawaii

http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/DOE%20Forms/State%20Reports/302A-251_report.pdf

⁹ Instructional time for grade 12 may be reduced by up to 11 hours.

¹⁰ Early dismissal of seniors allowed up to 10 instructional days

¹¹ Districts must work within regional units to coordinate with their career and technical center units to ensure that, among other requirements, there are not more than five dissimilar instructional days within each regional calendar.

¹² Unless a collective bargaining agreement that includes a different and complete school calendar was in effect as of 7/1/2013

¹³ Unless a four-day week schedule has been approved by the commissioner

¹⁴ For graduating seniors, 1050 aggregate hours is sufficient.

¹⁵ High school seniors' school year may be reduced by up to 5 days or 30 hours

¹⁶ Thirty-three hours of the full-day kindergarten program and twenty-two hours of grades 1 through 5 may be used for home visits by the teacher or for parent-teacher conferences. Twelve hours of grades 7-12 may be used to consult with parents or for parent-teacher conferences.

¹⁷ Rules of the Regents and Regulations of the Commissioner of Education 175.5 (unofficial)

¹⁸ If approved by the local school board, instructional time for seniors may be reduced by up to 30 hours.

¹⁹ Oregon sets maximum, rather than minimum, hours/day: K-3 ~ 6 hours, Grades 4-8 ~ 6.5, Grades 9-12 ~ 7 hours.

²⁰ Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary & Secondary Education – Regulations Governing the School Calendar and School Day, accessed at: <http://www.ride.ri.gov/BoardofEducation/BoardRegulations.aspx>

²¹ School boards may release graduating seniors prior to the end of the school year.

²² Schools may start before this date if referred to voters of the district by petition.

²³ Vermont State Board of Education Manual of Rules and Practices 2312.

²⁴ To be statewide by 2017-18 school year. Currently transitioning from 450 hours to statewide full-day kindergarten

²⁵ Starting in 2015-16 school year. Currently: Kindergarten ~ 450 hours; Grades 1-12 ~ 1000 hours

²⁶ West Virginia State Board of Education Policy 2510 §26-42-7.2.d.3.

Linda Kenui
95-225 kaela place
Mililani, HI 96789-6516

LATE

February 4, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is _____linda Kenui _____.

I am a teacher at _____mililani high _____ School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to.

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Linda Kenui
8082218621

Christopher Ho
PO Box 1851
Hilo, HI 96721-1851

LATE

February 4, 2015

House Committee on Education
HI

Dear House Committee on Education:

My name is Christopher Ho.

I am a teacher at Kea`au High School.

I am writing in opposition of HB14.

As a teacher, I am committed to my students.

Since the passage of Act 167, the law has not worked as it was intended to. (Give an example)

Therefore, teachers are requesting to repeal Act 167. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address the issues of student learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure consistency while at the same time providing schools with the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

If you are serious about our children's future, let's get serious about what works for Hawaii's public education system.

Sincerely,

Christopher Ho
8086400056