

DAVID IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: 808-586-3775 Fax: 808-586-3776

FOR: HB 819 HD1 Relating to Bullying
DATE: Tuesday, March 3, 2015
TIME: 1:00 p.m.
COMMITTEE(S): House Committee on Judiciary
ROOM: Conference Room 325
FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

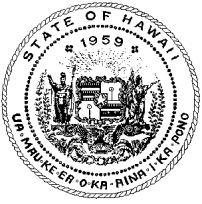
Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments on House Bill 819 HD1, "Relating to Bullying," which would establish various requirements for public schools and other entities related to the prevention and intervention.

The State Public Charter School Commission ("Commission") is strongly committed to ensuring that all students have safe and supportive learning environments in Hawaii's public charter schools. We would like to bring some considerations to the Committee's attention as it considers these proposals:

- We note that the Commission, as the authorizer of public charter schools, does not provide direct services to youth in any context in which its own adoption of bullying policies, programs, training, and reporting contemplated by the bills would appear relevant.
- The requirements of this measure are likely to prove administratively challenging for public charter schools, which typically are lightly staffed. The Commission appreciates the role of the proposed task force in making assistance and resources available to schools.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

March 3, 2015
Rm. 325, 1:00 p.m.

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

From: Linda Hamilton Krieger, Chair
and Commissioners of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

Re: H.B. No. 819 H.D. 1

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai‘i’s laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state-funded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5.

The HCRC strongly supports H.B. No. 819 H.D. 1, with a request for amendments described below.

H.B. No. 819 H.D. 1 requires all youth serving state and county agencies, their contractors, or entities that receive state funding to adopt, maintain, monitor and enforce anti-bullying policies and procedures, establishes a Bullying Prevention Task Force within the Department of Education and prohibits public charter schools from discriminating against a student based on gender identity or expression. The HCRC supports this measure because bullying can be a form a discriminatory harassment and because charter schools should be prohibited from discriminating against students based on their gender identity or expression.

Requested amendment: The HCRC requests that section 5 of the bill be amended to clarify that gender identity or expression is a form of sex discrimination. Therefore HRS § 302D-34 should be amended to read:

“(a) A public charger school shall not discriminate against any student or limit admission based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, [~~gender~~] sex, including gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, income level, disability, level of proficiency in the English language, need for special education services, or academic or athletic ability.”

The HCRC strongly supports passage of H.B. No. 819 H.D.1 with the amendments requested above.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
March 3, 2015

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: HB 819 HD1– Relating to Bullying

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **SUPPORTS THE INTENT OF HB 819 HD1**. The purpose of the bill is to require all youth-serving agencies, public schools, and public charter schools that receive State and County funding to adopt, maintain, monitor, and enforce policies and procedures related to all forms of bullying and cyberbullying to protect youth in the State.

People with DD are most vulnerable to be bullied. Bullying has been labeled as the leading cause of high suicide rates among our youth. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Department of Education, Hawaii has the highest rate in the nation of high school students who have made suicide plans.

According to the National School Boards Association, currently, Hawaii does have State laws covering anti-bullying. However, Hawaii does not have a State model policy that provides for a Communication Plan, which includes a plan for notifying students, students' families, and staff, of policies related to bullying, including the consequences for engaging in bullying. Nor does it provide Training and Preventive Education, which includes a provision for school districts to provide training for all school staff, including, but not limited to, teachers, aides, support staff, and school bus drivers, on preventing, identifying, and responding to bullying. Without such a policy to provide guidelines, institutions and agencies are not able to effectively address the issues of bullying.

The Council appreciates the bill's approach in the development of bullying prevention policies, programs, and reporting procedures, and establishment of a Bullying Prevention Task Force. Although comprehensive, we are concerned that it will be challenging to implement, monitor, and enforce the provisions in the bill without necessary staff and fiscal resources.

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Page 2
March 3, 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **supporting the intent of
HB 819 HD1.**

Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral, M.S.W.
Executive Administrator



Rosie Rowe
Chair

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu.org



KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. McCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE RA-YZ

March 3, 2015

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 819, H.D. 1, Relating to Bullying

I am Raymond Ancheta, Major of the Community Affairs Division, Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports House Bill No. 819, H.D. 1, Relating to Bullying. The initiatives in this bill will help to curb bullying and cyberbullying in our public schools, including the formation of a task force to develop policies to achieve this objective. However, this bill does not include representation either from law enforcement or the family court, who we believe should participate in this process.

The HPD urges you to support House Bill No. 819, H.D. 1, Relating to Bullying.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Ancheta", written over a horizontal line.

Raymond Ancheta, Major
Community Affairs Division

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis M. Kealoha", written over a horizontal line.

Louis M. Kealoha
Chief of Police



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 JUDICIARY

Wil Okabe
President
Joan Kamila Lewis
Vice President
Colleen Pasco
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015

RE: H.B. 819, H.D. 1 - RELATING TO BULLYING

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Karl Rhoads, Honorable Vice Chair Joy San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports H.B. 819, H.D. 1**. We believe that the school environment must be free from all forms of bullying, including physical, psychological, and cyber bullying.

From our perspective, students learn best when they know they are safe from anti-social behavior. We believe that every child should be able to come to school without feeling intimidated or bullied by others. Bullying and cyber bullying rob students of their opportunity to learn and leave emotional scars that can last a lifetime. Victims of bullying face increased odds of falling behind their peers academically, missing classes, and eventually dropping out of school. It is our shared responsibility to ensure that every child learns and every teacher works in a secure public school.

Anti-bullying education should start at a young age, and should involve teachers, support professionals, administrators, parents, and students in dialogue about respectful social interaction and ending discrimination. These norms have been codified into two anti-bullying policies by the Board of Education: BOE Policy 4211, for students, and BOE Policy 1110-7, for employees.

Finally, when bullying does occur on campus, we contend that schools, as well as the department, should have someone ready to respond immediately to make sure that harassment doesn't escalate into violence or self-destructive behavior. Our teachers are committed to preventing bullying in their classrooms and providing safe solutions to students who may be targeted by their classmates, so that harassment does not hamper student achievement. We hope that the department will be equally committed to ending bullying against teachers, from no matter whom the harassment originates.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of H.B. 819, H.D. 1**.



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council

919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101

Honolulu, HI 96814

Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129

email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov

March 3, 2015

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Chair*
Ms. Martha Guinan, *Vice
Chair*

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta
Dr. Tammy Bopp
Dr. Robert Campbell
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman
Ms. Annette Cooper
Ms. Shari Dela Cuadra-Larsen,
liaison to the Superintendent
Ms. Gabriele Finn
Ms. Jenny Gong
Ms. Natalie Haggerty
Ms. Barbara Ioli
Ms. Valerie Johnson
Ms. Deborah Kobayakawa
Ms. Bernadette Lane
Ms. Dale Matsuura
Ms. Stacey Oshio
Ms. Zaidarene Place
Ms. Barbara Pretty
Ms. Kau'i Rezentes
Ms. Rosie Rowe
Dr. Patricia Sheehy
Mr. Tom Smith
Ms. Lani Solomona
Dr. Todd Takahashi
Dr. Daniel Ulrich
Dr. Amy Wiech
Ms. Jasmine Williams
Ms. Susan Wood

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff
Susan Rocco, Staff

Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 819, HD 1 - Relating to Bullying

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **supports the intent** of HB 819, HD 1 that requires all schools and youth-serving agencies to adopt bullying prevention policies and establishes a task force to assist the Governor in carrying out this legislation.

The latest 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that roughly one in five middle and high school students in Hawaii were bullied on school property. Students with disabilities are at even greater risk of harm, suffering two to three times more bullying incidents than students without disabilities.

SEAC values the intent of HB 819, HD 1 to protect youth in a variety of settings. We strongly support more specificity in the bill regarding how the agency policies will be monitored, enforced and their outcomes reported out to the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this comprehensive legislation. If you have questions or concerns, I would be happy to address them.

Respectfully,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 531-2198 Fax: (808) 534-1199

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Daryl Selman, President
Judith F. Clark, Executive Director
Aloha House
American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
Bay Clinic, Inc.
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu
Big Island Substance Abuse Council
Blueprint for Change
Bobby Benson Center
Catholic Charities Hawaii
Child and Family Service
Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii
Courage House Hawaii
Domestic Violence Action Center
EPIC, Inc.
Family Programs Hawaii
Family Support Hawaii
Hale Kipa, Inc.
Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.
Hawaii Behavioral Health
Hawaii Student Television
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition
Hina Mauka Teen Care
Hui Malama Learning Center
Kaanalike
Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health
KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)
Project
Kids Hurt Too
Kokua Kalihi Valley
Life Foundation
Marimed Foundation
Maui Youth and Family Services
Palama Settlement
P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.
Parents and Children Together (PACT)
Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
REAL
Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.
Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.
Sex Abuse Treatment Center
Susannah Wesley Community Center
The Catalyst Group
The Children's Alliance of Hawaii
Waikiki Health Center
Women Helping Women
YWCA of Kauai

February 27, 2015

To: Representative Karl Rhodes, Chair
And members of the Committee on Judiciary

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 819 HD1 RELATING TO BULLYING

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 819 HD1 Relating to Bullying.

For the past 6 years, bullying has been one of the top concerns of the youth who participate in the annual Children and Youth Summit at the State Capitol each October.

According to the Hawaii Youth Behavioral Risk Survey, Hawaii has a low rate of youth violence in almost every area except bullying. The number of youth who have stated that they were afraid to go to school or have missed school due to bullying is much higher than the national average.

Children and youth who are victims of bullying are not able to take full advantage of their educational and recreational opportunities. They are unable to concentrate on their studies, may avoid participation in sports and recreation to avoid contact with bullies, and, in extreme cases, find the bullying so intolerable that they choose suicide as the only way to end it.

HYSN believes that that funding should be allocated to support a comprehensive approach to bullying prevention and intervention that includes:

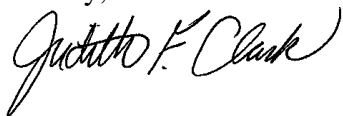
- Bullying prevention education and character education for children and youth designed to promote peace and harmony and positive ways of resolving disputes;
- Education for parents and community members on how to prevent bullying and respond appropriately;

- Training for educators and students on prevention and intervention skills, and alternative means of dispute resolution;
- Law enforcement involvement only when other means fail.

HYSN has conducted bullying and violence prevention training for youth workers and educators in Hawaii and the Northern Mariana Islands for the past 4 years and is a member of the Anti-Bullying Task Force convened by Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



March 3, 2015

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Co-Chair

RE: HB 819 HD1 Relating to Bullying
Hearing: Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 1:00 p.m., Room 325

POSITION: Strong Support

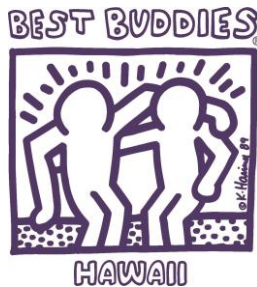
The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus writes in strong support of HB 819 HD1 Relating to Bullying.

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawaii's women and girls it is because of this mission that that the caucus strongly supports this measure.

Federal statistics show that one-third of all students experience physical or cyberbullying. Bullying continues to be a problem in our schools.

Our children often face bullying in schools based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender and gender identity and other common characteristics. This measure will strengthen our current policies and help to provide needed protection for our children so that they may learn in an environment free from intimidation, harassment, and violence. It is our responsibility to provide a safe learning environment.

We ask that the committee pass this measure and we thank the committee for the opportunity to provide testimony.



March 2, 2015

Testimony in support of HB 819 –HD1

Aloha House Judiciary and Education Committee Members,

On behalf of Best Buddies Hawaii, I wanted to let you know we are strongly recommending approval for HB 819 – HD1 (Relating to Bullying)

To solve the issue of “bullying” it is important everyone first understand what student group is most at risk. Bullying of children in our schools with disabilities is significant. Studies show that more than 60% of students with disabilities report being bullied as opposed to 25% of students without disabilities. Research also shows that bullying leads to high rates of school absenteeism, lower grades, higher student dropout rates and other negative impacts. Therefore we believe passage of this bill is critical to the well-being of our students and their families in Hawaii.

The isolation and challenges students with disabilities encounter cannot be underestimated. Please take a moment to read the following speech by Baldwin High School student Mary Joy Sioson. She recently was invited by Maui County Department heads to speak to a number of their employees:

“Aloha Everybody

My name is Mary Joy. I am from Baldwin High School. I love going shopping and spending time with my family and friends. I am HAPPY and STRONG because of Best Buddies.

Before BEST BUDDIES I was bullied at my old school. Now I am here. And I am STRONG enough to help stop bullying! In my old school people called me names to my face and behind my back. They called me UGLY. They called me STUPID. I felt SAD. I cried and would be by myself a lot.

Then I changed schools. I now go to Baldwin High School and joined Best Buddies. This CHANGED my LIFE! It felt so good to meet new people. I now hang out with my FRIENDS who make me HAPPY. Now I feel STRONG and EXCITED and POWERFUL. My friends HAVE my back...they don't talk BEHIND it.

Now I am a Best Buddies Ambassador. I want to help others and STOP BULLYING! If I see someone bullying someone like me I would stop them. I would say, “Stop calling names” “Don't treat people like that!” All people are BEAUTIFUL. That's the way they are. This is the way I AM. Thank you for letting me tell my story.

Thank you for listening. Thank you to my teachers, friends and family.
GO BEST BUDDIES! BE NICE!” (a copy of Mary Joy's speech with her picture is attached)



Best Buddies gives students with IDD the chance to have a friend, sometimes for the first time in their life. At the same time, Best Buddies offers students without disabilities the opportunity to learn to accept and appreciate their fellow students and participate in our anti-bullying campaigns at their schools.

Our programs create opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Best Buddies Hawaii is a state affiliate of Best Buddies International (BBI), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that was founded by Anthony Kennedy Shriver in 1989. Best Buddies programs have been operating in Hawaii since 2008.

Participating in a Best Buddies school chapter gives children with IDD, like Mary Joy, the opportunity to build much-needed friendships and social skills in a safe and fun setting. These social skills will serve our special needs students well as they look for employment in the community or continue their education after high school.

Currently we are operating Best Buddies school friendship programs at 17 middle and high schools in Honolulu County and Maui County. Many other schools throughout the state desire to begin our programs but funding is very limited and we are unable to do so at this time.

Approval of HB819 would be an avenue through which additional funding for our much needed programs could be provided.

There is no other organization providing these services to our youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael McCormick". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Michael McCormick
State Director

**HB819:
Copy of Mary Joy Sioson speech,
Baldwin High Student &
Best Buddies Ambassador**



This is me in the middle after giving my speech in the Mayor's office.

**Aloha Everybody,
My name is Mary Joy. I am from Baldwin High School.**

I love going shopping and spending time with my family and friends. I am HAPPY and STRONG because of Best Buddies.

Before BEST BUDDIES I was bullied at my old school.

**Now I am here. And I am STRONG enough to help stop bullying!
In my old school people called me names to my face and behind my back. They called me UGLY.
They called me STUPID.**

**I felt SAD. I cried and would be by myself a lot.
Then I changed schools. I now go to Baldwin High School and joined Best Buddies.
This CHANGED my LIFE!**

**It felt so good to meet new people. I now hang out with my FRIENDS who make me HAPPY.
Now I feel STRONG and EXCITED and POWERFUL!
My friends HAVE my back...they don't talk BEHIND it.**

**Now I am a Best Buddies Ambassador.
I want to help others and STOP BULLYING!**

**If I see someone bullying someone like me I would stop them.
I would say, "Stop calling names" "Don't treat people like that!"**

**All people are BEAUTIFUL. That's the way they are.
This is the way I AM.**

**Thank you for letting me tell my story. Thank you for listening.
Thank you to my teachers, friends and family.**

GO BEST BUDDIES! BE NICE!



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN®

The Honorable Rep. Karl Rhoads
Chair, House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol, Room 302
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 3, 2015

Re: **SUPPORT for HB 819, Testimony from the Human Rights Campaign before the House Committee on Judiciary in support of the Safe Schools for All Students Act.**

Dear Chairperson Rhoads and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against LGBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all. HRC believes that all youth deserve a safe educational environment that is free of bullying and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. On behalf of HRC's nearly 6,000 members in Hawaii, we thank you for allowing us to submit testimony in favor of the Safe Schools for All Students Act (HB 819), which will protect youth in Hawaii from bullying and discrimination. We urge you to swiftly pass this important legislation.

The passage of this anti-bullying legislation is critical to ensure the safety and well-being of young people in Hawaii. Bullying and harassment has become a serious public health crisis in our nation's schools. Nationally, sixty-five percent of teens have been verbally or physically harassed or assaulted based on a characteristic that makes them different from some of their peers, like their race, religion, or gender, and sixty-five percent of junior high school teachers report that bullying and harassment is a serious problem in their school.ⁱ In Hawaii in 2013, nearly 19% (1 in 5) of students reported being bullied on school property and more than 15% reported experiencing cyberbullying.ⁱⁱ

Bullying and harassment has often increased adverse effects on marginalized students, including those who identify as LGBT. A national survey of LGBT youth showed that nearly 75% of LGBT students experience verbal or physical harassment in school.ⁱⁱⁱ LGBT students who experienced high levels of victimization were three times as likely to be absent from school and had grades on average a half a grade lower than their peers. Though these statistics reflect the experiences of LGBT students, consequences like absenteeism, lowered educational aspirations and academic achievement, and poorer psychological well-being can affect all students who experience bullying and harassment.



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN[®]

Research demonstrates that a crucial part of addressing bullying and harassment in schools is the adoption of enumerated anti-bullying policies, meaning policies that protect all students but that identify characteristics that are commonly targeted for bullying and harassment. Enumeration is necessary to ensure that anti-bullying policies provide protection for marginalized students such as LGBT youth. Students who attend schools with enumerated policies report less bullying and harassment and a higher rate of intervention by teachers when bullying occurs.^{iv} We applaud the sponsors of this legislation for making the Safe Schools for All Students Act as inclusive as possible.

The Safe Schools for All Students Act is more comprehensive than the majority of states' anti-bullying legislation because it applies to all youth-serving agencies in Hawaii. This will help ensure that young people feel safe and welcome in parks and in libraries as well as public and charter schools. Moreover, the bill places an emphasis on alternative discipline and preventive education, rather than exclusionary discipline or zero-tolerance policies. This is essential because exclusionary discipline policies do little to make schools safer, and they have an increased negative impact on marginalized students, such youth of color, LGBT youth, and youth with disabilities.^v Finally, the bill creates an implementation task force to ensure that schools, experts, and agencies work together to address bullying in a concerted way across Hawaii.

We strongly support the Safe Schools of All Students Act, comprehensive anti-bullying legislation which will help ensure the safety of all youth in Hawaii. If you should have any questions regarding HRC's support for HB 819, please contact me at 202-572-8960 or by email at Alison.Gill@hrc.org.

Sincerely,

Alison Gill, Esq.
Senior Legislative Counsel
Human Rights Campaign

ⁱ Harris Interactive and GLSEN (2005). *From Teasing to Torment: School Climate in America, A Survey of Students and Teachers*. New York: GLSEN. Available at

<http://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/From%20Teasing%20to%20Torment%20Full%20Report.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Available at: www.cdc.gov/yrbs. Accessed on February 2, 2015.

ⁱⁱⁱ Kosciw, J. G., Greytak, E. A., Palmer, N. A., & Boesen, M. J. (2014). *The 2013 National School Climate Survey: The experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth in our nation's schools*. New York: GLSEN. Available at

http://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/2013%20National%20School%20Climate%20Survey%20Full%20Report_0.pdf

^{iv} Id.

^v American Psychological Association Zero Tolerance Task Force (2008). *Are zero tolerance policies effective in the schools? An evidentiary review and recommendations*. *The American psychologist*, 63(9), 852-62.



Tuesday, March 3, 2015

Relating to House Bill 819, House Draft 1
Testifying in Support

Aloha, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Jan Buenaventura, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

The Democratic Party of Hawaii **supports HB819 HD1 Relating to Bullying**, which requires certain state and county agencies and grantees to adopt bullying prevention policies, establishes a task force to assist the Governor with bullying prevention policies in the State, and appropriates funds for recourses and staff for the Bullying Prevention Task Force.

This bill will help ensure the safety and well-being of Hawaii's youth population. Though the legislature, in 2011, took steps to address this issue, since its enactment, it seems to have had little direct effect and needs to be improved and strengthened. We believe HB819 will do just that.

The 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that approximately one in five Hawaii middle and high school students were bullied at school. This figure is unnecessarily high and goes even higher among students with disabilities. No young person, regardless of gender, disability, nationality, or sexual orientation, should have to experience fear and potential bodily harm while in an educational environment.

We believe this bill takes a comprehensive approach to the problem and encourage you to pass this bill out of your committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify,
The Legislation Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Orozco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



LATE

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

Date: 03/03/2015
Time: 01:00 PM
Location: 325
Committee: House Judiciary

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0819, HD1 RELATING TO BULLYING.

Purpose of Bill: Requires certain state and county agencies and grantees to adopt bullying prevention policies. Establishes a task force to assist the Governor with bullying prevention policies in the State. Appropriates funds. (HB819 HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) appreciates the intent of HB 819 HD1. This bill would require all youth-serving agencies and schools that receive state funds to adopt bullying prevention policies to protect youth.

However, the Department has substantive concerns regarding the proposed amendments to Hawaii Revised Statutes. When a student's behavior violates established policies, rules, or regulations of the Department, state or local laws, the Department may take appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) Title 8 Chapter 19, *Student Misconduct, Discipline, School Searches and Seizures, Reporting Offenses, Police Interviews and Arrests, and Restitution for Vandalism*. This HAR governs acts of bullying in the Department. Currently, the bill's proposed language for many definitions, processes and procedures are inconsistent with Chapter 19.

We respectfully ask for your favorable support of an appropriation since this measure places the responsibility on the Department to provide the proposed bullying prevention task force with the resources and staff support necessary to accomplish the mandates of this measure.

Further, the Department also would like to ensure that HB 819 HD1 would not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

LGBT Student Services Office

LATE

TO: House Committee on Education
Conference Room 325
Hawaii'i State Capitol
March 3, 2015, 1:30 p.m.

FROM: Camaron Miyamoto,
Coordinator, LGBT Student Services
University of Hawaii'i at Mānoa



RE: **STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB819,HD1**

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Office of LGBT Student Services at the University of Hawaii'i at Mānoa in strong support of for HB819,HD1.

While my testimony is not the official stance of the University of Hawaii'i, **my testimony is grounded in over 20 years of professional experience here in Hawaii'i as a trainer, researcher and advocate in the areas of harassment, non-discrimination and bullying-prevention**; the areas of expertise for which I was awarded tenure as UH Mānoa faculty.

I co-founded the Hawaii'i Safe Schools Coalition in 1999, which led the state-wide campaign to successfully add "race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, disability and religion" to the Department of Education definition of "harassment" in the Chapter 19 administrative rules relating to student misconduct.

In 2009, I worked with the University of Hawaii'i Board of Regents to add "gender identity and expression" to the UH Policy of non-discrimination. I continue to conduct research and trainings for the University on bullying prevention, bystander education, and student empowerment.

Today, I encourage you to vote to support The Safe Schools for All Students Act because:

- **92% of registered voters indicated that it is "important" for the state to address bullying**, in a poll conducted by Equality Hawaii'i.
- **Students want to focus on learning in the classroom, not looking over their shoulders.**
- **This law will empower existing advocates for students in our schools** and enhance anti-bullying networks and resources in Hawaii'i.
- **All students deserve an education free from harassment**, intimidation, bullying or intolerance.

Our educational systems (P-20) must have stronger measures of accountability for institutions and appropriate systems for students in place if we, as a state, intend to stay free from further federal Department of Education inquiry. This is particularly true in relation to LGBTQ and gender-non-conforming young people.

I urge you to take proactive steps today. I ask you to please vote in support of HB819, HD1. Mahalo.

2600 Campus Road, Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services 211-C, Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96822-2205

Telephone: (808) 956-9250, Facsimile: (808) 956-9314, Email: LGBTQ@hawaii.edu

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mathew Bellhouse-King	Equality Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments: 2 March, 2015 The Hon. Karl Rhoads Chairman, House Committee on Judiciary State of Hawai'i Honolulu, HI Aloha, Mr. Chairman and Judiciary Committee Colleagues: It is my honor to offer this written testimony in support for HB819, the Safe Schools for All Students Act (SSASA), which the committee is scheduled to hear tomorrow afternoon. I write on behalf of Equality Hawai'i, the state's largest political, social justice and advocacy organization for the LGBT community and our allies. The Legislature took an important step forward in 2011 with passage of Safe Schools Act. But in the years since, we've come to know more intimately that the Safe Schools Act needs to be strengthened significantly to provide the protection and care that children who study in our public schools or who are served by other agencies of the state so fundamentally deserve. The legislation you'll consider tomorrow will do that. Here's how:

- SSASA will create a standard definition of bullying for all public schools, state agencies that serve youth and grantees (including private schools that receive state funds). It will also enumerate the standard characteristics recognized by law elsewhere for which students are commonly bullied, such as race, religious affiliation, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity.
- SSASA mandates annual bullying prevention training for teachers and other staff who deal with youth. Intervening in bullying situations is already a legal requirement for these professionals, and it is our strong position that giving them such a responsibility without ongoing training is unfair to those employees, a potential liability for schools and agencies and, most of all, unacceptable for our children. Through universal training and creating a single bullying standard, we can ensure that no matter which arm of the state or which of our public school campuses are serving our youth, they and their families can expect a consistent, quality standard of response.
- SSASA will mandate creation of a gubernatorial task force that will articulate a model anti-bullying policy for consideration by schools and affected agencies. It will also identify free and low-cost options for bullying prevention/intervention training that will meet the demands of this law and mitigate any strain on training budgets. It's important to know that SSASA would address all of the above in service of all of our keiki. Equality Hawai'i primarily serves LGBT individuals and interests, and while we recognize that LGBT youth all too often bear a disproportionate share of the bullying burden, we also recognize that a law and policies that provide relief to LGBT youth will be helpful for everyone. It is in that spirit that Equality Hawai'i strongly encourages the members of the House Judiciary Committee to pass this measure so that it may be considered by your colleagues and ultimately become law. Our children and our families deeply appreciate your attention to their safety and well being. Mahalo, Mathew Bellhouse-King Co-Chair Equality Hawai'i

LATE



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

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 819, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO BULLYING

**House Committee on Judiciary
Hon. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Hon. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair**

**Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

Honorable Chair Rhoads and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMU Alliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 300 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of House Bill 819, relating to bullying.

In a 2013 Qmark Research poll conducted on behalf of Equality Hawaii Foundation, 57 percent of registered voters said that they have been impacted by bullying. Many of those surveyed indicated having been bullied as youth. In 2012, from the start of the public school year to mid-December, there were 541 reported incidents of bullying, 94 cyberbullying incidents and 1,871 incidents involving harassment, according to statistics reported to the Hawaii State Board of Education. That year, students in the Aiea-Moanalua-Radford complex comprised 9 percent of state enrollment, but 12 percent of reported bullying incidents. Another 11 percent of reported bullying incidents occurred in the Honokaa-Kealakehe-Kohala-Konawaena complex, which has 5.8 percent of Hawaii's public school students. Moreover, some districts, like Hilo-Waiakea and Nanakuli-Waianae, reported no incidents of cyberbullying, raising questions about monitoring and compliance. In departmental surveys, 1 in 6 Hawaii high school students say that they have been bullied online or via text messages, while 20 percent reporting being bullied on school property. Nearly one-fourth of Hawaii middle-school students say they have been victims of cyberbullying and 41 percent reported being bullied at school.

Bullying precipitates depression and anxiety, increased feelings of sadness and loneliness, changes in sleep and eating patterns, loss of interest in enjoyable activities, health complaints, and decreased academic achievement. Bullied students are more likely to have subpar grade point averages and standardized test scores, lower levels of class participation, and increased rates of absenteeism and dropping out. Local teenagers turn to suicide as a solution to their problems at a level that has more than doubled over the past five years. According to the national *2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, Hawai'i high school students had the seventh highest self-

reported prevalence of considering suicide, making a plan to commit suicide, and attempting suicide.

We must do all we can to end the cycle of bullying and self-harm. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance

LATE

before the Committee on the Judiciary in support of the Safe Schools for
All Students Act

March 3, 2015

Room Number 325

1:00pm

Statement submitted by:

GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network) Hawai'i

Attn: Committee on Judiciary:

Aloha Judiciary Chair Rep. Karl Rhoads,

Thank you for your continued leadership on the important issue of school safety and for this opportunity to present testimony in support of HB819. I am Kaleo Ramos, Co-Chair of GLSEN Hawai'i. GLSEN is the leading national education organization focused on ensuring safe schools for all students. For 25 years, GLSEN has worked to ensure that each member of every school community is valued and respected, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression. We do this by providing staff professional development as well as supporting students in their efforts to help create a safe and welcoming school climate. In addition, we work with student clubs commonly known as gay straight alliances. We work to ensure that all students have a safe place to voice their concerns regarding any issue, including bullying and/or harassment.

Bullying and harassment are truly vital issues, both in Hawai'i and throughout our country. Too many students are afraid to go to school each day because of the relentless bullying they know they will face. The problem can be exacerbated for vulnerable student populations such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth, students with disabilities, and students of color. Based on GLSEN's *2013 National School Climate Survey*, research found that schools are unsafe and unwelcoming for the majority of LGBT students. Sixty-five percent heard homophobic remarks, 30% missed at least one day of school in the past month because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable and 85% were verbally harassed in the past year. It is clear that there is an urgent need for action to create safe and affirming schools for our LGBT youth.

Fortunately, years of research on bullying and harassment has provided us with solutions that work, such as comprehensive, enumerated anti-bullying policies such as HB819. Research has shown that enumeration is necessary to ensure that anti-bullying policies provide protection for all students. Students who attend schools with enumerated policies report less bullying and harassment, a higher rate of intervention by teachers, an overall increased feeling of safety, and

a greater willingness to report incidents of bullying and harassment when they occur.¹ However, research shows that students in states *without* enumerated laws have roughly the same experience of bullying as students in states with no anti-bullying laws at all.²

We also strongly support the provisions of HB819 which provide for statewide reporting of incidents of bullying and harassment. The collection and analysis of data about bullying and harassment is an important component of any strategy to confront this issue. Statewide data collection would allow the Governor, Department of Education, educators, and the general public to annually receive an aggregate report about incidents of bullying and harassment in Hawai'i. This would help make funding decisions and consider any further updates to the law to better address bullying and harassment. The availability of aggregate data would also allow the Governor to make an informed assessment of how the law is working, to suggest improvements, and to tailor implementation efforts. Finally, these annual reports would help school districts tailor district anti-bullying efforts to address particular bullying issues, such as cyberbullying or bullying against LGBT students.

Enumerated anti-bullying policies, collection and analysis of statewide bullying data, and alternative school discipline are all necessary aspects of ensuring school safety in Hawai'i. We thank you for examining these important issues and urge the Committee to pass HB819 to provide all Hawai'i students with a safe, supportive educational environment. Passing HB819 will send a strong message to our youth that LGBT individuals are equal in the eyes of the law.

Mahalo for your time,

B. Kaleo Ramos
Chapter Co-Chair
GLSEN Hawaii

¹ Kosciw, J. G., Greytak, E. A., Diaz, E. M., and Bartkiewicz, M. J. (2013). The 2013 National School Climate Survey: The experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth in our nation's schools. New York: GLSEN.

² Ibid.



95-954 Makakilo Dr. #71 Kapolei, HI 96707 Email: Rainbowfamily808@gmail.com Phone: 808-779-9078 Fax: 808672-6347

LATE

March 2, 2015

TO: HOUSE Judiciary Committee

RE: HB819 HD1

IN STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members,

As President of Rainbow Family 808, a group of Straight, LGBT families focused on peace and justice through education, we strongly SUPPORT HB819 HD1 on behalf of all our families.

As a Social Worker, I admire Massachusetts for the great strides they have made in addressing bullying for over 20 years. This is what I want for Hawaii.

My first contact I had with Bullying in Hawaii was in 1995 after a young Freshman brought a complaint to his school after they mishandled the daily bullying he had received. One teacher handled the bullying by ordering him to spend his recess reading bible verses in his classroom. After several complaints, the school transferred him to another school, less than 5 miles from his home school. Being a small island, the bullying started anew. He escaped bodily injuries until the day that he couldn't out run the gang on campus. When the beating was over, he was carried off campus on a stretcher. His parents told Administration that since the school failed to protect him on campus, they were withdrawing him from school. The student lost the use of his one eye after a pencil attack. The school awarded him a GED which ended up demoralizing him because he felt that he didn't work for it. He lost his high school experience. The last time I saw him, he was bartending.

I wish I referred him to ACLU for restitution and closure after the horrid bullying he experienced daily at the hands of bullies on campus. His parents didn't know about ACLU and did their best to protect him. There is no way to give him back his high school years but we can make sure this doesn't happen again. HB819 provides training so that educators, custodians, staff and administrators stop bullying the moment it erupts in class or anyplace on campus.

After 20 years of testifying on Bills that address Bullying in our Hawaii School System, this is the most comprehensive bill. Let this be the year that we move forward to address the harm to the victims and the perpetrators of this serious Hate Crime. Our

students deserve a safe school environment for an ultimate learning experience in Hawaii.

Please Pass HB979 HD1 to return protection that is needed for our youth in Hawaii schools. National records show that in the first two months of 2015, FOUR Suicide Youth victims have already taken their lives. The notes left behind reflect that they can't take the daily bullying.

Mahalo nui loa

Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW - President

**GAY LESBIAN
BISEXUAL AND
TRANSGENDER
CAUCUS**



**DEMOCRATIC
PARTY OF HAWAII**

LATE

Hawaii State House of Representatives Committee on Education

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Rep. Debra Au Beretti

Rep. Mark J. Hashem

Rep. Dee Morikawa

Rep. Justin H. Woodson

Rep. Tom Brower

Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima

Rep. Bob McDermott

Rep. Richard P. Creagan

Rep. Chris Lee

Rep. Gregg Takayama

Rep. Cynthia Thielen

Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 1:00 p.m.

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 325

IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 819 HD1

H.B. 819 HD1 proposes the broadest effort to date to address bullying. It requires certain state and county agencies and grantees to adopt bullying prevention policies; it establishes a task force to assist the Governor with bullying prevention policies; it establishes a retaliation reporting task force.

The Caucus takes particular interest in bullying, because LGBT students are 3-4 times more likely to attempt suicide. While there is not enough research to make a causal connection between bullying and suicide, bullying has adverse effects on the bully, the victim and the witnesses. Victims report symptoms of PTSD, depression/anxiety, low self-esteem, sleeping problems, stomach aches, headaches.... Bullies report suicidal ideation, substance abuse, early sexual activity and tend to perpetuate abuse in their romantic relationships. Witnesses report negative psychological and physiological effects equal to that of victims, including depression/anxiety and substance abuse of tobacco, alcohol or other drugs.

What is the answer? Traditional methods of punishment and reform that focus on the bully and the victim are not effective. Apparently enumerated statutes are at least part of the answer. *Romer v. Evans* noted "enumeration is the essential devices used to make the duty not to discriminate concrete and to provide guidance for those who must comply." Research supports this finding. Over a dozen states have implemented anti-bullying statutes that include enumeration of those groups protected, the activities forbidden, etc. National research has shown that 73% of students have responded that they have heard homophobic remarks in states where the legislation does not enumerate; this drops to 60% in states which have enumerated statutes.

In addressing bullying, it is important to use a holistic approach that involves the entire community. The broader approach is reflected in HB819.

We urge you to pass this bill from committee.

Very truly yours,
Jo-Ann M. Adams, Legislative Liaison



Committee: Committee on Judiciary
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 1:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 325
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii **with Comments on H.B. 819, H.D. 1,**
Relating to Bullying

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes with comments on H.B. 819, H.D. 1, Relating to Bullying. The ACLU of Hawaii **supports Part III** (amending HRS § 302D-34 to prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and expression in Hawaii’s public charter schools).

As to Part II, although the ACLU of Hawaii believes that it is a laudable goal to eradicate bullying in state agencies, H.B. 819, H.D. 1 would apply to every state and county agency and a multitude of grantees. The bill, if passed, would result in scores of bullying prevention programs and reporting requirements that could vary in great degree and provide little certainty to youth about prohibited behaviors and consequences.

The original version of H.B. 819 was entitled “the Safe Schools for All Children Act,” and the ACLU of Hawaii would support a more focused anti-bullying bill limited to the Department of Education to address bullying in state public and public charter schools. A more focused bill would be far more advantageous (and ultimately more successful) in preventing bullying behavior in Hawaii’s public schools.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Daniel M. Gluck
Legal Director
ACLU of Hawaii

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for 50 years.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
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www.acluhawaii.org

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joyce Midori Charles	MoveOn.org Honolulu Council	Support	No

Comments: As a parent and grandparent I strongly support this bill to help to protect ALL of the keiki of Hawai'i.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

LATE

	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Douglas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katharine Beutner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Federal statistics show that one-third of all students experience physical or cyberbullying. We see this issue play out too often in Hawai'i schools, with LGBTQ students too often paying the price. A poll of registered voters around our state released last year by Equality Hawai'i show that 92 percent said it is "important" for the state to take new steps to address bullying. The bill recognizes that students often face bullying based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender and gender identity and other common characteristics and strengthens approaches to training and reporting. We can and should do better by our children than current law allows. Based on best practices nationwide, this bill will help us do that. Please support safe schools for Hawai'i's students. Thank you, Kate Beutner

LATE

Testified By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kahana	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HB819 As a victim of bullying for most of my k-12 years, including not just in school, but before school, after school, and during summer"fun", i can attest that bullying, assault, and worse left a profound effect on me, which carries on into my adult life. Childhood was a living hell, in part because of bullying. I sincerely wish this had been in place when I was a student - I can't imagine how different, how normal my life might be now. On a technical note, I wish it could be even stronger, to protect the voiceless ones, such as adding national origin, social-economic status, domiciled status (i.e., houselessness") as other parts of the definition of bullying. For the ones who still have to survive the crucible, for those who will be poured into it, so that perhaps they won't have to endure what some of us have, please pass HB819 Relating to Bullying, and perhaps even strengthen it. Mahalo ā nui loa

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pablo Wegesend	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: School employees need official guidelines in dealing with bullying. Too often, school employees have to make quick decisions without official guidelines. With unified official guidelines, it will be much more clear on what school employees need to do when bullying occurs.

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Stop Bullying

LATE

By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eileen McKee	Individual	Support	No

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Vannatta	Individual	Support	No

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mathew Bellhouse-King	Individual	Support	No

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robyn Blaisdell	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: We all know how this works: A child looks, acts, dresses differently and is in danger of being harassed and bullied. Schools and teachers need to be trained to see the signs of bullying and notice when children are fearful of others or have been crying. Students need to be constantly monitored in class, at lunch, at recess - anywhere on school grounds in order to prevent any form of harassment. Students need to know there will be someone available at all times to keep them safe. All online communications with children should be monitored by the teacher at school and the parents at home.

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Kern	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: My name is Nancy Kern. I worked on the issue of bullying prevention for many years when I was an employee of the Hawaii Department of Health. Bullying continues to be a pervasive issue among students at Hawaii's public schools, particularly among LGBT youth. Bullying based on any of the recognized classes - including race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender and gender identity - is a significant challenge for many Hawaii students. It is our responsibility to protect our youth from negative behaviors. This bill will help us to do so. Please pass it so all of Hawaii's children can experience a safe and secure school environment.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Van Law	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please consider passing this bill as its passage is a matter of life and death. Every year, so many teens lose their battle against bullying by ending their own lives. Please put a stop to this by supporting this bill.

LATE

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Golojuch Jr	GLBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Yes

LATE

	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Moran	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair and Committee. Sorry this is late. Bullying and aloha can never go together. Please supportr this measure. It is pono. Mahalo, Mike Moran Maui

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Deges	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

Testified By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Neenz Faleafine	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It's common sense. This is a step in the right direction for the betterment of our world. I strongly support this bill.