

SB1376



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES
ON EDUCATION AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2015

RE: S.B. 1376 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

PERSON TESTIFYING: WIL OKABE
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Michelle Kidani, Honorable Vice Chair Breene Harimoto and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **strongly supports S.B. 1376**, relating to education.

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 in appropriating funds to expand the 'Ike Pili'aloa school behavioral health program in the Leilehua-Mililani-Waialua complex area.

As such, every child should have direct and confidential access to comprehensive health, social, and psychological programs and services. Such programs and services must be interactive and coordinated within and between school, home, and community settings. School and community efforts must be integrated to promote the well-being of children and youth and build support for school and community health programs

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of S.B. 1376**.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

**SB 1376, Relating to Education
Senate Committee on Education
Hearing—February 06, 2015 at 1:15 PM**

Dear Chairwoman Kidani and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

My name is Loraine Fleming, and I am the Director of Behavioral Health and Medicine at The Queen's Health Systems. I would like to provide my strong support for SB 1376. This legislation would expand the Ike Piliialoha program, a collaboration between the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE), the Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) and The Queen's Medical Center (QMC).

Ike Piliialoha is a unique, evidence-based model for the provision of behavioral health services to students. Started in 2001 as a school-based behavioral health program by the TAMC to serve military families, the Ike Piliialoha program has since grown to provide care to more than 5,6000 students at a dozen schools. Most recently, the program was introduced in Wahiawa Elementary School.

This model has shown to enhance the quality of mental and behavioral health services provided to students, and also helps to lessen the stigma that some may feel when they do seek out those types of services. Moreover, the proximity of services on the school campus reduces barriers many families face in trying to access these services. The expanded access to mental and behavioral health services has also had a significant positive impact on the entire school community, due to less disruptions or crises.

We have been proud to be a part of the Ike Piliialoha team and would ask for your strong support in expanding this effective program to more students in Hawaii. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.