

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

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

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FOR: HB 133 HD1 Relating to Child Abuse
DATE: February 14, 2018
TIME: 2:10 P.M.
COMMITTEE: House Committee on Education
ROOM: Room 309
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

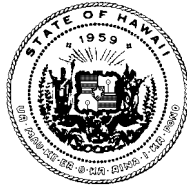
Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 133 HD1**, which allows public schools, including public charter schools, to post signs containing the Department of Human Services hotline for reporting child abuse and neglect.

The Commission appreciates the inclusion of this requirement in Chapter 302D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which is the governing law for public charter schools. This inclusion provides a clear understanding by the Commission and public charter schools of the Legislature’s intent in making this proposal applicable to charter schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
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PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 13, 2018

TO: The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Health & Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 133 HD1 - Relating to Child Abuse**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 2:10 p.m.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill as teachers, students, and parents need to know and recognize signs of child abuse and neglect in order to protect children, for children to protect themselves or their siblings or peers, and to obtain the needed help from Child Welfare Services or the police; however, DHS does not require a statute to do this work, and provides the following comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to increase access and visibility of the Child Welfare Services (CWS) hotline number within the DOE schools and charter schools, and to enable students and victims to better self-report.

Recent local and nationally reported cases of children being abused and tortured by their parents, or by authority figures highlight the need for continued public outreach and education to prevent harm or neglect from happening at all, to provide more information about signs of abuse and neglect, and to provide for a safe and responsive process for people to report what they suspect, or for children to disclose what they are experiencing.

One can imagine that with proper education and information, every parent and child should be aware of the trusted adult in the school setting to whom they may report

with confidence that they are being harmed or neglected, or a peer is being harmed, and that trusted person will take appropriate action. Also, we can imagine that every adult in the school setting who receives such a report of suspected abuse or neglect, would be knowledgeable and responsive to alert the police or Child Welfare Services. We know that nationwide and within our state, teachers, more than any other profession, already report the bulk of the cases of suspected child abuse and neglect.

With regard to disclosures by children themselves, children's disclosures are often accidental and indirect, are most often made to peers or mothers; and if the response to disclosure furthers the child's fear, anxiety or isolation, retractions are likely. See <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/research-reports/no-one-noticed-no-one-heard-report.pdf>. The report identified the common reasons that helped the student disclose the harm:

- Someone who noticed change in behavior or injuries intervened;
- Realization that the harm was not normal;
- The victim was no longer able to cope with the abuse;
- The nature of the abuse changed and became more violent; and
- The instinct to protect others, usually a sibling, from the abuse.

The report "No One Noticed, No One Heard" is an excellent resource in terms of the complexity of the strategies required, so at a minimum, in addition to posting the CWS Hotline number, the legislature needs to also support current outreach efforts that require materials development, consultation with experts, stakeholders and communities, training, staff, and funding to sustain a public outreach campaign with measurable goals.

As reported last session on this measure, DHS works with the DOE to provide in-service training to its staff regarding the Child Protective Act and the mandated reporter responsibilities. We will continue to work with DOE to ensure that the CWS hotline number is visible and accessible, which may include posters, in the DOE and charter schools.

However, successful public outreach and to encourage disclosure by children as noted above, require more than a poster. As reported last year on this measure, DHS, Department of Health, and the Action Strategy Network, continue to work to develop a public outreach campaign addressing family violence, abuse and neglect. In November 2017,

with a majority of funding from the Omidyar Family foundation, and contributions from DOH and DHS, the Action Strategy network has engaged nationally recognized FrameWorks Institute, to further develop a successful public outreach campaign to increase information on positive parenting and reduce family violence, including child abuse and neglect. In December 2017, consultants from FrameWorks Institute began their work conducting numerous meetings with stakeholders in three counties to hear provider and community members' perspectives on family violence, child abuse and neglect in Hawaii.

Also reported last year and consistent with "No One Noticed, No One Heard" report, any campaign will require training of staff and information provided to parents. Responses to our preliminary survey of early childhood providers about a messaging campaign directed at students included:

1. Images and messaging need to be clear and easy to comprehend; many suggested that images and messaging be positive and encouraging to reach out, as opposed to being ominous or contain strong visuals with mixed messages;
2. Images and messaging need to be developmentally appropriate, and outreach efforts will differ depending on age requiring different strategies for elementary, middle and high schools are required;
3. Materials for parents should accompany any outreach campaign made directly to children;
4. Materials and training for DOE staff should accompany the outreach materials; and
5. Testing of the materials and feedback from focus groups should be done and obtained prior to any roll out.

Other comments of note were:

- materials should not be provided to parents as parents may discourage their children from calling the hotline and it could potentially lead to threats to children or more abuse;
- poster campaigns are not effective; what is needed is training to raise awareness of teachers, counselors and staff;

- DOE staff may require more training as to what to do and how to support a child who reports something;
- A curriculum should be developed with messaging that informs kids where they can turn to if they are abused in any way;
- A school's over all message should be that it is a safe place; and
- Provide training on trauma, how to accept/support children who we know are experiencing trauma.

While work has been on-going to design an outreach campaign, more work is required. To be most successful, the departments, including DOE, may require appropriations and staff, to develop an appropriate and consistent outreach effort to reduce family violence, to provide sufficient and appropriate information for children to disclose harm or neglect, and for on-going training for professionals to provide a safe and nurturing response.

While support is needed, the departments do not require a statutory mandate to do this work.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

HB-133-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 1:57:52 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/14/2018 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

HB-133-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 3:57:40 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/14/2018 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Maupin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

kong1 - Blayne

From: Janice Bundas <janicebundas@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 8:48 AM
To: kong1 - Blayne
Subject: Testimony for Committee HB133
Attachments: Reporting Poster Espanol_Editable.pdf; Reporting Poster English_Editable.pdf

To: Honorable Representative Justin Woodson Chairman of Education Committee, Vice-Chairman Representative Kong, and Committee Members

Person Testifying: Janice Bundas

Subject: Support of HB133, Relating to Child Abuse

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2:10 p.m.

Location: Conference Room 309, Capitol

Purpose of Bill: Requires Department of Education-Schools and Charter Schools- to post signs containing the Department of Human Services hotline number for reporting child abuse and neglect

My name is Janice Bundas. I am a child advocate working on behalf of child abuse victims nationwide. Passing HB133 will allow Hawaii to join 28 other states that have already passed similar types of legislation including Alaska, California, Texas, Florida and New York.

I am passionate about helping children who are suffering sexual abuse. Starting at the age of six, I was molested by 2 brothers and a cousin and this continued into junior high. They worked together as a group and as individuals. I was raped. My mother and Aunt knew I was being molested and instead of stopping the abuse I was warned not to tell. My mother would walk through the room when I was being molested without hesitating to help me. Often times other people were in the same room with me when I was being molested and they ignored what was happening to me. I wanted to scream. I didn't because I knew no one cared. I knew that I had no value.

As an advocate for children, I asked myself what can be done today for these children that would have helped me. The answer is this poster.

Requiring schools to post the child abuse hotline number in an area students frequent is a perfect mechanism to accomplish 3 goals:

1. It gives students the knowledge they are valued
2. It educates students they have the right to self report abuse
3. It provides the mechanism to do so while in the safe environment of the school without having to look someone in the eye to make the initial report

The following statistics are provided by the Center of Child Advocacy. Please consider the financial impact they have on Hawaii:

- 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually abused (before the age of 18)
- The median age of a child who is sexually abused is 9 years old

- 1 out of 7 victims reported to law enforcement is under the age of 6
- Teen pregnancy-60% preceded by sexual abuse
- Homelessness-50% of homeless women had been sexually abused
- Drug and Alcohol dependency-70-80% had been abused
- Incarceration-60% of women had been sexually abused

The Children's Advocacy Center created a poster for this legislation. It is available to every state in the nation at no cost. The message is clear, positive, easy to comprehend, and appropriate for all ages. Using an adobe writer, Hawaii can insert their child abuse hotline number on the poster and put it online for schools to access. The only cost to schools to download and print the poster is paper, ink and the material it takes to laminate the poster. HB133 is not a hardship on schools.

The National Conference of State Legislators wrote a brief in January 2015, Vol. 23, No.1, in support of this legislation calling it concrete, simple, and an inexpensive way for school children to be able to seek help in a safe environment.

In 2015, the Hawaii Department of Education testified against HB2505 stating they could 'accomplish the task without having to pass a law.' To date, the Department of Education has not accomplished the task. For the time between 2015 and now the children who were being sexually abuse did not receive the education they deserved-the information the poster provides.

I encourage and urge you to vote yeas on HB133

Thank you for the opportunity to speak concerning this matter.

Janice Bundas

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DAVID Y. IGE
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DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 02/14/2018
Time: 02:10 PM
Location: 309
Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0133, HD1 RELATING TO CHILD ABUSE.

Purpose of Bill: Allows Department of Education schools and charter schools to post signs containing the Department of Human Services hotline for reporting child abuse and neglect. (HB133 HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 133 HD1 and has continued to dialogue with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to ensure signs containing the DHS hotline for reporting child abuse and neglect will be printed and distributed to schools.

DHS again actively sought stakeholder input on preliminary poster designs to ensure prior concerns from early childhood stakeholders focused on the need for age- and grade-appropriate artwork and messaging are addressed.

Further, DHS has kept the Department apprised of its progress. Upon receipt of the approved poster design, the Department stands ready to move forward with printing and distribution of the poster to schools.

Given the commitment of both agencies, we respectfully submit that mandating the placement of informational signs through legislation is not needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.