



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

**Date:** 01/31/2018  
**Time:** 02:45 PM  
**Location:** 229  
**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 2393 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the department of education to create a comprehensive plan to establish alternative learning centers in each school complex area in the State. Requires the department of education to submit the plan to the legislature prior to the regular session of 2019.

**Department's Position:**

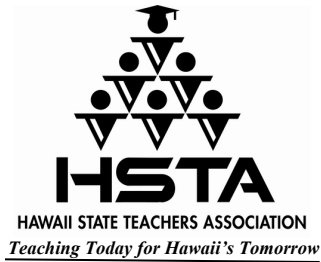
The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 2393 and respectfully suggests amendments in the language to provide for the following:

- 1) A comprehensive needs assessment be conducted to determine the statewide need for essential alternative learning schools throughout Hawaii.
- 2) A cost analysis, including but not limited to anticipated budget, personnel, facility needs for each identified essential alternative learning school.
- 3) A projected implementation plan for identified essential alternative learning schools.
- 4) An appropriation of \$200K to allow the Department to contract for this project study.

Further, the Department proposes to submit an update report to the 2018-2019 Legislature and a final report to the 2019-2020 Legislature, accompanied by any budget requests or legislation, as necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2393.

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](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION

RE: SB 2393 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 2393**, relating to education.

Learning transforms lives. Too often, when behavioral problems reach the level of the juvenile justice system, children fail to receive the educational experiences that could lead them away from a life of crime. According to data from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Hawai'i had one of the three highest rates of incarcerated children with a minority ethnic background as of 2014.

Alternative learning centers provide specialized services to meet the unique needs of at-risk youth. Such services include trauma treatment, life-skills training, vocational education, mental health treatment, medical services, substance abuse intervention, and mentorship programs. With strategic partners from the community, alternative learning centers offer troubled children a long-term, individualized, and coordinated continuum of care that can become the foundation for a productive and prosperous future.

To help at-risk children obtain their fullest potential and disrupt our state's school-to-prison pipeline, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

**SUPPORT for Senate Bill 2353 & House Bill 2139 - RELATING TO DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION**

As a women's health nurse practitioner and pre-title IX athlete, I have witnessed the value of a community of validation that has occurred through Title IX and is currently at risk on the federal level due to the will to deconstruct this validation. Title IX promotes healthier children and young adults who, due to increased self-worth, are less likely to experiment in risky sexual and illicit drug use and other self-destructive behavior. These children and young adults, through their validation in education and athletic practices (including facilities) and are also less likely to experience depression and morbid or suicidal ideology.