

SB-2576-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 12:33:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:08:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2576-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 9:51:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:08:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
albert fung	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2576-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 3:55:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:08:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

AND give serious conditions to alleviating the situations which might cause a school to be in a threatening situation to which doors will need to be locked. ALSO realize that in our Hawai'i schools, locking doors is a stop for some but those schools which have low windows and no place for the children to hide should get us thinking about additional ways to protect our children and teachers. EACH and every teacher knows that they are the first line of defense for their kids but shouldn't there be a better way? Hawai'i is not immune to what happens on the continent. We need to make plans that work for us NOT the continent. Please also take the time to thank schools and educators because every day they go to school knowing that violence is possible. WHO ever would have thought that a possibility. C. Burghardt, retired educator

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Submitted on: 2/20/2018 7:26:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:08:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha! I am writing in support of SB2576 for several reasons, first and foremost being that I have children in school here in Hawaii and believe this bill, if passed, will make their school experience safer. Second, I am a teacher at James Campbell High School and believe that these measures, if implemented, would result in an overall safer environment for both students and teachers. I taught in New Jersey for 10 years prior to moving to Hawaii this past summer and our doors locked from the inside and we had mandatory training and lockdown drills on a fairly regular basis. Both students and teachers should understand the purpose behind the drills and take them seriously. Having the physical resources (locking doors, intercoms) and the training this bill mandates would go a long way towards making sure we are prepared in case the unimaginable actually does happen in one of our schools here in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Anthony McCurdy

92-1167 Palahia St #H205

Kapolei HI 96707

Senator Mike Gabbard, Representative Sharon Har

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Submitted on: 2/20/2018 6:40:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:08:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
romel pasaoa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair **Dela Cruz** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Romel Pasaoa. I am a parent of a soon-to-be DOE student (kindergartner) and I reside in Ewa Beach. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2576 to increase safety and security measures at Hawaii DOE schools.

Every day parents send their children off to school with a blind faith that the DOE is doing everything in their power to keep their children safe. Although education is the DOE's main focus, safety and security should always come first. This is why I support SB 2576.

Installing interior locks on classroom doors will assist teachers and other support personnel in the immediate securing of classroom doors should a violent situation develop nearby. At this time, teachers must exit the classroom in order to secure it, putting the children in immediate danger. I want to know that if an emergency occurs I can protect them with the click of a lock. Statistics show that school shootings occur at a rate of 1 per week in the US. Although Hawaii has yet to experience this tragedy, there have been recent threats involving firearms and/or language related to shootings. In the last week there have been 2 threats to shoot up Mililani Middle and Mililani High School as well as a Campbell High School student allegedly bringing a gun on campus. For Hawaii, it is not if but when and we parents need to send their kids off school knowing that the DOE has measures in place to best protect students.

Training students and teachers is another important aspect to keeping students safe. My students participate in drills but that is the extent of their formal training on how to respond if an emergency occurs on campus. Students are taught to follow their teacher during an evacuation or fire drill but they aren't taught simple things like how to report something suspicious or to turn off their ringers during a lockdown. They are not taught what to do if an intruder breaks into a room and incapacitates their teacher. We do not want to scare our children but age-appropriate education will be a life saver if the worst-case scenario ever occurs.

Currently, teachers receive minimal safety training. Of the training we do receive, all of it occurs in the form of a few videos shown at the beginning of the year. This is insufficient. Furthermore, teachers have expressed fear to engage in simple life-saving

techniques such as CPR because they do not want to be sued. If teachers receive the proper training, this will protect them from being sued because they will have the education on how to properly respond.

These are just some of the reasons I support SB 2576. Again, the safety of our students should be top priority. I appreciate your time and your support. Mahalo!

Romel Pasaoa

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON **EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2576 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

Dear Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kim Virtudazo. I am a teacher at James Campbell High School in Ewa Beach on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2576 to help protect our students, faculty, and schools. Today I am testifying not only as a teacher but as a parent to my six year old son, Logan and three year old daughter, Lily. I am writing in support of SB 2576 to require the DOE to install interior locks in classroom, have an intercom system at all schools, and better prepare teachers and students in case of emergencies.

As a sixth year teacher, I see first-hand the dangers our students encounter daily. Lockdowns and shelter-in-place have become a common and terrifying occurrence in all schools throughout the state. Although we do practice these events, the scary fact is we can do so much more to prepare. My classroom has two doors but I only keep one door unlocked during the school day. I have made a conscious decision to only unlock one door because in the event of an emergency, I don't have time to lock both doors from the outside. The fear of an active shooter is all too real but the idea that I have to go outside to lock my door terrifies me because it is then that myself and my students are in immediate danger.

As a mother, one of the saddest days was the day my son, Logan, a kindergartner at Ewa Elementary, came home and told me they had to "turn off the lights" and go under their desks quietly for several minutes. His teacher, Mrs. Kris Tanioka is an outstanding educator who has twenty-two, five and six year olds in her class. As a high school teacher, I can't imagine what it's like to go through these events with kindergartners. It's unfair and terrifying to think that Logan's teacher needs to put herself and all twenty-two students in danger, when she opens her door to step outside to lock it.

So today, I ask that you support SB 2576, to help protect our students, faculty, and schools. I ask you this a parent of Logan and Lily, a freshman English teacher at James Campbell High School, a night school teachers at Waipahu Community Schools for Adults, a State of Hawaii registered voter, and just a citizen of Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kim Virtudazo, Ewa Beach

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Submitted on: 2/20/2018 7:46:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:08:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Paige Poehler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair **Kidani** and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jennifer "Paige" Poehler. I am a Teacher at James Campbell High School and I reside in Ewa Beach. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2576 to increase safety and security measures at Hawaii DOE schools.

Every day parents send their children off to school with a blind faith that the DOE is doing everything in their power to keep their children safe. Although education is the DOE's main focus, safety and security should always come first. This is why I support SB 2576.

Installing interior locks on classroom doors will assist teachers and other support personnel in the immediate securing of classroom doors should a violent situation develop nearby. At this time, teachers must exit the classroom in order to secure it, putting the children in immediate danger. I want to know that if an emergency occurs I can protect them with the click of a lock. Statistics show that school shootings occur at a rate of 1 per week in the US. Although Hawaii has yet to experience this tragedy, there have been recent threats involving firearms and/or language related to shootings. In the last week there have been 2 threats to shoot up Mililani Middle and Mililani High School as well as a Campbell High School student allegedly bringing a gun on campus. For Hawaii, it is not if but when and parents need to send their kids off school knowing that the DOE has measures in place to best protect students.

Training students and teachers is another important aspect to keeping students safe. My students participate in drills but that is the extent of their formal training on how to respond if an emergency occurs on campus. Students are taught to follow their teacher during an evacuation or fire drill but they aren't taught simple things like how to report something suspicious or to turn off their ringers during a lockdown. They are not taught what to do if an intruder breaks into a room and incapacitates the teacher. We do not want to scare our children but age-appropriate education will be a life saver if the worst-case scenario ever occurs.

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techniques such as CPR because they do not want to be sued. If teachers receive the proper training, this will protect them from being sued because they will have the education on how to properly respond.

These are just some of the reasons I support SB 2576. Again, the safety of our students should be top priority. I appreciate your time and your support. Mahalo!

Jennifer Paige Poehler