

Written Only

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SUPERINTENDENT

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

LATE

Date: 02/21/2018
Time: 10:08 AM
Location: 211
Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2576, SD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of education to ensure that all classroom doors have interior locks installed by January 1, 2019, and intercom systems installed by January 1, 2020. Mandates that all schools have emergency management plans that are updated yearly and include annual mandatory emergency preparedness orientations and training. Requires emergency preparedness training for all teachers and school staff as well as emergency practice drills at every school, some of which must be during inopportune times of the school day. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) supports the intent of SB 2576, SD1 but offers comments on this measure.

HIDOE recognizes the concern regarding retrofitting door locks that lock from the inside and installing intercom systems. HIDOE has been conducting vulnerability assessments, surveying schools, and determining need. The bill is not needed at this time as HIDOE will continue to plan, assess and develop cost estimates to seek funding.

HIDOE also recognizes the importance of schools having emergency management plans. Principals are already required to develop and establish emergency action plans (EAP) for their respective schools. The EAPs are detailed and are required to provide procedures for the proper responses to emergency incidents such as evacuation, earthquake, fire, lockdown, shelter-in-place, and tsunami evacuation procedures. Schools are also required to perform mandatory drills (i.e., earthquake, evacuation, lockdown, shelter-in-place, and tsunami), and update their school's EAP once a year as necessary. When drills are performed, teachers, school staff, and students are required to participate and in doing so, are trained on the proper response procedures to emergency incidents. Other related training will require further analysis and coordination for planning implementation and budgetary support needs as well.

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.

LATE

SB-2576-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 10:16:54 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taylor Pickett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm a student and I support these measures.

LATE

SB-2576-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 11:01:54 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harendra Panalal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
S.B. 2576 SD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Senate Committee on Education
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 21, 2018, 10:08 a.m., Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of S.B. 2576. The bill will establish the requirement of the department of education to ensure that all classroom doors have interior locks installed by January 1, 2019, and intercom systems installed by January 1, 2020. Mandates that all schools have emergency management plans that are updated yearly and include annual mandatory emergency preparedness orientations and training. Requires emergency preparedness training for all teachers and school staff as well as emergency practice drills at every school, some of which must be during inopportune times of the school day.

S.B. 2576 is being introduced at a crucial time in history and in our country. Just seven weeks into 2018, there have been eight shootings at United State schools that have resulted in injury or death. The latest of these shooting happened one week ago today on February 14, 2018 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Seventeen people were confirmed dead. School safety has become a heightened issue since a gunman killed 20 first graders and six adults with an assault rifle at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012. Since then, there have been at least 239 school shootings nationwide. In those, 438 people were shot and 138 of whom were killed.

The issue of school safety is near and dear to my heart because I am in a family full of educators who teach at public schools. I don't want to live in fear knowing my mom isn't safe and secure going to work everyday. I am also a student who has been on campus when an active shooter was present and one person got killed. I hope nobody has to experience the fear of death at his or her place of study. School is somewhere you should feel safe. It is important during a time of violence and fear, to take precautionary measures to prevent a tragedy such as the one that happened last week in Parkland, Florida.

Accordingly, I SUPPORT S.B. 2576 SD1. I respectfully urge your Committee to PASS this important bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Taralyn Titus
Concerned Citizen and student at UHM Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work

LATE

February 20, 2018

Aloha Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kara Borges and reside in the beautiful community of Mililani. I am a parent to three children that attend Mililani Uka Elementary, Mililani Middle School, and Mililani High School. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2576 to increase safety and security measures at Hawaii DOE schools.

Every day we send our children off to school with a blind faith that the DOE is doing everything in their power to keep our children safe. Although education is the DOE's main focus, safety and security should always come first. With the recent shooting threats that happened at Mililani Middle School and Mililani High School just two weeks ago, 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 my child's teacher 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 must send our kids off to 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 child participates in drills but that is the extent of their training as far as how to respond if an emergency occurs on campus. Students are only taught to follow their teacher during an evacuation or fire drill but are students taught simple things like how to report something suspicious or to turn off their ringers during a lockdown? Are they 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.

Are our teachers best-prepared? I have friends that are educators and they've said they receive minimal safety training. Of the training they do receive, all of it occurs in the form of a few videos shown to them 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 children should be top priority for the DOE. I appreciate your time and your support.

Sincerely,

Kara Borges

LATE

SB-2576-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 12:07:47 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

February 20, 2018

Aloha Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Reynold Borges and reside in the beautiful community of Mililani. I am a parent to three children that attend Mililani Uka Elementary, Mililani Middle School, and Mililani High School. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2576 to increase safety and security measures at Hawaii DOE schools.

Every day we send our children off to school with a blind faith that the DOE is doing everything in their power to keep our children safe. Although education is the DOE's main focus, safety and security should always come first. With the recent shooting threats that happened at Mililani Middle School and Mililani High School just two weeks ago, 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 my child's teacher 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 must send our kids off to 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 child participates in drills but that is the extent of their training as far as how to respond if an emergency occurs on campus. Students are only taught to follow their teacher during an evacuation or fire drill but are students taught simple things like how to report something suspicious or to turn off their ringers during a lockdown? Are they 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.

Are our teachers best-prepared? I have friends that are educators and they've said they receive minimal safety training. Of the training they do receive, all of it occurs in the form of a few videos shown to them 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 children should be top priority for the DOE. I appreciate your time and your support.

Sincerely,

Reynold Borges

LATE

SB-2576-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 2:01:47 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dionne Good	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-2576-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 5:49:55 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cherilyn Hale	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Cherilyn Hale, I am a mother and I reside in Mililani Mauka. I support installing interior locks on doors for increased safety. Especially with the threats that have been coming to Mililani High School recently.

Our State needs to take a front seat in protecting the citizens, versus a backseat filled with excuses like it has done in the past, hiding behind the we can't afford anything because of the rail. Not many of us wanted the rail or will even use it, but almost everyone of us is a parent and do want our keiki to be safe when we release them to the care of the school. I think installing interior locks is the least we can do. There are so many other things the state should do as well. Do we have to wait until an incident happens and then take action, like the typical backseat mentality of this government? You should also in addition be considering to update the fallout shelters. There were over 300 fallout shelters on Oahu in the emergency plan in 1985, and there are less than 4 now. In the event of a missile attack you tell residents to seek shelter but don't have shelters available for the public. What about the homeless? We need to be updating those over 300 fallout shelters, and making that list available to the public for event of emergency. These fallout shelters could also be used to protect us in event of a hurricane. To take a backseat and say we don't have money is completely irresponsible. We will be watching you and how you protect the citizens of Hawaii and vote accordingly.

LATE

SB-2576-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 9:58:16 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

LATE

SB-2576-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 10:15:35 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Nakagawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-2576-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 8:14:43 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Russo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Christina Russo and I am a 4th year Science teacher at James Campbell High School. Prior to working as a full time teacher, I was a substitute teacher throughout the Leeward and Windward district for 4 years. I support this bill for the following reasons:

In regard to interior locks

1. Currently, must exit room to secure it, leaving students vulnerable. Classroom doors need to be secured immediately during a lockdown.
2. Can not tell if the door is locked from the inside (no confirmation)
3. There have been instances where staff is asked to cover a room without being provided a key; it happened to myself as a sub
4. Dept of Homeland Security recommends interior locks

In regard to installation of intercom system:

1. DOE relies on phone system to notify staff in an emergency. Phones are hard to hear and they are not reliable. Phones go down in individual classrooms or campus wide. Just 2 weeks ago (Feb 7th) there was a campus-wide phone and internet outage at JCHS.
2. Outside intercoms at JCHS are very unclear and can not be heard or messages deciphered during drills when all students are out of the classroom. This would be highly problematic if students needs to be ordered to do a reverse evacuation or a lockdown.

In regard to enhanced training for both students and staff:

1. At this time, training and safety measures are very inconsistent because measures are left up to each school's principal to implement and there is little accountability

2. Safety plans should be comprehensive across all schools in the state and fairly standardized. FEMA and Dept of Homeland Security have the resources available to create a more comprehensive preparedness plan.

3. Teacher training crucial because:

- No protocol on initiating an emergency response
- DOE phones have an emergency button but staff are not consistently educated on using it. I've worked for DOE since 2010 and just learned about the button last year when I met with admin regarding my security concerns). Other Hawaii teachers report having no idea the button exists or no idea what it does.
- Extent of teacher training is being given the school's emergency plan and watching basic videos at beginning of year
- Evidence that new teachers that arrive mid-school year are not being actively provided the emergency plan
- Not taught how to take student reports of suspicious or concerning behavior seriously and how to report it

4. Student training crucial because:

- Over 75% of school shooters reported their intent to commit a mass shooting however students are not taught how to recognize and appropriately report suspicious behaviors or statements by a peer
- Only consistent training students receive across the board in the DOE is being involved in routine drills
- No accountability on who is educating students on emergency prevention and response. Teachers told in passing to go over safety plan with students but no accountability on who is doing so
- Students not educated on what to do if an incident occurs
 - During passing, at recess, before/after school
 - How to do reverse evacuation
 - What to do if teacher incapacitated
 - What to do when police clear the room (hands up) or
 - Simple concepts like turning ringer off in lockdown or not using phone in bomb threat
- Don't want to scare our kids but important to practice incidents like active shooter incidents. With age appropriate training, students will know what to do and how to respond

Above are just some of the numerous reasons I strongly support SB2576. I appreciate this opportunity to share.

Christina Russo

LATE

SB-2576-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 8:31:36 AM

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

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

Comments:

I'm a Hawaii educator and I support this bill. I'm worried our schools aren't doing enough to prepare for different types of emergencies especially an intruder. When we have a problem on campus it's can be difficult to reach security or an admin and worried how I would notify staff if something needed immediate attention. The procedurs aren't there at this time to handle more challenging situations.