



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

Date: 02/08/2018
Time: 02:15 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education
Senate Public Safety, Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2576 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.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (DOE) supports the intent of SB 2576 but respectfully requests the measure be deferred.

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

The DOE 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

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

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: SB 2576 Relating to Education
DATE: February 8, 2018
TIME: 2:15 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Senate Committee on Education and Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
ROOM: Conference Room 229
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Kidani, Chair Nishihara, and members of the Committees:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit **COMMENTS on SB 2576**, specifically Section 2 of the measure, which requires the Department of Education (DOE) to establish an emergency management plan for all schools to prepare for and respond to an emergency or disaster.

The Commission humbly requests the committee provide clarification on whether the DOE’s emergency management plan, required by this measure, would be applicable to public charter schools. The Commission is available to work with the committee and the department on this measure as it moves forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

SB-2576

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 2:14:09 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/8/2018 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Maui Police Department	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2576

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 2:40:36 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/8/2018 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl		Support	No

Comments:

As a retired educator in the DOE, I would like to express my strong support of this bill. For the entire time that I taught, for any emergency, I had to go outside my door to lock it putting my students and me in danger. It is sad that we have to consider the possibilities of threats from the outside but that is our current world. In that regard, I would like to caution though that these drills and safety measures mean nothing if general conditions are not followed. In most cases, the intruder is known and often times allowed on campus. I know that the scariest time for me was at 7:00 am in my classroom when a irate parent came looking for another teacher. The vulnerability of all at a school for many reasons is high. I would also like to caution about the active shooter drills especially around small children with no counseling or ways for them to talk about it with their teachers or parents. There are also students with very special needs that will need to be considered. IN ADDITION, I would highly suggest that each educator, staff member have a plan. Having a plan really helps. In my classroom, the students knew our plan from day one. My job always, I told them was to keep them safe. My cell phone stayed out for them to see (I didn't use) but they knew that if anything happened. They were to grab it and follow the plan. They knew my job was to make sure that they got out safely which might mean blocking the entrance of someone while they left the other door. As an educator responsible for other's safety, the plan and reassuring the students was of utmost importance. This is an important bill and I appreciate that the legislature is taking the time to make this consideration for everyone's welfare.

C.Burghardt

January 24, 2018

Senator Mike Gabbard
Chair, Agriculture and Environment Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 201
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

To the Honorable Senator Gabbard, fellow Hawaii Senators, Representatives and Governor of the wonderful State of Hawaii – Governor Ige:

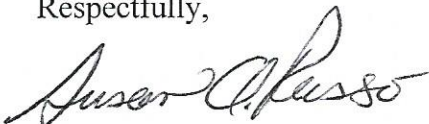
I am writing to you today to express my support for Senate Bill No. 2576, relating to Education.

This subject is near and dear to my heart as I am the mother of a daughter, son and daughter-in-law who are all educators and each of them take their responsibilities to their students very seriously. I am also the grandmother of three young girls and feel very protective of them and have a strong desire for these children to be safe, while having a great education in public schools.

I feel that it is essential that schools regularly update emergency plans; incorporate new technologies to keep school child, teacher and staff safe; increase emergency preparedness training for staff and educate students on emergency preparedness practices and implementing drills to reinforce established practices and procedure. In addition, schools and classroom should be retrofitted to ensure that each room can be “locked down” and that the intercom system is audible throughout the school and school grounds.

Lastly, a sincere thank you to Senator Gabbard for sponsoring this well thought out bill for consideration of the Senate, House of Representatives and Governor Ige. Please support this bill and make it law!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan A. Russo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan A. Russo
Concerned Citizen

SB-2576

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 3:55:10 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/8/2018 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary Hashimoto		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2576

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 1:43:23 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/8/2018 2:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani 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.

Sincerely,

Romel Pasaoa