



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 2655, SD1 RELATING TO PSYCHOLOGY.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes licensure requirements for school psychologists to be administered by the board of psychology. Requires all school psychologists, including school psychologists employed by the department of education, to be licensed by 7/1/2021. Amends the composition of the board to include two school psychologists. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 2655 SD1, which establishes licensure requirements for school psychologists, provided that its passage does not replace, or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Board of Education's approved budget.

The Department supports licensing of school psychologists as it enhances the quality of services we are able to provide to our public school students and brings Hawaii in alignment with the other states.

The Department is appreciative that the transition period for our current school psychologist employees to obtain licensure has been extended until July 1, 2021.

The Department has a shortage of school psychologists and this additional requirement may impede future recruitment efforts. Given the lack of in-state school psychologist programs, obtaining the necessary licensure may be difficult for current Department employees. Therefore, the Department may need to initiate employee layoffs to those employees who are unable to obtain a license by the deadline of July 1, 2021. This may cause a disruption of school psychologist services provided to our students, and an overextension of those remaining school psychologists to have to fill in the services gap.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2655 SD1.

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.

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SB-2655-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 9:50:08 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: