



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

**Date:** 03/27/2019

**Time:** 08:30 AM

**Location:** 329

**Committee:** House Human Services &  
Homelessness

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Resolution:** HCR 056 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR IDENTIFYING AND REPORTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports HCR 56 as it aligns to its vision and mission that ensures all of Hawaii's children are provided with opportunities that foster health, safety, education, school readiness and success.

Department schools may be the place of first alert when a child is being abused. The Department has an articulated process by which child abuse and neglect is reported. The Department maintains a strong collaborative partnership with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide annual procedural guidance to all Department employees, contractors and volunteers, which delineates the reporting requirements, and when to report child abuse and neglect. Additionally, all members of the Department including contractors and volunteers are required to annually view a training video which guides the viewer through the process of reporting child abuse.

Within the Department, a tri-level support structure comprised of the complex area, school and state offices have staff members available for consultation, guidance and information about child abuse reporting. The Department also utilizes direct support from DHS Child Welfare Unit for questions and consultations regarding child abuse reporting. Live training on mandatory reporting and commercially sexually exploited children is available year-round. In November 2018, the Department collaborated with the DHS, the Children's Justice Center and the Susannah Wesley Community Center to offer a statewide training, "Recognizing Child Abuse and What You Need to Do".

Additionally, representatives of the Department have been appointed to or actively participate in committees or work groups including the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Steering Committee, the Interagency Advisory Committee and the Sexual Violence Prevention Education in Public Schools. These groups focus on a collective, interagency response to the various types of child abuse and the abuse continuum in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HCR 56.

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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## **O`ahu County Democrats Committee on Legislative Priorities**

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 27, 2019

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

### **RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 58 and HR 59**

To the Honorable Joy A. Buenaventura, Chair; the Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Human Services & Homelessness:

I am Melodie Aduja, Chair of the O`ahu County Democrats Committee on Legislative Priorities. Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony on HCR 58 and HR 59. The O`ahu County Democrats Committee on Legislative Priorities (“OCDCLP”) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of HCR 58 and HR 59.**

HCR 58 and HR 59 request the Department of Human Services, in conjunction with the Department of Education, to develop a mobile application for reporting child abuse and neglect.

The Democratic Party of Hawai`i (“DPH”) is committed to ending the scourge of violence against [children and] women - wherever it occurs – whether in our homes, streets, schools, military, workplace, or elsewhere. DPH will support comprehensive services for survivors and increase prevention efforts in our communities and on our school campuses. DPH will fight to bring an end to [child abuse and neglect, and] sexual assault – wherever it occurs, including on campuses – because everyone deserves a safe environment where they can learn and thrive, not live in fear. We will provide comprehensive support to survivors and ensure a fair process for all . . . in the criminal justice system. We will increase violence prevention education programs that cover issues like consent and bystander intervention . . . *Democratic Party of Hawai`i Platform (2018), p. 15, ln. 21-28.*

For the foregoing reasons, i.e., to provide comprehensive support to survivors and to ensure a fair process for all, OCDCLP supports HCR 58 and HR 59 and urges their passage out of the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness.

Mahalo nui loa

Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ *Melodie Aduja*

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Democrats Committee on Legislative Priorities

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**LATE**

**HCR-56**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 9:25:02 PM  
Testimony for HSH on 3/27/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nora Sanford	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Chair San Buenaventura and Vice Chair Nakamura of the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Subject: House Resolution 57 and House Concurrent Resolution 56: Requesting the Department of Department of Education to Establish training programs for the PREVENTION, identification, and reporting of child abuse and neglect

March 26, 2019

My name is Nora Husted Sanford, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in **strong support** of HR 57/HCR 56.

This resolution will make life changing impacts on our children. This resolution needs to be amended to include the words "Preventative Training" in it. Let me explain...

In 2005, my student, Talia Williams, was killed at the hands of her father. As a teacher I had years of training on how to identify abuse after it happened. Every day Talia came to school was another day I missed the carefully concealed signs and symptoms of her abuse. In the end, the system failed her, I failed her.

I ask you, what could have been done differently? After years of woulda, coulda, shouldas, I have concluded that the educational requirement to only train teachers to identify abuse is only part of the solution. The missing part of the solution is to include the families and students and teach all stakeholders in education the fundamental skills that will reduce the incidence of abuse BEFORE it happens.

What is this you ask? Think about it. When we get angry, how well do we communicate? For those individuals inclined to take out their anger and frustration in physical ways, abuse and bullying happen. Instead, if all parents, educational staff and students were provided with Preventative training at the beginning of school in how to listen for understanding, how to communicate effectively, and how to resolve conflict, then everyone is equipped with the skills needed in life. Problems happen, conflict is inevitable. But when parents, staff, and students learn and practice these basic skills,

when conflict does arise, it is dealt with in a healthy manner and ultimately the incidences of abuse and bullying will decline.

I challenge you to consider the trajectory our children are on. Undealt with anger at home effects the children. Children either implode or explode. Their emotions can go inward resulting in self harm or even worse suicide. Their emotions can explode resulting in bullying, behavioral problems, or violent retaliation. The impact of abuse is far reaching .

If one of the missing pieces to the puzzle of reducing abuse in our state is simply communication, then we must address it, teach and practice it with our families, staff and students BEFORE more children get hurt and die. I request that you amend this resolution to include the words "Preventive Training" because we need to prevent abuse before it happens so we can keep all of our children safe.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Nora Husted Sanford, MEdL

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