



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 058 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A MOBILE APPLICATION FOR REPORTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HCR 58, and respectfully offers comments.

As the 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.

Allegations of child abuse are reported by education, medical, legal, law enforcement and social services officials. A mobile application to report child abuse and neglect may be developed for child-servicing agencies and the general public, inclusive of, but not limited to employees of the Department.

As this proposal includes the need for technical and operational considerations, we defer to DHS for additional comment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HCR 58.

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.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 26, 2019

TO: The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HCR 59/HR 58 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES IN
CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A
MOBILE APPLICATION FOR REPORTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.**

Hearing: March 27, 2019, 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of these resolutions to incorporate modern technology in the effort to report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect. DHS provides comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of these resolutions are to require the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education to develop a mobile application for reporting child abuse and neglect.

DHS is open to learn more from the Department of Education about the development of its bullying application and its effectiveness in reducing bullying in schools.

DHS Child Welfare Services Branch (CWS) is currently in the planning stages of building a new information technology (IT) system for child welfare cases. With further review of the mobile app, CWS branch will need time to consider how to incorporate a mobile app into the IT build. The current CWS IT system does not have the functional capacity to handle information from a mobile app reporting tool.

Additionally, a mobile app reporting tool will require amendment to the existing reporting law. Section 350-1.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires reports of child abuse or

neglect, or reports of imminent abuse or neglect, to be made orally to the department or to the police department.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

LATE



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-58

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 9:32:46 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 59 and House Concurrent Resolution 58: Requesting the Department of Human Services in Conjunction with the Department of Education to Develop a Mobile Application for Reporting 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 59/HCR 58.

This resolution will make life changing and life saving differences for our children.

In our schools today, most students carry a cell phone. They never leave home with out it.

In our schools today there has been an increase in bullying and parents are frustrated about the sluggish response to handling reports of abuse in and out of school. I want to commend the Department of Education for their new SPEAK NOW bully reporting app. This is designed for students to be able to report peer abuse - bullying during the school day. This is a major improvement.

Is this really enough? Consider how many hours children are outside of school, evenings and weekends. When conflict arises, abuse can happen. It can happen in the home, or on the weekends, while cries for help are left unheard because they were transmitted through social media.

In the case of my student who died resulting from child abuse at home, there were neighbors who lived close by. How many times did they hear things that they might have suspected to be abusive? Today, people don't want to get involved and heaven forbid if they were identified as being the ones to call in a report.

What can change this way of thinking? We can change it by having a mobile app that goes beyond the school walls and into the homes and community. An app that allows people, young and old, to report suspected abuse or bullying quickly and anonymously would be life changing for many and life saving for others.

Abuse generally happens "behind closed doors", not in public. Too many witnesses. Consider how a mobile reporting app could change this scenario. With the speed and anonymity of an app on one's cell phone, there are now eyes and ears everywhere. If suspected abuse is happening, then anyone could easily report it without fear of the abuser finding out. Stories of abuse that happened to my student can be something of the past. Abuse prevention and safety can be the stories of our future, thanks to having a simple mobile reporting app on our cell phones.

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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