



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

Date: 02/24/2020
Time: 12:00 PM
Location: 308
Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 2412, HD1 RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires DOE to establish a three-year pilot program for the development and implementation of a trauma-informed education program in the Castle-Kahuku and Kailua-Kalaheo complex areas, based on the Nanakuli-Waianae complex area trauma-informed education programs and report to the legislature. Appropriates funds. Takes effect on 7/1/2050. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 2412, HD 1 and offers comments. Currently, the Department is providing trauma-informed and trauma-sensitive support, resources, training and program implementation across the state through the Ho'oikaika: Trauma Recovery Grant and Act 271 (2019) task force.

Ho'oikaika: Trauma Recovery Grant Project

In September 2019, the US Department of Education awarded \$5 million in federal demonstration grant funds to the Department to support students from low-income families who have experienced trauma that negatively affects their educational experience through the accomplishment of four major strategies: 1) Strengthening core beliefs and mindset shifts toward trauma-sensitive schools focusing on empowerment; 2) Further developing the screening process to include behavior and/or social and emotional learning screening, as well as a trauma-specific screening tool to strengthen Hawai'i's Multi-Tiered System of Support; 3) Identifying At-Risk and Improving Progress Monitoring; and 4) Developing effective partnerships with stakeholder agencies and organizations.

All Title I schools will be prioritized as participants of the project to address communities and students with the highest needs.

To accomplish the project goals, the Department convenes a multi-versed advisory committee with participants that span across the Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Family Courts, and community agencies. The advisory committee provides subject matter expertise and guidance related to the implementation of the project, such as the criteria for the

selection of schools, trauma-sensitive professional development plans, the screening process, appropriate trauma-specific interventions, family and cultural support plans, the billing process, a state-licensed provider list, and communication needs.

Trauma-Informed/Trauma-Sensitive Education

Models, training, and technical support to develop trauma-sensitive programming are offered by the state, complex areas, and schools for educators and the families they serve. There are various models and practices selected in response to the needs of the schools and communities.

Complex Area Initiatives include, but are not limited to:

Hana-Lahainaluna-Lanai-Molokai Complex Area and Hilo High School - Kristin Souers's Trauma Sensitive School training;
School-Based Behavioral Health - Diana Browning Wright's Trauma-Informed Practices;
Several complex areas - Multi-Tiered System of Support Cadre with Diana Browning Wright, Aces and Trauma;
Kau-Keaau-Pahoa Complex Area - The National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments Trauma-Sensitive School model;
Castle-Kahuku and Kailua-Kalaheo Complex Areas - Godwin Higa's Trauma-Sensitive Awareness training, Trauma-Sensitive School Focus Group with Community partners; and
Kapaa-Kauai-Waimea Complex Area - Kauai Resiliency Project.

Community initiatives include but are not limited to:

Hawaii Children's Action Network in partnership with Executive Office on Early Learning and Department of Health, Family Health Services Division - Trauma training and support with Dr. Sarah Enos Watamura;
Hawaii Youth Service Network sponsored by Family Courts - Trauma training and support; and
Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care and the Department of Human Services - Trauma training and support with Sharon Simms and Tia Roberts Hartsock.

Given the ongoing initiatives at the state, complex, and school levels, we respectfully submit that the pilot project is not needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2412, HD 1.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. 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
Executive Office on Early Learning
2759 South King Street
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

February 23, 2020

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: H.B. No. 2412, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED EDUCATION
Hearing Date: February 24, 2020
Time: 12:00 p.m.
Location: Room 308

Bill Description: Requires DOE to establish a three-year pilot program for the development and implementation of a trauma-informed education program in the Castle-Kahuku and Kailua-Kalaheo complex areas, based on the Nanakuli-Waianae complex area trauma-informed education programs and report to the legislature. Appropriates funds. Takes effect on 7/1/2050.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support the Intent

Good afternoon. I am Lauren Moriguchi, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL is in support of the intent of H.B. 2412, H.D. 1.

EOEL is statutorily responsible for the development of the State's early childhood system that shall ensure a spectrum of high-quality development and learning opportunities for children throughout the state, from prenatal care until the time they enter kindergarten, with priority given to underserved or at-risk children.

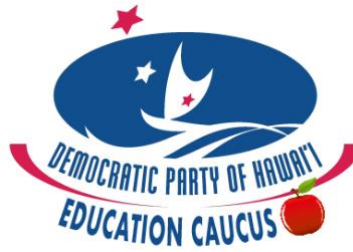
As we work to increase access to qualified early learning opportunities for our keiki, we must focus on addressing the need for a pool of qualified early childhood educators. A highly-qualified educator is one who can nurture our children with a trauma-informed lens.

The EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program targets our underserved and at-risk children – it is especially important that teachers are equipped to support preschoolers and families living in difficult circumstances.

We would like to note that especially because the EOEL Public Pre-K Program targets our underserved and at-risk children, we already work with the educators in the Program by arming them with the competencies to work with children who do not come from optimal backgrounds. We provide them with coaching and professional learning support through the Early Learning Academy, and work with school leadership on staffing so they can support preschoolers and families living in difficult circumstances. We also have a strong partnership with the University of Hawaii system to advance the critical work of building a pipeline of qualified early childhood educators for the state.

Foundational practices in early childhood education based on the science of child development and learning deems best practice to be inclusive of trauma-informed practices.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



HOUSE BILL 2412, HD1, RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 24, 2020 · HOUSE FINANCE
COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. SYLVIA LUKE

POSITION: Support, with amendments.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports and suggests an amendment for HB 2412, HD1, relating to trauma-informed education, which requires the DOE to establish a three-year pilot program for the development and implementation of a trauma-informed education program in the Castle-Kahuku and Kailua-Kalaheo complex areas, based on the Nanakuli-Waianae complex area trauma-informed education programs.

Sex traffickers prey on our state's school children, often loitering around public school campuses to target our children. Traffickers are experts in observing and selecting their victims, and often infiltrate public schools by using students to recruit their peers. One of the largest child sex trafficking rings discovered on Hawai'i's shores was unearthed in 2014. It included 16 students, most whom were students at Mililani High School and Moanalua High School, two of our state's top performing schools.

Sex trafficking is a profoundly violent crime. The average age of entry into commercial sexual exploitation is 13-years-old, with 60 percent of sex trafficked children being under the age of 16. Approximately 150 high-risk sex trafficking establishments are operational in Hawai'i. An estimated 1,500-2,500 women and children are victimized by sex traffickers in our state annually.

Over 110,000 advertisements for Hawai'i-based prostitution are posted online each year, a number that has *not* decreased with the recent shuttering of Backpage.com's "adult services" section. More than 80 percent of runaway youth report being approached for sexual exploitation while on the run, over 30 percent of whom are targeted within the first 48 hours of leaving home.

With regard to mental health, sex trafficking victims are twice as likely to suffer from PTSD as a soldier in a war zone. Greater than 80 percent of victims report being repeatedly raped and 95 percent of report being physically assaulted, numbers that are underreported, according to the United States Department of State and numerous trauma specialists, because of the inability of many victims to recognize sexual violence as such. Accordingly, we support increasing trauma-informed practices on school campuses, so that potential victims and students who've survived sexual exploitation may receive the care they need to achieve educational success.

That said, we **urge you to refocus this measure's proposed pilot project on complex areas located in three different districts, rather than constraining the pilot to three complex areas within the Windward District of O'ahu.** In terms of the victim population we serve, for example, we provide care to a large number of students from schools located in Central O'ahu, West Hawai'i, and West Maui. Diversifying the pilot project would allow for a comparison of best practices in a greater number of areas, giving policymakers and the HODOE better feedback on potential bright spots and challenges in scaling trauma-informed education throughout the state.

To stop slavery in Hawai'i, we must prevent victimization before it begins by advancing trauma-informed care and wraparound services for at-risk keiki.



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org
hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro
Executive Director

February 24, 2020

Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee,

HawaiiKidsCAN **supports HB 2412 HD1**, which would establish a three-year pilot program for the development and implementation of a trauma-informed education program in the Castle-Kahuku and Kailua-Kalaheo complex areas based on the Nanakuli-Waianae complex area trauma-informed education program. The goal of the pilot program shall be to replicate the results of the Nanakuli-Waianae complex area trauma-informed education program throughout all schools in the Castle-Kahuku and Kailua-Kalaheo complex areas, including elementary, intermediate, and high schools, and pre-kindergarten programs that are part of the elementary school.

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a local nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawaii has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, has a transformational impact on our children and our state. We strongly believe that all students should have access to excellent educational opportunities, regardless of family income levels and circumstances.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) – which include factors such as abuse, neglect and other traumatic experiences – have a potentially long-lasting effect on children’s cognitive functioning and physical, social, emotional, mental and spiritual well-being. Research shows that most adults, regardless of their background, have experienced at least one ACE in their own childhood, and more than a tenth have a total ACE score of 4—a score which doubles their risk of heart disease and cancer, increases their odds of becoming an alcoholic by 700%, and their risk of attempted suicide by 1,200%.

Fortunately, trauma-informed training for schools can have a significant impact, including improvements in behavior, fewer suspensions, fewer expulsions, and improvements in academic achievement. This has been shown nationally as well as locally in the Nanakuli-Waianae complex area, particularly through supports via quality programs such as Project HI-AWARE.

With quality trauma-informed training for educators and school staff, schools can better support students to feel engaged at school and connected with teachers and peers, building resilience by helping educators be responsive to the needs of their students with seamless, accessible social, behavioral, and emotional supports involving all school community members, as well as access to evidence-based, developmentally appropriate child and family services.

HB 2412 HD1 will help Hawaii continue to expand trauma-informed education through a region by region approach. While this is slower than HawaiiKidsCAN would prefer, we know that there is strategic benefit to ensuring faithful implementation of training within a contained set of schools. This pilot is an important piece to statewide efforts also taking place, as HawaiiKidsCAN is an active member of the advisory committee for the HIDOE's Ho'oikaika: Trauma Recovery Project, a 5 year demonstration grant to increase the number of students receiving trauma-specific mental health services from the provider that best meets their needs; the number of parents reporting satisfaction with trauma-specific mental health services received under this grant that address the child's trauma symptoms; and the number of students who receive trauma-specific mental health services and improve school attendance. By continuing to build the drumbeat across Hawaii for more compassionate student supports, we believe Hawaii students will graduate our schools in a better position for quality economic, social, and life outcomes.

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro
Founding Executive Director
HawaiiKidsCAN



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Monday, February 24, 2020; 12:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2412, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED EDUCATION.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 2412, House Draft 1, RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED EDUCATION.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Establish a three-year pilot project for the development and implementation of a trauma-informed education program in the Castle-Kahuku, and Kailua-Kalaheo complex areas based on the Nanakuli-Waianae complex area trauma-informed education program.
- (2) Require the Department of Education to report to the 2023 Legislature on the progress in implementing the pilot program and projected cost estimates to fully implement the pilot program throughout the State for a ten-year period;
- (3) Appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2020-2021 to establish the pilot project, and fund one temporary district educational specialist, and one temporary district resource teacher for a twelve-month period; and
- (4) Take effect on July 1, 2050.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

The experience of trauma has widespread impacts on the lives of our citizenry. This often leads to or exacerbates mental illnesses, substance use and physical health conditions. Because of this, in a truly integrated whole health system of health care, effectively treating behavioral and physical health conditions must involve the impact of trauma.

Testimony on House Bill No. 2412, House Draft 1
Monday, February 24, 2020; 12:00 p.m.
Page 2

Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of policy makers, health care providers, and government workers, the very services and systems designed to help people become healthy can be re-traumatizing. This is especially true in our public schools, where traumatized youths and their support groups may feel overwhelmed by bureaucracy and a lack of empathy that makes more often than no makes their situation worse.

This bill seeks to improve the quality of outcomes for youths impacted by trauma. Accordingly, we respectfully urge your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.

HB-2412-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2020 2:40:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Godwin Higa	Trauma Informed Consultant retired Principal a	Support	No

Comments:

Godwin Higa– native-born – Kaneohe -retired principal of the first Trauma-Informed school in San Diego, CA, currently consulting in Hawaii in the Nanakuli-Waianae area 3.5 years, currently working in Kaneohe – Kailua/Kalaheo area, professor at Alliant University San Diego psychology department Trauma-Informed systems, steering committee member of 4CA California Champaign to Counter Adverse Childhood Experiences 5 years, making changes in policies in the state of CA.

We all have experienced some sort of trauma in our lives the death of family members, stories of physical and sexual abuse, etc. I watched my mom being beaten by my dad at the age of 3, I lived in severe poverty but led a somewhat happy life, a single-parent household with 5 other siblings, experienced toxic stress the death of my beloved mom at the age of 15 while attending Castle High School in Kaneohe. Those were the darkest years of my life with very little support from my school but only from a loving family who helped me through those dark years.

I was born and raised in Kaneohe and moved to CA. currently, an adjunct professor at Alliant University teaching Trauma Inform classes in psychology and criminal justice department. I became a principal of 20 years and created the first Trauma-Informed School in San Diego, CA.

I began consulting in Hawaii with Ann Mahi CAS Area Superintendent of Nanakuli-Waianae area for the last 3.5 years. The results of our efforts have proven to be outstanding. Raised graduation rates from approx. 65% - 85%, falling suspension and referral rates, two schools with no suspensions, teacher retention is growing up 40%+ from 119 vacancies to 57 vacancies present. Ann Mahi is doing an excellent job of raising awareness, staff development and changing the culture of the educational system in Hawaii where school administration teachers and support staff are all trained on Trauma Inform and Restorative practices to lead with compassion for the sake of our keikis!!!

This Bill HB2412 will allow more schools to participate in the most valuable training on Trauma-Informed and Restorative Justice focusing on the ACEs – Adverse Childhood

Experience study developed in San Diego, Kaiser research and development. ACEs addresses the need to identify the number of traumatic experiences a child might have up to 18 years old. By identifying the trauma and receiving resources and help will allow a student and adult to strive in a better life! ACEs will educate the staff on current brain research and other vital information that will change the way we teach and treat students. **The benefits of this Bill are to put students FIRST!**

Impact of HB2412

Creating an environment conducive to learning is the key! The student will want to go to school, want to learn and most important strive in their educational and personal lives leading to college success.

Leading with compassion in all schools and moving away from punitive consequences are the key component of practicing Trauma Informed care. Studying the effects of the brain and the current evidence research is vital to the success of a Trauma-Informed School and district. I am in total support of this Bill to start changing the way we work with students, parents and the communities. A loving and caring school and district who put students first will only allow the student to thrive. After creating a Trauma-Informed School in CA teaching instruction needed to change with more rigorous and high-interest learning. My school Cherokee Point Elementary school starting flourishing with all staff, parents and community members coming together, attended training on Trauma-Informed practices and changed their lives for the sake of our students.

Godwin Higa

4666 Aldine Drive

San Diego, CA 619-851-4119

HB-2412-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2020 2:45:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katrina Obleada	Hawaii Psychological Association	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2412-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2020 9:21:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Layla Kilolu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Public Servants,

My name is Layla and I am a PhD student at the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at UH Manoa. I am writing as a private citizen and support this bill to introduce trauma-informed training for schools. I experienced childhood trauma, where my parents abandoned me when I was three years old. I was blessed to have enough support at my school to be where I am today. I am an advocate for more support to go to keiki who like me, have experienced hardships that keep them from succeeding in school and in life. This proposed program has been shown to lead to improvements in academic achievement, both nationally and locally.

If we want to see Hawaii thrive in the future, we need to invest in the well-being of our keiki.

Respectfully,

Layla M. Kilolu, MBA

Graduate Degree Fellow, East-West Center

Department of Urban and Regional Planning

University of Hawaii at Manoa

HB-2412-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2020 11:30:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aisha Heredia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and esteemed committee members,

I am a former teacher who worked with "at-risk" youth in cities like West Oakland and Richmond, California, where we constantly had violence around our school campuses, and domestic violence issues in our community. I **support HB2412 HD1** because it will help to increase student feelings of safety and well-being at school. The Center for Disease Control released the [CDC-Kaiser ACE Study](#), on how Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) have long-term impacts on an individual's health. The study shows that trauma is not just one incident--trauma can be re-experienced, and secondary trauma can develop. These traumas can have negative effects on individuals over a lifespan, and can affect students on a daily basis.

When teachers and other school staff know how students can be affected by trauma, they can know how to better communicate, and approach situations where persons have endured trauma. This can lead to greater feelings of trust with school staff and students who have been through traumatic incidents, and support for students to receive mental health services. **I support HB2412 HD1** because it is one step in the direction to have healthier school communities.

Mahalo,

Aisha Heredia
Former STEM Teacher

February 24, 2020

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and esteemed committee members,

I am a faculty member at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, College of Education, Center on Disability Studies. However, I am not writing this support letter in my capacity as a faculty member with the university, but rather as an interested community member. I'm proud to support HB2412HD1 because it will help to increase student feelings of safety and well-being at school. The Center for Disease Control released the CDC-Kaiser ACE Study, on how Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) have long-term impacts on an individual's health. The study shows that trauma is not just one incident—trauma can be re-experienced, and secondary trauma can develop. These traumas can have negative effects on individuals over a lifespan, and can affect students and their academic development on a daily basis.

When teachers and other school staff know how students can be affected by trauma, they can know how to better communicate, and approach situations where persons have endured trauma. This can lead to greater feelings of trust with school staff and students who have been through traumatic incidents, and increase support for students to receive mental health services. I support HB2412 HD1 because it is one step in the direction to have healthier school communities.

Mahalo,

Lisa Uyehara

HB-2412-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2020 2:44:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Connie Shigemoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB2412 Testimony from Mrs. Constance Shigemoto at 47-048 Okana Road Kaneohe, Hawaii

My name is Constance Shigemoto graduate of Castel High School class of 1964 and reside in Kahaluu for 50 years. I have beloved grown siblings of 3 and my husband Mitchell Shigemoto.

I reviewed HB2412 and I am in total support in this Bill. The suicide rate in Hawaii in 2017 was one of the highest in the United States, Hawaii was in the top ten! From my research, I found that the third-largest suicide rate ages 10 – 24 years old, children in the United States are killing themselves. The study stated that when interviewing the survivors and those who attempted suicide the main reason for this awful act was the sense of ***hopelessness!***

We need to change this and start giving people Mana’olana – a sense of hope!

“The legislature finds that incorporating trauma-informed education in the State's public education system will help to address adverse childhood experiences. Trauma-informed education involves mental health education for students, teachers, staff, parents, and community members, adds a flexible, responsive, and measured strategy for addressing trauma, and would be an important component to the department of education's multi-tier system of supports. Incorporating a trauma-informed education program in public schools will enhance the staff's trauma awareness and skills to recognize behavior that results from exposure to trauma.”

The opening statement of this Bill says it all! As a student in the Kaneohe area, I cannot recall any experiences of any type of loving, caring and supportive, adult with any type of training such as these that are presented. I do recall being suspended for minor infractions. My children and grandchildren also attended schools in Kaneohe and some were subjective to bullying, emotional abuse by administering multiple suspensions and punitive consequences that are live long trauma until it is professionally

addressed. Addressing the need for adult pieces of training for our schools is overwhelmingly welcomed and the outcomes will be great.

I am so excited for all who are supporting this Bill, especially thank you to Rep. Lisa Kitagawa our representative who cares about the future of our children and adults!

I pray this Bill will pass for the sake of our keikis! This will save so many kids, and families throughout Hawaii. I also support this Bill to be a great pilot to extend throughout Hawaii. I want to voice my opinion to ensure that adult leaders in our schools will be educated and learn how to lead with compassion in our schools and move away from punitive consequences and provide emotional support to our students with adverse childhood experiences so they could strive to be happy and succeed.

With much Aloha and for our keikis....

Constance Shegemoto

From: [Jenna Tuss](#)
To: [FINtestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony for HB2412 HD1 for FIN Hearing 2/24
Date: Sunday, February 23, 2020 10:50:36 AM

February 24, 2020
House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and esteemed committee members,

I am a teacher at La Pietra - Hawaii School for Girls and I'm proud to support HB2412 HD1 because it will help to increase student feelings of safety and well-being at school. The Center for Disease Control released the CDC-Kaiser ACE Study, on how Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) have long-term impacts on an individual's health. The study shows that trauma is not just one incident--trauma can be re-experienced, and secondary trauma can develop. These traumas can have negative effects on individuals over a lifespan, and can affect students on a daily basis.

When teachers and other school staff know how students can be affected by trauma, they can know how to better communicate, and approach situations where persons have endured trauma. This can lead to greater feelings of trust with school staff and students who have been through traumatic incidents, and support for students to receive mental health services. I support HB2412 HD1 because it is one step in the direction to have healthier school communities.

Mahalo,

Jenna Tuss

LATE

HB-2412-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 7:21:50 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Mahi	Hawaii Dept of Education	Support	No

Comments:

As the Complex Area Superintendent of the Nanakuli Waianae Complex Area, I can attest to the effort of all of our schools in the development of a Trauma Informed approach to addressing issues of social emotional, behavior, and mental health needs and support services for our students. We have been able to reduce our suspensions for both regular education and special education students (34% and 25% respectively). There will need to be several critical components to support this initiative: 1. Complex Area leadership and staff to coordinate the professional learning, monitoring , and the implementation the framework for the Hawaii Multi-tiered System of Support (HMTSS). At minimum an Educational Specialist and Resource Teacher/Counselor.

2. There will need to be continuous support and training for strategies on classroom management and de-escalation of behavior and redirection, as well as learning to identify the symptoms and behavior on students who are in trauma (internalizing and externalizing) for appropriate services. 3. Coordinating the collective work with other community and government agencies to provide services for the students who are in higher need. I believe that this bill will provide the Windward District a clear focus for what is needed to implement the trauma informed initiative which will change the lives of students and impact the entire community in positive ways.

February 24, 2020

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

LATE

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and esteemed committee members,

I am a teacher at Wai'anae Intermediate School and I am proud to support HB2412 HD1 because I have continued to witness the impact of outside factors beyond school influence student's ability to learn. Some of my students have experienced an abusive home life; others have been subjugated to being the primary care taker for their younger siblings. Both situations have resulted in students missing school or when present, they are physically and emotionally exhausted. These student experiences are not limited to the Nanakuli-Wai'anae complex area, and therefore I fully support a trauma-informed education program to be established in the Castle-Kahuku and Kailua-Kalaheo complex areas.

As educators, we are taught to teach to all students who come with a variety of identity backgrounds and experiences. I feel that it is a disservice to students if we are not providing trauma-informed educational opportunities for teachers across the board. Without adequate support, students have to face not only the challenges at home, but also an unaware and untrained teacher. Studies show that students who experience Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) have long-term decreases in overall health. In addition, because trauma often does not happen as a singular incident, it can persist through multiple years of a student's life causing damage. As a result, school becomes one of the only safe spaces for a student, which is then diminished when teachers are not educated on mental health issues and ways to proactively support.

I support HB2412 HD1 because it will contribute to more knowledgeable and supportive teachers, as well as healthier school communities overall.

Mahalo,



Alika Masei

LATE

HB-2412-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 4:43:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kawika Ke Koa Pegrām	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kawika Pegrām. I am a senior at Waipahu High School and am submitting testimony **in support of HB2412 HD1**.

As I've traversed the rough terrain of highschool, I've come to a realization that so many of my beloved classmates each have traumatic battles that they're fighting. This bill will allow for a pilot program that leads to a more inclusive school that will lessen suspensions, increase school achievement, and do so much more for the students.

What I believe we need to ensure is that our schools are not a diminishing factor in a person's ability to thrive, but rather a haven for personal development and mental wellness. This bill, although a slower solution, will allow for just that.

Mahalo nui loa,
Kawika Pegrām

LATE

February 24, 2020

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and esteemed committee members,

I am a community member working a full-time job at Loko Ea and I'm proud to support [HB2412 HD1](#) because it will help to increase student feelings of safety and well-being at school. The Center for Disease Control released the [CDC-Kaiser ACE Study](#), on how Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) have long-term impacts on an individual's health. The study shows that trauma is not just one incident--trauma can be re-experienced, and secondary trauma can develop. These traumas can have negative effects on individuals over a lifespan, and can affect students on a daily basis.

Commented [1]: Make sure bill number matches what you are supporting!

When teachers and other school staff know how students can be affected by trauma, they can know how to better communicate, and approach situations where persons have endured trauma. This can lead to greater feelings of trust with school staff and students who have been through traumatic incidents, and support for students to receive mental health services. I support [HB2412 HD1](#) because it is one step in the direction to have healthier school communities.

Commented [2]: Make sure bill number matches what you are supporting!

Mahalo,

KianaRose Dulan