



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

Date: 03/11/2020
Time: 02:45 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 2412, HD2 RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: The purpose of this measure is to require the Department of Education to establish a three-year pilot program to develop 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 and report to the legislature. (HD2)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 2412, HD 2 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 the 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 2.

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

March 10, 2020

TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: H.B. No. 2412, H.D. 2 – RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED EDUCATION
Hearing Date: March 11, 2020
Time: 2:45 p.m.
Location: Room 229

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, Kailua, and 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. 2.

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 early learning opportunities for our keiki, we must consider the need to have a qualified educator in every classroom or setting, whether we call it "child care" or "education." A 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. **If not, what may result are increased instances of stress-induced behavior problems, inappropriate referrals to special education, and suspensions and expulsions. Nationally, suspensions and expulsions occur at a rate 3 times higher in public pre-K than in K-12 settings.**

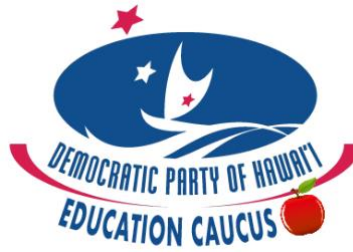
When vulnerable children encounter teachers who are unprepared to support their developmental needs, these children who can benefit the most from early learning are rejected at an even earlier age and their families are left without options.

However, we have a severely limited workforce of qualified early childhood educators.

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, HD2, RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED EDUCATION

MARCH 11, 2020 · SENATE EDUCATION
COMMITTEE · CHAIR SEN. MICHELLE N. KIDANI

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 DOE to establish a three-year pilot program for the development and implementation of a trauma-informed education program in the Castle, Kailua, and Kalaheo complex areas, based on the Nanakuli-Waianae complex area trauma-informed education programs and report to the legislature.

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.

HB-2412-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2020 5:22:49 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/11/2020 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org
hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro
Executive Director

March 11, 2020

Committee on Education
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee,

HawaiiKidsCAN **supports HB 2412 HD2**, which would require the Hawaii State Department of Education (DOE) to establish a three-year pilot program for the development and implementation of a trauma-informed education program in the Castle, Kailua, and Kalaheo complex areas, based on the Nanakuli-Waianae complex area trauma-informed education programs and report to the legislature.

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 HD2 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



2112 Hillhaven Dr., Brea, CA 92821

SUPPORT of HB2412 HD2

Senate Education Committee
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

March 10, 2020

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim and Honorable Committee Members,

I am an educator with over 40 years of experience working in the classroom with English Learners, providing professional development to administrators and teachers, and developing policy to meet the needs of students and their families. Making a difference in students' lives, present and future is what the DOE wants to accomplish with the three-year pilot proposed in HB2412 HD2. The need for teachers and staff to be able to identify, understand and know how to serve students who have been through traumatic incidents is of ever more importance today. Please support greater mental health for the future of our students and give your aye vote to HB2412 HD2.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Jiménez Salinas".

Elizabeth Jiménez Salinas

HB-2412-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2020 2:40:07 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/11/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Let's give every school and students our support. I support this bill.

**Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair & Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Committee on Education**

**House Bill 2412
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, HI
Time/Date/location of hearing: 2:45PM; March 11, 2020; Conference Room 229**

Purpose: Appropriates funds for a 3-year pilot program to develop and introduce trauma informed education in the Castle, Kailua, and Kalaheo districts.

My name is Kanani Naipo. I am a candidate for a Masters in Social Work, at the Myron. B Thompson School of Social Work, through the University of Hawaii Manoa. I am in strong support of House Bill 2412, related to appropriating funds for a trauma-informed education pilot program to be implemented.

In my work with at-risk youth I have seen the affect trauma can have on youth development. I have witnessed the education system lack the capacity to provide accommodations for youth facing trauma and/or behavioral/mental health challenges.

The symptoms of trauma can greatly affect youth's ability to learn. Trauma can result in re-experiencing of traumatic event, avoidance in trying not think about traumatic events, negative cognitions, and hyper arousal. These symptoms can make it difficult for students to focus in class, while studying, and when taking exams. Trauma can also affect the child's ability to manage emotions, which can result in poor behavior and low-grade averages. This has been shown to result in reduced graduation rates, increased risk of teen pregnancy, poor job security, and poverty.

By creating a culture, in school systems, that is competent in dealing with trauma, we are letting children know they are accepted in that space. We are allowing them to feel worthy

of their education, and they do not have to feel like they have to suppress what they are facing in order to attend school.

I am confident that if House Bill 2412 is passed it will prevent some of the academic challenges youth, that have experienced trauma, are up against.

I ask that we move forward in the passing of this bill and forming a more inclusive environment where youth can flourish academically. It is my hope that you will take what I said into consideration and thank you for taking the time to read this testimony.

HB-2412-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 4:13:39 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/11/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2412-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 9:11:49 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/11/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dyson Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2412-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 6:59:14 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/11/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
May Okihiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

RE: HB 2412

Early life experiences form the building blocks for strong child development, as well as lifelong learning and health. Adverse Childhood Experience has consistently demonstrated strong correlation with increased risk of depression and other mental health problems and decreased resiliency. For children, traumatic stress arises from many sources include poor parenting, domestic violence, and bullying.

Trauma informed schools foster respect and support. At trauma-informed schools adults are trained to recognize and respond to students who have been impacted by traumatic stress and life events. Students are also trained on clear expectations and communication strategies that guide them through stressful situations. Studies have shown that these student centered strategies promote improved student behavior, class attendance, and reduce absenteeism.

As a pediatrician in Waianae, I have seen the long term impact of adverse childhood experiences on children, starting at a very early age. I've also seen the positive results of the trauma-informed care now implemented across the Waianae-Nanakuli School Complexes.

*As such, I urge you to pass **HB 2412** which will pilot a trauma-informed educational program in the Castle-Kahuku Complex and report back to the legislature.*

Sincerely,

May Okihiro, MD

Pediatrician, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

To the Senate Committee Chair and members,

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 Inform 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

To the Senators and members,

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 are 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 of this awful act was the sense of *hopelessness!*

We need to change this and start giving people Mana'olana – 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 the 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, adults 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 which are live long trauma until it is professionally addressed. Addressing the need for adult trainings 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 consequence and provide emotional support to our students with adverse childhood experience so they could strive to be happy and succeed.

With much Aloha and for our keikis....

Constance Shegemoto

To the Senators and members,

HB2412 Testimony from,

Mrs. Linda Williams, San Diego, CA

Cellphone: 619-985-3189

Email: lkw_betterworld@yahoo.com

My name is Linda Williams, I am a retired teacher in San Diego and an active member of various groups in San Diego that promote Trauma Informed and Restorative Justice practices in schools and our community. I am a member to the Peace Momentum team in San Diego, Trauma Informed Guide team, and other organization that are promoting what's good for our students and community.

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 are 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 of this awful act was the sense of *hopelessness!*

We need to change this and start giving people the sense of hope!

“The legislature finds that incorporating trauma-informed and Restorative Justice practices 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 the public schools will enhance the staff's trauma awareness and skills to recognize behavior that results from exposure to trauma.” Restorative Justice education will encourage the healing process from anger to compassion.

The opening statement of this Bill says it all! Addressing the need for adult trainings 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 your students and families! 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 consequence and provide emotional support to our students with adverse childhood experience so they could strive to be happy and succeed.

With much Aloha and for your students....

Mrs. Linda Williams

Cellphone: 619-985-3189

Email: lkw_betterworld@yahoo.com

HB-2412-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 3:32:54 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/11/2020 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

March 11, 2020

Senate Committee on Education
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Kidani, 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 HD2** 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 HD2** because it is one step in the direction to have healthier school communities.

Mahalo,

Aisha Heredia

HB-2412-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 4:13:52 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/11/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenna N Tuss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

March 10, 2020

Senate Committee on Education
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Kidani, 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 HD2 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 HD2 because it is one step in the direction to have healthier school communities.

Mahalo,

Jenna Tuss