



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

**Date:** 01/30/2020  
**Time:** 02:10 PM  
**Location:** 309  
**Committee:** House Lower & Higher  
Education  
House Human Services & Homelessness

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 2483 RELATING TO BULLYING.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires all entities that provide educational or recreational activities to youths to establish, maintain, and enforce written policies and procedures on bullying, harassment, and retaliation, and provide staff with appropriate annual training, regardless of whether the entity receives any government funding.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 2483. The Department is committed to provide training to all school administrators, faculty, and staff on the amended Hawaii Administrative Rule, Chapter 19 Student Misconduct, Discipline, School Searches and Seizures, Reporting Offenses, Police Interviews and Arrests, Restitution for Vandalism, Complaint Procedure and Investigation of Discrimination, Harassment (Including Sexual Harassment), Bullying and/or Retaliation (HAR Chapter 19).

In September 2019, the Board of Education unanimously approved amending HAR Chapter 19 and HAR Chapter 89 Civil Rights Policy and Complaint Procedure for Student(s) Complaints Against Adult(s) (HAR Chapter 89). These rules became effective in January 2020.

HAR Chapter 19 expands the definitions for bullying, harassment, and cyberbullying. New protected class definitions and offenses can also be found in this amended rule. A complaint procedure for bullying, harassment (sexual harassment), discrimination and retaliation was also added. Additionally, a new Behavior Management System was implemented in January 2020 to capture student behavior incidents.

There were over thirty (30) HAR Chapter 19 and HAR Chapter 89 mandatory training sessions provided to school and district administrators from October 2019 through December 2019. Currently, HAR Chapter 19 and HAR Chapter 89 make-up training sessions are being provided to school and district level administrators and staff.

To ensure the empowerment of student voice, the Department implemented the "Speak Now"

anti-bullying mobile application for intermediate and high school students. This mobile application will be made available to elementary students in Fall 2020. The Speak Now mobile application provides students with another mechanism to report incidents of bullying on Department campuses, during transportation and during Department-sponsored activities.

As a note, the Department acknowledges that this measure attempts to make adjustments to Title 10 of HRS - Public Safety and Internal Security. As such, the Department defers to the appropriate state agency for implementation and looks forward to working with them to better safeguard Hawai'i's keiki.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2483.

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](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).



January 28, 2020

House's Committees on Lower & Higher Education and Human Services & Homelessness  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 309  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Thursday, January 30, 2019 – 2:10 p.m.

RE: **SUPPORT for House Bill 2483**

Aloha Chair Woodson, Chair San Buenaventura and fellow committee members,

I am writing in SUPPORT for House Bill 2483 on behalf of the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawaii's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization. HB 2483 requires all entities that provide educational or recreational activities to youths to establish, maintain, and enforce written policies and procedures on bullying, harassment, and retaliation, and provide staff with appropriate annual training, regardless of whether the entity receives any government funding.

Bullying is the number one reason LGBTQIA+ youth miss school.

Every study shows that bullying puts youth at increased risk for depression, suicide, using drugs and alcohol, and risky sexual behavior all of which negatively impacts their academic performance. For LGBTQIA+ youth these risks are even higher.

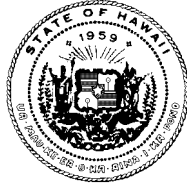
Every organization that has youth as their clients needs to have everything that HB 2483 calls for especially the training and prevention.

For all these reasons the LGBT Caucus fully supports HB 2483.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.  
Chair  
LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT  
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

**LATE**

January 29, 2020

TO: The Honorable Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
House Committee on Lower and Higher Education

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2483 – RELATING TO BULLYING**

Hearing: January 30, 2020, 2:10 p.m.  
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill as it will make it a standard practice for youth organizations to have in place established written policies and practices on addressing and preventing bullying in their programs. DHS defers to the Department of Health, Department of Education, and the University of Hawaii that worked on the Hawaii School Health Survey Workgroup that addressed the issue of bullying.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill requires all entities that provide educational or recreational activities to youths to establish, maintain, and enforce written policies and procedures on bullying, harassment, and retaliation, and provide staff with appropriate annual training, regardless of whether the entity receives any government funding.

The Department currently contracts with various organizations that provide for services mentioned in this bill and would be able to add a clause in future contracts stipulating that this shall be a requirement. It may be beneficial if minimum standards be adopted for consistency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: [info@hysn.org](mailto:info@hysn.org)

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hawaii

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of West Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm

Reduction Center

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kokua Ohana Aloha (KOA)

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native

Hawaiian Health Care Systems

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and

Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services

& Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

January 29, 2020

**LATE**

To: Representative Justin Woodson  
And members of the Committee on Lower and Higher Education

## Comments on HB 2483 Related to Bullying

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, is providing comments on HB 2483 Relating to Bullying.

There is no doubt that bullying is a serious issue in our schools and other programs for children and youth and we welcome legislative action that will increase the capacity of schools and service providers to prevent and intervene.

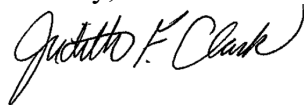
We agree that all children and youth-serving organizations should have anti-bullying policies and procedures in place and should provide training to staff and volunteers on the topic.

This bill does not provide any mechanism for determining whether an organization has adopted a bullying policy or provide staff/volunteer training. No government agency is named to monitor compliance and there is no mention in the bill of penalties or actions if a youth-serving organization is not compliant.

HYSN recommends amendments to the bill to limit the requirement for an anti-bullying policy and training to organizations that have state contracts. Then the state agency issuing the contract could monitor for and enforce compliance.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director