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STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2703
A BILL RELATED TO PREVENTING SCHOOL VIOLENCE

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON LOWER AND HIGHER EDUCATION

BY

DOLORES COOK
ADMINISTRATOR
OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

FEBRUARY 4, 2020

Chair Justin H. Woodson and members of the Committee on Lower and Higher Education.

I am Dolores Cook, Administrator of the Office of Homeland Security. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT THE INTENT** of HB 2703.

The proposal of HB 2703 will provide support to the 2018 Bureau of Justice Grant the Office of Homeland Security secured with and through advisement of Department of Education and support for Charter and Private School officials.

The STOP Grant assists the Department of Education in the development of an intervention program to assist students with indicators and warning of potential violence are referred through a consultation \process expand the crisis assessment and management process to educational professionals to establish robust and effective collaboration among the Department of Education, community, county, state and federal agencies to build a program tailored to the Hawaii public school system.

Through the National Governors Association, the number two concern of the Homeland Security Advisors is school safety. Similar to other states, education does not fall under homeland security, yet a school shooting or incident within the Hawaii School System, universities, private and/or charter schools requires the support for all sources to mitigate the situation. This may require the activation of the emergency management in the county and or the state.

Since the award of the grant and the hiring of our STOP Grant Coordinator we have been able to identify some key gaps. One of the most serious is there is a lack of teams available in Hawaii schools. If there is an intervention team, there is inconsistency in the teams. There is

no training made available and most are ad hoc. The STOP Grant does provide a means to support the intervention team structure, assessments, and training.

The Office of Homeland Security supports the additional language to section 128A – 3, Hawaii Revised Statutes with the following amendment to Section 2:

“(c) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024, ~~the Hawaii state fusion center~~ of the office of homeland security shall submit to the legislature a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, concerning the pilot program.”

The justification for the amendment is to reflect the Office of Homeland Security as responsible for the oversight of the Hawaii State Fusion Center. The pilot project identified within HB 2703 should be under the Administrator of the Office of Homeland Security.

The Hawaii State Fusion Center serves as a focal point for the state for the receipt, analysis, gathering and sharing of threat-related information between the federal, state, local, and private sector partners. Fusion centers are situated in the state to empower front line law enforcement, public safety, fire, emergency responders, public health, critical infrastructure protection and private sector security personnel to understand the implications of intelligence for and to the State. The fusion center provides interdisciplinary expertise and situational awareness to inform decision-making at all levels of government. The Hawaii State Fusion Center conducts analysis and facilitates information sharing by assisting law enforcement and homeland security partners in preventing, protecting against and responding to crime, terrorism and all-hazard incidents.

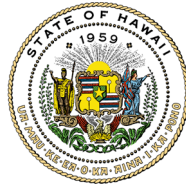
The STOP Grant has a draft short- and long-term plan to support the intent of HB 2703 which is added in testimony by Patricia Kickland, STOP Grant Coordinator.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT THE INTENT of House Bill 2703.**

The DOD supports the intent expressed in this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget.

Dolores Cook, Administrator, dolores.m.cook@hawaii.gov, 808-369-3522

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2703
RELATING TO PREVENTING SCHOOL VIOLENCE

PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER AND HIGHER
EDUCATION

BY

PATRICIA KICKLAND
PROGRAM MANAGER, STOP SCHOOL VIOLENCE PROGRAM
OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

FEBRUARY 4, 2020

Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower and Higher Education: I am Patricia Kickland, Program Manager for the Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing School Violence (“STOP”) program. STOP operates in partnership with the Hawaii State Fusion Center (“HSFC”) under the State of Hawaii Office of Homeland Security (“OHS”), Department of Defense (“DOD”). STOP provides written testimony in **SUPPORT OF THE INTENT** expressed in this measure, as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget, and suggests amendments. This Bill seeks to prevent school violence by establishing a pilot program for threat assessment in schools; and providing funding for program management and threat assessment.

The STOP program seeks to prevent acts of targeted school violence, such as school shootings and bombings. STOP currently is funded through a federal grant. STOP resources may be used to train students and school personnel on preventing student violence against others and themselves; to develop and operate anonymous reporting systems for threats of school violence; to develop and operate school threat assessment and intervention teams; and to support any other measure that may provide a significant improvement in training, threat assessments and reporting, and violence prevention.

Since the STOP program began operating in Hawaii on September 20, 2019, there have been at least twenty-five (25) threats of targeted violence against Hawaii public K-12 schools. Even though none of the threats has come to fruition, the threats themselves have caused trauma to students, parents, and school personnel. Schools have gone into lockdown. Attendance has suffered. School events have been cancelled. The constant barrage of threats has caused communities to wonder whether the next threat could be real. At the same time, when students keep hearing about bogus threats, students develop complacency and may be less likely to report new threats to trusted adults.

The good news is that research shows that targeted school violence may be prevented by threat analysis. On November 7, 2019, the U.S. Secret Service published “A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School Violence.” Key findings included information about attackers’ motives, use of firearms, psychological, behavioral, or developmental symptoms, interest in violent topics, social stressors, negative home life factors, bullying, school disciplinary actions, and prior contact with law enforcement. An especially important finding was that all attackers exhibited some kind of concerning behavior that elicited concern from others – yet the people who observed the behavior did not act.

This Bill would provide support for the establishment, training, and operation of school threat assessment teams. These teams, which include school personnel, mental health professionals, law enforcement, and other interdisciplinary team members, can be trained to distinguish between credible versus negligible threats. Members of the teams combine the knowledge that they have about the concerning signs of violence, with the members’ area of expertise, and then assess the threat. These teams then mitigate threats against schools by making sure that the students who make the threats get the help needed to avoid future acts of violence.

Social media often provides a motive for targeted school violence, as well as a means of assessing credible threats. Attackers may suffer cyber bullying. Attackers may also use social media to communicate their intent to cause violence in schools. For that reason, social media has become an important source of information when there is a targeted threat of violence. STOP and the HSFC have encountered multiple school threats posted online, including photographs of guns, and posts saying the author would use bombs or firearms to cause violence.

This Bill would provide support for social media analysis in threat cases. Such analysis is important to assess whether threats are credible so that educational institutions and law enforcement may make decisions on the level of response necessary. The analysis is also important to spot trends and copy-cat threats.

STOP does recommend that this Bill be amended. Please see the attached chart. Also, please see the attached draft of the envisioned pilot project.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the intent of HB 2703, as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget.

Patricia Kickland, Program Manager
STOP School Violence Program
Office of Homeland Security



STOP Proposed Amendments**HB 2703****2-4-2020**

Section 2 (a)	Page 3, Line 9, after “Hawaii”	Delete “State Fusion Center of the”
Section 2(a)(1)	Page 3, after Line 19 “cases,”	Insert “(C) Standardized procedures for reporting threats, and for immediate response, threat assessment, threat management and monitoring, after-action reports, and statewide recordkeeping; and (D) Protocols for sharing information across agencies.”
Section 2(a)(2)(A)	Page 4, Line 1, after “including”	Insert “but not limited to”
Section 2(a)(2)(B)	Page 4, Line 7, after “teams”	Insert “and”
Section 2(a)(3)(A-C)	Page 4, Lines 8-15	Delete.
Section 2(a)(4)-(5)	Page 4, Lines 16 to 21	Renumber. “ [(4)] (3) Collect data...” “ [(5)] (4) Disseminate information...”
Section 2(a)(4)	Page 4, Line 20	Delete “state and county”
Section 2(b)(1)	Page 5, Line 3, after “the”	Insert “State of Hawaii”
Section 2(b)(2)	Page 5, Line 7, after “school”	Insert “located in the State of Hawaii”
Section 2(b)(3)	Page 5, Line 8, after “education”	Insert “located in the State of Hawaii”
Section 2(b)(3)(A)	Page 5, Line 10	Delete “a sufficient number of “
Section 2(b)(3)(B)	Page 5, Line 13	Delete “many”
Section 2(c)	Page 5, Line 18 after “Hawaii”	Delete “state fusion center of the”
Section 3(1)	Page 6, Line 9 after “mechanism”	Insert “to be established and operated within the Hawaii office of homeland security,”
Section 3(2)	Page 6, Line 12-17	Delete original and then insert amended text: “A

		school violence data collection system, to be established and operated within the Hawaii office of homeland security, to collect pertinent data on school violence and threats of school violence; to provide analysis to assist in identifying, assessing, monitoring, and managing threats; and to provide analysis to assist in the future development and implementation of programs to promote school safety and public safety.”
Section 3(4)	Page 7, Line 1 after “positions”	Insert “within the Hawaii office of homeland security”
Section 3(4)(B)(i)	Page 7, line 18 after “to”	Insert “agencies involved in preventing school violence, including but not limited to”
Section 3(4)(B)(iii) and (iv)	Page 8, Lines 1-9	Reverse order. “ (iii) <u>(iv)</u> Facilitate...” “ (iv) <u>(iii)</u> Assist...”
Section 3(4)(B)(iv)	Page 8, Lines 6-9	Delete original and then insert amended text: “(iii) Assist threat assessment teams, agencies participating in the teams, and other agencies involved in preventing school violence, with operating threat assessment teams, sharing information between and within agencies, and monitoring cases.”

RELATING TO PREVENTING SCHOOL VIOLENCE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a threat of
2 targeted violence against Hawaii schools. Between January 1,
3 2019, and November 19, 2019, forty-five school shootings
4 occurred over forty-six weeks across the United States. The
5 shootings occurred at elementary, middle, and high schools as
6 well as on college and university campuses. Although Hawaii
7 schools have not yet fallen victim to completed acts of mass
8 violence, the State's schools do regularly experience threats of
9 shootings and bombings. During the fall of 2019, public K-12
10 schools in Hawaii received more than twenty-five threats about
11 shootings or bombings. Most threats were made via social media;
12 the others were made by handwritten notes, graffiti, or
13 telephone. Although the threats were never carried out, they
14 caused fear and apprehension among students, parents, teachers,
15 and the community.

16 On November 7, 2019, the United States Secret Service
17 published "A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School



1 Violence". This report studied forty-one incidents of targeted
2 school violence that occurred at K-12 schools in the United
3 States between 2008 and 2017. Key findings of the study suggest
4 that school violence is preventable. School-based and
5 community-based threat assessment teams can use this knowledge
6 and become trained to determine whether threats are credible or
7 not. These teams may identify persons of concern before they
8 commit acts of violence. Furthermore, intervention strategies,
9 including counseling, mentorship, and thorough follow-up, can
10 mitigate the threat to help the person of concern and also
11 prevent serious acts of violence.

12 The legislature further finds that currently, gaps exist in
13 inter-agency coordination, communication, and standardized
14 responses to threats of targeted school violence in Hawaii.
15 There is no statewide database of school threats to help
16 identify copycats; analyze trends; and disseminate information
17 to schools, law enforcement, and other agencies that need to
18 protect students.

19 The purpose of this Act is to help prevent targeted school
20 violence in Hawaii by:



H.B. NO. 2703

- 1 (1) Establishing a pilot program to establish a start-to-
- 2 finish response to threats of targeted school
- 3 violence; and
- 4 (2) Providing long-term resources to help prevent targeted
- 5 school violence, regardless of how the State chooses
- 6 to implement future school violence prevention
- 7 strategies.

8 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the Hawaii
 9 ~~[state fusion center of the]~~ office of homeland security,
 10 established by section 128A-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, a pilot
 11 program to:

- 12 (1) Establish:
- 13 (A) Interdisciplinary school-level threat assessment
- 14 teams at the elementary, middle, and high school
- 15 level as well as the college or university level;
- 16 and
- 17 (B) A larger-scale interdisciplinary threat
- 18 assessment team to which the school-level teams
- 19 may refer cases; (C) Standardized procedures for reporting
threats, and for immediate response, threat
assessment, threat management and monitoring,
after-action reports, and statewide
recordkeeping; and
- 20 (2) Provide: (D) Protocols for sharing information across
agencies.



H.B. NO. 2703

1 (A) Training for the general public, including but not limited to
 2 students, school personnel, and the community,
 3 regarding the prevention of targeted school
 4 violence as well as the general concepts of
 5 threat assessment and intervention; and

6 (B) More advanced training for members of threat
 7 assessment teams; and

[Delete lines 8-15. Included in revised language on page 3.]

~~8 (A) To establish procedures for reporting, immediate
 9 response, threat assessment, threat management
 10 and monitoring, after-action reports, and
 11 statewide recordkeeping;~~

~~13 (B) To establish protocols for sharing information
 14 across agencies; and~~

~~15 (C) Pursuant to established procedures and protocols;}~~

16 (4) (3) Collect data on school violence, threats, responses to
 17 threats, the operation of threat assessment teams, and
 18 the resolution of cases; and

19 (5) (4) Disseminate information on copycat threats, trends,
 20 and analyses to the appropriate ~~[state and county]~~
 21 agencies.



H.B. NO. 2703

- 1 (b) The pilot program:
- 2 (1) Shall include one elementary school, one middle
- 3 school, and one high school from the^v State of Hawaii department of
- 4 education that are geographically and socially
- 5 related;
- 6 (2) May include one independent school or public charter
- 7 school;^v and located in the State of Hawaii
- 8 (3) May include one institution of higher education;
- 9 provided that the institution of higher education:
- 10 (A) Enrolls a ~~{sufficient number}~~ of students who
- 11 graduated from the high school identified in
- 12 paragraph (1); and
- 13 (B) Dual-enrolls within its classes ~~{many}~~ students who
- 14 are still attending the high school identified in
- 15 paragraph (1).
- 16 (c) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of
- 17 the regular sessions of 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024, the Hawaii
- 18 ~~{state fusion center of the}~~ office of homeland security shall
- 19 submit to the legislature a report of its findings and
- 20 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, concerning
- 21 the pilot program.



H.B. NO. 2703

1 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent
 2 the office of homeland security from using other available
 3 resources to assist educational institutions other than those
 4 identified in subsection (b).

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of\$ or so
 7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for
 8 the following purposes:

to be established and operated within the Hawaii office of homeland security

9 (1) A statewide anonymous reporting mechanism^v specifically
 10 designed to collect reports of threats of targeted
 11 school violence;

~~12 (2) [A database to collect reports of threats to schools
 13 and school violence that were:~~

~~14 (A) Received by the anonymous reporting mechanism
 15 identified in paragraph (1); or~~

~~16 (B) Collected by law enforcement, educational, and
 17 other agencies;] *~~

18 (3) Other technological tools to enable analysis of social
 19 media and other data;

* A school violence data collection system, to be established and operated within the Hawaii office of homeland security, to collect pertinent data on school violence and threats of school violence; to provide analysis to assist in identifying, assessing, monitoring, and managing threats; and to provide analysis to assist in the future development and implementation of programs to promote school safety and public safety.



within the Hawaii office
of homeland security

1 (4) Four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE) positions, which
2 shall be exempt from chapter 76, Hawaii Revised
3 Statutes, as follows:

4 (A) Three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) analysts to:

5 (i) Operate the statewide anonymous reporting
6 mechanism;

7 (ii) Analyze threats delivered via social media;

8 (iii) Analyze additional data relevant to school
9 violence; and

10 (iv) Disseminate information to appropriate
11 agencies in individual cases and
12 periodically inform agencies and the public
13 about copycat threats and trends in school
14 violence; and

15 (B) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) program
16 manager to:

17 (i) Organize outreach and training to the
18 agencies involved in preventing school violence, including but not limited to
19 general public and to^veducational
institutions;

20 (ii) Organize training for school-level and
21 larger-scale threat assessment teams;



* (iii) Assist threat assessment teams, agencies participating in the teams, and other agencies involved in preventing school violence, with operating threat assessment teams, sharing information between and within agencies, and monitoring cases.

v

1 ~~[(iii)]~~ Facilitate larger-scale interdisciplinary
2 (iv) threat assessment teams by calling and
3 attending meetings, coordinating efforts
4 among agencies within the team, and keeping
5 records of cases;

~~6 [(iv) Assist in establishing procedures and
7 protocols for creating and operating threat
8 assessment teams and reporting among various
9 agencies; and]*~~

10 (v) Coordinate efforts with other student-safety
11 programs.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
13 defense for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
15 provided that section 3 of this Act shall take effect on July 1,
16 2020; provided further that section 2 of this Act shall be
17 repealed on June 30, 2024.

Pilot Project – School threat assessment teams and anonymous reporting system DRAFT 2-4-2020

1. Choosing schools
 1. Meet with them to ascertain what needs they have
 2. See what resources they already use
 3. What kind of program they envision

2. Training for school officials
 - a. One general training for the 3-5 schools selected
 1. Hawaii-based trainer who has experience with higher-level threat assessment and can give examples.
 2. Reporting mechanisms available
 - a. Within schools
 - b. Outside schools
 3. Discussions:
 - a. Do you have formal/informal threat assessment and crisis intervention teams?
 - b. What threat assessment tool(s) do you use?
 - c. What behavioral intervention tool(s) do you use?
 - d. What works?
 - e. What does not work?
 - f. What do you have in place for non-student threats?
 - g. Suggestions for the future

 - b. Specialized training for school-level threat assessment teams
 1. Student-based threats
 - a. Pick a threat assessment tool
 - b. Pick a team for responding to student-based threats
 - a. Specialized training for that team
 - b. Hawaii trainers as much as possible
 - c. Supplement with consultants
 - d. Specialized topics: training in the chosen threat assessment tool, social media threat assessment, monitoring identified threats
 2. Non-student-based threats
 - a. Integrate with island/county threat team associated with the Hawaii State Fusion Center (e.g. Threat Team Oahu)

 - c. Training for larger-scale threat assessment team consisting of interdisciplinary members who may assess cases and trends from smaller school-level team

3. Operational support via STOP
 - a. One Program manager
 - a. Facilitate threat assessment team meetings
 - b. Provide assistance with threat assessment
 - c. Provide assistance with case monitoring

- d. Keep track of case results
- e. Spot trends and copy-cat threats
- f. Keep statistics and case information
- g. Organize training

b. Three Analysts

- 1. Operate anonymous reporting system(s)
 - a. Establish state-wide system for all threats of targeted school violence
 - b. Assist with operating and managing systems that already exist in schools
- 2. Social media analysis
 - a. Threat assessment in particular cases or circumstances
 - b. Trends and copy-cat threats

4. Future expansion

- a. By complex area, district, island, county, state
- b. Incorporate public and private K-12, charter, higher education
- c. Add positions
 - 1. Four managers -- one for each county
 - 2. Seven to eight analysts
 - a. Add capacity and hours available
 - b. Some specialization in geographic and subject matter areas
 - 3. Four licensed clinicians to provide follow-up case support of individuals when there are credible threats of targeted school violence

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

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

February 3, 2020

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

Testimony in Opposition to HB 2703 Relating to Preventing School Violence

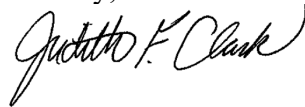
Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, opposes HB 2703 Relating to Preventing School Violence

Hawaii has a low rate of school violence and low risk of weapons use on school campuses. "The number of students caught carrying any kind of "firearm," including paintball guns, or even slingshots, has dropped to its lowest level in 10 years at Hawaii's public school campuses," the Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported on 2/3/2020.

Our children and youth have many more urgent and widespread issues where funding could be better used ranging from youth homelessness to child sexual abuse prevention. The data available does not support the need for a program to respond to targeted school violence.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



LATE

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

Date: 02/04/2020

Time: 02:30 PM

Location: 309

Committee: House Lower & Higher
Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 2703 RELATING TO PREVENTING SCHOOL VIOLENCE.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a pilot program to prevent targeted school violence. Appropriates funds to the office of homeland security for resources to prevent targeted school violence. Repeals on 6/30/2024.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2703 provided that its passage does not adversely impact the Department's Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness Branch's continuous efforts to obtain additional resources to accomplish its vital mission and vision.

Threat assessment is a problem-solving approach to violence prevention that involves assessment and intervention with both students and adults who have threatened violence in some way. Every act of violence is preventable if people recognize the signs. Several major and authoritative publications such as *Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model* and the *Final Report of the Federal Commission on School Safety* have established threat assessment programs as a best practice and mandated its implementation.

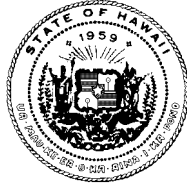
The development and establishment of a threat assessment program in the Department has been a priority of the Department's Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness Branch for over three years. The branch has been working and coordinating closely with both the Hawaii Office of Homeland Security and the Hawaii State Fusion Center in developing a threat assessment program that would proactively prevent targeted violence in our schools. The partnerships have been invaluable. Developing and establishing a threat assessment program ensures the Department is meeting national school safety and security standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

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.

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

February 3, 2020

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2703 - RELATING TO PREVENTING SCHOOL VIOLENCE**

Hearing: February 4, 2020, 2:30 p.m.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill to invest in the prevention of school violence in Hawaii; DHS defers to the State Fusion Center and the Department of Education as to the implementation of the proposed pilot proposed.

PURPOSE: This bill proposes to establish a pilot program to prevent targeted school violence. Appropriates funds to the office of homeland security for resources to prevent targeted school violence. Repeals on 6/30/2024.

Hawaii received a STOP the School Violence grant from the US Department of Justice; the grant is being administered by the State Fusion Center. Prevention of violence in school and providing intervention services should be priorities for Hawaii's children and youth; efforts should be comprehensive as incidents of violence can occur on or off school campuses. The Legislature should consider additional investment in outreach and treatment services that address the root causes of bullying, depression, youth suicide, with heightened attention to the

needs of families with youths arrested before age 13; youths arrested before 13 are at a higher risk of future violence, crime, school drop-out and substance abuse.¹

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/yv-technicalpackage.pdf>

10-17 schools
active discussions

10-17

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



JOHN S.S. KIM
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: HB 2703 Relating to Preventing School Violence
DATE: February 4, 2020
TIME: 2:30 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Lower and Higher Education
ROOM: Conference Room 309
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

LATE

LATE

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony providing **SUPPORT of HB 2703 with amendments** which establishes a pilot program to establish a start-to-finish response to threats of targeted school violence and provides long term resources to prevent targeted school violence.

While the Commission is grateful for the inclusion of public charter schools in this measure, the Commission requests this measure **be amended to state that the pilot program shall include one independent school and a public charter school.**

pg. 5

In addition to the option that this measure provides, the Commission has also begun working with the Fusion Center on school safety issues to see what resources and training options are available for public charter schools. Additionally, the Commission has assisted in arranging school crisis and active-shooter training for some public charter schools.

The Commission looks forward to collaborating with the committee, other interested stakeholders, and public charter schools in moving this legislation forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.