



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

Date: 01/31/2019
Time: 09:30 AM
Location: 329
Committee: House Health

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 0379 RELATING TO HEALTH.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the Department of Education, at its own expense, to develop and coordinate mental health training to be offered annually to complex area superintendents, registered school nurses, and school health aides. Includes autism and fetal alcohol spectrum disorder training.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) provides the following comments on HB 379.

The Department is committed to creating a high-performing culture where employees have the training, support, and professional development to contribute effectively to student success. The Department has a group of qualified mental health professionals including, but not limited to, Clinical Psychologists, School Psychologists, Social Workers, School Counselors, and Behavioral Health Specialists who provide a continuum of behavioral health and mental health supports for students experiencing social, emotional, and/or behavioral difficulties that impair their ability to function in school. They also provide ongoing professional development and consultation in support of school staff, complex area superintendents, complex area staff, registered school nurses, and school health aides.

Within the School Design model, the complex areas and schools prioritize professional development for educators and leaders that increases knowledge, understanding, and ability to use inclusive practices and multi-tiered supports with students that need diverse instructional methods and other supports, including students with special needs. The Department empowers the Tri-level Leadership Team (State-Complex Area-School) to identify critical areas of responsibility and accountability to provide decision-making in different areas, including professional development opportunities that impact student success.

The Department acknowledges the importance of focused professional development which includes the causes, symptoms, and key warning signs of mental health issues and behavioral issues. During the interim, the Department has engaged in a related community stakeholder working group and from this appreciates the need to provide more comprehensive professional development in these areas. Evidence based and culturally relevant practices may be included in the professional development opportunities, as appropriate. The Tri-level Leadership Team will align training needs inclusive of, but not limited to autism and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, with resources within or outside of the Department. Any necessary training and the related materials are embedded in the Department's operational procedures and requirement.

For these reasons, the Department respectfully suggests that this measure is not necessary at this time.

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

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

HB379 Training in Schools for Autism, FASD and Other Disorders

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH:

- Representative Mizuno, Chair; Representative Kobayashi, Vice Chair
- Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2019: 9:30 pm
- Conference Room 329

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports HB379:

GOOD MORNING CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization of almost 40 non-profit alcohol and drug treatment and prevention agencies.

There are significant and increasingly improved interventions that are available for mental health issues such as autism, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and other disorders. Training schools will help to identify and properly treat those suffering from such disorders.

Interventions can help people develop new learning and coping skills to help them improve functioning. FASD is a brain-based disorder. When school personnel understands the disorder and reshape some of their interventions, the child's behavior changes and functionality improves.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.

HB-379

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:15:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

HB-379

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:57:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julie Yurie Takishima-Lacasa	Hawai'i Psychological Association	Support	No

Comments:

HB-379

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 9:39:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wailua Brandman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-379

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 10:20:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Yabusaki	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I am writing in full support of this bill.

I have worked with children with FASD and their families for a number of years, attended IEP meetings, and educated parents, families, and service providers to advocate for services. The need for FASD-informed services in the school is critical, Well-meaning teachers and administrators intervene in ways that often reinforce feelings of defeat and poor self-image in children with FASD.

FASD is a life-long brain-based disorder and affects 1 in 20 first graders. Without an understanding of how to address a brain that "can't" vs. "won't" is challenging and requires all of our support to our educators, families, and those who interact with children with FASD.

Thank you for caring.

Sincerely,

Ann S. Yabusaki, Ph.D., MFT

HB-379

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 2:56:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenichi Yabusaki	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Representative Mizuno and Members of the Health Committee:

I strongly urge the passage of HB379. The training proposed to area complex school superintendents, and others will be the first step in having informed staff of the Department of Education and can easily be implemented the school year without cost to the State of Hawaii. Most notably is a recent incident involving a child with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome that had a seizure on a school bus and was not properly attended to. The child's grandmother had difficulty communicating with school officials and both the Department of Education and the bus company contracted by the DOE appeared to not take responsibility for this life-threatening incident. What is proposed in HB379 can help avoid costly lawsuits against the State of Hawaii. Thank you for your consideration.

K. Ken Yabusaki, Ph.D.

HB-379

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 3:25:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
terra daniel	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders is misunderstood and in many cases, never even taught or trained on for teachers, nurses, administrators, etc. The DOE is not able to adequately care for and teach a child with a disability they do not understand. It would be like a doctor treating a child for the chicken pox when they actually have the measles. They may have similar characteristics but the root cause is very different.

This bill would help our children to be understood and ensure the right services and tools are put into place to help them succeed.

Thank you.

HB-379

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 3:33:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susana Ming Lowe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support HB379. As a psychologist, I have worked with families who have children with FASD. It is something that takes a genuine toll on families, schools, and the broader community. When school personnel understand and reshape some of their interventions, the child's behavior changes. Because FASD is a spectrum disorder, each child is different. I hope to support our educators through education and encouragement.

Sincerely,"

HB-379

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 8:18:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
adriane abe-nishimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-379

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 7:53:44 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joelle Branch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha and Mahalo to the committee for this opportunity to express my support for bill HB 379. My name is Joelle Branch and I have had the opportunity to meet this family as well as the providers that have assisted them. I was disturbed to hear that a child was left on their own on a school bus with a seizure and there was no plan or follow up to this family from all parties involved to include DOE as well as the transportation providers. I have also become educated about the challenges presented for those with fetal alcohol syndrome which begins with a lack of knowledge amongst our DOE and many other agencies. By supporting bill HB379, I believe it is a first step to acknowledging that there is a need for education on fetal alcohol syndrome as well as a need for providing services. I write this to plead for your support for the lives of those who are afflicted with fetal alcohol syndrome through no faults of their own that they may get the services and supports they need. Mahalo for taking time to read my testimony. Mahalo Joelle Branch

LATE

HB-379

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 9:06:24 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeremy Daniel	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

This bill is definitely needed as most DOE employees do not understand that students with an FASD need different supports than those with other types of developmental delays. This training is necessary as it is estimated that 1 in 20 of all first graders have an FASD.

LATE

HB-379

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 9:39:41 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sheyanne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Sheyanne Petrovich

91-1056 Mikohu Street 7C

Ewa Beach HI 96706

[541-589-2987](tel:541-589-2987)

Dear Representative Mizuno and Members of the House of Health
Commity,

I fully support HB379. I have worked with children with FASD. I have attended IEP meetings on their behalf and asked that some of the child's behaviors be viewed as a brain-based disorder in light of FASD. When school personnel understands and reshape some of their interventions, the child's behavior changes. Because FASD is a spectrum disorder, each child is different. I hope to support our educators through education and encouragement.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.