



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

Date: 01/27/2020
Time: 02:45 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2295 RELATING TO SERVICE-LEARNING.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the Department of Education to implement a service-learning curriculum to develop student character, values, self-esteem, civic responsibility, and knowledge of local community issues and concerns through community service volunteer work.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the overall intent of SB 2295, but would respectfully like to provide comments.

Within the Department's Authorized Courses and Code Numbers (ACCN), there is a multidisciplinary, .5 credit elective high school course on Community Service. This course counts as part of the six-credit general elective graduation requirement for all students, requires a minimum of 60 hours of service, and is supervised by a school faculty member. It provides students with opportunities to develop responsibility, encourages humanitarian attitudes by doing things for others, and encourages cooperative working relationships with peers and adults in the community.

Should this course be required of all students, liability, accountability, and resource needs could limit the ability of a school to be innovative in their school design. Additionally, increasing the graduation requirements would reduce the potential for students to enroll in such courses as Fine Arts, World Languages, and Computer Science.

Because there is an existing course, and because of the potential for adverse impacts on schools and student choice, SB 2295 is not needed at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on SB 2295.

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.

LATE

SB-2295

Submitted on: 1/26/2020 10:29:17 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/27/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Marten	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani and Vice Chair Mercado Kim,

Please support SB2295. As the Executive Director of a non-profit that provides opportunities for service learning, I am struck that private school students are engaged in this activity due to school requirement while public school children are not. Few High School students would take the initiative to seek out service learning opportunities if it is not required. They are missing an important opportunity to learn about and develop additional connections to their community, to learn and experience new skills, and to have a feeling of self worth that comes from helping others. This also puts them at a disadvantage relative to private school students in the college application process.

Mahalo, Lisa Marten