



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

Date: 01/31/2020
Time: 02:45 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2348 RELATING TO BULLYING.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds for selected public middle school teachers to attend an evidence-informed or evidence-based and culturally relevant bullying intervention training session and for those selected public middle school teachers to provide training on bullying intervention to other public school employees in their respective schools. Appropriates funds.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 2348 and respectfully offers comments. The Department is committed to providing a comprehensive array of evidence-based practices, culturally-responsive support, and training for staff, teachers, school administrators, complex area, and district personnel. This ensures that all students feel supported and safe in school: socially, emotionally, intellectually and physically. *Board of Education Policy 101.7*

The Department continuously works to reduce bullying and cyberbullying by emphasizing the importance of a positive school climate and the effective implementation of an evidence-based social and emotional learning (SEL) program. *Statewide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports* (PBIS) training and technical assistance are provided to support schools in addressing, improving, and maintaining a positive school climate. PBIS is an application of behavioral-based systems approach to enhance the capacity of schools, families, and communities to design effective school environments that focus on a school-wide system of positive support. It includes proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate student behaviors to create positive school environments.

Research has shown that bullying prevention efforts in the middle school years have the greatest impact when integrated within a positive school climate and strong SEL program. Currently, the Department is offering training to all complex areas on the implementation, capacity building, and sustainability of both PBIS and SEL within the Hawaii Multi-tiered System of Support. Additional support is provided to schools through Vulnerability Assessments and the Tiered Fidelity Inventory.

The Department addresses bullying prevention in the Health curriculum as well as cyberbullying prevention in the Computer Science curriculum for students. Several schools partner with the Mental Health America of Hawaii in offering Youth Suicide and Bullying Prevention training to students.

Statewide efforts by the Department such as Unity Day and October Bullying Prevention Month provide educators and community partners with awareness activities and resources. Responsive measures to

empower student voice is achieved through restorative practices and the Department's Speak Now anti-bullying application for reporting bully events safely.

The Department continues to maintain strong and collaborative interagency partnerships on the Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force and the Bullying Prevention Task Force as well as the Mental Health Task Force to address such issues. The Department continues to collaborate with state and community agencies to maximize all available resources and training opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2348.

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



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

LATE

FOR: SB 2348 Relating to Bullying
DATE: January 31, 2020
TIME: 2:45 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 229
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 2348 with amendments**. This measure provides funds to train selected public middle school teachers on bullying intervention so that those teachers may train other teachers in their respective schools.

The Commission requests that this **measure be amended to clarify that any training provided on bullying intervention should include charter middle school teachers** as well as teachers in department schools. Of the 37 public charter schools operating, 30 schools have a middle school division; three schools, out of the total amount of 30, exclusively serve middle school students. The Commission would further support any additional funding for this measure that would be needed to provide this training to the 30 charter schools serving middle school students.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

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

January 29, 2020

To: Senator Michell Kidani
And members of the Committee on Education

Testimony in Support of SB 2348 Related to Bullying

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2348 Relating to Bullying.

For 9 out of the past 13 years, bullying has been one of the top concerns of the youth who participate in the annual Children and Youth Summit at the State Capitol each October. They tell us that teachers and other school staff do not respond effectively when they witness bullying or bullying is reported by students.

As one concerned grandparent told me, “We are teaching our granddaughter about the issue. Last year she reported 3 kids to teacher because they were taunting a home less girl...{My granddaughter said the teacher just told them not to do again...the kids got nothing out of it.”

According to the Hawaii Youth Behavioral Risk Survey, Hawaii has a low rate of youth violence in almost every area except bullying. The number of youth who have stated that they were afraid to go to school or have missed school due to bullying is much higher than the national average. 22.6% of middle school students in Hawaii were cyber-bullied, 40% were bullied on school property, 23.1% seriously considered suicide, and 12.4% attempted suicide during past 12 months (Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2017)

Parent concern about the bullying experienced by their children in public schools has led to multiple lawsuits and judgments against the Department of Education.

In 2018, 3 families sued the Hawaii Dept. of Education alleging “alleges the department has failed to provide a safe environment to its students due to lackluster policies and procedures governing student-on-student bullying and harassment.” {Honolulu Civil Beat, 8/31/2018}

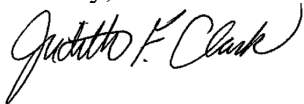
Also in 2018, the Dept. of Education “agreed to pay \$10,000 to settle a two-year-old lawsuit alleging school officials did nothing to address recurring sex-based harassment against two students on the Big Island.”

“The lawsuit, brought by former Hilo resident Joshua Franklin on behalf of his two minor sons, claimed the boys were taunted by other students and called homophobic names like “faggot” and “queer” as school administrators stood by and didn’t stop the harassment or properly investigate the complaints. It also alleged school officials didn’t receive proper training on LGBTQ issues.” {Honolulu Civil Beat, 9/14/18}

School personnel are not prepared to prevent or intervene effectively to address bullying and harassment. Middle school is the time when bullying is most prevalent. Thus, the pilot training project targets middle schools.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



of Hawaii

January 28, 2020

Hawaii State Senate Committee on Lower and Higher Education

Hearing Date/Time: January 31, 2020 2:45PM

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229

Re: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2348

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

Members of AAUW of Hawaii are grateful for this opportunity to testify in support of SB2348, which would appropriate funds for bullying-intervention "train the trainers" training for selected public middle school teachers.

Bullying is a serious problem for the students in Hawaii, especially for the middle school students. According to the CDC 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 22.6% of middle school students in Hawaii were cyber-bullied, 40% were bullied on school property, 23.1% seriously considered suicide, and 12.4% attempted suicide during past 12 months of the survey. Youth who report frequently bullying others and youth who report being frequently bullied is at increased risk for suicide; youth who report both bullying others and being bullied have the highest risk for suicide.¹

Three out of eight groups of students, who participated in AAUW Honolulu-Ceeds of Peace-Women's Fund of Hawaii's Girls Talk Back program, identified bullying as most serious problem they wanted to work on. While some teachers try to address the problem, bullying continues; some teachers even shrug it off or dismiss it saying "everyone goes through bullying".

While mandating bullying prevention for all students, employees and parents, and bullying intervention training for all employees is ideal, this bill will appropriate funds to pilot "train the trainers" with those who are most eager to learn. While trainings for primary schools and high schools are also needed, this bill will pilot the training for middle schools

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/bullying-suicide-translation-final-a.pdf>

for the bullying problem is the worst for middle school students, according to the CDC 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawaii is a state-wide organization made up of six branches (Hilo, Honolulu, Kauai, Kona, Maui, and Windward Oahu) and includes just over 650 active members with over 3800 supporters statewide. As advocates for gender equity, AAUW of Hawaii promotes the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons.

Please pass this important bill to save our keiki. Mahalo.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Younghee Overly', with a stylized, cursive script.

Younghee Overly
Public Policy Chair, AAUW of Hawaii
publicpolicy-hi@aauw.net



Hawaii Women's Coalition

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Education
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, January 31, 2020, 2:45PM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 229
Re: Testimony of Hawaii Women's Coalition in support of S.B. 2348

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

The Hawaii Women's Coalition writes in support of S.B. 2348, to appropriate funds for selected public middle school teachers to attend a bullying intervention training session and for those selected public middle school teachers to provide training on bullying intervention to other public school employees in their respective schools.

According to 2017 CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 22.6% of middle school students in Hawaii were cyber-bullied, 40% were bullied on school property, 23.1% seriously considered suicide, and 12.4% attempted suicide during past 12 months. Youth who report frequently bullying others and youth who report being frequently bullied is at increased risk for suicide; youth who report both bullying others and being bullied have the highest risk for suicide.

In 2018, three families sued the Hawaii Department of Education alleging that the DOE failed to provide a safe environment to its students (Honolulu Civil Beat, 8/31/2018); also in 2018, the Hawaii DOE agreed to pay \$10,000 to settle a lawsuit which alleged that the school officials didn't do anything to address recurring gender-based harassment on the Big Island (Honolulu Civil Beat, 9/14/2018). Lack of effective bullying prevention and intervention is a serious problem for our keiki and families but also costly to Hawaii state government.

While mandating bullying prevention for all students and employees and bullying-intervention training for all employees is what we may need to do, we want to pilot "train the trainers" with those who are eager to learn from the pilot first. While we need to train all students, parents, and employees, the problem is most severe in middle school and a pilot in middle school is a good start.

Thank you for your support for this important measure to protect our keiki.

Sincerely,
Hawaii Women's Coalition

SB-2348

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 11:29:11 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2348

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 9:51:24 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Cadirao	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Dear Committe on Education:

I support the intent of this bill as it is a good step in the right direction. Education among staff to understand bullying is the first step.

Second, it is imperative that education regarding bullying also reaches the students. Teenagers today are so desensitized because of social media making it acceptable to be mean and uncaring.

If this could be a small part of the advisory portion of the school day.

Mahalo.

Caroline Cadirao (MOM OF A MILILANI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT)

LATE

SB-2348

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 11:07:33 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB2348.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

LATE

SB-2348

Submitted on: 1/31/2020 1:18:33 AM
Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments: