



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

Date: 02/25/2020

Time: 12:40 PM

Location: 211

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2941 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the Department of Education to establish and administer an ocean safety and stewardship education program for all fourth grade students.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 2941 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact the priorities as indicated in our Board of Education approved budget and respectfully offers comments.

As an island state, the Department recognizes the importance of ocean safety and stewardship education for all of Hawaii's keiki. In each of the last two years, the Department recommended the use of free online resources provided by Nā Kama Kai to all of its elementary schools. The Nā Kama Kai resources help to educate students about the importance of ocean safety as well as place-based cultural values related to the sea and stewardship.

The Department's school design strategy prioritizes a flexible and adaptive approach, empowering each school to make decisions about specific contexts and partnerships for developing high quality and relevant learning experiences based on the needs of their students and the local community.

Given the Department's ongoing efforts to promote ocean safety and stewardship education and to disseminate available resources, the Department respectfully suggests that this measure is not necessary at this time.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2941.

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.

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 8:39:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
DeborahGoebert	Testifying for Injury Prevention Advisory Committee	Support	No

Comments:



The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chairperson Ways and Means Committee

RE: SB 2941 Relating to Education

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee;

On behalf of the Injury Prevention Advisory Committee for the State of Hawai'i, I am in support of SB 2941 to provide ocean safety and stewardship courses to all fourth-grade students in the Department of Education. The Injury Prevention Advisory Committee (IPAC) is a volunteer network of professionals and community members that has been working together since 1990 to prevent injuries in Hawai'i. "A safe Hawai'i...from the mountains to the sea" is the vision for injury prevention efforts in Hawai'i.

Our current strategic plan highlights the need for drowning prevention--a leading cause of death and injury in our State (<https://health.hawaii.gov/hipp/>). In a three-year span from 2014-2017 there were 5 child fatalities, 14 non-fatal child drownings that required hospitalizations, and 66 children who required a visit to the emergency department. Furthermore, swimming and connection to the ocean can provide sources of strength and resilience for Hawaii's children. It is essential to introduce all children to safety and stewardship across our islands.

Respectfully,

Deborah Goebert, Injury Prevention Advisory Committee Chair



February 24, 2020

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB 2941 – Relating to Education

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

My name is Dean Schmaltz, President and Chairman of Hawaii Aquatics Foundation (HAF). We appreciate the opportunity to testify on SB 2941, to require the Department of Education to establish and administer an ocean safety and stewardship education program for all fourth grade students.

Per the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH), drowning is a leading cause of injury-related death for Hawaii's children ages 14 and under. During the 5-year period from 2014-18, there were 384 recorded EMS-attended child (ages 17 and under) drowning incidents in Hawaii. Nonfatal drowning injuries can cause severe brain damage, similar to blunt force trauma, and can result in long-term disabilities, such as memory problems, learning disabilities, and permanent loss of basic functioning (i.e., permanent vegetative state).

Also per the DOH, although the majority of fatal adult drownings in Hawaii occur in the ocean, during the 5-year period from 2014-18, over half of Hawaii's fatal child drownings were in pools and other natural bodies of water such as local streams. In addition to ocean safety specific education, our children should also be taught the knowledge and physical skills necessary for being safe in, on, and around all of the aquatic environments that they may encounter. The younger the child drowning victim is the more likely a fatal drowning will be in a man-made or freshwater environment. Countries with public school administered programs, such as Australia, Ireland, and New Zealand, include safety education for all types of aquatic environments.

Some of Hawaii's elementary schools already include aquatic safety education activities in their health and physical education programs for the overall wellness of the children in their care. Of the schools that do, many implement these activities earlier than the fourth grade. First and second grade students are able to learn and retain age-appropriate safety knowledge and survival skills that may have a life-saving benefit if learned sooner rather than later.

HAF supports the intent of this Bill with suggested amendments. In recognition of the preceding statistics and the benefits of learning basic aquatic safety skills at younger ages, we respectfully ask the committee to consider the following amendments:

- We recommend that Section 1 paragraph 2 be amended as follows:



“Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the department of education to establish and administer an aquatic safety and ocean stewardship education program for all elementary schools.”

- We recommend in Section 2 that the title of the new section to be added per the amendment be amended as follows:

“Aquatic safety and ocean stewardship education.”

- We recommend in Section 2 that part (a) of the new section to be added per the amendment be amended as follows:

“The department shall establish and administer an aquatic safety and ocean stewardship education program to be conducted at each public elementary school.”

Thank you for the opportunity for HAF to express our support for the intent of SB 2941 with recommended amendments. Your consideration of our comments is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean E. Schmaltz".

Dean E. Schmaltz
President, Chairman
Hawaii Aquatics Foundation
dba Hawaii Aquatics Academy

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 10:23:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Na Kama Kai	Testifying for Na Kama Kai	Support	No

Comments:

NÄ• Kama Kai provides Ocean Safety education for free to all keiki ages 2-17. However, as a non-profit organization with limited resources, we can only do so much to prevent statistics like the following from happening:

1. 21 fatal child drownings over the most recent 5-year period of 2014-2018, making drowning the 3rd leading cause of fatal injuries among children (ages less than 18) in Hawaii. If all causes are considered, drowning was the 6th leading, behind perinatal conditions, congenital anomalies, SUID, cancers, and suicide.

2. For every fatal child drowning, we estimate three others are hospitalized for nonfatal drownings, and 15 others are treated in emergency departments each year.

With the support of SB2941, NÄ• Kama Kai will be able to better spread the message of K.A.I. - Know your limits, Ask a lifeguard, and Identify the hazards and create confident and active keiki who are aware of their surroundings living on an island surrounded by water.

Mahalo for your time.

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 11:10:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lu Ann Faborito	Testifying for Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club	Support	Yes

Comments:

The Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club is in strong *support* of SB 2941 which would require the Department of Education to establish and administer an ocean safety and stewardship education program for all fourth grade students.

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 11:22:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Foti	Testifying for Kanaka Ikaika Racing Association	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is James Foti, Executive Director of Kanaka Ikaika Racing Association (KIRA). I am in support of SB 2941 which would require the Department of Education to establish and administer an ocean safety and stewardship education program for all fourth grade students.

KIRA runs open ocean paddlesports racing. As the years go by we see more and more youth participating in our events, and it's very important that they know how to be safe in the ocean and are able to help other keiki learn ocean safety as they develop into future watermen and women. As we are surrounded by water, it is imperative that our children grow up with the knowledge of ocean safety and respect for the ocean which will make our islands a safer place for locals and tourists alike for generations to come.

Mahalo,

Jim Foti

www.kanakaikaika.com

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 6:01:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 6:05:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support.. As a former 4th grade teacher, now retired, I believe that this is so important. My question is who teaches and who pays for it?

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 1:54:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jessamy town hornor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of this bill. I founded Ocean Safety 'Ohana after I lost my husband and daughter in an ocean accident in 2016 due to complicated ocean conditions that were unknown to my husband. I have learned from my research that most ocean accidents are preventable with proper education. OSO is a community advocacy group that works with our world-class watermen and women to bring increased ocean education and access to our keiki and families in Hawaii. We need to begin including swim safety and ocean literacy in our schools K-12, and this bill is a much needed start. We are developing a network of contacts to support this vision. Our keiki need to learn how to access the ocean, one of our greatest natural resources, for both their safety and their wellbeing. I have learned from the experts like Duane DeSoto that teaching ocean in the early years makes a lifelong difference.

Thank you,

Jessamy Hornor

February 21, 2020

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chairman
Ways and Means Committee
Senate District 22
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: SB 2941 Relating to Education

Dear Chair Dela Cruz;

Death due to drownings continue to be a major problem here in Hawaii. The Hawaii State Department of Health states from 2014-2018 for all causes of death, drowning was the 3rd leading cause among 1-17-year-olds, behind cancer and suicide. As a teen, I was shocked to learn this.

My name is David Nainoa Visperas and I am a junior at The Kamehameha Schools, Kapalama Campus. I have been blessed with the opportunity to get swimming lessons at Leahi Swim school when I was 2 to learn some basic skills and have always loved the ocean. I attended Nuuanu Elementary before I got into Kamehameha in the 4th grade. Once there I was placed in the lowest swimming group and had to spend many more hours than the other students to learn water safety skills. I am grateful that today I can call myself a great swimmer, but I wish we had a swim program in elementary.

I am in support of SB 2941 to provide ocean safety and stewardship courses to all fourth-grade students in the Department of Education. And hope you can do even more than this of our sake. Surrounded by the ocean we hope you can help to keep us safe. My family could afford swim lessons and I was lucky to be able to attend a private school but not all children in Hawaii have these opportunities. That is why I am writing this testimony to use my voice for CHANGE. I am sure you may think that funding such a program would be too costly. However, we hope you can see how this is something we need and that we are worth that investment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

David Nainoa Visperas

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/22/2020 8:26:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support. We are an island community surrounded by water. This measure makes sense and is the responsible thing to do. I know from personal experience that I would have been among Hawaii's drowning statistics had it not been for a lifeguard at Ala Moana Beach Park many years ago who saved my friend and me. Education on ocean safety and stewardship might have prevented that awful experience. This should be among DOE's programs and given priority again because we are surrounded by the ocean.

Ralph S. Goto
44-547 Kaneohe Bay Drive
Kaneohe HI 96744

February 22, 2020

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
The Thirtieth Legislature
Regular Session of 2020

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members:

RE: SB 2941 RELATING TO EDUCATION

My name is Ralph S. Goto, I am the retired administrator of the City and County of Honolulu's Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Services Division (1981 – 2013), current Advisor to the President of the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA), and member of the Board of Directors of the Hawaiian Lifeguard Association (HLA). I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB 2941 that requires the State Department of Education to establish and administer an ocean safety and stewardship education program for all fourth-grade students.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), drowning is a leading cause of childhood morbidity and mortality in the United States. Because of our unique location in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, and the year-round access to the water, the State of Hawaii contributes to this disturbing statistic every year.

Drownings are preventable, especially when children are taught basic water safety skills at an early age. Teaching kids about the aquatic environment is not a profound concept, however, these basic swimming and survival skills must be taught and mastered just as any other important life skill. Despite the stereotypical vision of our children frolicking in the ocean with dolphins and the misconception that all children in paradise know how to swim and surf big waves, swimming and aquatic survival skills must be taught, practiced and learned.

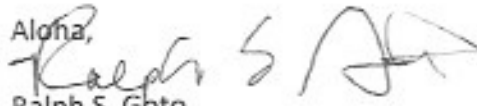
The best and most obvious method of ensuring this set of skills is through our education system, and in our island state, the Department of Education. In her earlier testimony, Superintendent Kishimoto recognizes the importance of ocean safety and stewardship education programs, yet punts away her department's role and responsibility to ensure that this occurs.

There are numerous organizations in the state that conduct water safety instructional programs, including Na Kama Kai, the Hawaii Aquatics Foundation, Kama'aina Kids, the YMCAs and YWCAs, the four county Parks and Recreation departments, and many private swim schools. Given the direction and resources by the Legislature, these organizations can collaborate with the Department of Education to schedule and implement a statewide water safety program. However, this endeavor must be mandated by the Legislature and not left up to the discretion of principals, administrators and bureaucrats in the DOE.

Although it seems to be a daunting task, a statewide water safety and stewardship program can be developed and implemented in our island state. In 1979-1980, I coordinated a statewide 'drownproofing' program that involved 10,000 fourth grade students within the DOE. Initiated by a forward-thinking district superintendent and with funding from within the department, principals and teachers embraced the concept, instructors were trained and hired, transportation was arranged, and the students were taught these essential life skills.

I respectfully and strongly urge your support and funding of SB 2941 and am available to assist in any way to make it a reality.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this extremely important matter.

Aloha,

Ralph S. Goto

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/23/2020 11:38:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ronald Tran	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, as born and raised resident of Oahu, I unfortunately have not had a connection to the ocean and water. I wish ocean safety education was required of me growing up as that may have provided me the opportunity to learn how to swim. It's never too late but I hope with this bill our future keiki will be afforded that chance and opportunity to have ocean safety instilled in them as it's an important life skill and also provides connectivity and hopefully malama to our waters that surround us!

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 12:10:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aloha Paakaula	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB2941. As an island community, ocean safety should be one of the top priorities for our entire state starting with some of the most vulnerable, our keiki. However, drowning fatalities is the third leading cause of death among keiki under the age of 18. By making ocean safety education mandatory in the DOE, statistics like these will improve significantly as it targets the largest population of students in the state. This will also help to eliminate class barriers that prevent some keiki from receiving swim lessons and other ocean awareness education.

Groups like Ocean Safety Ohana, Hawaiian Lifeguard Association and Na Kama Kai are doing significant work to provide free resources to the community. But with the support of the DOE, they will be able to spread their messaging so much more.

Mahalo nui for your time.

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 7:21:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 7:57:35 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melia Leslie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a constiuent of the State of Hawaii, I am sending in my support of bill SB2941.
Teaching water

safety at a young age is key to drowning prevention and should be MANADATORY at all schools

in the State of Hawaii! Please vote to support this bill!

Mahalo~

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 8:14:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cedric Duarte	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 11:04:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keanuenu DeSoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz,

Death due to drownings continue to be a major problem here in Hawai'i. Being an island surrounded by water ocean safety should be of the utmost importance here in Hawai'i. The Hawai'i

State Department of Health states from 2014-2018 for all causes of death, drowning was

the 3rd leading cause among 1-17-year-olds, behind cancer and suicide.

My name is Keānue DeSoto and I am a junior at Kamehameha Schools Kapālama, I am a water woman and environment advocate. As a student in Hawai'i nei I understand the importance of ocean safety in our communities, from a young age I was raised to be ocean conscious and do deem it an important aspect of living on an island. This is not only a wonderful opportunity to support our communities but to also empower our youth through education.

I am in support of SB 2941 to provide ocean safety and stewardship courses to all fourth-grade

students in the DOE. I truly think that although this program may seem out of the norm and not in-line with what schools should be required to teach it is our Kuleana to change that norm for the better and move into the future. Mahalo for your time!

Me ke aloha,

Keānue DeSoto

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 11:09:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colin Fujiki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Colin Fujiki, and I am writing today to support SB 2941 which would require the Department of Education to establish and administer an ocean safety and stewardship education program for all fourth grade students.

As an avid ocean lover, I feel it is important to prevent drowning fatalities which is the third leading cause of death among keiki under the age of 18. With the support of the Department of Education, ocean safety and stewardship will be accessible to the widest population of keiki from all demographics across the state.

Mahalo

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 11:10:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
danyelle sutherland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 11:14:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ridge Kaauwai	Testifying for student	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I fully support this bill. Mahalo!

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 11:16:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Antonelis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Deborah Antonelis and I am writing today to support SB 2941 which would require the Department of Education to establish and administer an ocean safety and stewardship education program for all fourth grade students.

As an avid ocean lover, I feel it is important to prevent drowning fatalities which is the third leading cause of death among keiki under the

age of 18. With the support of the Department

of Education, ocean safety and stewardship will be accessible to the widest population of keiki

from all demographics across the state.

Mahalo,

Deborah Antonelis

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 11:20:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Regina K. Hilo	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Regina K. Hilo, and I support the intent of SB2941 provided its passage does not replace or adversely impact the Board of Education's approved budget and priorities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Mahalo,

Regina K. Hilo

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 11:21:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jingjing Zhu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 11:24:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Plowman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an avid ocean lover, I feel it is important to prevent drowning fatalities which is the third leading cause of death among keiki under the age of 18. With the support of the Department of Education, ocean safety and stewardship will be accessible to the widest population of keiki from all demographics across the state.

I would also encourage the State Legislature to take action to ensure our visitors receive more thorough information and advice on ways to keep themselves safe on our shores. We send too many visitors home in body bags.

Mike Plowman

Ewa Beach

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 11:29:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ben Komer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ben Komer, and I am writing today to support SB 2941 which would require the Department of Education to establish and administer an ocean safety and stewardship education program for all fourth grade students.

As an avid ocean lover and owner of Leahi Swim School, I feel it is of utmost importance to prevent drowning fatalities which is the third leading cause of death among keiki under the age of 18. With the support of the Department of Education, ocean safety and stewardship will be accessible to the widest population of keiki from all demographics across the state.

Aloha,

Ben Komer

President

Leahi Swim School Inc.

Ke aloha no ia oukou apau e na Poo o ko Hawaii Aha Kau Kanawai,

Me ke aloha mau no hoi keia no ka aina a'u e waiho aku nei i keia mau manao no ka SB2941 i hoolaha ia maila imua o ka lehulehu. Ke hoomau aku nei no keia ma o ka olelo elua o Hawaii nei.

SB2941 seeks to require the Department of Education to establish and administer an ocean safety and stewardship education program for all fourth-grade students. We are writing in **strongly support** of SB2941.

Since we are surrounded by a large body of water, it is in the best interest of our children to be educated about the place they live and the ocean that surrounds them. SB2941 supports the work of organizations such as Na Kama Kai, who not only ensures that children learn ocean safety and stewardship education, this practice also incorporates STEM Education (i.e., STEAM, STEMS², etc.), Place-based Education (PBE), Culture-based Education (CBE), Problem-based Education (PBE), to name a few.

SB2941 (i.e., Na Kama Kai) is in direct alignment with the Department of Education's mission:

“We serve our community by developing the academic achievement, character and social-emotional well-being of our students to the fullest potential. We work with partners, families and communities to ensure that all students reach their aspirations, from early learning through college, career and citizenship.”

SB2941 is also in direct alignment with the Department of Education's vision of ensuring that “Hawaii's students are educated, healthy, and joyful lifelong learners who contribute positively to our community and global society.”

No ka pono o ka aina, a no ke ola o ka lahui,

Kahea Faria 

Keoki Faria 

Keokapukoa Kaohelaulii 

Haa0 Kaohelaulii 

Kamalu Kaohelaulii 

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 11:42:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaori Watanabe	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 11:43:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Loomis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Duane DeSoto
84-120 Makau St,
Waianae, HI 96792

February 24, 2020

The Honorable Donovan M Dela Cruz, Chairman
Ways and Means Committee
Senate District 22
Hawaii State Capitol, room 208
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: SB 2941 Relating to Education

Dear Chair Dela Cruz

As a professional surfer, world champion, Hawai'i Waterman Hall of Fame inductee and a father of 8 children, I am deeply concerned about the need for ocean education in our public schools.

Hawai'i is uniquely positioned in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and as an island community has neglected to celebrate that distinctive quality. In small and limited groups, people of Hawai'i have been able to create and share Ocean Safety and waterman skills that have been adopted around the world. This level of ocean knowledge from Hawai'i has inspired other nations, states and cities to change laws, develop curriculum and even recognize the knowledges of ocean people as a cultural treasure.

Hawai'i, however, has neglected to honor this unique perspective on a statewide level. Our keiki, unless privileged by having an ocean family, are graduating high school without receiving any formal ocean education. Our keiki deserve to have access to ocean knowledge and experiences that empower them to be resilient and safe in our most abundant resource.

Below are some statistics from the Dept of Health that are preventable if we begin with 4th grade ocean safety education in the Department of Education and gradually explore other avenues of engaging our island keiki with the ocean and its many benefits.

1. 21 fatal child drownings over the most recent 5-year period of 2014-2018, making drowning the 3rd leading cause of fatal injuries among children (ages less than 18) in Hawaii. If all causes are considered, drowning was the 6th leading, behind perinatal conditions, congenital anomalies, SUID, cancers, and suicide.
2. For every fatal child drowning, we estimate three others are hospitalized for nonfatal drownings, and 15 others are treated in emergency departments each year.

I am in support of SB2941. We can empower our youth with tools provided in a classroom that will encourage safe practices in and around the ocean while saving lives. All of our island keiki deserve to safely be connected to the ocean.

Mahalo for your time.

Duane DeSoto



SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 12:32:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melody Heidel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this measure, to ensure our keiki have the knowledge and skills to safely enjoy our ocean resources. Integrating stewardship and a sense of kuleana into these lessons is a great idea. Ocean safety and stewardship should be an integral part of Hawaii's basic education curriculum and requirements.

Mahalo,
Melody Heidel

(Lifelong Kailua resident)

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 12:04:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Naomi Manuel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 12:21:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I stand in strong support for SB 2941. I believe it is imperative to ensure safety of our kekei as we are surrounded by the ocean. They must understand the power as well as the beauty of the ocean's forces. This is also a golden opportunity to have children learn about stewardship of our most precious resource.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB 2941 for the sake of our kekei.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 1:06:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen Hoppe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai,

My name is Kathleen Hoppe, and I am writing today to support SB 2941 which would require the Department of Education to establish and administer an ocean safety and stewardship education program for all fourth grade students.

As a mother to two ocean-loving children, and wife to a surfer, I feel it is important to be proactive in ocean and swimming safety. I believe it is important to prevent drowning fatalities which is the third leading cause of death among keiki under the age of 18. With the support of the Department of Education, ocean safety and stewardship will be accessible to the widest population of keiki from all demographics across the state.

Mahalo for your time, and for joining me in supporting this bill.

LATE

Good Afternoon,

My name is Chris Loomis, I'm writing in support of SB 2941. It is crucial as a State Department of Education to provide water safety to all 4th grade students on all island.

I feel it's in our best interest of all people who live here in Hawaii to be properly educated in ocean safety to reduce drowning of our youth. As citizens of Hawaii surrounded by the Pacific Ocean, we need to make sure ocean safety, at a minimum taught to all 4th graders across our Great State of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Chris Loomis

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 3:10:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janine L	Testifying for supporting Na Kama Kai	Support	No

Comments:

"Aloha WAM committee,

My name is Janine Low, and I am writing today to support SB 2941 which would require the Department of Education to establish and administer an ocean safety and stewardship education program for all fourth grade students.

As an avid ocean lover, I feel it is important to prevent drowning fatalities which is the third leading cause of death among keiki under the age of 18. With the support of the Department of Education, ocean safety and stewardship will be accessible to the widest population of keiki from all demographics across the state.

Mahalo.

Janine Low

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 3:47:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
briaehni atisano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My niece falls under those numbers who have drowned and my girls have participated in Na Kama Kai ocean education safety. Please allow this organization to help the rest of our kids in being educated on water safety.

LATE

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 5:56:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sonya Zabala	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha KĀ• kou,

My name is Sonya Zabala and I am writing today to support SB 2941 which would require the Department of Education to establish and administer an ocean safety and stewardship education program for all fourth-grade students.

As a parent and an avid ocean lover, I feel it is important to prevent drowning fatalities, which is the third leading cause of death among keiki under the age of 18. With the support of the Department of Education, ocean safety and stewardship will be accessible to the widest population of keiki from all demographics across the state. Education is prevention. It saves lives.

Mahalo,

Sonya Zabala

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 6:47:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Desire DeSoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Desiré De Soto, and I am writing today to support SB 2941 which would require the Department of Education to establish and administer an ocean safety and stewardship education program for all fourth-grade students.

As a lifelong educator and avid ocean lover, I feel it is imperative to prevent drowning fatalities which is the third leading cause of death among our keiki under age 18. With the support of the Department of Education, ocean safety and stewardship will be accessible to the widest population of keiki from all demographics across the state.

Mahalo.

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 7:14:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kathy davey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in strong support of SB2941. Drownings are preventable with education. I was shocked to learn that this is the third leading cause of death among our keiki under the age of 18. Not everyone has had the advantage of learning ocean safety from their parents. Please pass this bill with funding. Thank you for the opportunity to testify,
Kathy Davey

SB-2941

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 1:00:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM



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

Comments: