



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

Date: 02/03/2020
Time: 02:45 PM
Location: 016
Committee: Senate Education
Senate Human Services

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 3156 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a statewide transition success network for high school students with disabilities. Appropriates funds.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii Department of Education (Department) respectfully offers the following comments on SB 3156 requiring the establishment of a statewide transition success network for high school students with disabilities and the establishment of the statewide transition success network. The Department is committed to preparing students with disabilities for success after high school through experiences in post-secondary education, vocational training, and competitive employment.

The Department has been in discussion with the University of Hawaii Center on Disability and propose some amendments with the goals of building upon existing efforts and identifying specific actionable steps to successfully transition students with disabilities into post-school employment or education. The amendments are as follows:

Page 4, Line 15 (3):

By January 1, 2021, ~~appoint the statewide advisory council~~ utilize the existing interagency transition planning group to serve as the statewide advisory council ~~made up of representatives from the complex area transition centers' advisory councils, community organizations, employers, families, and school personnel with interest in, responsibility for, or experience in assisting high school students with disabilities making successful transitions after high school to postsecondary education or employment;~~

Page 5, Line 3 (4):

Beginning in 2021, ~~hold a statewide annual conference on the activities~~ utilize the annual Footsteps to Transition Fair to highlight ~~the activities and results accomplished by the statewide transition success network.~~

Page 5, Line 15 (3):

By January 1, 2021, ~~appoint an advisory council~~ utilize the Community Children's Council (CCC), made up of representatives from high school designated liaisons, state agencies, community organizations, employers, families, and school personnel with interest in, responsibility for, or experience in assisting high school students with disabilities making successful transitions after high school to post secondary education or employment. Within the advisory council, there shall be an interagency coordinating committee to assist high schools in the district implement their school plans described in subsection (d);

Page 6 Line 10-15 (5):

Direct the coordinator to ~~explore the option of working with University of Hawaii center on disability studies to arrange for activities in its complex area to promote the purposes of this part, particularly needs arising from the annual needs assessment and common elements in high school transition plans~~ work with the University of Hawaii Center on Disability, which will serve as a placement agency with job coaches that will develop job sites for schools to utilize in finding job opportunities for students; and

Page 9 Line 9 (1):

~~Innovative strategies for exiting high school with qualifications to enter a trade school, higher education, or secure a job; Job coaches for customized individual employment opportunities that can lead to employment opportunities for students preparing to exit high school;~~

Page 9 Line 20-21 (7):

Outreach and engagement with employers to develop job opportunities and develop and establish a network of employers with internships that can lead to job placement for students

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these suggestions.

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

FOR: SB 3156 Relating to Education
DATE: February 3, 2020
TIME: 2:45 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education and Committee on Human Services
ROOM: Conference Room 016
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Kidani, Chair Ruderman, and members of the Committees:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 3156 with amendments**. This measure provides funds to the Department of Education (DOE) to establish a statewide transition success network for high school students with disabilities to promote successful post-school employment or education.

The Commission requests that this **measure be amended to clarify that these services are available to public charter school students** as well as students in department schools. The Commission would further support any additional funding that would be needed to ensure that the services provided by this transition network are available to both charter school students and department 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.

To: Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Senator Karl Rhoads, Senator Michelle N. Kidani, and Senator Donna Mercado Kim

From: Erin Mendelson, Central District Special Education Teacher

February 3, 2020 at 2:45 pm

I am in support of SB3156 and advocate for increased funding for post-secondary transition centers for students with special education needs. There are innovative programs and dynamic teachers across Hawaii public high schools that focus on vocational training, independent living skills and employment opportunities. For example, Central District recently launched a Project Search site where several students report to Kaiser Permanente Moanalua Medical Center daily for on-site training and coursework under the supervision of a special education teacher. In June, these students will seek employment, opening new doors to becoming contributing members of our community.

Under the federal and state provision of a free appropriate public education, students with disabilities who do not receive a regular high school diploma receive services until the age of 22. High schools must form community partnerships and navigate a challenging array of state agencies to find individualized pathways that match their students' abilities. Post-secondary planning for students with intellectual disabilities requires a network of state agencies, non-profits, community organizations, families, teachers, schools and students to be successful. SB3156 is in an investment and good faith effort to build partnerships and remove red tape.

Thank you for your time and for considering my ideas,

Erin Mendelson

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Committee on Education

Testimony on Bill #3156, The Hawaii Transition Success Network Act, on February 3, 2020 at 2:45PM in front of The Senate Committee on Education in Conference Room 016.

From: Andrea Alexander, parent of a high school student with a disability
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
andrea.alexander808@gmail.com

Submitted On: February 3, 2020

Support for SB3156, Relating to Education

Aloha Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

Preparing youth and students with disabilities for success after high school in postsecondary education, vocational training and employment at a competitive wage is an essential element of our federal and state policy to ensure equal opportunity. The State of Hawaii's investment in transition success for students with disabilities is critical in order to provide equitable access to options for full community participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency as they enter adulthood.

The absence of coordinated state and community transition resources can limit a high school student with a disability from accessing a full range of services for a successful transition into the adult social, employment and community life. This creates a group commonly referred to as "gap kids"-- youth with disabilities who no longer qualify for Special Education services through HIDOE, yet are unable to meet set eligibility requirements established by many state and local agencies that support adult persons with disabilities. Additionally, there are times that if the student is in fact found eligible, due to lack of funding and overwhelming demand, they are put on an extensive waiting list. It is fundamental that the State establish a policy to provide a firm foundation and a clear path of equitable opportunity for high school students with disabilities. It is further critical for high school students with developmental disabilities, like my son, to be provided the structural support that allows the pursuit of higher education, skills training and competitive wage employment on par with their typical peers.

As a parent of a high school student with a disability, stakeholder and constituent, I strongly support SB3156. The establishment and appropriation of funding for a transition success network for high school students with disabilities is an investment in the health and economic future of Hawaii. I urge the committee to pass SB3156. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB-3156

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 4:00:24 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/3/2020 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Having worked in public education for 40 years with many different students.. YES we should be funding students always.

Less funding of administration at the DOE, programs from the Continent and more money directly to students.

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Committee on Education

Liana Arnobit, parent
(808) 256-1590

Monday, February 3, 2020

Support for S.B. No. 3156, The Hawai'i Transition Success Network Act

I am a parent of a 22 year old young adult who has been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder at a young age of 4. I strongly support the measures that embodies S.B. No. 3156, in order to provide a successful transition post high school into the work force and in the community.

As a parent, I only want one thing for my son - that he will be happy and have a meaningful life . I would like to have the peace of mind that I don't have to worry what will happen to him if I am unable to take care of him anymore, which is why I want him to have the tools that he needs to reach that goal.

Everyone talks about inclusion, but is it really inclusion if my son do not have the opportunity to gain real life work experiences ? We need more programs in the school that can provide him job related experiences so he can secure successful employment when he leaves high school. We need everyone to work together : DOE, DVR , DDD , and the community to create goals for successful transition. This is the reason that I strongly support S.B. No. 3156 and why this is so important to me. We need REAL INCLUSION.

I believe that I can speak in behalf of the other parents who are currently in the same situation . We just want our children to have the same and equal opportunities as anyone else. We want our children to know that they have options: that they can be independent and be productive and have a purpose. I respectfully urge the committee to please pass S.B. No. 3156. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3156

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 2:31:26 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/3/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa Yoshimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Greetings,

I would like to see more students with disabilities be gainfully employed or enrolled in college. I don't feel that enough support is provided to make sure that these students have the skills (social, communication, behavior) to obtain and maintain employment. I am writing in support of creating a statewide transition network.

Thank you,

Melissa Yoshimoto

SB-3156

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 2:36:15 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/3/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
PATRICIA MORRISSEY	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

February 3, 2020

Testimony before the Education and Human Services Committees

Hawaii State Senate

In favor of SB 3156

The Hawaii Transition Success Network Act

Chairwoman Kidani and Chairman Ruderman:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today before you. My name is Patricia Morrissey, I am director of the Center on Disability Studies, University of Hawaii, Manoa. I am speaking today, however, in my private capacity as a citizen of Hawaii. I want to thank Senator Kim for introducing SB3156 and you for holding this critical hearing.

I support SB 3156. It is ground-breaking. Based on my review, it is the only legislation in the Nation that proposes an evidenced-based infrastructure that will help the Department of Education, parents, other professionals, and community members offer, in a systematic way, designed by each high school, opportunities for young people with disabilities to prepare for and access postsecondary education and/or employment at a competitive wage in an integrated setting. It's timing, it's structure, its components, especially the school-based transition plan for all students with disabilities in a high school are things will create, sustain and expand what is now, only available in pockets, throughout the state. Students will be offered a wide range of opportunities and training on, such things as access to customized employment, soft skills, internships, and

apprenticeships, self-determination, independent living, financial and technology literacy, coaching through simulations and real experiences, including job fairs and higher education recruitment events.

The provisions in this legislation grew out of a federally funded project called the Jobs Now Partnership being conducted by the Center on Disability Studies. By talking to parents, young people with disabilities, offering training, talking with professional in the Department of Education and on other agencies, we have learned what is needed and demonstrated what is effective. By having a statewide infrastructure we can do so much more and touch the lives of every child in high school with a disability and give them more than hope, but skills and experiences that will allow them to enter adulthood successfully and become tax payers.

Some of the specific benefits of enacting this legislation are:

- Transition plans in Individualized Education Programs will become more specific and effective
- Each high school will design a transition plan for it and receive money to implement it.
- Schools, parents, other professionals, and community members including employers, will have a reason, a structure, and funding to bring about positive futures for young people with disabilities.

In addressing this bill, I know you will consider amendments. I support recommendations made by the Hawaii Department of Education. I also would support pushing the start date back for this legislation to school year 2021-2022, to give the Hawaii Department of Education time to prepare for its implementation. In addition, I would recommend a pilot project in school year 2020 – 2021, within a few high schools, to launch and learn from the evidence-based provisions in this legislation now.

Thank you.

LATE

Aloha

My name is Deanne Fu. I am writing in support of SB3156. I am the mother of two young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder. My son is currently a University of Hawaii Manoa student completing his bachelor's degree. My daughter recently aged out of special education as a 22 year old. Both my children and young adults like them are motivated to enter the work force and become contributing members of our state.

As an individual with what is considered to be high functioning autism, my son is not eligible to receive medicaid waiver services that provide supports for adults with developmental delays. He is intellectually able to attend college but his social deficits make it difficult for him to get beyond the interview stage of employment.

My daughter who is considered moderately autistic has been developing clerical skills as a volunteer at the Public Safety Training Academy. She too has been experiencing difficulties with getting a paid job in the community due to her perceived deficits.

Although my children may not directly benefit from the services that may be provided should this bill be passed, it is my hope that other individuals entering adulthood will gain the training support and connections needed to transition into becoming a productive adult.

Many young adults like my children currently are depending on benefits from SSI and SNAP and may continue to need to do so for the rest of their lives. If provided with systematic and integrated job skill supports, their untapped potential will reduce the need for ongoing social services. Individuals with disabilities could fill a workforce that is in dire need of reliable employees.

Further, I would like to encourage each of you to consider including an individual with special needs in your offices. I believe in doing so, you will set an example for other community leaders to expand their perspectives to see beyond a person's disabilities. Employing individuals like my children may bring a more diverse, compassionate and productive workplace.

Thank you for this opportunity to support the Center for Disabilities Studies and the Jobs Now Partnership's efforts to provide opportunities for a more expansive Hawaii.

Deanne Fu

LATE

SB-3156

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 5:48:58 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/3/2020 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB3156 to be heard in the EDU/HMH Committee February 3, 2:45 pm.

I am a psychologist and marriage and family therapist who supports individuals and families that struggle with the developmental disabilities of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. The transition to adulthood and "independence" is incredibly challenging for these young adults because they lose the structure and multiple services of the school environment. Family burnout is common. The need for support such as case management to services in the community, employers who are willing to structure the environment so they can perform and perform well, are sorely needed.

I support any services that will help youth successfully transition and provide stability for the life span.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann S. Yabusaki, Ph.D., MFT

SB-3156

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 12:53:19 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/3/2020 2:45:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shanelle Lum	Testifying for Hawaii Families As Allies	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii Families As Allies is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization who provides authentic peer parent support. We are completely in support of SB 3156 due to the disparity of transition for our youth and young adults and the state of emergency that many families in Hawaii are in. There is zero transition happening from youth to adult systems, and if there is some small chance that anything is offered - many of the resources are underfunded and non-existent. You take youth who are used to receiving programs and services and place them into a dangerous situation upon them aging out of the DOE where they A) may not qualify for services, B) are 'not challenged enough' to require these services, yet cannot function wholly on their own and C) due to no transition, suffer trauma because they go from daily activity to nothing.

This is a HUGE problem in our state and we support what is actionable under SB 3156 because we represent a corps of families who are affected by these issues everyday. SB 3156 represents a beacon of hope for ourselves, our families and those affected by lack of transition in the future.

Sincerely,

Shanelle Lum,

Executive Director - Hawaii Families As Allies