



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

Date: 02/05/2021

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: 229

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 0508 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 Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 508, noting that resources will be needed to fully implement the program as envisioned by this measure.

As an island state, the Department recognizes the importance of ocean safety and stewardship education for all of Hawaii's keiki. The Department has recommended and continues to recommend using resources provided by Nā Kama Kai in all of its elementary schools. The Nā Kama Kai resources educate students about the importance of ocean safety and 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.

Establishing and administering a statewide ocean safety and stewardship education program for all fourth grade students will require time and additional resources.

Given the Department's ongoing efforts to promote ocean safety and stewardship and

the availability of the Nā Kama Kai resources, the Department respectfully suggests that this measure is not necessary at this time.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 508.

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-508

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 8:21:19 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denver Coon	Testifying for Ocean Tourism Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

The Ocean Tourism Coalition supports the intent of SB508 to educate youth on Ocean Safety. Education on the marine environment will provide our keiki with a sense of responsibility and care for our ocean, while also ensuring they are better equipped with the skills needed to interact with this environment safely.