



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

**Date:** 03/23/2022

**Time:** 03:00 PM

**Location:** CR 229 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 2125, HD2 RELATING TO OFFICIAL SCHOOL BUSINESS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires DOE and BOE to take certain steps to better address harassment of its employees. Creates the offense of harassment of an educational worker for disrupting or interfering with the administration or functions of any school, school administration office, or school board. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD2)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) is in support of HB 2125, HD2. This is an administration bill that was requested by the Department and is necessary to address the growing problem of adults who **both** threaten and harass educational officials **and** obstruct the operations of the school, school administration office, or school board.

This bill is not intended to apply to adults who strongly advocate for students but do not disrupt or interfere with the administration or operations of a school, school administration office, or school board.

Examples of interference are actions such as refusing to accept notices sent by mail, blocking email or text messaging, tying up the voice messaging systems of a school or office, and disrupting virtual classroom instructions by entering the virtual classroom and confronting the teacher while other students are online, to name a few.

The polarization of society and the overt disrespect for our school officials have emboldened certain adults to freely use swear words and threats to a person's safety, threats to the safety of their family, as well as threats to a person's job security, with no regard to the emotional concerns of the school official.

The existing harassment laws require that the harassment be unwelcome. Law enforcement agencies have required that before a harassment charge can be brought, the perpetrator must be put on notice that the harassment is unwelcome. When the harasser refuses to accept mail, blocks telephone or email communication, and has security cameras at home to monitor who is at the door, it is not possible to provide the notice requirement that law enforcement requires. This bill replaces the unwelcome requirement with a requirement of obstruction of school, administration, or board operations.

To address a concern that the bill may be used to prosecute students, which it does not, the Department would not be opposed to amending the bill to include the definition of "person" that is contained in SB 3093, SD1. There, "person" is defined as "a person who has reached the age of majority and does not include a minor who is enrolled as a student at the school in which the offense of harassment of an educational worker occurred." This definition would alleviate any concern that the bill would be used to prosecute students.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Chairman Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, Committee Members, Friends, and Neighbors:

**LATE**

Aloha

While upon initial viewing it appears reasonable and acceptable, but on further review, it undermines Educational Principles, violates Rights and Values, and eliminates Responsibility and Accountability, I do not support HB 2125 HD 2.

First, by autocratically imposing Curriculum Content on Learners and Educational Providers without Their, Public, and Parental Discussion, Discretion, and Participation, the Bill undermines the Principle of Democracy, which is a Foundation for American Education as supported in the writing Democracy and Educational Administration by the Educational Philosopher, John Dewey, representing the Educational Philosophical Approach of Experimentalism in the field of Progressivism.

Second, by preventing the Public, Parents, who should have a say about what their children, and even Educators from speaking and opposing regarding Curriculum Content being taught learners, the Bill violates Free Speech, which is protected by the U.S. Constitution.

Third, by imposing and teaching Curriculum Content, which is highly questionable, such as teaching fourth graders oral presentation of educational topics in stead of oral sex, to Learners, the Bill violates the Notion and Theme of Teaching Values. which is supported in the writing The Education of Character by the Educational Philosopher, Martin Buber, supported by the Educational Philosophy of Existential Phenomenology and in the field of Perennialism and by Hawaii's Motto.

Finally, because it undermines the Educational Principle of Democracy, educates questionable Values, and Eliminates the Right of Free Speech and Accountability, I do not

support HB 2125 HD 2.

C Kai Jochanan Amsterdam

The Mama Loa Foundation, Kanaka Maoli Jew, Educator

3/22/2022



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:57:31 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Katherine T. Kupukaa	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose HB 2125 and urge you not to pass this. Purpose of this Act is to provide increased protection for educational workers to conduct school business. You were elected to serve the People of this State. This amendment to Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes is totally unnecessary. Where are facts to justify this amendment? Has there been an overwhelming incidences of harassment of educational workers?

I am an employee of DOE. I'm no longer working as an educational assistant in the classroom but working as lunch adult supervisor in the cafeteria monitoring students' behavior. Stop wasting taxpayers' time and money initiating frivolous, nonsensical laws. Legislate laws that will be beneficial to our State and to the People.

Since the PeoplesHouse has been shut down for over 2 years it seems obvious that you are perfectly fine not having the public to engage in person with you. I oppose this HB 2125 and urge you not to pass this.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 12:44:50 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cynthia Bartlett	Testifying for Hawaii Autism Foundation	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Members of the Senate Education Committee:

The Hawaii Autism Foundation is deeply concerned about HB 2125 which is in description a teacher safety bill designed to bring another layer of safety to all DOE employees; but in fact, after listening and transcribing testimony by DOE attorney Suzuki, is described by him as a bill made to stop parents who advocate on behalf of their child from interference in school administrative operations. He mentions special needs parents in particular. See transcript below.

There is complete agreement from all parents that all education workers, students and families should feel safe in all interactions during their school day and activities. This is not limited to DOE employees and teachers, but includes students, and families.

HB2125 chills parents accessing skills and educational success. It would affect parents in their communications with the DOE and BOE and intimidate them. The language in the bill is subjective and vague and allows the DOE and the BOE to determine harassment or interference with school operations. The Harassment law in place (petty misdemeanor) currently covers school workers for all manner of physical threats, verbal threats, attempts at bodily harm and intent to cause bodily harm to any individual. Adding a subsection to the harassment law definition specifically addressing “disruptive” and “interfering” with operation of educational workers is, although less severe (behavior), carries a more punitive (full misdemeanor) violation specifically for parents and is a premature, vague and over broad measure.

Transcription of House Hearing by DOE

[Per Mr. Hayashi& Mr. Suzuki, the purpose of this bill is to target Special Needs Parents. Transcribed]: Mr. Suzuki cites the following as the purpose of this bill:

- “it's not just harassment”
- “but it also includes the component of interfering with the school's operations.”
- “What we mean by that is that there are certain parents adults and this law is strictly to focusing but when a parent also interferes with the operations of the school for example:”

– “clogging up the voicemails with threatening voice voicemails”– “not accepting legal notices for hearings for example in special education cases the department is required to conduct their hearings and meetings in a timely manner or else they violate the idea the federal law parents such as the ones that

we're talking about “refuse to accept emails, telephone notification or written notification on purpose in order to force the department to be in default and therefore they can just coerce the department in getting what they what they the results of what they want so that's the reason for this bill”

■ “it's only for a certain amount of individual parents who use the system to force the department to not be able to comply with federal laws and state laws for timeliness”

■ “as well as to clog up the emails clog up the of the voicemails with threatening email and communication”

■ “so that's the whole purpose it's two-step not only do they harass but they also interfere with the operations of the

school so that's the difference between this legislation and the regular harassment legislation.”

Mr. Suzuki fails to note that the HDOE currently has recourse to those issues:

The IDEA currently provides processes. State laws can strengthen but not conflict with Federal laws.

Summary Points:

Strongly agree that teacher/educator safety is important, and action should be taken by HDOE on their behalf – but not through this bill.

– The Department should enforce the current harassment laws and train Administrators and Districts to ensure current laws are being utilized including but not limited to conflict resolution and addressing parent concerns. A lack of conflict resolution training does not justify increased punitive measures.

– Strengthening and supporting parent-school relationships is needed and data proves that student outcome is benefited by a collaborative effort

– Parent frustration does not occur in a vacuum and IDEA implementation needs oversight. Dispute Resolution is not currently available to all

We oppose this bill as unnecessary:

– This bill is punitive to discriminatory to the advocacy of parents and discriminates against special needs parents who need to advocate for needed services such as in autism needs

- The purpose and intent of this bill conflicts with parent rights under IDEA/federal law
- Targets minority and disadvantaged families
- Ruins the parent-school relationship (indicator for student success)
- HDOE can address the issues raised in testimony by guidelines set forth in current state and federal law
- It is duplicative of current harassment law
- It is ambiguous and subjectively interpreted
- Does not identify who will enforce or adjudicate “harassment”

Summary of Parent and Family Concerns:

-HDOE should make public the data that warrants the introduction of this bill

Parents are the only advocate for their child.

- Advocacy best practice is to send one letter for each concern.
- Advocating in this system is emotional – parents are experiencing acceptance, grieving, frustration, guilt, and more.
- Dispute Resolution is not available to all families.
- This bill is targeting minority groups and demographics who already suffer from disproportionality and are underserved

**Please hold HB 2125.**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:51:37 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kehaulani Tarita Tehotu	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly oppose Bill HB2125 I am asking you to strongly consider my opposition and for this bill to not be continued and be dissolved.

It seems to me that HB 2125 was specifically created to protect HB1697.

HB1697 is the bill that the DOE and BOE is determined to allow organizations such like planned parenthood to enter the school system in Hawaii to indoctrinate and exploit our young children to porno graphics and more.

HB2125 is a bill that seeks to criminalize parents for exercising their first amendment constitutional right, their parental right to speak up and protect their children from being sexually exploited by an employee of the DOE/BOE.

All parental involvement and feedback is necessary for every and any student's success.

HB2125 is dangerous to parents and children as harassment laws are already in place under the proper jurisdiction and enforcement of law.

The department should enforce current harassment laws by providing training to school districts, administrators, employees to ensure the current laws are being utilized including conflict resolution and

addressing parent concerns.

The additions made in HB2125 HD2 states: the department shall:

- (1) report all substantial incidents of harassment to the proper law enforcement authority;
- (2) implement procedures for handling harassment of its employees, including employees excluded from collective bargaining under Chapter 89
- (3) assign employees within the department to handle harassment claims; and
- (4) assist its employees with any legal actions that may arise from harassment.

It's giving these public agencies - DOE/BOE- and their employees the authority to be judge and jury of which they have no expertise, training, knowledge, or proper law enforcement authority to.

Who determines what are substantial incidents?

Isn't harassment defined without a minimum or maximum?

Implementing procedures, assigning employees to handle harassment claims, and providing employee assistance creates costs to put in place or further burdening existing positions.

This bill is unnecessary and will cause a misuse of fund allocation for each school. The existing harassment laws in place are impartial and nondiscriminatory and do not subject the DOE/BOE, schools, students, or families to such misappropriation of funds.

Thank You

Kehaulani Tarita Tehotu

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:20:26 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janel Nicole Scanlan	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

As a concerned parent with three children in the Hawai'i public school system, I STRONGLY OPPOSE the following bills: HB1697 and HB2125.

The government, state or legislature, DOE or the DOH should not have any say on educating our children on matters of sexual health topics, such as sexual expression, sexual and non-sexual relationships, diverse identities across gender and culture, sexual orientation or preferences (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual or other gender identities).

The parents, and parents alone should have the right and responsibility to educate their children on things such as these, as each family unit has their own personal beliefs.

My family believes that GOD made a man and a woman on the sixth day and told them to populate the earth. For a person to go outside of what GOD created and intended for His will and purpose is a sin.

Indoctrinating our children in a subject contrary to our belief goes against the First Amendment, which protects our freedom of religion and expression thereof, and our fundamental and unalienable rights outlined in Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. It is the right of the parents to make decisions concerning the care and control of their children.

In this particular case, any authority or power should not supersede the parents' GOD given right to parent their children, the way they see fit.

The Bible, which is the written Word of God, says that we parents are to train our children in the way they should go, so when they grow up they won't depart from it (Proverbs 22:6). Jesus is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6). This is the way that we choose to raise our children.

With that said, It is absolutely wrong for the government to pass such a law such as HB2125. It is the parent's responsibility to advocate for their children. This bill makes it a crime for us to do so, and speak against things that are contrary to our beliefs, such as HB1697.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 4:19:51 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
PATRICK MINVIELLE	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I am opposing this proposed bill because the state of Hawai'i already has adequate laws in place for harrassment. There was insufficient data submitted to support this bill by the advocating body, the Department of Education. Only 6 cases of reported yet unsubstantiated parent "threat" by the primary beneficiary of this bill the Department of Education. This bill goes against and actually violates the IDEA which is Federal law. This proposed legislation appears to be a gross overreach by the Department of Education in an attempt to act as judge and jury by blocking accountability not only to the students they're employed to educate, protect and serve, but the parents that support and advocate for the students and also all citizens of the state of Hawai'i. The proposed bill HB2125 should NOT HAPPEN.



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 4:55:30 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Duffy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose. This bill is not needed.

Current law (HRS §711-1106) already addresses the issue of harassment. Why does the Board of Education, Department of Education and Hawaii State Teachers Association union want to make themselves a special class with special considerations and special laws?

What makes “education workers” under the DOE and BOE more equal under the law than healthcare workers? What about grocery clerks or retail workers?

While no one should be harassed for doing their job, the rapid move toward criminalization, accompanied by this sort of sentencing is over the top given the fact that current law already exists to address this issue.

## **Testimony from Leadership in Disabilities & Achievement of Hawai`i on HB2125, HD2**

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Committee on Education  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: HB 2125, HD2 – Relating to Official School Business

Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

The Leadership in Disabilities & Achievement of Hawaii (LDAH) is the designated Parent Center for the State of Hawaii under the Individuals with Disabilities Education ACT of 2004 or IDEA for over 30 years. Our role as the Parent Center for Hawaii is to support parents of infants, children and youth with disabilities, the professionals who teach them and the community who collaborates with them. We are in opposition to HB 2125, HD2.

LDAH is alarmed over the comments made by HIDOE's Risk Manager Russell Suzuki in the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaii Affairs hearing held on February 24, 2022, where he cited special education parents specifically as the reason for the harassment bill when they interfere with school's operations, etc.

Parents who are passionate about their children receiving an appropriate education become a conduit of their emotion. Since 1968, LDAH has helped parents use their passion to advocate for their children with professional intent and respect. The language in draft 2 of HB 2125 suggests that the passion of parents speaking up on behalf of their children "with intent to impede the government operations of an educational worker," suggests that parents are given power to change the direction of operations of a public school. In our experience, LDAH has yet to see such power by a parent be successful. Parents and parent lead groups have been determined for over a decade to connect and build a working relationship with their public schools to improve the health and educational excellence of that school. In fact, it is through the voice of parents and their actions that we have seen progress and educational gains made within public institutions.

There are national policies in place today funded on a national level for parent and school engagement to be part of the school's landscape. Hawaii DOE is receiving national funding to improve parent and school relationships today and is a partner on the Hawai`i Statewide Family Engagement Center in the implementation and enhancement of systemic and effective family engagement policies, programs and activities that lead to improvements in student development and academic achievement under the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. The passing of this Bill is contradictory to the work we (LDAH and HIDOE) have begun since 2018.

In addition, based on the testimony of Interim Superintendent Hayashi, HIDOE presented anecdotal information to justify a "serious" allegation and were not able to produce statistics related to this concern of which singled out special education parents. IDEA regards parent involvement in their child's education as a necessity to improve the educational benefit of their child and at the same time offers protections to schools when parents are unresponsive.

Please consider the following suggestions: Advise HIDOE to examine their work, policies and implementation of parent and school engagement as intended through national policy and in partnership

with Hawai'i Statewide Family Engagement Center, which should also include protections for their school personnel when parents become more than they can handle. Consider the current cases under Harassment statute HRS §711-1106 which includes clear definitions and case law to support and protect victims of harassment and collect the statistics and data of harassment that have occurred so the Committee and the public can fairly recognize the extent to which we are speaking here today.

I respectfully ask this Committee to vote against this Bill as there are pending national policies and State statutes in place that can assist schools to improve parent and school engagement. Hawaii is working on improving those relationships today on a national level. Protecting educational workers from the threats of parents of children with or without disabilities can be considered through existing statutes. Look at those first, before concluding that HB 2125, HD2 will solve it.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of parents and children at risk of, or with disabilities regarding the issue of harassment of education workers.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rosie Rowe, Executive Director  
Leadership in Disabilities & Achievement of Hawai'i (LDAH)

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 10:33:24 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meribeth Kekumu	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

**Aloha kua,**

**As an active Makuahine(Mother) in my Keikis (childrens) education I am writing this testimony on behalf of my Keikis and future Keikis to come.**

**I strongly oppose this bill. Makua (Parents) are the first and foremost educators of their Keiki (children). Makua (Parents) oversee their Keiki (children) well being in ALL aspects of life including what they are being taught and/or exposed to in school. Therefore we Makua(Parents) should not be criminalized to question and inspect what is being taught to our Keiki(children).**

**Ua Mau ke Ea o ka 'Āina i ka Pono**

**Mahalo a nui,**

**Meribeth Kekumu**

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:41:21 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Talalupelele	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Hawaii Senators and Representatives,

I am writing in opposition to HB2125. We want not only students, but our educators to be safe in schools. We already have harassment laws in our state. Hawaii parents want Academics not Ideologies and Activism taught in the schools. Parents involved in the education process have produced greater students. Parents across the country are learning that there are things being taught in schools that are not safe but harmful to their children. Our own state has tried to quietly pass legislation with a centralized BOE, DOE, HSTA who allow special interest groups to bring in their special interest programs. NOT ONE letter to Parents, Teachers or students informing them of these bills that will affect them. We should all be on the same team! Parents and teachers become angry when things are passed without their knowledge! BOE, DOE and HSTA should inform parents, students and teachers about all programs and curriculum, especially controversial ones. Other states have seen parent outrage when leaders in education fail to communicate with them. Communication is key! Communication is caring. Communication helps break down misunderstanding. Communication, not silencing parents and teachers is real power! We should be able to agree and disagree without having police being summoned or charges being filed. Here is a quote and several articles from Different outlets sharing the frustration of parents nationwide. Parents are being ignored, arrested, fined and mistreated because of the lack of communication between educational leaders. Ideas should be heard!

"Most people's eyes were opened to the fact that it wasn't just limited to academics anymore," said Alleigh Marré, president of the right-leaning Free to Learn Coalition. "There's a lot more activism that we're seeing in the classroom and then this step-back from academics." Academics not activism. Parents have the rights to know what is being taught. Special interest groups and their ideology continue to make it into Hawaii Public Schools. re continually

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2021/10/31/taxpayers-take-school-board-to-court-for-trying-to-silence-parents-criticism/amp/>

<https://www.dailywire.com/news/grandma-two-parents-arrested-at-school-board-meeting-following-release-of-alleged-pedophile-principal>

<https://nypost.com/2021/11/17/twisted-measure-to-silence-voices-at-school-board-meetings-arrest-them/amp/>

<https://www.lawenforcementtoday.com/school-board-sends-cops-to-arrest-parents-at-homes-after-dads-speak-up/>

<https://www.ncregister.com/blog/is-there-a-concerted-campaign-to-silence-parents?amp>

<https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/is-the-justice-dept-silencing-parents-or-stepping-up-to-protect-educators/2021/10>

<https://medium.com/illumination/school-board-accused-of-trying-to-silence-parents-af59ade8bb86>

<https://www.wfyi.org/news/articles/parents-special-education-settlements-legislation>

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:35:57 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Margaret Mejia	Testifying for Kingdom Convoy	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

My name is Margaret Mejia and I strongly oppose HB2125. Teachers, Volunteers and Educators are already protected from harrassment. This bill is to give special rights to a certain group of people. All people should have rights, not just one group. With that being said, parents have rights regarding their minor children, especially regarding education. As taxpayers, parents have the right to determine what is taught to their children, especially in public schools where some of their taxpayer dollars go. If they have a grievance about what is being taught, parents should be able to express their grievances to their keiki's teacher, the school volunteer and others who work in the public school without being fined or imprisoned. It's called accountability and not harrassment.

Margaret Mejia

Former Substitute Teacher

Ordained Minister at Kingdom Convoy



**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:01:37 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
arthur	Testifying for Fathers and mothers for children	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Please say NO to HB 2125 which criminalizes parents, and violates parental rights.

in examining the Bill, wouldn't you agree that a 1 year prison term and a \$2,000 fine is excessive on a parent for speaking out for his or her child?

And doesn't the Bill leave a heavy burden on the board to judge whether or not a parent is "harassing" or had the intent to "harass"?

In examining the Bill, wouldn't you agree that it's extremely divisive, contentious, and destructive?

for the sake of our communities, families, teachers, school administrators and children, please say NO to HB 2125.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 12:43:30 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michelle Pestel Maga	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Thirty-First Legislature, 2022

State of Hawaii

Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

The Maga Family – Michelle, Jason and Anya

Tuesday, March 22,2022

Opposition for HB2125 HD2

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim and members of the committee,

Our daughter, Anya, was born with a unique genetic anomaly and a cleft lip and palate. She is a former SPED student in the Hawaii Department of Education and is currently homeschooled. She is terrified of returning to a regular classroom because of excessive bullying she endured from students and staff for years. Two and a half years out of the school environment, and she still needs the lights on and one parent in her room at night to sleep.

- 2017/2018 school year, Anya was put into a secluded classroom on multiple occasions by the SPED teacher that was called “the unicorn learning center”. When the SBBH

representative learned of this room she informed the SPED teacher that this would be considered a seclusion room and its use was discontinued. There are no reports from the DOE about this room. In 2014, HB1796, which prohibits the use of seclusion, was signed and became Act 206.

- 2018/2019 school year, Anya was restrained on three separate occasions. All three restraints took place in a one-month period, two within days. The DOE team then pressured us to sign documentation to allow the staff to restrain Anya even after we raised significant concerns about the adverse effects of restraints.
- 2018/2019 school year, On another occasion, staff kept Anya after the bell inside a classroom with a closed door for 20 minutes with no explanation while mom waited outside.

These are just a few examples of what our family endured while sending Anya to public school.

Our family supports safety for ALL persons in schools; to include staff, students and parents. House Bill 2125 HD2 is not the answer to a deeper issue, severe disconnect between SPED parents and administration; parents-school-complex-district. To quote Russell Suzuki (risk management DOE and former Attorney General, 2018-2019 ) during Interim Superintendent Hayashi's testimony in the House Judiciary committee hearing on February 24, 2022, (61:51): "Can you see me? Thank you. Yeah, the just to answer a couple of the questions that has arisen here. Um the Attorney General's office did participate in uh drafting the legislation and it was included in the governor's administration package. So he has approval of the governor and the attorney general in this matter. To answer your question regarding the specific bill it's not just harassment but it also includes the component of interfering with the school's operations. What we mean by that is that there are certain parents, adults, and this law is strictly to focusing on the adults has nothing to do with prosecuting students but when a parent also interferes with the operations of the school for example clogging up the voicemails with threatening uh voice voicemails also not (62:42) accepting legal notices for hearings for example ***in special education cases*** the department is required to conduct their hearings and meetings in a timely manner or else they violate the IDEA the Federal Law. Parents such as the ones that we're (62:58) talking about refuse to accept emails, telephone notification or written (63:04) notification on purpose in order to force the department to be in default and therefore they can just coerce the the department in getting what they what they the results of what they want so ***that's the reason for this bill*** it's only for a certain amount of individual parents who use the system to force the department to not be able to comply with federal laws and state laws for timeliness as well as to clog up the emails clog up the of the voicemails with threatening email and communication so (63:38) ***that's the whole purpose it's a two-step not only do they harass but they also interfere with the operations of the school so that's the difference between this legislation and the regular harassment legislation.*** Thank you."

His testimony specifically targets special education parents, as special education cases and IDEA is mentioned. This was our family's testimony that was sent in on 2/24/2022 to the House Judicial Committee prior to Russell Suzuki's explanation during the hearing. "We are the Maga family, and we strongly oppose HB2125. As parents of a former special education student, our family encountered significant difficulty from various levels within the DOE when trying to obtain the necessary supports that our child was entitled to under Federal Law. This bill's language is extremely vague, and we can see the DOE using this bill to shield itself from scrutiny by accusing well intended parents of harassment without sufficient cause or evidence. In addition, passing HB 2125 is not necessary because there are already laws in place that address harassment of this kind."

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Maga family - Michelle, Jason and Anya

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 3:48:51 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joseph Yoshimura	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

This bill is outrageous and gives too much power to the DOE and teachers while taking the rights of parents to parent their children the way they desire. Criminalizing parents just for disagreeing with what a teacher may be indoctrinating their children with. That is the true crime here and this bill should not be put through by any means. Education is great, but parents should have the final say in anything their child is learning. Especially since many teachers have gone from being actual teachers of any given education subject to social justice warriors. Teachers and the DOE are not gods and don't have all the knowledge in the world to make their word the final say. Who's to say who is right and who is wrong? The DOE certainly doesn't have all the answers.

# **JAMES HOCHBERG**

## **ATTORNEY AT LAW, LLLC**

March 21, 2022

### TESTIMONY STRONGLY OPPOSING HB 2125 HD2

Senate Committee On Education  
Chair: Senator Michelle N. Kidani  
Vice Chair: Senator Donna Mercado Kim

Hearing: HB 2125 HD2: Thursday, March 23, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Chairman, Vice Chairman and Committee Members,

My name is Jim Hochberg and I am a civil rights attorney seeking to protect the Constitutional Rights of the people of Hawaii in the federal and state courts in Hawaii. I have practiced law in Hawaii since 1984 (38 years). I strongly oppose HB 2125 HD2, due to the unconstitutional infringement of this bill onto the rights of free speech guaranteed in both the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Hawaii. Should this bill pass and become law, my law firm stands ready to challenge the constitutionality in court.

#### I. Why Introduce and Pass HB2125 HD2?

What is the purpose for the HB2125 HD2 and what legislative findings support the need for this criminalizing of active participation with the Department of Education? Unlike almost all other bills introduced in our legislature, HB2125 HD2 has no legislative findings of the need for the change in the law. There is no findings of local parents actually doing anything to harass DOE employees.

On the other hand, it has long been the policy of the Education establishment in the U.S. to recognize the undeniable benefit to students when families and the education cooperate and work together for the benefit of the students. With regard to public schools, it is part of the ‘right to petition the government for redress of grievances’ secured by the constitutions at both levels of government. In fact, the Office of Educational Research and Improvement of the U.S. Department of Education, during Richard W. Riley’s tenure as the Secretary of Education (for the eight full years of the Clinton administration from January 21, 1993 – January 20, 2001) published the “Family Involvement in Children’s Education” report.

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In the forward of that report, Secretary Riley wrote:

“We well know that when educators, families, and communities work together, schools get better. As a result, students get the high quality education they need to lead productive lives. Yet various barriers in the school, home, and community often prevent strong partnerships from developing.

...

The report concludes that successful partnerships require the sustained mutual collaboration and support of school staffs and families at home and at school. Businesses or community groups can also help schools and families to work together. . . . It is designed for school administrators, teachers, policymakers, and parents to help families become more active participants in their children's education.

...

It is designed for school administrators, teachers, policymakers, and parents to help families become more active participants in their children's education.

...

Developing effective partnerships with families requires that all school staff (administrators, teachers, and support staff) create a school environment that welcomes parents and encourages them to raise questions and voice their concerns as well as to participate appropriately in decision making. Developing partnerships also requires that school staff provide parents with the information and training they need to become involved and that they reach out to parents with invitations to participate in their children's learning.

...

Successful school-family partnerships require the sustained mutual collaboration, support, and participation of school staffs and families at home and at school in activities that can directly affect the success of children's learning. If families are to work with schools as full partners in the education of their children, schools must provide them with the opportunities and support they need for success.

Yet HB2125 HD2 stands on its head this well known understanding by making it a crime

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for parents, students and/or other members of the public to participate in the operation of the school system in such a way that the school program might be disrupted, impeded, or interfered with on an agenda item or other process. What this is saying to Secretary Riley is that so long as the public supports the school program without question or objection, the public is welcome to participate. However, participation that does not support the program must be met with law enforcement and criminal proceedings.

WHY? Disagreement of families with the DOE policies cannot be criminalized in our constitutional form of government. As the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals opined in *Ward. v. Polite*, 667 F.3d 727 at 735 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir 2012)

**Tolerance is a two-way street. Otherwise, the rule mandates orthodoxy**

Government enforced “orthodoxy” on policy issues has no place in our system of government. There is no doubt that HB2125 HD2 clearly violates this principle.

So again, I ask why HB2125 HD2?

If it is connected in any way with the September 29, 2021 letter from the National School Board Association (NSBA) to President Biden, your effort to follow the NSBA requires that you ignore the actual facts. The NSBA letter, in part, read:

“As these acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials have increased, the classification of these heinous acts could be the equivalent to the form of domestic terrorism.”

In response, five days later on October 4, 2021, Merrick B. Garland, Attorney General of the United States, directed the FBI and each U.S. Attorney to use the authority and resources of the Justice Department to discourage threats to school districts, identify them when they occur and prosecute them when appropriate.

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On October 22, 2021, the NSBA wrote to its members disavowing the September 29, 2021 letter to President Biden. Critically important, the NSBA admitted to its members that:

On behalf of NSBA, we regret and apologize for the letter [to President Biden]. To be clear, . . . there was no justification for some of the language included in the letter. We should have had a better process in place to allow for consultation on a communication of this significance. We apologize also for the strain and stress this situation has caused you and your organization. . . . As we've reiterated since the letter was sent, we deeply value . . . the voices of parents, who should and must continue to be heard when it comes to decisions about their children's education, health and safety.

Why?

As I assume you are all aware, on October 18, 2021, the Indiana A.G. wrote to President Biden and A.G. Merrick Garland concerning “the massive fraud that the National School Boards Association (NSBA) has perpetrated on the American people. In a letter to the Department of Justice (DOJ) dated September 29, 2021, NSBA accused parents throughout the United States of ‘domestic terrorism and hate crimes’ warranting the invocation of ‘the PATRIOT Act in regards to domestic terrorism.’” This “massive fraud” is based in part on the fact that the NSBA and the White House jointly crafted the September 29, 2021 letter. So you see, the “parents as domestic terrorists” meme is a complete fabrication.

The same is true in Hawaii as evident in the language of HB2125 HD2 itself. Unlike almost all other bills introduced in our legislature, HB2125HD2 has no legislative findings of the need for the change in the law. There is no findings of local parents actually doing any of the things the NSBA untruthfully accused parents of doing that gave rise to the fraudulent request to the President to crack down on the “domestic terrorists.”

The reason for HB2125 HD2 cannot be the recent parental objection to HB 1697 HD1 because HB2125 was introduced in advance of any knowledge about the sex education proposal.

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In addition, like most citizens in Hawaii, none of the parents who oppose the sex education proposal have undertaken to objectively “harass” any DOE employees. However, the required subjectivity standard under HB2125 HD2 illuminates the deficiencies of HB2125 HD2.

So again, I ask why do we need HB2125 HD2? We don’t. Using criminal penalties of jail time and/or thousands of dollars of fines to chill parental participation in the education of their children cannot withstand constitutional scrutiny. It appears that the unstated purpose of HB2125 HD2 is to chill parental participation. Obviously, if this is the intention of the legislature, it could not, of course, be reflected in the legislative findings for the bill.

## II. Unconstitutional Criminalizing of Parental Exercise of Fundamental Constitutional Rights

Fundamentally, HB2125 HD2 establishes a structure which appears to be designed to violate parents’ rights under both the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Hawaii. The foundation was laid by the United States Supreme Court in 1925 in the unanimous decision in *Pierce v. Society of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary*, 268 U.S. 510 \*; 45 S. Ct. 571 \*\*; 69 L. Ed. 1070 \*\*\*; 1925 U.S. LEXIS 589 \*\*\*\*; 39 A.L.R. 468. The foundational principal with respect to the relationship between families and public schools in the U.S. is that parents and guardians have the constitutional liberty to direct the upbringing and education of children under their control. In stating that principle, the U.S. Supreme unanimously ruled:

As often heretofore pointed out, rights guaranteed by the Constitution may not be abridged by legislation which has no reasonable relation to some purpose within the competency of the State. The fundamental theory of liberty upon which all governments in this Union repose excludes any general power of the State to standardize its children. . . . The child is not the mere creature of the State; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations. [at page 535]

Implicit in this foundational policy is parents’ rights to exercise their First Amendment

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Rights to peaceably assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances. HB 2125 HD2 does not address the required standard under which parents may legally interact with the public school system in order to carry out that liberty interest of directing the upbringing and education of their children, even in the public schools. If HB2125 HD2 violates those rights, it is unconstitutional.

*Cohen v. California*, 403 U.S. 15 (1971), sets out the standard required to prohibit public participation by free speech. *Cohen* (<https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/403/15/#tab-opinion-1949345>) held that “F\*\*\* the Draft!” on a jacket was protected by the First Amendment. In the process it shows what is required for the fighting-words doctrine. The court stated:

This Court has also held that the States are free to ban the simple use, without a demonstration of additional justifying circumstances, of so-called "fighting words," those personally abusive epithets which, when addressed to the ordinary citizen, are, as a matter of common knowledge, inherently likely to provoke violent reaction. *Chaplinsky v. New Hampshire*, 315 U. S. 568 (1942). While the four-letter word displayed by Cohen in relation to the draft is not uncommonly employed in a personally provocative fashion, in this instance it was clearly not "directed to the person of the hearer." *Cantwell v. Connecticut*, 310 U. S. 296, 310 U. S. 309 (1940). No individual actually or likely to be present could reasonably have regarded the words on appellant's jacket as a direct personal insult. Nor do we have here an instance of the exercise of the State's police power to prevent a speaker from intentionally provoking a given group to hostile reaction. *Cf. Feiner v. New York*, 340 U. S. 315 (1951); *Terminiello v. Chicago*, 337 U. S. 1 (1949). There is, as noted above, no showing that anyone who saw Cohen was, in fact, violently aroused, or that appellant intended such a result. . . .

Against this perception of the constitutional policies involved, we discern certain more particularized considerations that peculiarly call for reversal of this conviction. First, the principle contended for by the State seems inherently boundless. How is one to distinguish this from any other offensive word? Surely

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the State has no right to cleanse public debate to the point where it is grammatically palatable to the most squeamish among us. Yet no readily ascertainable general principle exists for stopping short of that result were we to affirm the judgment below.

The *Cohen* court went on to state:

**For, while the particular four-letter word being litigated here is perhaps more distasteful than most others of its genre, it is nevertheless often true that one man's vulgarity is another's lyric.**

Then the *Cohen* court then eloquently stated:

**Indeed, we think it is largely because governmental officials cannot make principled distinctions in this area that the Constitution leaves matters of taste and style so largely to the individual.**

The issue of the supreme importance of political speech enunciated by the U.S. Supreme Court is so well known that citation of those cases will be saved for the court filings. Needless to say, for all the reasons stated, I oppose HB2125 HD2 and recommend that you let the bill die in committee in light of the constitutional infirmities as well as the complete absence of any need to put the financial resources of the State of Hawaii in peril to litigate this obnoxious bill.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

/s/ JAMES HOCHBERG

JH

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 11:46:44 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cynthia Bartlett	Testifying for Moms For Liberty Honolulu County Chapter	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Moms For Liberty Honolulu County Chapter

[moms4libertyhonolulu@gmail.com](mailto:moms4libertyhonolulu@gmail.com)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**HB 2125 SD2**

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION**

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

Honorable Michelle Kidani, Honorable Donna Mercado Kim and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for accepting my testimony. My name is Cynthia Bartlett and I am the Chapter Chair for Moms For Liberty, Honolulu County committed to reducing the consequences of accessing education and supporting parents who advocate on behalf of their children. Moms For Liberty and its affiliate chapters' purpose is unifying, educating and empowering parents to defend their parental rights at all levels of government.

We know that our children have the potential and hunger to learn. Research shows that parents' involvement in their children's education and school promotes positive outcomes and produces contributing members of society.

HB2125 SD2 chills parents and families accessing educational success. It would amend Harassment law HRS 711-1106 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes by adding “disruptive” and “interfering” of public school educational workers. It misleads the Legislature by pretending it provides an additional “layer of protection for the DOE and staff,” but, in practice the measure would perpetuate discrimination in violation of IDEA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Americans Disability Act, Amendment, including U.S. Supreme Court Endrew F. decision protecting parent involvement and participation.

At first glance it seems like an easy decision to support safety for school employees. But after doing more research on the HGEA testimony from Mr. Perreira referring to Merrick Garland’s memo of September 31, 2021 that was responding to a letter from the NASB referring to parents as threatening and unruly, I have deep concern. That letter since has been taken down from the NASB website. Several members of the NASB resigned their membership perhaps due to the 6-page letter that has now been removed from their website. 14 States have filed a FOIA to Merrick Garland, Education Secretary Cardona and President Biden over six months ago requesting information on what the parents did to be labeled threatening and unruly. After six months, there has been no reply at all.

*Those parents were seeking accountability when there was no one to turn to. They felt they could trust their BOE but instead they were accused of harassment after airing their concerns:*

*\*A father tried several times to raise the issue of his 13 year daughter being raped in a school bathroom and his worries that other students were at risk - he was asked to leave the meeting .*

*\*A mother read from a sexually explicit graphic book and the BOE told her to it was inappropriate to read at the meeting (of adults). When she pointed out this was what elementary children were reading at school and how inappropriate that really was – she was bullied as she tried to finish her point*

Of note, at the February 4 House Education Committee hearing, the Hawai’i Department of Education (DOE) Risk Manager stated that an example of what HB2125 is intended to deal with are special education parents who refuse to receive Due Process (DP) hearings complaints and, in turn, forces the Department to default by being late in meeting the timeline requirement of the DP hearing.

**Mr. Suzuki is inaccurate**, I was informed by the Director of Special Parent Information Network (SPIN) where Ms. Susan Roco, a also a member of the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) which is the official organization under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in Hawai’i to advise the DOE on matters related to special education, and, also studies outcomes related to the DP hearing complaint decision process. Ms. Rocco informed me there are no incidents of Due Process outcomes in the last 20 years as stated by Mr. Suzuki.

Apparently, both parties are known to regularly ask for extensions on various steps in due process. There are required timelines which the AG Hearing Office seeks to enhance timelines, however, via the hearings officer, this agreement is standard process. There are options the

Department can seek regarding uncooperative parents. The DOE risk manager Suzuki was not totally accurate in his reporting (testimony).

Mr. Suzuki also stated HB2125 would apply to parents who disable by overwhelming the capacity of voicemails, emails, etc. The Department has been involved since the Reauthorization of IDEA '97 with Drs. George Sugai and Robert Horner's State-Wide Positive Behavior Support (SW-PBIS) system who are no strangers to Hawai'i. Gathering data collection is key as well as including parents as part of the SW-PBIS subsystem model.

**There are shared concerns by both the Hawaii DOE and parents, such as,**

**\* Parents all want the DOE employees to feel safe and they also want to feel safe and heard.**

**\* Hawaii testing scores are dropping each year. Year after year they continue to drop even as we throw more money into the problem.**

I believe there needs to be improved partnerships and collaboration to support outcomes for students. Parents are legal guardians of students and contribute towards best practices in the schools. Doing so, data collection plays a crucial role, including in HB 2125 SD2. Finally, the harassment law in place (petty misdemeanor) currently covers school workers for all manner of physical threats, verbal threats, any attempt at bodily harm and intent to cause bodily harm or damage to any individual. However adding a subsection to the harassment law definition specifically addressing "disruptive" and "interfering" with operations of "educational workers" is, although less severe (behaviors), carries a more punitive (full misdemeanor) violation specifically for parents and visitors at school settings and **is a premature, vague and over broad measure.**

**Please hold HB 2125 SD2 and support our schools in promoting positive behavior relationships such as the scholarly work of Drs. George Sugai and Robert Horner contributed to federal IDEA '97, as well as, here locally in our islands. We need data collection and gradation in policy and procedures that are consistent with civil rights in education laws.**

Sharon Martin  
45-621 Halelo Place  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

March 21, 2022

Hawaii Senate, 31<sup>st</sup> Legislature Regular Session of 2022  
Committee on Education  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

RE: HB 2125 HD2 RELATING TO OFFICIAL SCHOOL BUSINESS; Harassment of an Educational Worker; Misdemeanor; DOE; BOE

Dear Senator Michelle Kidani,

I am opposed to HR2125 HD2. While I agree the safety of all educational workers during regular school business, operations, and activities is important, there are several concerns and reasons for my opposition to this bill.

During Russell Suzuki's (HIDOE Risk Manager) testimony, he cites the following purpose of this bill:

- "it's not just harassment but it also includes the component of interfering with the school's operations."
- "What we mean by that is that there are certain parents, adults, and this law is strictly to focusing on"
- "when a parent also interferes with the operations of the school for example
  - "Clogging up the voicemails with threatening voicemails"
  - "also not accepting legal notices for hearings for example in special needs cases the department is required to conduct their hearings and meetings in a timely manner or else they violate the IDEA the federal law parents such as the ones that we're talking about"
  - "refuse to accept emails, telephone notification or written notification on purpose in order to force the department to be in default and therefore they can just coerce the department in getting what they want the results of what they want so that's the reason for this bill"
  - "it's only for a certain amount of individual parents who use the system to force the department to not be able to comply with federal laws and state laws for timeliness "
  - "as well as to clog up the emails, clog up the of the voicemails with threatening email and communication"
  - "so that's the whole purpose. It's two step not only do they harass but they also interfere with the operations of the school so that's the difference between this legislation and the regular harassment legislation.

What Mr. Suzuki failed to recognize that the HIDOE already has proper recourse to these issues:

- Hawaii Procedural Safeguards
  - Page 4-5. The Department must make reasonable efforts to obtain your informed consent before providing special education and related services to your child for the first time.
  - School must maintain documentation of reasonable efforts to obtain your consent for initial evaluations, to provide special education and related services for the first time, for a reevaluation, and to locate parents of wards of the State for initial evaluations.
  - The documentation must include a record of the Department's attempts in these areas such as:
    - detailed records of telephone calls made or attempted and the results of those calls;
    - copies of correspondence sent to you and any responses received;



- and detailed records of visits made to your home or place of employment and the results of those visits.
  - IDEA
    - §300.300 Parental consent – a public agency that is responsible for making FAPE available to a child with a disability must obtain informed consent from the parent of the child before the initial provision of special education and related services to the child.
      - If the parent of a child fails to respond or refuses to consent to services under paragraph (b)(1) of this section, the public agency may not use the procedures in subpart E of this part (including the mediation procedures under §300.506 or the due process procedures under §§300.507 through 300.516) in order to obtain agreement or a ruling that the services may be provided to the child.
      - If the parent of the child refuses to consent to the initial provision of special education and related services, or the parent fails to respond to a request to provide consent for the initial provision of special education and related services, the public agency –
        - Will not be considered to be in violation of the requirement to make available FAPE to the child for the failure to provide the child with the special education and related services for which the public agency requests consent; and
        - Is not required to convene an IEP team meeting or develop an IEP under §§300.320 and 300.324 for the child for the special education and related services for which the public agency requests such consent.
    - §300.322 Parent participation - Public agency responsibility – general.
      - Each public agency must take steps to ensure that one or both of the parents of a child with a disability are present at each IEP team meeting or are afforded the opportunity to participate, including: notifying parents of the meeting early enough to ensure that they will have an opportunity to attend; and scheduling the meeting at a mutually agreed on time and place.
  - Current Harassment Law
    - §711-1106 Harassment - (1) A person commits the offense of harassment if, with intent to harass, annoy, or alarm any other person, that person:
      - (a) *Strikes, shoves, kicks, or otherwise touches another person in an offensive manner or subjects the other person to offensive physical contact;*
      - (b) *Insults, taunts, or challenges another person in a manner likely to provoke an immediate violent response or that would cause the other person to reasonably believe that the actor intends to cause bodily injury to the recipient or another or damage to the property of the recipient or another;*
      - (c) *Repeatedly makes telephone calls, facsimile transmissions, or any form of electronic communication as defined in section 711-1111(2), including electronic mail transmissions, without purpose of legitimate communication;*
      - (d) *Repeatedly makes a communication anonymously or at an extremely inconvenient hour;*
      - (e) *Repeatedly makes communications, after being advised by the person to whom the communication is directed that further communication is unwelcome; or*
      - (f) *Makes a communication using offensively coarse language that would cause the recipient to reasonably believe that the actor intends to cause bodily injury to the recipient or another or damage to the property of the recipient or another.*
    - (2) Harassment is a petty misdemeanor

The intent of this bill by Interim Superintendent Hayashi and Mr. Russell Suzuki’s testimony highlights and specifically targets *certain parents* --those who advocate for their child with special needs and disabilities. This is discriminatory and punitive to the parents and family members who are the primary advocates and voices of their special needs and disabled children; students with an inherent disadvantage.

Any student's success takes parental involvement and feedback. This bill seeks to criminalize parents for exercising their first amendment constitutional right. Furthermore, it targets a minority group in origin but seeks to apply to all student families -with or without special needs and disabilities. Why are the families of students without special needs and disabilities being discriminated against as well? These families do not have guidance or dispute resolutions like those families with special needs already have in place and will be at a greater disadvantage.

Moreover, harassment laws are already in place under the proper jurisdiction and enforcement of law. This is not only duplicative it is giving these public agencies - DOE/BOE- and their employees the authority to be judge and jury of which they have no expertise, training, knowledge or proper law enforcement authority to.

The additions made in HB2125 HD2 states: *the department shall: (1) report all substantial incidents of harassment to the proper law enforcement authority; (2) implement procedures for handling harassment of its employees, including employees excluded from collective bargaining under Chapter 89; assign employees within the department to handle harassment claims; and (4) assist its employees with any legal actions that may arise from harassment.* Who determines what are substantial incidents? Isn't harassment defined without a minimum or maximum? Implementing procedures, assigning employees to handle harassment claims, and providing employee assistance creates costs to put in place or further burdening existing positions. Isn't there a short fall of qualified and experienced DOE teachers? This bill is unnecessary and will cause a misuse of fund allocation for each school. The existing harassment laws in place are impartial and nondiscriminatory and do not subject the DOE/BOE, schools, students, or families to such misappropriation of funds.

Lastly, as a parent of a special needs child, I have personally dealt with teachers, specialists, contracted workers, and administrators both in the DOE and in private schools. I have had both positive and negative feedback and experiences. There are definite needs I have advocated for on my daughter's behalf and have experienced limited services for her due to lack of funding. Every special need and disabled child is different and requires tailored IEPs and necessary services to succeed in reaching their educational goals. This responsibility by public agencies such as the DOE to provide services for these children requires funds - bottom line. The implementation of this bill further decreases the portion of funds each school will be able to use to fulfill their federally enforced responsibility to SPED students. This lack of services increases the fervency and involvement of parents as advocates.

Rather the department should enforce current harassment laws by providing training to school districts, administrators, employees to ensure the current laws are being utilized including conflict resolution and addressing parent concerns. There needs to be greater implementation of IDEA oversight and accountability.

Therefore, I am asking you to strongly consider my opposition and for this bill to not be continued and be dissolved. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully yours,



Sharon Martin



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 3:47:26 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stanley Scanlan	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose bill HB2125 for it will violate a parents rights to rise there children in how ever a parent see fit for their child.

HB2125 is a bill that will lead to imprisonment of many hard working parents myself included due to many things being thought in our School systems today.

Please veto bills HB 2125 and HB1697

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 2:08:32 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tiana Wilbur	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

My name is Tiana Wilbur. I am a heavily involved parent especially in the growth and development for my children through curriculums of our public schools. Like I've testified before we encourage parent engagement for more successful educational opportunities for our children. If this bill is passed it will cause a ripple affect on parents because they will now face charges if they have questions or concerns in curriculum process and engagement. As if our students isn't already below the curve through the country in education!! We thrive on parent and family engagement so this will not be a helpful bill or in the best interest of our children who cannot defend or stand for themselves( and not physically I mean there voice if they don't know how to speak up from an administrator bullying them who does that? The parent and of course in a civil manner.) I will give more scenarios and points in my in person testimony. Thank you for the opportunity to testify!! I oppose HB2125 it will not benefit any one even schools themselves!! Teachers and administrators are not even aware of these so called concerns and it is stated that there are cases daily and Atleast 10 teachers that I've spoken to is one, not aware of the bill and/or do not agree it's necessary because some of them 11+years in teaching or an administrator and has not yet encountered such experiences or threats!! Like DOE is trying to portray. Oppose oppose oppose STOP this bill and do not pass it on to the next Commitee. Thank you have a wonderful day!!!!

## Testimony in Opposition of HB2125 HD2 – Hearing on March 23, 2022

My name is Puakielenani Pennington. I am a parent of a child with autism who has received special education for nearly 17 years, I am testifying in opposition of HB2125 HD2. My testimony in opposition of this bill is not to be construed as opposition to safety of educational workers; on the contrary, all teachers, staff, students, and parents should be safe when on a school campus.

While the purpose of this bill was framed as protecting the safety of educational workers, the bill's intent, as testified to by the HIDOE, is punitive specific to special needs families and their advocacy on behalf of their child with a disability.

During testimony in the House of Representatives on February 24, 2022, Interim Superintendent Hayashi and Russell Suzuki, HIDOE Risk Manager testified that the intent of HB2125 was to address the actions specifically of special needs parents.

[Full hearing - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyyF97yas4c> – HB2125 begins at 13:30; Interim Superintendent Hayashi at 61:20; Mr. Suzuki, HIDOE Risk Manager at 61:51]

The actions Mr. Suzuki cite in his testimony as examples of “harassing” behaviors under this bill proposed as misdemeanors punishable up to \$2,000 and/or one year in prison, are avenues of parent participation under the Federal Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA). The role of a parent to participate on behalf of their child with a disability under both IDEA and reiterated under Hawai'i Chapter 60, is unmatched by any other professional or member of the child's educational team.

As IDEA states: “Almost 30 years of research and experience has demonstrated that the education of children with disabilities can be made more effective by... strengthening the role and responsibility of parents and ensuring that families ... have meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children at school and at home.” Section 601(c)(5), Findings, Public Law 108-446, The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.

Mr. Suzuki additionally identifies HIDOE being prevented from its duties under IDEA and special education parents who refuse to,

*“accepting legal notices for hearings for example **in special education cases** the department is required to conduct their hearings and meetings in a timely manner or else they violate the idea the federal law parents such as the ones that we're talking about .. it's only for a certain amount of individual parents who use the system to force the department to not be able to comply with federal laws and state laws for timeliness.”*

Mr. Suzuki's assertion that parents impede HIDOE's ability to perform its federal duties is incorrect as IDEA (34 CFR §300.300) and Chapter 60 (HAR §8-60-31) inform HIDOE how to ensure they meet regulations and when their duty is relieved.

From IDEA Parental Consent and cited from the Hawai'i Procedural Safeguards,

*"The Department must make reasonable efforts to obtain your informed consent before providing special education and related services to your child for the first time."*

*"If you refuse to give your consent for your child to receive special education and related services for the first time, or if you do not respond to a request to provide such consent or later revoke (cancel) your consent in writing and the Department does not provide your child with the special education and related services for which it sought your consent, the Department:*

- 1. Is not in violation of the requirement to make FAPE available to your child for its failure to provide those services to your child; **and***
- 2. Is not required to have an IEP meeting or develop an IEP for your child for the special education and related services for which your consent was requested".*

While State law can strengthen Federal laws, State laws cannot weaken Federal laws. HB2125 HD2 conflicts with the provisions and protection to parents under IDEA.

In those instances where an individual behaves in a manner that is harassing to an educational worker, the current laws, §711-1106 Harassment and §707-716 Terroristic threatening in the first degree (which also identifies "Educational workers") should be utilized and diligently prosecuted. §711-1106 includes safeguards both parties to provide "greater protection" to the victim "while at the same time preserving the rights of citizens to engage in political expression and ordinary communication" Act 292, Session Laws 1992, Conference Committee Report No. 57.

When targeting special needs families for punitive actions, I ask that the following be considered:

1. Raising a child with special needs is challenging in and of itself.
2. Learning to navigate the medical needs of a child, systems, educational needs, family life, finances, and a parent's role in the applicable laws (IDEA, Chapter 60, Medical Insurance, etc.), a special needs parent must learn to have a voice.
3. Families in Hawai'i have many cultural, emotional, and socio-economic challenges and barriers when called to participate and advocate on behalf of their child.
4. Frustration, disagreements, and conflict are not created in a vacuum nor by one person/party alone.

Improving understanding, resolution opportunities, and support are needed to improve the education of children with special needs. Rather than stop the few individuals (no data was presented on frequency/occurrence), this bill is designed to intimidate the masses and set forth a directive to punish special needs families who take on the role of parent advocate.

Rather than pursue punitive action against special needs parents, I ask that the legislature call to action a review of the current issue:

1. Require data and clarity from the HIDOE that reports on the issue for which this bill was deemed necessary;
2. Review and develop as necessary HIDOE internal policy to utilize the current harassment laws in place to ensure teacher safety;
3. Review barriers to prosecution for individual cases that have been reported and not prosecuted;
4. Review and develop supportive policies to build parent-school relationships and better support special needs students.

For these reasons, I am in strong opposition with HB2125 HD2.

Sincerely,

Puakielenani Pennington



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 5:27:26 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
William H. Lawson	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I and many others strongly oppose this bill. This bill appears to be intended to make educational workers and union members working at schools into a special class of privileged administrators free from criticism or opposition. This is obviously being done in order to prevent the type of parental involvement which has led to responsive change at school boards on the mainland largely initiated by parents of the students themselves. Our state gives far too much deference to educational bureaucrats and administrators already. It is the parents themselves who should be getting laws passed to protect them from overreaching administrators in the schools - not the other way around. Thank you for your time.

**IN OPPOSITION OF  
HB 2125 HD2**

**LATE**

Senate Education Chair Michelle Kidani, and Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

Good afternoon! Thank you for accepting my testimony in opposition to HB 2125 HD2. I appreciate having this opportunity to testify before you.

My name is Naomi Grossman, a native resident of Hawaii who cherishes being a part of this great state and its diverse cultures in our island chain and community.

I have previously testified before the legislature on a feasibility study bill on autism that resulted in your appropriating the first Hawaii Technical Assistance and Training Project on Autism (the University Affiliated Program, UH at Manoa). This led to my employment as one of two advocates on the staff at the "Autism Project," so I am an advocate who assists parents seeking access to education success under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Thank you, Hawaii State Legislature!

Also, I am a parent of a severely autistic son, whom the HDOE assessed as having mental retardation at 5-1/2 years old with an IQ of 51. After years of struggling and navigating through the many challenges posed by our State educational system, my son achieved a level of success to which Dr. Margaret Koven evaluated him as having a normal IQ, and to where Dr. William Bolman followed up by diagnosing him with High Functioning Autism. But passing a bill like HB 2125 HD2, in the wrong hands, such a law could have been used to restrict my ability to advocate on behalf of my son which would have prevented his level of development.

It is my opinion that HB 2125 HD2 should not be passed as it is neither necessary, nor urgent. We currently have a harassment law in the books under HRS 711-1106 which makes HB 2125 irrelevant. But what HB 2125 does, is it changes the definition of HRS 711-1106 by adding the words "disrupts" and "interferes," which increases the power that Education employees have over parents. This grants schools broader authority to criminalize what parents say and do. If this bill is not viewed as a threat towards parents, nor an overreach to strip away their voice and involvement in their children's education, then why not apply this same bill across all groups of people? We also have the Legislative, Judicial, and Executive Branches of government that face similar forms of harassment and threats as those in Education, so then why does this change in harassment, from being a petty misdemeanor to full misdemeanor, only apply to the Education field and not the others? Is this discriminatory against the other branches of our government?

HB 2125 sends a chilling effect down the spine of children and their families as misdemeanors are punishable by up to one year in prison with a fine of up to \$2,000 (in contrast a petty misdemeanor is punishable up to 30 days in jail and a fine of up to \$1K). In the wrong hands ("education worker"), HB 2125 can be used as a tool against parents at the wrong time.

HB 2125 will add to the level of stress families experience in dealing with the challenges that accompany disabilities. This potentially increases the level of divisiveness in families of special needs children that already suffer a higher rate of divorce than "typical" or normal families.



Naomi Grossman  
IN OPPOSITION OF  
HB 2125 HD2  
page 2

Many parents are unaware of HB 2125. If they knew about it, we would see more opposition, as parents advocating for their children would be afraid to access educational success.

HB 2125 is vague and overly broad in its wording. In its present form, it is still premature and does not contain enough specific language for us to fully understand, or be confident on its intent and implementation once it becomes law. Under the IDEA, while working with the schools, there are procedural safeguards protecting parents in a 44-page manual that explains the IDEA rules and regulations for parents and their children. This is called Chapter 60.

There is also Chapter 19 that addresses student misconduct, discipline, school searches and reporting offenses, police interviews and arrests, and restitution for vandalism.

I repeat, parents do not understand the particulars of HB 2125 HD2. There are only a few words which explain what it contributes to the Hawaii Harassment Law. There needs to be more thought into this. It raises concerns of federal discrimination rights against students and their families.

Finally, we need to look at what resources we have access to. We can look to Departmental resources, such as School-Wide Positive Behavior Support (SW-PBIS) from the Reauthorization of IDEA, '97, taken directly from and interchanged with PBIS, the good works of scholars George Sugai and Robert Horner that includes families (parents) as a subsystem and bases planning and decision-making based on data collection.

As residents of Hawaii, we carry the legacy that the Hawaiian Constitution, Queen Liliuokalani and Queen Emma handed down to us. I don't think HB 2125 is what they had in mind. Let's not pass it just yet. Let's go back to the drawing board, document and look at the data in order to develop it further to ensure we are making the proper decisions. Let's also ensure that the protections we need in place are there for the families, so that their rights are protected, and their actions do not get misinterpreted; otherwise many will be forced to deal with the ramifications of a bad call. We can still work together rather than passing a bill that can be divisive.

Please do not pass HB 2125 SD2.

May we live with Aloha in our land and let's do this the right way. Thank you!!!

Sincerely,  
--Naomi Grossman  
[naomi\\_grossman@yahoo.com](mailto:naomi_grossman@yahoo.com)  
[808 228-0122](tel:8082280122)

THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, STATE OF HAWAII  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Committee on Education

Testimony by  
Margaret R. Koven, PSY. D., M.S./S.L.P.

**LATE**

MARCH 22, 2022

H.B. 2125 H.D. 2.  
Relating to official school business  
Harassment of an Educational Worker; Misdemeanor; DOE; BOE

Good afternoon and thank you for receiving my comments in opposition to HB 2125 HD2.

First of all, Merrick Garland issued a memorandum in October 2021 because he had been made aware of threats by citizens, against public servants working within or affiliated with the Department of Education and he said, "Threats against public servants are not only illegal, they run counter to our Nation's core values". His memo focused attention on a National increase in harassment, intimidation and threats of violence against school employees.

Because the initial complaint came from the NSBA, the State of Hawaii is only looking at the Department of Education. We all know, however, that there has been a similar increase in harassment of State and Federal Officials, Health Department Workers, voting registration and election officials and others.

Anyone who watches the news, reads a paper, or spends time on social media, is at least minimally aware of the emotionally charged and angry atmosphere between political parties, our Government, and many citizens who feel disenfranchised for multiple reasons. The level of civility in our National and local dialogues has steadily deteriorated and this has been further inflamed by misinformation and propaganda on social media sites. The Covid-19 Pandemic and logical response of government has only charged the atmosphere further, as did the accusations that our latest elections might be fraudulent. The result has been a rash of disruptive behavior by citizens who believe they don't have a voice or are not heard. This has made the rational dialogue that democracy requires, difficult to maintain.



The State of Hawaii already has Petty Misdemeanor Laws in place that deal with harassing behaviors such as persistent calls at inappropriate times or during business hours, flooding answering machines, threats regarding job security, threats against public servants (including threats of physical violence), swearing, spitting and so forth. It is just not specific to the school system. As always, the “intent” of the person committing the offense has to be proved. To the State, this is an issue of “RISK MANAGEMENT” as well as employee protection.

To be objective and impartial, the State needs to consider applying the same protections to other branches of government and agencies and to require the same level of civility from citizens who are involved in government in all kinds of ways. Instead, because the focus is only on the DOE, the largest target population of concern is parents of school age children. The issue isn’t limited to those who disrupt school board meetings because they resent Mask Mandates. The effort to decrease the risks to employees and the financial risk to the school system budget encourages the reporting of “substantial” incidents of harassment to law enforcement, the assignment of employees to handle harassment claims, assistance to employees with legal actions, training on de-escalation techniques to stop persons from impeding the functions of the DOE. What is “substantial” harassment?

While parents and families of school age children might not be the intended target of this legislation, which by the way, increases the charge from “Petty” Misdemeanor to “Full” Misdemeanor (which also increases jail time and penalties), they are most at risk or experiencing a “chilling effect” regarding advocating for their rights under IDEA. The Hayashi testimony recognized this risk in testimony and to quote, “This bill isn’t intended to apply to rational disagreements between parents and schools. It is intended to apply only to individuals who “cross the line” by harassing threatening, intimidation and coercion. In an IEP meeting it will be difficult to determine where that line is unless an act is extreme (as in Physical violence).

If there weren’t already many insurmountable problems involved in giving parents a voice in meetings where there may be as many as 20 representatives of the DOE, 1 parent, and only limited time for discussion, there would not have been a Felix case or a Consent Decree. There are difficulties setting up meetings with parents who have multiple jobs and little time, language barriers, culture barriers, and finally, parents come to these meetings stressed before they arrive. They feel the heavy weight of their responsibility to get their children what they believe their children need. Especially in the early years, emotions are barely controlled in many families, especial if they hit a brick wall when they try to express themselves. Parents are tired from their work and school staff may be exhausted after a school day, burdened by multiple meetings and weighty paperwork and resentments can build up to where meetings have to be rescheduled at a calmer time. If parents, who are intimidated by speaking at all, are afraid of financial penalties and arrests, then the risk of them becoming mute is



significant. If IDEA is violated in spirit and/or fact, then we are dealing with a conflict between state and federal law, which increases the costs of risk management, not decreases them. If parents are jailed for less serious infractions it will be up to relatives or the state, to provide for the children. If the state has to provide that is another increase in risk.

I believe that the state employees at DOE deserve protection. I am aware of the fear and anxiety that exists on the part of families and employees. That's why I'm suggesting that more data needs to be gathered to see where the serious problems lie, the specific exclusions regarding IDEA rights should be written into this law to protect parents, and that a more even handed approach which protects other agencies as well, should be investigated so that all at risk employees have the same protections. That way all citizens interacting with the government have the same responsibilities and protections also.

I also suggest that at this time, since most annoying actors against the DOE are not really aware of harassment laws, they be involved in the education awareness and in the de-escalation training. I am also suggesting that school children in every grade go through conflict resolution training at the appropriate developmental level so that incidents at school don't result from conflicts between different families about their political views as related to DOE and other agencies dealing with children.

I also respectfully request that the legislature consider leaving these offenses as petty misdemeanors unless they involve physical violence or threats. We don't even know if the level of "Punishment" we already have would be enough if there were public service campaigns to educate citizens and families about their responsibilities.

Finally, I think the definitions in the law need to be clarified. They are overly broad and too vague. With a feeling that they finally have power to act, employees may initially jump on board with any slight or hurt they experience because of the feelings that have been built up and this can be prevented with a much better set of examples of what is and what is not harassment.

I believe that the passage of this bill is Premature and that all parties involved do some additional due diligence before finalizing any legislation. Because IDEA is involved, and other federal statutes, and other agencies, there must be clear protections for families as well as for employees.

Thank you for your time,

Margaret Koven, PSY. D., M.S., S.L P



**S E A C**  
**Special Education Advisory Council**  
1010 Richards Street Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129  
email: [spin@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:spin@doh.hawaii.gov)  
March 23, 2022

**Special Education  
Advisory Council**

Ms. Martha Guinan, *Chair*  
Ms. Susan Wood, *Vice Chair*

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Ms. Virginia Beringer  
Ms. Mary Brogan  
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Ms. Ivalee Sinclair  
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Ms. Lisa Vegas  
Ms. Paula Whitaker  
Ms. Jasmine Williams  
Ms. Susan Wood

Ms. Annie Kalama, *liaison to  
the Superintendent*  
Ms. Wendy Nakasone-Kalani,  
*liaison to the military  
community*

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff  
Susan Rocco, Staff

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Committee on Education  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2125, HD 2 – Relating to Official School Business

Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Council under the Individual's with Disabilities Act (IDEA) has serious reservations about HB 2125, HD 2 that creates a misdemeanor for disrupting or interfering with the administration or functions of any school, school administration office, or school board.

**Existing harassment law provides a better vehicle for addressing harassment to educational workers.** The members of SEAC believe strongly in the safety of teachers, school personnel and any person on a school campus. While no one disputes that school personnel should be protected from anyone making harassing threats to their personal safety or that of their families, SEAC does not believe HB 2125, HD 2 as written is either enforceable or necessary. Hawaii's existing harassment statute, HRS §711-1106, has clear definitions and ample case law to provide protection to victims of harassment while at the same time preserving the rights of citizens to engage in political expression. It would be far better to amend this existing statute to explicitly include educational workers or to say that any government department could file on behalf of a government employee, if appropriate, than to create a new law that is subject to misinterpretation.

**The proposed classification of harassment of an educational worker law as a misdemeanor would impose significantly harsher penalties than the existing harassment law.** In Hawaii, misdemeanors are punishable by up to one year in prison and a fine of up to \$2,000. Current harassment law, by contrast, is classified as a petty misdemeanor, punishable by up to 30 days in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000. Even if a parent is ultimately cleared of the charge of committing harassment of an educational worker, he or she would have



been significantly harmed financially and emotionally by being arrested, having to find legal counsel, child care for their children, etc.

**Special education parents are being improperly targeted for the harassment misdemeanor.**

SEAC's greater objection to HB 2125, HD 2 is the secondary intent of the bill, as stated by HIDOE's Risk Manager Russell Suzuki in the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaii Affairs hearing held February 24, 2022. He cited special education parents specifically as the reason for the harassment bill when they interfere with school's operations by refusing to accept legal notices for hearing, emails, telephone notifications or written notifications on purpose thereby forcing the Department to be out of compliance with federal and state laws for timeliness.

SEAC believes there must be a high level of threat to validate taking legal action against parents trying to exercise their due process rights. IDEA places a high value on the participation of parents in their child's education while at the same time offering protections to schools when parents are unresponsive to requests to participate. For example, if a parent refuses to provide consent for services, the school is not obligated to provide special education. If a parent fails to respond to an invitation to an annual IEP meeting to review a child's program and placement, the school team can proceed without the parent, providing that they keep a record of attempts to include him or her. In the case of due process hearings, a hearing officer may grant legal extensions to the 75-day timeline set by IDEA to both the A.G.'s Office representing the Department, and to the plaintiff attorney. In the 20 years that SEAC has been monitoring due process hearings, Hawaii has never been found to be out of compliance with due process timelines.

**The Department has only provided anecdotal data to justify serious legal action against parents.** While the Department has provided no statistics to warrant the enactment of this law, SEAC believes the number of parents whose actions were cited by Mr. Suzuki to be extremely low. In 2020-21, the latest year for which we have IDEA dispute resolution data, there were 20,017 students eligible for IDEA services. Only 54 due process hearing requests were filed, with most reaching a settlement agreement prior to an actual hearing. **Only 15 requests were fully adjudicated** at the time Dispute Resolution Table 6 was submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs, with 16 complaints pending further action.

**HB 2125 negatively impacts parent/school partnerships and potentially harms students with disabilities.** As you know, SEAC is made up of a majority of parents of children with disabilities and individuals with disabilities, and it is significant to note that our membership voted unanimously to express concern over the wording of this legislation. Many parents of children with disabilities, including a number of our SEAC members, are extremely worried due to the vague language in HB 2125 that they could be punished with a serious fine or jail time, if they exercise their legal right to advocate on behalf of their child with a disability. It has long been documented throughout the nation that special education parents in particular fear retaliation, if they speak up for their child's rights. This bill adds a chilling reminder of that threat and may silence many families from advocating for the individualized services and supports that their child needs to succeed.





For all the reasons stated above, SEAC urges your committee to seriously consider the negative impact this bill has on families of students with disabilities and find a more reasonable solution for protecting educational workers from the threats to their personal safety and/or the “government operations of an educational worker.” Specifically, we ask the Committee to do the following:

- Request data from the Department regarding the number of cases of harassment, their frequency, the types of actions, the responses to the actions, whether police reports or complaints were made, etc., so that you can analyze the extent of the need and an appropriate solution;
- Clearly define terms like “government operations of an educational worker;”
- Obtain input from county prosecutors on the enforceability of the legislation as currently drafted.

Hasty legislation without a foundation of well-analyzed data and clear definitions does not ensure either protection or justice.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns regarding this controversial and potentially harmful legislation.

Respectfully,

Martha Guinan  
Chair



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2022**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 2125, H.D. 2, RELATING TO OFFICIAL SCHOOL BUSINESS.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 23, 2022      **TIME:** 3:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 229 and Videoconference

**TESTIFIER(S):** Holly T. Shikada, Attorney General, or  
Anne T. Horiuchi, Deputy Attorney General

---

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) provides the following comments.

The bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) and Board of Education (BOE) to take certain steps to better address harassment of its employees. The bill also creates the offense of harassment of an educational worker for disrupting or interfering with the administration or functions of any school, school administration office, or school board.

Section 2 of the bill adds a new section to chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to state the requirements applicable to the DOE and BOE relating to harassment of educational workers. The Department notes the following concerns with section 2:

1. The term "harassment" is not defined in chapter 302A, HRS; as such, the DOE would not be able to determine what constitutes "substantial incidents of harassment" (page 1, line 14) that need to be reported. This could lead to overreporting or underreporting of incidents of harassment. It is also unclear whether the reporting requirement is intended to apply to only those instances of harassment that would be prohibited by the new section 711- \_\_\_, or whether it intends to apply to a different type of behavior. To address this concern, the Department suggests that a definition of harassment that applies to the new section in chapter 302A, HRS, be provided.

2. The term "harassment" in subsection (a) is not limited to harassment by "outside actors" or non-DOE personnel. This could lead to the application of this new law to incidents of workplace harassment between employees or students, which the DOE can already address with existing procedures. The Department suggests that the bill be amended to clarify that the section is limited to harassment committed by "outside actors" or non-DOE personnel.
3. The bill requires the DOE to implement procedures for "handling harassment" of its employees (page 2, lines 1-2) and to assign employees to "handle" harassment claims (page 2, lines 4-5). We recommend that the wording: "Develop and" be inserted at the beginning of page 2, line 1, so that it is clear that the DOE is to develop procedures or guidelines for handling harassment and claims of harassment of its employees. The Department suggests including a deadline by which the DOE would develop such procedures or guidelines.
4. The bill requires the DOE to "[a]ssist its employees with any legal actions that may arise from harassment." (Page 2, lines 6-7.) The term "assist" is not defined, and could be construed broadly as directing DOE personnel to perform activities that could be viewed as the unauthorized practice of law. Alternatively, this provision could be construed to require the DOE to "assist" an employee by retaining and paying for that employee's counsel if the employee files a lawsuit; this could include claims against the DOE and the State of Hawaii for failure to protect the employee from harassment or for creating an unsafe workplace, because such claims could be deemed as "aris[ing] from [the] harassment." To avoid such results, the Department recommends deleting page 2, lines 6-7, and allowing the DOE to address how it will assist its employees in procedures or guidelines to be developed by the DOE, as discussed in paragraph 3, above.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

March 22, 2022

Aloha:

I am submitting this testimony **in opposition** to HB2125 HD2, which supposedly intends to provide increased protection for educational workers to conduct school business.

According to the testimony of Keith Hayashi, Interim Superintendent for Hawaii DOE, dated 2/24/2022, this bill is necessary to “*address the growing problem of continuous and threatening harassment of educational workers by parents and members of the public.*” While Mr. Hayashi believed that this “*continuous and threatening harassment of educational workers by parents and members of the public*” is a “*growing problem*” that merits a codification of the law, no data was presented to quantify and qualify his claim in his testimony. What did he mean by “*growing problem?*” When does a problem become a “*growing problem*” that it necessitates the establishment of a law?

Parents who have kids with disabilities attending the Hawaii DOE are no strangers to data collection. They need data for their kids to be eligible for an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a 504 Plan. Without data, no comprehensive IEP will be developed. Thus, no IEP goals and services will be provided. When the IEP Team develops IEP goals, a special education teacher creates data sheets to record the student’s progress. Data are necessary to provide evidence of progress. Data are also required to prove that a student is regressing, and an IEP is not addressing a student’s unique needs and should be reviewed and revised.

It is unfortunate, however, that while parents have to contend with data collection to receive *manini* services for their kids with special needs, the Interim Superintendent for Hawaii DOE, no less, can make claims like “*growing problem of continuous and threatening harassment of educational workers by parents and members of the public,*” without the data to back him up. **For this reason, I am requesting the Senate Committee on Education to require the Hawaii DOE to collect and present data before instituting a law that may be exploited at the expense of the minority groups and demographics who already are disproportionately underserved and unserved.**

In the same testimony dated 2/24/2022, Mr. Hayashi mentioned that “*the existing laws do not address educational workers who have become victimized by irrational and uncompromising parents and individuals whose goal is to taunt, harass, and intimidate school officials so that they give in to their unreasonable demands through coercion or by intentional delay tactics.*” This statement, again, is far from the truth. As of writing, the Hawaii DOE has the following to address those issues:

- 1) Hawaii Procedural Safeguards,  
<https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/DOE%20Forms/Special%20Education/Procedural%20Safeguards/ProceduralSafeguards.pdf>

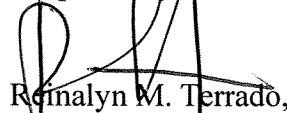
- 2) Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA, Sec. 300.300 Parental Consent <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/b/d/300.300> and Sec. 300.322 Parent Participation <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/b/d/300.322>) & (HAR Chapter 60, <https://boe.hawaii.gov/policies/AdminRules/Pages/AdminRule60.aspx>)
- 3) Hawaii Harassment Law (HRS 711-1106) [https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/vol14\\_ch0701-0853/hrs0711/hrs\\_0711-1106.htm](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/vol14_ch0701-0853/hrs0711/hrs_0711-1106.htm)

Coming from this context, I echo the statement of Rep. Scot Matayoshi in one of the hearings at the House of Representatives that current harassment laws and implementing rules are sufficient. **This bill is unnecessary and should be shelved until data that support it are made available, and concerns raised during the current legislative session are addressed.**

As of 2018, Hawaii is home to 266,147 immigrants (foreign-born individuals), comprising 19 percent of the population. According to the American Immigration Council, Hawaii was home to 145,237 women, 105,564 men, and 15,346 children who were immigrants in 2018. The top countries of origin for immigrants were the Philippines (45 percent of immigrants), China (9 percent), Japan (8 percent), Korea (6 percent), and the Marshall Islands (4 percent). These are some of the faces of our unserved and underserved populations. These are also some of the parents of Hawaii DOE's students with disabilities. These are also some of the parents who see educational workers as authority figures who they never wanted to offend. HB2125 HD2 does not support immigrant families and ensure equity for young children of immigrants with disabilities. Instead, it sends a chilling effect, a gag, to already voiceless populations.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,



Reinalyn M. Terrado,

Parent of a Hawaii DOE student eligible under IDEA, Parent Representative, Parent Advocate

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 12:34:18 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shigemi Okada	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

March 22, 2022

Aloha and Good Afternoon EDU Chair and Members,

I strongly and respectfully oppose HB 2125, Harassment of an Educational Worker; Misdemeanor.

I also unequivocally oppose the harassment of any individual, including Educational Workers (EW) as defined in the Bill, as well as parents and students, EQUALLY. No individuals should be harassed regardless of their positions or titles.

As stated in the U.S. Constitution, First Amendment, the most fundamental component of freedom of expression is the right of freedom of speech. The right to freedom of speech allows individuals to express themselves without interference or constraint by the government. The Supreme Court requires the government to provide substantial justification for the interference with the right of free speech where it attempts to regulate the content of the speech. Simply labeling grievances from parents as harassment and treating them as misdemeanors is a direct violation of the First Amendment and a suppression of the voice of the parents.

My question to you for your consideration as you debate this Bill is, “Who will adjudicate ‘intent’ to harass, annoy, or alarm an Educational Worker?”; a misdemeanor is a serious offense. As defined in the Bill, a person commits the crime of harassment of an educational worker if, with intent to harass, annoy, or alarm an educational worker, that person disrupts or interferes with the administration or functions of any school, school administration office, or school board. A parent or guardian may appear to staff as upset, agitated, or passionate about matters concerning their child. This may be “perceived” as harassment. Providing EW staff with in-service training on de-escalating a conversation and giving resolution options would be a positive approach. Resolving through collaborative discussions using mediation and conflict-resolution tools is far better than entering into the legal system, which is cost-prohibitive to the DoE and all parties involved.

Policies and procedures are currently in place at the DoE and BoE to address harassing behavior. Services by Campus Security and the Honolulu Police Department provide and serve those functions.

If this Bill is passed, it has the propensity to censor parents and guardians. It concerns me as a free American that it will prohibit parents and guardians from expressing their concerns and their right to freedom of speech for fear of being charged with a misdemeanor. Charging someone with a misdemeanor has serious consequences impacting the students, families, the education system, and the legal system without ever addressing the very core issues and concerns raised by parents.

Please use your positions on the EDU committee to provide opportunities to educate and train professionals in the education system to equip them with skills needed to manage grievances and conflicts through mediation with a goal of resolution. HB2125, as it currently reads, instead, takes away the voices of parents and other concerned citizens.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Shigemi Okada

A concerned parent

Senate Education Committee  
March 23, 2022

Sen. Michelle Kidani, Chair  
Sen. Donna Mercado-Kim, Vice chair

Committee Members

Senators Donovan Dela Cruz, Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha and Senator Kurt Fevella

Please note that I stand in strong opposition to this bill “SB2125 HD2, Harassment of an Educational Worker; Misdemeanor; DOE; BOE.”

Parents are responsible for their children; educators are entrusted with the child’s care and “education!”

This is not about protecting the DOE employees against harassment.

This is an insult to parents and concerned citizens. This puts in place a path to threaten parents with censorship, should they speak up when concerned or wanting answers. Once that happens, I cringe to think what else this might lead to.

So again, I stress my concern and strong opposition to this bill and ask you to stop it now.

Respectfully,  
Rita Kama-Kimura



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:28:53 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

**1000% OPPOSE HB2125 HD2**

On February 25, 2022 the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs heard this bill. Written testimonies ran 118 pages.

It was no surprise when I perused the content of the testimonies that a majority had strong feelings about this bill allowing a charge of a misdemeanor.

The committees on EDN recommend that the measure be PASSED, WITH AMENDMENTS. The votes were as follows: 9 Ayes: Representative(s) Woodson, 2/3/2022 H Kapela, Clark, Gates, Hashimoto, Quinlan, Takayama, Yamane; Ayes with reservations: Representative(s) Ganaden; 1 Noes: Representative(s) Okimoto; and 2 Excused: Representative(s) Belatti, Ohno.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2125, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2125, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

The HD2 version is still flawed. Reconsideration of using an offense of Harassment to manage this behavior is needed. The interim could not produce the number of occurrences in the past year, he only provided anecdotal scenarios. This is another bill to cover the incompetence of the States' education system as it stands.

This bill will not prevent parents from speaking up. This bill will cause chaos instead of calm.

This bill as it was HB2125 HD1 was strongly opposed through the 118 pages of written testimony. On February 25, 2022, the [COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS](#) made significant changes in HD2. This committee took a hard look at the testimonies and made appropriate amendments. Several Committee Members had strong comments regarding this bill. Representative Ward was beside himself. Most of the dialogue included "Hawaii already has a statute in place for harassment." Why do we need another bill?

The committees on JHA recommend that the measure be PASSED, WITH AMENDMENTS. The votes were as follows: 8 Ayes: Representative(s) Nakashima, 2/25/2022 H Ichiyama, LoPresti, Lowen, McKelvey, Takumi; Ayes with reservations: Representative(s) Matayoshi, Tokioka; 2 Noes: Representative(s) D. Kobayashi, Ward; and 1 Excused: Representative(s) Nakamura.

I highlight these votes

**Ayes with reservations:** Representative(s) Matayoshi, Tokioka; **2 Noes: Representative(s) D. Kobayashi, Ward;** and 1 Excused: Representative(s) Nakamura.

Some excerpts from the written testimony of February 24, 2022 for the Committee on Judicial and Hawaiian Affairs (JHA)

- It is instead a bill written to harass and threaten parents who in good faith exercise their right to communicate with the DOE, to demand curriculum transparency and to interact in good faith with the schools.
- This is a destructive bill.
- We the parents advocate for our children on a daily basis to help them have a better quality of life, and hopefully to be independent when they are young adults. please don't take away our rights to advocate for our special needs children.
- We are extremely concerned that the ambiguity of this act would lead to misuse and overreach of the school district through intimidation to silence parents who are trying to advocate for their special child's needs.
- While we greatly appreciate the need for our teachers and administrators to be able to do their job free of true harassment, the way this bill is written would just give way too much unilateral power to an organization that already has many tools at their disposal to address this issue.
- I do agree that a well thought out solution would be a better avenue to take. This committee needs to discuss the ramifications of charging a school community member with a misdemeanor. I think this is a slippery slope that we do not want to go down. This is an easy out rather than finding a solution.
- **As a Hawaii State educator,** I find this bill detracts from any efforts towards partnership between school and home. This act of aggression towards parents/guardians does little or nothing to support the education of our children.
- DoE employees may not like what citizens have to say, but they need to hear it, even if they feel "annoyed" or "alarmed"
- This bill gives too much power to restrict parent advocacy.

- This should also include staff/institutions because I have seen my share of staff being just as aggressive towards parents.
- How about instead of holding parents accountable and making them fearful of advocating for their children, you hold the administrators accountable for conducting themselves and their schools in such a way as to cause parents to be so frustrated with the school system?
- This is not the path to a cooperative and positive parent school relationship, but the opposite. Parental involvement is the most reliable metric for students' educational success.
- **I am a teacher** myself and of course I don't want to be harassed by anyone, but to silence parents' voices is not the way to go.
- This is more government overreach.
- **As an educator**, I feel it is very important that families and teachers collaborate together for the success of the students. If this bill is passed, it may harm communication between the families and the educators/ school board and this could be devastating to the students' growth.
- I think this is a terrible bill that creates too much opportunity for bad actors to use as an excuse for misconduct.
- We've seen so much evidence over the last few years of teachers overstepping their boundaries as a teacher in terms of what they teach and how they treat our children.
- Parents should not be criminalized by asking questions and being involved in their children's upbringing even if it makes a school staff member uncomfortable sometimes.
- As someone who has worked in the public school system, and who has also obtained an **Elementary teaching degree** here, I can tell you this bill is not only severely detrimental to a parent's first amendment rights to advocate for their children's education, but it also is an abuse of legislative power to criminalize us tax paying citizens who pay into creating these schools and who should rightly have a say in what their child is learning and how they're learning.
- I cannot believe that such bills actually make it this far in the legislative process without more resistance by our representatives.
- Although I am a very big Supporter of All Educators and Administrators, I do not feel that HB2125 is the way to create an Environment of Solutions and Progress.
- This is pandora's box.

- By using the word "annoy" in this bill it allows the school staff to go after any parent that doesn't agree with their agenda.
- This bill is not the solution to whatever unknown issue it seeks to address.
- How could anyone even write it, let alone justify it with a vote.
- Charging someone with a misdemeanor has serious consequences impacting the students, families, the education system, and the legal system.
- We do not need MORE LEGISLATION when current laws will suffice.
- I believe Mr. Hayashi's characterization of parents is unfair, misrepresentative and a mischaracterization of the real issues here.
- **I myself am an educator** for the DOE. I do not need increased protection. If a parent is passionate about their child's education let them speak and be heard!
- There just aren't words colorful enough to describe how many shades of tyrannical and asinine this measure is.

HB2125 HD2 as it currently stands

RELATING TO OFFICIAL SCHOOL BUSINESS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to provide increased protection for educational workers to conduct school business by:

- (1) Requiring the department of education and board of education to take certain steps to better address harassment of its employees; and
- (2) Establishing **the offense of harassment of an educational worker**.

SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“~302A- Harassment; reporting; procedures; claims; legal actions; training.

(a) The department shall:

- (1) Report all substantial incidents of harassment to the proper law enforcement authority;
- (2) Implement procedures for handling harassment of its employees, including employees excluded from collective bargaining under chapter 89;

(3) Assign employees within the department to handle harassment claims; and

(4) Assist its employees with any legal actions that may arise from harassment.

(b) The department and board shall implement trainings for its staff on how to use de—escalation techniques and handle harassment from outside actors.”

SECTION 3. Chapter 711, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

711- Harassment of an educational worker.

(1) A person commits the offense of harassment of an educational worker if, **with intent to impede the government operations of an educational worker, that person disrupts or interferes with the administration or functions of any school, school administration office, or school board.**

(2) Harassment of an educational worker is a misdemeanor.

(3) For the purposes of this section, “educational worker” means any administrator, specialist, counselor, teacher, or employee of the department of education or an employee of a public charter school; a person who is a volunteer, as defined in section 90—1, in a school program, activity, or function that is established, sanctioned, or approved by the department of education; or a person hired by the department of education on a contractual basis and engaged in carrying out a department of

education function.”

SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 1:35:51 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Kahiapo	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose HB2125. There are numerous reasons that I feel this bill is not appropriate as written. Every person has different perspectives, various lenses, depending on where their life journey has been. One person may feel harassed, whereas the employee next to them may not. This makes it too easy for parents to shy away from discussing their child's education, challenges, and frustrations, for fear unfair charges. I do however feel there can be situations where real threat of harm, or actual physical violence, are viable reasons to bring forth an investigation.

Coming from a situation where I have had a child in the DOE special education system, I have endured trying situations, where the DOE administration and employees have been found to be abusive and/or untruthful.

I have endured years of deep pain as a result of this, because I held a lot in, yearning for justice. All the while my reputation was ruined due to untrue lies and rumors that finally became resolved with a legal settlement, which we won. I almost lost my son due to their abuse and cover-up. It is a miracle he is even alive. On that day, I may have appeared to be harassing staff when I pulled up, seeing three staff carrying him, unconscious, knees dripping fresh blood, and trying to drop him in my car. I instead *demanded* they call an ambulance! They proceeded to ask me to move my car, and I got *upset!!* I could not even drive, since I shaking all over for fear of my son's life. I was not about to leave his side, as he lay on a bench in front of the office.

Please reconsider this dangerous bill, that neglects to consider all scenarios. After this incident, I soon attended an emergency IEP meeting, where every person in the room representing the DOE, lied to me. It was not until a couple of days later, when a whistle-blower contacted me, that I found out the real truth. What if I came to that IEP meeting knowing the truth about the abuse that injured my son? Do you think I would be charged for harassment? Perhaps so! I don't think I could have sat there and endured the lies, had I known the truth.

They continued to cover up the truth for about two years until depositions were finally taken, and the truth came out. It was at that time, I finally was able to forgive, as apologies were offered, and responsibility taken by two of the employees. I am not the only parent or student that has had to endure this kind of unjust behavior, and parents should not be penalized if they raise their voice should they find themselves in such unjust, abusive situations. Every mom or dad feels the pain of their child's pain, and even more so, if their child has a developmental disability, and is unable to speak for himself or herself.

This is not the only time I was lied to by a room-full of DOE staff at an IEP meeting. In another situation, I did not find out about the lies until years had gone by. One of the offenders revealed the truth to me. She left the DOE after that first year of teaching, because she could not allow her conscience to work for an agency that forced her to lie, and hurt our family. Sometimes truth hurts. But may I say, lies hurt more. There is corruption in the DOE, and unfortunately, it is parents and students that get caught up and hurt.

I ask each of you to consider how you may react if you knew your child was treated unjustly or harmed or abused by a DOE employee. How would you feel? How might your initial reaction be, as you pick up the phone to call that employee, or confront the school with the injustice or harm your child suffered? Imagine you have a child who has a disability, unable to tell you what happened? Unable to tell you about the hurt and pain. Unable to tell you why they are acting up, or engaging in violent or self-injurious behaviors. Yes, this is real, and it really happens.

Please oppose this legislation. Police investigations should focus on all the other serious crime affecting our communities, not justifiably upset parents. Remember, some irate behavior is justifiable. "Be angry, and sin not" as the Good Book says. There is room for anger...it is a normal response in some situations, as long as violence does not ensue. Please don't strip a parent of their right to protect their children from harm, and feelings of anger, when they have all the right to those feelings.

This bill is also opening the door for DOE to retaliate against parents who "irritate" them, or who probe for truth and justice, as I did.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Laura K.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 7:16:35 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Linda Elento	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha, This measure interferes with an individual's civil rights, including individuals with disabilities who may have communication deficits or behavior needs due to a disability. This bill could pit students against teachers and parents against schools.

I lost all sense of confidence in the interim superintendent showing concern of the safety of employees when his risk manager last testified that parents of special education students were the reason for HB2125.

Hawaii and our counties do not need this subjective law to deter any form of real or perceived harrassment. The result will be a contentious environment if students, parents or other individuals are considered criminals and must defend themselves against employees who may depend on a state to protect them through the court system.</p>

A school system however can improve its communication with students and families and the public and give them the time of day, and clear procedures policies.

I was in shock to witness an elementary school student sit quietly in my child's public school's admin office until the police arrived and arrested her and took her to the police station. I listened to the conversation between school personnel and the police. The school wouldn't allow the student to remain in office while the parent was on his/her way to pick up their student.

I have also heard from the parent who received a TRO for attempting to discuss matters regarding his/her child. The school can open the door to communication and fairly investigate administratively or through the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, not make an accusation of harrassment any form of crime.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony asking the committee defer HB2125 HD2.

**OPPOSE HB2125 HD2!**



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 8:44:50 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jari S.K. Sugano	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Senate Education committee,

My name is Jari Sugano and I am a resident in Mililani, Oahu. I have two children with special needs, who work tirelessly daily to overcome challenges with autism, epilepsy, Tourette's syndrome, ADD, sensory processing disorder, etc. My goal for both children is to develop their skills and competencies so they can one day live an independent life in mainstream society, to the best of their abilities.

The safety of all state officials should be a top priority of legislators and policy makers in Hawaii. Changes made to HB2125 HD2 is a significant improvement to the original bill proposed as part of the DOE's legislative package to the governor. However, this bill serves as evidence that there is a systematic problem in our special education system administered by the DOE.

The state's goal is to improve the overall K to 12 education system in Hawaii, through proactive educational initiatives. Prosecuting parents who play an active decision making role in their children's education, goes against the BREATH values of the DOE.

DOE's Risk Management Officer, Russell Suzuki provided verbal testimony to HB2125 HD1 stating, "there are certain parents, adults, strictly focusing on adults, this has nothing to do with prosecuting students. But when a parent also interferes with the operations of a school for example, clogging up voice mails with threatening voicemails, also not accepting legal notices for hearings, for example in special education cases the department is required to conduct their hearings, meetings in a timely fashion or else they violate IDEA law. Parents such as the ones we are taking about refuse to accept emails, telephone notifications or written notifications on purpose in order to force the department in default, therefore they coerce remove the department in getting, what they, the results of what they want. So that's the reason. It's only for a certain amount of individuals parents who use the system to force the department to not be able to comply with federal laws and state laws for timeliness as well as to clog up the emails, clog up the voicemails, with threatening emails and other communications. So that's the WHOLE purpose is two step. Not only do they harass, but they interfere with the operations of the school. So that's the difference between this legislation and the regular harassment legislation."

Based on Mr. Suzuki's testimony this bill is directly targeted at parents involved in special education cases and the IDEA process. IDEA he refers to is the Individualized with Disabilities

Education Act. DOE provided no data to suggest this is a common offense conducted by parents to warrant such a change in law nor justified why a charge of criminal misdemeanor was an appropriate penalty for such a violation. It was the legislature which suggested education and de-escalation strategies as a first line of mitigation.

Hawaii Revised Statutes §711-1106 cites harassment as a petty misdemeanor. The DOE is not exempt from pursuing harassment charges against those leave threatening emails and voice messages. Prosecute those individuals to the fullest extent of the law.

DOE suggested that parents of special needs families could be charged with criminal misdemeanor if they intentionally impede or interfere with school operations which could result in a \$2,000 fine or a year in jail. Interim Superintendent's verbal testimony at the House Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee suggested that he felt the charge was appropriate and that no warning was necessary. This goes beyond the state's petty misdemeanor charge for harassment. Why is such a bill necessary and how does the DOE define such terms as "intent to impede the government operations..."

DOE's pursuit to charge certain parents with criminal misdemeanor for speaking out on behalf of their child, goes against free speech, not to mention, the innate nature of many parents who are concerned with their child's education.

If this bill is about the timeliness of the IDEA process then be clear about its intentions and add specifics.

If a parent intentionally holds up the IDEA process as Mr Suzuki suggested in his verbal testimony, the student would not be eligible for certain IEP services. DOE has not lost a due process hearing in over a year. Currently, under IDEA, DOE has the ability to request mediation services with parents. In California, either the parent or the school district may request an impartial due process hearing. [34 C.F.R. Sec. 300.507(a); Cal. Ed. Code Sec. 56501(a).]

Modifying HRS Title 8, Subtitle 2, Chapter 60 (Provisions of a free and appropriate public education for a student with a disability) could help strengthen DOE's ability to address those who impede or interfere with school operations, specifically special education cases which involve an IEP. Has the DOE explored or pursued such options for the cases being referenced?

There are other options such as increasing the penalty for harassment in Hawaii from a petty to criminal misdemeanor to address DOE's concerns about harassment via e-mail and voicemail to educational workers.

Outside of private insurance, there are few resources for parents to obtain services to enable children with special needs to make appropriate progress in light of their child's circumstances. Families with special needs children advocate passionately to the best of their abilities for services, or they must hire an advocate or attorney to advocate on their behalf. During the short time students have with the DOE, we firmly believe our children deserve an educational program that meets their unique needs.

The lack of language in this bill is frightening for many parents who advocate passionately and boldly for better services for their child. IEP meetings are commonly 1-2 parents vs a team of school officials. If DOE is granted the ability to prosecute parents who impede school functions, will they be the designated agency to also enforce this new law?

We support the added protections for all educational workers who work tirelessly for our children. Protect them and keep them safe. Much of the disagreement between parents and the DOE is largely due to the fact that there are limited services and the special education program, as a whole, is poorly funded. Parents requests are often around obtaining supports such as qualified teachers, EA, BCBA, LBT, PT, OT, etc. and related services. Because these services draw on limited state resources, they are often withheld for only the extreme cases.

Better funding initiatives for special education programs would go a long ways toward improving relations between parents and the school districts.

Aloha, Jari Sugano (parent)



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF TALENT MANAGEMENT

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 23, 2022  
**TIME:** 3:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** Conf. Rm 229 & Videoconference  
**COMMITTEE:** Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Reid Kuba, Ph.D., Principal in Residence for the DOE's Leadership Institute

**Title of Bill:** HB2125, HD2 RELATING TO OFFICIAL SCHOOL BUSINESS

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires DOE and BOE to take certain steps to better address harassment of its employees. Creates the offense of harassment of an educational worker for disrupting or interfering with the administration or functions of any school, school administration office, or school board.

**Principals' Position:**

The various Principals across the state from the Hawaii State Department of Education ask that you respectfully consider our SUPPORT of HB2125, HD2.

My name is Reid Kuba and I am a Principal in Residence for the Hawaii State DOE. In my role, I specifically work with secondary principals from all islands, but also work with the elementary principals as well. HB2125 was determined to be of importance to Principals who represent their faculty, schools, and communities.

Principals have direct knowledge and experience with the communities they serve, and do not want to limit parent or community participation. In fact, they encourage continued participation and know that there is a positive correlation between parent involvement and student success. Principals even understand when someone outside of the school may be upset and they work together to solve the issues for the betterment of their students. However, they also understand that it is not acceptable when that frustration crosses the line to threats of violence and harassment.

Current laws relating to threats of violence and harassment do apply to education workers, but that protection should be emphasized for school settings because schools are uniquely a place of work that involve children. To protect our children, schools need extra recognition that it should not be places where threatening and harassing behaviors occur.

Please see the attached list of Principals who SUPPORT HB2125. Please note that although I represent Principals, there are also Vice Principals who SUPPORT HB2125 and they have designated themselves as such on the list for your convenience.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB2125.

you SUPPORT HB2125 that creates a misdemeanor of harassment of an educational worker for			
Principal Name	Name of School	Island	Complex
Dennis O'Brien	E.B. deSilva Elementary	Hawai'i	HW
Jennifer Sueoka	Ha'aheo Elementary School	Hawaii	KMR
Jasmine Urasaki	Hilo High School	Hawai'i	HK
Heather Dansdill	Hilo Intermediate School	Hawai'i	HW
Glenn Gray	Holualoa Elementary School	Hawaii	HKKK
Rachelle Matsumura	Honokaa High and Intermediate School	Hawai'i	HKKK
Kori Takaki	Kahakai Elementary School	Hawai'i	HKKK
Gregg Yonemori	Keaau Middle School	Hawai'i	KKP
James Denight	Kealakehe High School	Hawai'i	HKKK
Kasey Eisenhour	Keonepoko Elementary School	Hawai'i	KKP
Hannah Loyola	Kohala Elementary School	Hawai'i	HKKK
Amy Stafforrd	Kohala High School	Hawai'i	HKKK
Trisha Sanborn	Kohala Middle School	Hawai'i	HKKK
Momi Kaehuaea	Konawaena High School	Hawai'i	HKKK
Teddy Burgess	Konawaena Middle School	Hawai'i	HKKK
Felicia Friend Linton	Paauiolo Elem and Inter.	Hawaii	HKKK
Lisa Souza	Waiakea Intermediate School	Hawai'i	HW
Tammie Picklesimer	Waimea Elementary	Hawai'i	HKKK
Allison Carveiro	'Ele'ele Elementary	Kauai	KKW
Brian Godsill	Kalaheo Elementary School	Kauai	KKW
Salynn Gonsalves	Kapaa Elementary School	Kauai	KKW
Marlene Leary	Kauai High School	Kauai	KKW
Deena Moraes	Kilauea School	Kauai	KKW
Leila Maeda-Kobayashi	Koloa Elementary	Kauai	KKW
Melissa Speetjens	Waimea Canyon Middle	Kauai	KKW
Timothy Lino	Kalama Intermediate	Maui	BKM
Alison Uyehara (VP)	Kekaulike High School	Maui	BKM
Tracy Lui	Kihei Elementary	Maui	BKM
Halle Maxwell	Kihei High School	Maui	BKM
Amy Strand	King Kekaulike High School	Maui	BKKM
Stacy Bookland	Lahaina Intermediate School	Maui	HLLM
Lora-lea Grando	Lahainaluna High School	Maui	HLLM
Barbara Oura Tavares	Lihikai Elementary	Maui	BKM
Jo-Anne Higa	Maui High School	Maui	BKM
Elizabeth Ayotte (VP)	Maui High School	Maui	BKKM
Brittany Neizman (VP)	Maui High School	Maui	BKKM
Timothy Shim	Pomaikai Elementary	Maui	BKM
Paula Inouye	Waihee School	Maui	BKM
Nikan Arapoff	Wailuku Elementary	Maui	BKM
Noelani Castro (VP)	Wailuku Elementary	Maui	BKM
Daniel Espaniola	Kaunakakai Elementary	Molokai	HLLM
Shona Pineda	Kilohana Elementary School	Molokai	HLLM
Kainoa Pali	Molokai Middle School	Molokai	HLLM
Alisa Bender	Aiea Intermediate School	O'ahu	AMR
Michelle DeBusca	Ala Wai Elementary School	O'ahu	KMR
Brian Fukuda	Aliamanu Elementary	O'ahu	AMR

Sandra Yoshimi	Aliamanu Elementary	O'ahu	AMR
Tim Hosoda	Ali'iolani Elementary School	O'ahu	KMR
Sandra Watanabe	Alvah Scott Elementary School	O'ahu	AMR
Sandy Calio	Barbers Point Elementary	O'ahu	CK
Kathy Kahikina	Benjamin Parker Elementary School	O'ahu	CK
Yuuko Arikawa-Cross	Daniel K. Inouye Elementary	O'ahu	LMW
Mavis Tasaka	Dole Middle School	O'ahu	FKK
Blaine Kashiwaeda (VP)	Dole Middle School	O'ahu	FKK
Kristin Muramoto (VP)	Dole Middle School	O'ahu	FKK
Michael Davis (VP)	Dole Middle School	O'ahu	FKK
Pua McElhaney	Enchanted Lake Elementary School	O'ahu	KK
Stan Tamashiro	Ewa Elementary	O'ahu	CK
Bryan Honda, VP	Ewa Elementary	O'ahu	CK
James Aronica (VP)	Ewa Elementary School	O'ahu	CK
Kim Sanders	Ewa Makai Middle School	O'ahu	CK
Larisa Gadach (VP)	Ewa Makai Middle School	O'ahu	CK
Diana Agor (VP)	Ewa Makai Middle School	O'ahu	CK
Shannon Goo	Hahaione Elementary	O'ahu	FKK
Malaea Wetzel	Hale'iwa Elementary School	O'ahu	LMW
Ernest Muh	Helemano Elementary School	O'ahu	LMW
Patrick Wetzel	Hickam Elementary School	O'ahu	AMR
Amy Martinson	Highlands Intermediate School	O'ahu	PW
Gary Yasui	Holomua Elementary School	O'ahu	CK
Joyce Yang (VP)	Holomua Elementary School	O'ahu	CK
Noel Hakoda (VP)	Holomua Elementary School	O'ahu	CK
Todd Fujimori	Honouliuli Middle School	O'ahu	CK
Bryan Rankie	Ho'okele Elementary School	O'ahu	CK
Garett Yukumoto	Iliahi Elementary School	O'ahu	LMW
Christopher D. Bonilla	Ilima Intermediate	O'ahu	CK
Bernie Tyrell	James B. Castle High School	O'ahu	CK
Ervin Pasalo (VP)	James Campbell High School	O'ahu	CK
Flossie M. Steffany(VP)	James Campbell High School	O'ahu	CK
Jon Henry Lee	James Campbell High School	O'ahu	CK
Barry McCorkell (VP)	James Campbell High School	O'ahu	CK
Kathy Silva (VP)	James Campbell High School	O'ahu	CK
Garret Zakahi	Jefferson Elementary School	O'ahu	KMR
Jennifer Luke-Payne	Ka'a'awa Elementary School	O'ahu	CK
Cindy Yun-Kim	Kaahumanu Elementary	O'ahu	KMR
Cherilyn Inouye	Ka'elepulu Elementary	O'ahu	KK
Abey Qureshi	Kahuku Elementary School	O'ahu	CK
Donna Lindsey	Kahuku High and Intermediate	O'ahu	CK
Stacey Oshio	Kailua High School	O'ahu	KK
Jamie Dela Cruz	Kaimuki High School	Oahu	KMR
Justin S. N. Mew	Kaiser High	O'ahu	FKK
Dana Takahara-Dias (VP)	Kaiser High	O'ahu	FKK
Michael Viernes (VP)	Kaiser High	O'ahu	FKK
Andrew Szkotak (VP)	Kaiser High	O'ahu	FKK
Nelson Chee (AD)	Kaiser High	O'ahu	FKK

Lorelei Aiwohi	Kalakaua Middle School	O'ahu	FKK
Mitchell Otani	Kalani High School	O'ahu	FKK
Marc Kawahara	Kalihi Kai Elementary	O'ahu	FKK
Jenni Uchida	Kalihi Kai Elementary	O'ahu	FKK
Derek Santos	Kalihi Uka Elementary	O'ahu	FKK
Daniel Larkin	Kalihi Waena Elementary	O'ahu	FKK
Ronald Oyama	Kapalama Elementary School	O'ahu	FKK
Wesley Shinkawa	Kapolei High School	O'ahu	CK
Richard Fajardo	Kapolei Middle School	O'ahu	CK
Sonja Samsonas	Kauluwela Elementary School	O'ahu	KMR
Joseph Passantino	Ke'elikolani Middle School	O'ahu	KMR
Kau'i Tanaka	Keolu Elementary School	O'ahu	KK
Wendy Matsuzaki	King Intermediate School	O'ahu	CK
Jeffrey Shitaoka	Koko Head Elementary School	O'ahu	FKK
Lynn Kobayashi	Kuhio Elementary	O'ahu	KMR
Randall Miura	Leihoku Elementary	O'ahu	NW
Jason Nakamoto	Leilehua High School	O'ahu	LMW
Shelley Ferrara (VP)	Leilehua High School	O'ahu	LMW
Shawn Nakata (VP)	Leilehua High School	O'ahu	LMW
Shane Nakamura (TA-VP)	Leilehua High School	O'ahu	LMW
Deyon Nagato (VP)	Leilehua High School	O'ahu	LMW
Nolan Tokuda (AD)	Leilehua High School	O'ahu	LMW
Alan Lee	Liholiho Elementary School	O'ahu	FKK
Tami Marie Haili	Linapuni Elementary School	O'ahu	FKK
Jacqueline Ornellas	Lincoln Elementary School	O'ahu	KMR
Suzie Lee	Ma'ili Elementary	O'ahu	NW
Nathan Maeda	Maunawili Elementary	O'ahu	KK
Kyle Shimabukuro	Mililani Mauka Elementary	O'ahu	LMW
Robin Martin	Moanalua High School	O'ahu	AMR
Tara Hathaway (VP)	Moanalua High School	O'ahu	AMR
Wayne Guevara	Moanalua Middle School	O'ahu	AMR
Paloma Almanza	Mokapu Elementary	O'ahu	KK
Garrett Arakawa	Momilani Elementary School	O'ahu	PW
Vicky Nakasone (VP)	Nānāikapono Elementary School	Oahu	NW
Corey Allen	Nimitz Elementary School	O'ahu	AMR
Laura Ahn	Niu Valley Middle School	O'ahu	FKK
Bryan Gusman	Noelani Elementary School	O'ahu	KMR
Ned Uemae	Nu'uuanu Elementary School	O'ahu	KMR
Dale Arakaki	Pauoa Elementary	O'ahu	KMR
Zachary Sheets	Pearl City Highlands Elementary School	O'ahu	PW
Shannon Tamashiro	Pearl Harbor Elementary	O'ahu	AMR
Blaine Takeguchi	Pearl Ridge Elementary	O'ahu	AMR
Corey Barton	Pohakea Elementary	O'ahu	CK
Arnie Kikkawa	Pu`uhale Elementary School	Oahu	FKK
James Sunday	Radford High School	O'ahu	AMR
Komarey Moss	Red Hill Elementary	O'ahu	AMR
Laurie Luczak	RL Stevenson Middle School	O'ahu	KMR
Sean Wong	Roosevelt High School	O'ahu	KMR

Duwayne Abe	Salt Lake El.	O'ahu	AMR
Michael Jose	Shafter Elementary School	O'ahu	AMR
Eliza Elkington	Sunset Beach Elementary School	O'ahu	CK
Sean Takashima	Wahiawa Elementary School	O'ahu	LMW
Ursula Kawaguchi	Wahiawa Middle School	O'ahu	LMW
Alexandra Obra	Waiāhole Elementary School	O'ahu	CK
Varissa Pata	Waiālua Elementary School	O'ahu	LMW
Sheldon Konno	Wai'anae Elementary School	O'ahu	NW
Troy Takazono	Waiau Elementary	Oahu	PW
Stacy Kawamura (VP)	Waikele Elementary School	Oahu	PW
Sheldon Oshio	Waikele Elementary School	O'ahu	PW
Glen Iwamoto	Waimalu Elementary	O'ahu	AMR
Noel Richardson	Waimanalo Elementary & Intermediate	O'ahu	KK
Aaron Tominaga	Waipahu Elementary School	O'ahu	PW
Meryl Matsumura	Waipahu High School	O'ahu	PW
Elizabeth Higashi (VP)	Waipahu High School	O'ahu	PCW
Gary Chun (VP)	Waipahu High School	O'ahu	PW
Matthew Mitsuyuki (VP)	Waipahu High School	O'ahu	PW
Daryl Agena (VP)	Waipahu High School	O'ahu	PW
Kel Hirohata (VP)	Waipahu High School	O'ahu	PW
Michael Harano	Washington Middle School	O'ahu	KMR
Chad Matsuda	Webbing Elementary	O'ahu	AMR



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 6:31:18 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
G.S.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to H.B. NO. 2125 H.D. 2. HI Rev Stat § [711-1106](#) already defines harassment and establishes the act of harassment as a misdemeanor. There is no necessity on the part of the Legislature to enact yet another statute specifically for the harassment of educational workers. Further, H.B. NO. 2125 H.D. 2 is poorly written. Whereas HI Rev Stat § [711-1106](#) clearly defines what activity constitutes harassment, H.B. NO. 2125 H.D. 2 leaves the definition of harassment of an educational worker in a subjective state that is open to interpretation. An educational worker could make up any definition of harassment as they please and claim that the action "interrupted" or "interfered" with their function as an educational worker or administrator. The Legislature should instead investigate why there is suddenly a perceived need to create a specific statute addressing harassment of education workers. Perhaps the Legislature would do better by determining how educational workers can better work with parents and students and engage in a sharing of ideas on how the children the parents birthed and raised should be educated in Hawaii. It instead appears that there is brewing hostility between parents and educational workers because the curriculum is overwhelmingly influenced by educational concepts created outside of Hawaii that do not reflect the best interests or beliefs and morays of parents and students attending school in Hawaii. If any statute is to be enacted regarding education, it should require parent teacher and administration interaction in regular meetings to develop curriculum that is in the best interest of Hawaii residents with school children attending public schools. H.B. NO. 2125 H.D. 2 will simply increase any feelings of hostility between parents, students and educational workers without solving the underlying issues that cause concerned parents and students to reject the education Hawaii's children are receiving. Without resolution for all parties, this leads to frustration that may stir some parents and students to feel threatened by the education workers when their voices are not heard or headed. Subjectively turning normally law abiding parents and students into law breakers and giving them misdemeanor records is not the solution. For all of these reason, I strongly object to H.B. NO. 2125 H.D. 2.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 12:12:34 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Luis Ma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly opposed this bill, which this would lead to end result school have more authority than parents over them own children. Especially nowadays school start teaching LGBTQ materials in very younger age students which maybe not appropriate to a lot parents. Parents going start have strong opposed opinions once these LGBTQ materials start appearing in school lectures in very close future. This bill just provides a strong shield for teachers or teachers union pushing these agenda. Hope each committee members thinks serious what this bill lead too. If may happened one day in the future use to against you(committee members), you need know what materials or lectures going teach in school for your children or your grandchildren. Especially our keiki have very pure and opening mind in young age. So I strongly opposed this bill.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 8:18:49 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jonah K	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 6:34:26 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Lau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2125 as it is written. Harassment is already addressed in HRS 711-1106. There is no need for HB2125. This is only another blatant government overreach to give unmitigated power to any DOE employee if they so choose to penalize a parent/parents or any group or individual expressing their first amendment rights. All parents and guardian's have a right to communicate freely and are protected by the first amendment to have their voices heard. Law abiding citizens should not live in fear. HB2125 as it is written, will simply create a hostile environment in the community and will eliminate the ability for the community to have their voices heard. State and local officials should and can be held accountable. What HB2125 does will make it that much more difficult for transparency and accountability. The community will live in fear of speaking up to hold state officials accountable. This has nothing to do with safety.

I oppose HB2125.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 7:57:37 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Henry Vincent III	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2125 and the case to criminalize parents who express their God given and civil rights.

Views that may differ from a teacher or body indoctrinated by the HSTA and NEA to RIP the task of teaching values and rights of their children from families that are endowed by their birthright.

Laws already exist to punish disturbances in meetings.

Vote against HB2125

Henry Vincent III

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 12:33:51 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicole Sandry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Nicole Sandry, and I appreciate the opportunity to testify in OPPOSITION of HB2125, which creates a misdemeanor for disrupting or interfering with administration or functions of any school administration, office, or school board, effective 7/1/2050. While I support the protection of DOE and BOE employees, I am concerned with the possibility of overreach and misinterpretation implicated in HB2125.

In Section 3 of HB2125, it defines harassment of an educational worker as “a person with intent to impede the government operations of an educational worker, that person disrupts or interferes with the administration or functions of any school, school administration office, or school board.” However, there is no definition to suggest what perceived threats this bill addresses. It is unconscionable, and potentially unconstitutional, to allow a vague bill such as this to pass with no clear definition of a threat or disruption let alone no clear path to resolution.

When the DOE or BOE fails a student or a student is unable to advocate for themselves, they rely on others to be their champion for academic success in a safe, equitable learning environment (oftentimes a parent, guardian, or case worker). If passed, what would this bill allow the DOE or BOE to implement to potentially impede the advocacy of our students’ well-being and academic success?

Prior to introducing this bill, did the DOE or BOE consider holding a forum to receive feedback and actively listen to the concerns of the parents and individuals rather than allow their teachers to take the brunt of the negative feedback brought on by their policies? Perhaps if they provided an open forum to actively listen and consider these concerns, rather than ignore and disregard them as a nuisance, there would be less animosity between the government and the citizens they serve.

Sincerely,

Nicole Sandry

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 12:43:29 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sheila Gage	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill in particular because;

- 1) Harassment laws are already in place for the State of Hawaii. A separate law for teachers/DOE staff is NOT needed.
- 2) There is not enough data as only 6 cases of "threat" were cited by which does not justify this punitive bill
- 3) This bill goes against IDEA which is a federal law
- 4) Every parent/child has the right to oppose what's being taught in the DOE system
- 5) I currently have over 15 grandchildren in the DOE system. I represent all of them and their parents in opposition to this measure. Their names can be provided upon request.
- 6) While my own 11 children went through the DOE system. I had to fight for their rights and go against what was "recommended" by the DOE. Why? Because my 3rd child was denied a BOE diploma because I trusted who I "thought" were professionals ensuring the best education for my son who did not complete 1 course needed for that prestigious diploma that he "should" have gotten and the counselors did not inform us of this, so it didn't happen. I will continue to educate parents not to make the same mistake with their own children's education. NEVER leave the decisions or feel the need to follow the recommendations of any DOE staff when it comes to the educational aspects of their children.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 11:51:56 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joyce Murakami	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony. I would have loved to be able to testify in person as well, however, the current unlawful mandates do not allow me into the People's House.

While I strongly support and endorse protection for all educators (as the current law HRS §711-1106 already addresses the issue of harassment). I **strongly oppose** HR2125, as parents, we should have the right to be involved in our children's education. We should be able to speak to and question not only the Board of Education about what is being taught but also be able to choose out for our children if we feel what is being taught is inappropriate. For example, HB1697 or CRT is not the function of the public education system, and passing HB2125 will violate our parental rights, our freedom to choose, and our liberties to pursue happiness for us as parents and in our children's education.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to reject HB2125. Mahalo for your time.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Joyce Murakami



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 1:06:20 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chanel Wahinepio	Testifying for Wai ho'ola	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and committee members,

As a mother of a teen on the severe end of the Autism spectrum, I am quite uncomfortable with the following amendment—“(3) Amending the offense of harassment of an educational worker to require that the person commits the offense with intent to impede the government operations of an educational worker, rather than with the intent to harass, annoy, or alarm an educational worker;”.

If I am exercising my parental right to advocate for my child during an IEP meeting, then could that be misinterpreted to “impede the government operations of an educational worker”?

If “this bill is not intended to apply to rational disagreements between parents and schools”, then this bill needs to clearly state that, so that parents like myself do not feel threatened or scared that my federal rights under IDEA are being violated.

The purpose of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act), [1], as described in the current law, is to “assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life”.

More data is needed to justify this bill—only 6 cases of parent “threat” were cited. Hawaii already has harassment laws in place.

I have established a good, working relationship with my child’s SPED teacher, RBTs, and IEP team members; this bill would cause unnecessary tension between parents and DOE staff.

With over 95% of the online testimonies being opposed to this bill, how did it pass this far in the legislative process? There were many suggestions made in those testimonies who oppose the bill. I ask you to consider them.

Parents, like myself, are trying to help our children thrive and become productive members of our community. This bill would hurt their future and our society.

I strongly oppose HB2125. Mahalo for hearing my testimony.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 10:57:40 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Sowders	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to VOTE NO on HB2125, which will limit parental rights relative to what Hawaii schools and teachers are teaching our children. All parents should have access to the teachers, school management and board meetings of schools their children attend, and be allowed to share their concerns, in writing and/or verbally, without any fear of being fined or physically threatened to be removed from the school and/or meeting grounds. This bill defines "harassment" so narrowly, that parents can be restricted from voicing their concerns more than once, which may be necessary to be heard and understood, and ensure their concerns are being addressed. As a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Hawaii, our voices should matter, and you should listen to the people that elected you into office and not try to shove your personal preferences down our throat, behind closed doors, knowing full well that it is not the desire of "we the people". Thank you, and your vote will be remembered come next election.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 9:59:41 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kyle Maxwell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Being criminally prosecuted for questioning the narrative is fascism. All people in the United States/Hawai'i already have significant protections from harassment. Government workers including the doe are not above anyone else. We are equals and have the right to question and speak freely.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 6:19:44 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeannine Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While it is shocking to see the harassment of educational officials on the mainland this past year, this bad behavior is not confined to the continent. There are plenty of bad actors here in Hawai'i who disrupt or interfere with the administration or functions of our schools, school administration offices, or school boards. As a former school Board member, I was shocked to see what happened at Kaiser High School during the years my two sons attended. From yelling and screaming to actual fights with coaches and teachers. We need this bill. Mahalo for your support.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 2:31:33 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
CRISTINE NATIVIDAD	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2125 as well as its companion bill in the Senate. While I do believe that the DOE and BOE workers should be treated with the utmost respect, the language in the bill is ambiguous and may lead to severe misinterpretation of the law. Passing the bill would infringe on our basic civil right, freedom of speech. It will also get in the way of a persons right to protest against school policy or functions, some of which are severely outdated. If a person cannot speak due to the fear that he/she will be reprimanded then there can no longer be an equal relationship between the school and the parents

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 4:26:49 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gary Fuchikami	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill as we don't need any more coddling of DOE staff. There's already more than adequate "anti-harrassment" laws on the books. We don't need you wasting our taxpayer monies and time cooking up more nonsense bills. If you insist in doing this kind of things, we may start a movement to have Legislative sessions for only 3 months every 2 years like some states on the mainland do. This would save taxpayers millions of dollars in frivolous spending.

Finally, where's the bill to protect Parents from harrassment from DOE employees? We're the ones who are being threatened to lose our Constitutional God-given Parental Rights! Aloha, if that means anything anymore.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 6:43:24 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joseph La Vine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2125 HD2. There are already laws for harassment. BOE and DOE personnel are not a protected class. Parents have a right to legitimately question administrators regarding their children's education curriculum. Harassment laws should be enforced whenever they are violated no matter who they are. Thank you for your consideration.



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 11:36:32 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Erin Lamay	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2125. Parents and guardians have every right to speak up/ question/ have a say in/ and disagree with anything that affects our children while on campus. A teacher or any staff member can call it "harassment" in order to keep parents quiet. This is unconstitutional and violates our parental rights to speak up for our children.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 12:18:17 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Judith Brock	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, because it leaves too much to personal interpretation that could be skewed against parents or individuals speaking out against inappropriate material being taught to their children. Teachers or school boards are NOT special and should not be treated as such. The existing law dealing with harassment is sufficient to handle those instances when people cross the line of reasonable and civil discourse.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 5:10:24 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Adele Kuge	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it is unnecessary:

- This bill is punitive to discriminatory to the advocacy of special needs parents
- The purpose and intent of this bill conflicts with parent rights under IDEA/federal law
- Targets minority and disadvantaged families
- Ruins the parent-school relationship (indicator for student success)
- HIDOE can address the issues raised in testimony by guidelines set forth in current state and federal law
- It is duplicative of current harassment law
- It is ambiguous and subjectively interpreted
- Does not identify who will enforce or adjudicate “harassment”

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 7:55:28 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brett Kulbis	Testifying for Honolulu County Republican Party	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Honolulu County Republican Party **OPPOSES** this bill.

HB-2125 is not about safety, we wish it was. No, HB-2125 is about criminalizing parental involvement in their keiki's education. We see it as a clear warning from the DOE/BOE to parents, tutus, aunties, uncles, if you have an issue with what the State is teaching, introducing and exposing your keiki to, tough, keep it to yourself or risk a possible \$2,000 in fines or up to one year in jail.

This is a law looking for a crime. Even in the House Committee testimony, none of the supporters could provide empirical evidence that there was a problem. Current law (§711-1106) already addresses the issue of harassment, but apparently that's not good enough.

It's obvious the Board of Education, Department of Education and Hawaii State Teachers Association union want to make themselves a special class with special considerations and special laws.

We urge you to vote NO and kill this bill in committee.

Respectfully,

Brett Kulbis  
Chairman

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 7:29:09 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Breyonna Cadina	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Every parent has a right to contact their child's school teachers or administration to discuss any topic concerning their child/ children. There is already a law in place in the State of Hawaii for harassment; so there is no need for a bill that will give limitations, or a chance for limitations for a parent to be involved in their child/ children's education or safety at school.

Special Education parents need to be advocates for the children that can not speak for themselves. With Bill 2125 that would prohibit those parents from being involved in a manner that is needed for their children.

"It takes a village to raise a child." That is one of the most quotable sayings for parents. That village includes schools. When my son was a Junior in high school he was having difficulties in school. I met with the Principal, Vice Prinicpal, Counselor, and all of his teachers. We discussed what everyone was observing; and a plan on how to help him was developed. I was in contact with each of them with no restrictions and we were able to help him do better. He improved because there was open communication and a support team there for him. With a bill like HB2125 I would not have been able to communicate as openly as I did; and I don't think there would have been the success that we saw.

There are more reasons to oppose this bill then there are reasons to have this bill in place. Don't take away our rights, as parents, to be involved in their education. We all want our children to succeed in school. I OPPOSE this bill.

Thank you for your time.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 1:49:06 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jason Yoshimoto	Testifying for Hawaii Department of Education	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*This is a necessary bill to protect our school administrators, and educators, who in rare occasions are harassed/threatened by the public with no recourse. We are not referring to disagreements, or minor disputes, but rather the extreme cases in which members of the community make threatening gestures, remarks, letters, and/or phone calls that hinder and/or interfere with our ability to service our students, staff and community in the proper manner.*

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 1:48:41 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The parents have authority over the School Board or the Teachers or Employees they Have to be able to Check if the Childern are being Respected and taught in the Right way. If the School does not allow this they should be shut DOWN. They must be Practicing illegal Acts that they do not want the parents to know about!! Every thing has to be in the OPEN!!

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 10:13:35 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Craig Dansie	Testifying for We the People	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

NO



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 7:05:41 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Toby Rushforth	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**HB2125 Hawaii Legislature Testimony on “Harassment of an Educational Worker” as a criminal act**

**I strongly oppose HB2125. Why are we proposing this? The perpetual adversarial relationships it creates reveal an abominable legal proposal. The cure will be far worse than the problem. We can fix this!**

**This government assault on private citizens has to stop! Make it now! Department of Education? Boards of Education - Do your job, instead of calling in the Gestapo!**

**For well over a century, the relationship between parents and teachers has been under local control that resulted in a harmonious relationship between parents and teachers. The result was a warm fuzzy that each had done their best for the children. My childhood education was blessed by this as a norm. What has changed? Amazingly, no one is even asking Why this chaos is happening at this time? (I won't distract you with that.)**

**Ideally parents and teachers have and maintain a very collaborative and congenial relationship. They are adults who are doing what is best for the children. The current situation being addressed in HB2125, represents a total breakdown of this wonderful past, traditional relationship. To make matters worse, the cure is even worse than “the problem.” Criminalizing the parents is really great for the kids, right? Is that really the best we can do - divisiveness?**

- 1. I note that those in favor of HB2125 if anything, mention only themselves. The children / students are only referred to as leverage for government teachers, Unions and the educational establishment (Guv'mint) to get what they want.**

**Think About It:**

**Parents are customers. Their relationship with their children is for a lifetime. Bottom line: They provide for all physical needs – a home, food, clothing, a sense of security, etc. That also means reinforcing Community values and principles, which are for the most part, defined by community adults, the parents of the school children. Parents are recognized as guardians who are “legally” responsible for preparing children to be useful members of society that eventually become self-sufficient for a lifetime.**

1. **Schools, teachers and the Educational Establishment are paid by the Community as service providers. Each has only a year, more or less, to make a positive impact of their specialty on the future of each student. Schools & the Educational Establishment, provide the tax payer funded service by helping students develop skills and knowledge required to eventually function as adults. They provide this key service that is properly defined by the local community? In fact there is a certain contractual aspect involved here. To start with, that would be “reading, writing and arithmetic.” Beyond that would be teaching about logic, cause & effect. Among other things, they would also teach students about History so students can later fix & build upon our successes and failures. The schools are also responsible for teaching children open minded social skills, learning priorities and HOW to learn. The teachers should actually be revered role models for helping students understand options for their future and deciding what they want to be.**
2. **Schools have begun to evolve into a radically different enterprise that exists mainly for the bureaucracy. They have become a way for government to dictate and have control over the people they are supposed to serve. Big money, often from government levels far above the local community, now drive the curriculum and various agendas that amount to little more than student indoctrination, rather than what we have traditionally called EDUCATION.**

**One must ask – Why are some parents losing it at school board meetings – Why? Could it be that they are crazy concerned about what is happening to their children in the school(s) they are paying for? AND – we want to jail them for it? Get a grip! At its worst this amounts to abduction of the children (unless parents have the option of a private school).**

**The worm has turned and government (and yes, the Unions) are now dictating to local communities all manner of government priorities, social and other agendas, to the point that the welfare of students is routinely subverted to other priorities.**

**Do not use government mandates and “Gestapo” to throttle and criminalize anyone that is critical of what is happening in “government schools.” They are probably right? Come up with some collaborative ways (an organizational construct perhaps) for adults on “both sides” to fix the problems that are now being used as a false basis for this obsession with beating concerned parents over the head with HB 2125. Many years ago, Our “Parent-Teachers Association (PTA)” was a core of community harmony.**

**Let me repeat: Department of Education? Boards of Education? Do your job! Government Gestapo, bug out.**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 8:25:14 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Miya Oliver	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely Miya Oliver

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 10:46:31 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Clinton Takahashi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Whoever introduced this bill should be ashamed of themselves! What is it really about? Money?

My son was on an IEP and we had to advocate on his behalf to get services. Because we were able to get the resources for him, he is doing very well in college. This bill will discourage parents and guardians to advocate for their children and make it easier for the DOE to deny services. At the end of the day, children will not reach their full potential and it will cost the state more money.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 9:06:37 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Renee Dieperink	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **oppose** HB2125 HD2 because we already have laws that address this.

As a teacher myself I have been in meetings with parents who became somewhat beligerent towards the administrators. From my own experience I saw this happening because the needs of these students were not met. DOE stipulates that first we have to do this, then try that, etc. Sometimes the severity and frequency of a student's behavior should warrant immediate help of a higher level than what the school is allowed to offer next. I always advocate for my students first, and totally felt the parents' frustration. I do feel that some of these parents went too far to the point where you could call their behavior harrassment, but I also feel that this was due to DOE not addressing the students' needs satisfactory. Maybe this is something we could look into instead of penalizing the parents for advocating for their kids? I know that the administrators and all DOE personnel in such meetings have their hands tied because of certain rules, and I don't blame the administrators either. The system as is doesn't always work well for the issues we are dealing with. Please look into this. Does anyone wonder WHY some parents harrass the educational workers? I'm not talking about a few "loose canons" here...there always are those.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 9:12:33 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cathy Velasco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill because first this is America and we have our First Amendment which is Freedom of Speech. I as a parent has the right to have a civil manner and peaceful conversation discussion regarding my child's education which may interpret and misunderstood as a harassment or misdemeanor with any DOE employees especially when a student is minor and can't speak for themselves.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 9:36:14 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Expedita Pasion	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposing HB 2125. I don't want to allow DOE to criminalize parents who are looking after what are being taught in the schools. Parents have rights to question. We are still a Democratic nation and we have freedom of speech. Sincerely, Edie Pasion ( concerned Grand mother)

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 9:17:00 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alan Kaneko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill given that:

1. Hawaii already has harassment laws in place
2. There is insufficient data that justifies this punitive bill against parents who advocate for services on behalf of their children
3. This bill goes against IDEA which is federal law



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 1:12:00 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolina Carreira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose the passing of this law. It states harassment of an educational worker as "intent to impede the government operations of an educational worker, that person disrupts or interferes with the administration or functions of any school, school administration office, or school board." May I remind our legislators that is NOT the definition of harassment that is **already spelled out by 2013 Hawaii Revised statutes Title 37. Hawaii Penal Code 71. Offenses Against Public Order 711-1106 Harassment.**

**Harassment is defined by the aforementioned penal code as:**

*§711-1106 Harassment. (1) A person commits the offense of harassment if, with intent to harass, annoy, or alarm any other person, that person:*

*(a) Strikes, shoves, kicks, or otherwise touches another person in an offensive manner or subjects the other person to offensive physical contact;*

*(b) Insults, taunts, or challenges another person in a manner likely to provoke an immediate violent response or that would cause the other person to reasonably believe that the actor intends to cause bodily injury to the recipient or another or damage to the property of the recipient or another;*

*(c) Repeatedly makes telephone calls, facsimile transmissions, or any form of electronic communication as defined in section 711-1111(2), including electronic mail transmissions, without purpose of legitimate communication;*

*(d) Repeatedly makes a communication anonymously or at an extremely inconvenient hour;*

*(e) Repeatedly makes communications, after being advised by the person to whom the communication is directed that further communication is unwelcome; or*

*(f) Makes a communication using offensively coarse language that would cause the recipient to reasonably believe that the actor intends to cause bodily injury to the recipient or another or damage to the property of the recipient or another.*

Educational workers are included and already protected by this penal code which makes this bill redundant. It is also disturbing that harassment in this bill is painted with very broad and

ambiguous strokes. **It is clear what the authors of this bill propose is to penalize parents who simply wish to protest radical ideas that are being pushed in public schools. Disrupting, interfering, or impeding government operations classifies a form of protest which is a CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT.** How do you expect parents to trust in a fair process with this kind of legislation? Furthermore, educational workers would not need "added protection" if the government/Department of Education did not feel the need to introduce highly inappropriate subjects in school such as with the introduction of HB1697.

Shame on the legislators who introduced and support this bill. Your intentions may be good but I implore you to see that you are polarizing the relationship between parents and educational workers. You are causing the very rift you seek to deter. You cause division and strife amongst the people of your communities. As a person who values peace, compromise and harmony please know that I can't in good faith support or vote for any government official who supports this bill.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 10:14:35 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kevin J. Cole	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am vehemently opposed to HB 2125. The foundation of public education is built upon trust. HB 2125 erodes the trust between school boards, parents and taxpayers. The attempt to criminalize discussion and debate smacks of censorship of the worst kind.

One cannot help but notice that HB 2125 is tied to HB 1697 the so-called Sexual Health bill. Both bills seek to cut out paternal concerns and stifle parental inputs. This is exactly what caused the problems in Loudoun county VA when their school board tried to cover up sexual assault cases within the school system. Does the legislature want the go down this same path and open the state up to a myriad of lawsuits? I think not.

Parents ARE the ultimate authority when it comes to how children should be raised. Schools are the junior partner in this endeavor, and like all junior partners, they need to be held accountable for their actions. Outlawing dialogue between parents and schools is a road that should not be traveled.

Again please do not let HB 2125 become law.

Mahalo,

Kevin J. Cole, Mililani

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 10:02:45 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
james wallace	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2125 1000000%Our government has to Stop behaving like Communist!!!!Freedom of speech is OUR RIGHT.WE THE PEOPLE,don't forget that.YOU work for us and majority of Americans and Hawaii believe in Freedom of Speech.We Will speak for the vulnerable our Keiki's for there health and well being.Planbucherhood is putting this demonic bill HB1697 in play so they can indoctrinate OUR children.WE WILL SPEAK OUT,WE WILL FIGHT BACK.If you support this bill we will find a way to vote you out!!!Anal Fisting child teaching has to go and we will sound off,Don't pretend we will let this slide.Protecting Keiki's is PRIORITY!!!!!!

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 10:11:14 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
kelsey ropati	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ido noit consent nor support this bill as it will revoke my rights as a parent in my childs education. its immoral and disgusting

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 10:28:53 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Malia Daraban	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose this Bill. As a parent of 3 children and as a professional parent advocate, this is the complete opposite of what Department of Education need from parents. Hawaii School systems continue to fail our students and is ranked one of the lowest in the nation. We need parent involvement on all levels and to be able to hold DOE accountable.

Mahalo

Malia Daraban

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 11:25:01 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Linee Reeves	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to HB 2125, it is not clearly defined and may be misinterpreted. For example, parents that advocate for their children that receive Special Education services will feel intimidated and resist asking questions, avoid hard discussions, and may be hesitant in gathering information they need to make informed decisions and meaningfully participate in their child's IEP. Parent involvement and engagement with the school is a protective factor and beneficial for our children. We are responsible for our children's academic needs and achievement, acquiring necessary resources, and appropriate services in Special Education. Some parents may not want to engage because they might feel they're bothering or being a nuisance. HB 2125 may be intimidating for our "hard to reach" families- ESL, low income, parents that work multiple jobs, displaced and/or homeless. Does this affect Special Education students when their rights are being transferred over to them? Is it appropriate to move forward in advocating for Special Education, Family Engagement, or when there is a disagreement between parents and the school? This could potentially mute and silence our families, break their trust in the system, and it may harden the gap in building relationships between parents and their child's school.

Mahalo,

Linee Reeves

## **HB2125: Relating to Official School Business**

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and members of the committee.

My name is Hope Coyaso, a constituent hailing from Kalaheo, Kaua'i writing **in support of HB2125**. Our educators are integral leaders in our communities who dedicate themselves to bringing up our future generations despite difficult working conditions and insufficient pay. In addition, Hawai'i educators are vulnerable to harassment with insufficient protection from their employer, the DOE.

Studies among educators have found that harassment is not uncommon, with approximately one-third of teachers reporting that they have experienced verbal harassment or threatening behavior at least once. Furthermore, a recent study by the American Psychiatric Association has found that teachers and associated school staff members have been facing increasing amounts of harassment throughout the pandemic, increasing the need for official protections from harassment for our educators.

The consequences of harassment can be severe both personally for our educators, with emotional and mental consequences, but also for our community. Our educators are unable to perform to the best of their ability and are more likely to quit as a result of being harassed. The state is already experiencing a great deficit of teachers and we cannot afford to lose more because we fail to protect the ones we currently have.

Many of my closest friends are new teachers and several of them have faced harassment while performing their jobs. Rather than being able to solely focus on their jobs, my friends deal with a persistent worry of being harassed, *again*. I hear from my friends how they do not anticipate a lifelong career in education because they anticipate burning out or no longer being able to cope with harassment that has seem to have become expected in the profession. With limited official protections for teachers, we as a community are enforcing this idea that harassment is simply a part of being a teacher.

I am writing **in support of HB2125 because being an educator does not mean volunteering to be abused and harassed; our educators deserve our support and protection**. Thank you for your time and reception of this testimony.

Mahalo,

Hope Coyaso



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 6:24:12 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
J. BERLIN	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2125 for the protection of DOE school administrators, workers, and students.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 6:16:50 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Louis Erteschik	Testifying for Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

When I first saw this bill I assumed it was to protect teachers against the bad behavior we have witnessed on the mainland with anti vaccine and anti masking individuals harassing school boards and school personnel. However, when I saw the testimony of Russell Suzuki I became very concerned. He seemed to make it clear that the intent was to target parents of special education children who were advocating for their educational needs. He specifically referenced parents who may "play games" with the administrative due process system. Now while we don't advocate that anyone manipulate the legal system, clearly that is not criminal behavior and his comments were very inappropriate. Moreover, they have caused quite a lot of stir and anguish among parents who have organized to strongly oppose the bill.

That said, we don't necessarily believe that everyone in the DOE is in agreement with what he said and we do see a need to protect teachers. It may be that the current law is sufficient for that purpose. If the legislature feels that it is not, then we suggest that any measure which advances makes it clear that it is targeting specifically violent or abusive behavior and that it is not going to be overbroad and unintentionally "trap" parents who are genuinely concerned and upset at the way the DOE has failed to provide a FAPE for their child.

We would be happy to be a part of a constructive discussion along those lines as we seek to strike a reasonable balance between the competing interests that we have articulated.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 11:43:45 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Don King	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 2125 and urge you to vote against it. As this bill is written it could easily be abused by school personnel who disagree with parents about what is best for their children's welfare and education. It will disempower parents from peacefully advocating for their children. A forceful advocate could now arbitrarily be labeled as abusive by the school and arrested. This is not the path to a cooperative and positive parent school relationship, but the opposite. Parental involvement is the most reliable metric for students educational success. It should be encouraged. In this process the school is not automatically right, and in any issue there is disagreement on there should be two way dialog not reached by giving schools authoritarian power over parents.

Is this bill necessary? If someone is truly abusive and threatening aren't there already laws in place to deal with that? I am concerned that this will disempower parents who may have a disagreement with their school. Please vote against this bill.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 12:37:33 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rita Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to oppose this bill that criminalizes parents. It is wrong that it is even being considered. Praying that it does not pass!!

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 12:59:03 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
joseph gaynor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It seems that this bill was designed mostly because of the problems related to mask wearing during the Covid pandemic. Teachers and administrators have enough on their plates as it is, without listening to and responding to mask wearing and Covid protocol complaints from parents. But as most of the protocols will not be in place in the very near future, I believe the harassment will decrease dramatically. And as far as direct physical or threatening verbal abuse against school officials, the police should be called and the perpetrator should be cited. However, this bill is very broad. I heard Russell Suzuki state that it could be used against the parents of Special needs children who don't answer emails and phone calls regardless upcoming meetings that relate to federal funding... or who "clog" the phone lines and email with complaints. Who is the judge or jury regarding whether a upset parent has a legitimate complaint or is just "clogging the phone lines" (Suzuki's words) or "purposely "(his words again) using up administrators time to get answers to their concerns. This Bill is way too broad in scope and I feel can be used by the DOE to just minimize the work DOE administrators have to do to answer to or really solve a more complex legitimate problem or concern a Special Needs Parent may have.



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

**RANDY PERREIRA**, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii  
The Senate  
Committee on Education

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 23, 2022

**H.B. 2125, H.D. 2 — RELATING TO OFFICIAL SCHOOL BUSINESS**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the intent of H.B. 2125, which creates a misdemeanor for disrupting or interfering with the administration or functions of any school, school administration office, or school board.

In a memorandum issued by Attorney General Merrick Garland in October 2021, he wrote, “Threats against public servants are not only illegal, they run counter to our nation’s core values. Those who dedicate their time and energy to ensuring that our children receive a proper education in a safe environment deserve to be able to do their work without fear for their safety.” The Attorney General issued his memo in response to the increase in harassment, intimidation, and threats of violence against school employees nationwide. Our schools in Hawaii are not immune to these problems.

Every school year, we are informed by our members of threats made directly at them or witnessed by them in the course of their employment and within the scope of their duties and responsibilities. These threats occur in school offices, at meetings, over the phone, via email, and more recently, through social media posts and comments. We strongly support any efforts to increase protection for our educational workers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 2125, H.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 4:59:08 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Press	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Michael Press. I am a teacher at Ilima Intermediate in Ewa Beach on Oahu. I support this bill and I urge you to do the same. Thank you.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 5:37:03 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB 665.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Maui



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 3:48:16 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joseph Yoshimura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is outrageous and gives too much power to the DOE and teachers while taking the rights of parents to parent their children the way they desire. Criminalizing parents just for disagreeing with what a teacher may be indoctrinating their children with. That is the true crime here and this bill should not be put through by any means. Education is great, but parents should have the final say in anything their child is learning. Especially since many teachers have gone from being actual teachers of any given education subject to social justice warriors. Teachers and the DOE are not gods and don't have all the knowledge in the world to make their word the final say. Who's to say who is right and who is wrong? The DOE certainly doesn't have all the answers.

Daniel Santos  
619 Keolu Drive  
Kailua, HI 96734

March 21, 2022

Dear Senator Kidani and Senate Committee on Education:

My name is Daniel Santos. I am the father of a teenager on the autism spectrum who receives special education services from the State Department of Education (DOE). I am providing this written testimony as I am very concerned about the chilling impact on parental rights and free speech from HB 2125 HD2. **I am opposed to this bill** as it is punitive to discriminatory to the advocacy of special needs parents. The purpose and intent of this bill conflicts with parent rights under the federal IDEA and duplicates the existing State law against harassment.

**2125 HD2 is unnecessary as DOE staff already have protection from harassment from an existing State law**

Keeping DOE staff safe is something everyone wants. A safe school environment benefits everyone. Desiring school safety is not limited to DOE staff. I want students and families to also be safe. While I strongly agree that keeping DOE staff is important, this bill is unnecessary because there is an existing anti-harassment law in this state that already protects DOE staff and that law already makes it a misdemeanor to commit harassment.

HRS §711-1106 states a person commits harassment if they (to paraphrase) strike, shove, kick, offensively touch, insult taunt, challenges another person or repeatedly makes telephone calls, fax transmission or any other forms of electronic communication repeatedly and makes the communication using offensively coarse language. Harassment is a petty misdemeanor.

What the DOE should do is enforce the existing State harassment law. The DOE should also train its administrators and districts on conflict resolution and addressing parent concerns.

**Chilling impact on rights of parents with students in Special Education and existing DOE processes protect DOE staff**

While this bill is purportedly submitted as protection for DOE employees, it is clear from testimony submitted by Mr. Russell Suzuki (DOE Risk Manager) on February 24, 2022 that the purpose of the bill is targeted at Special Needs parents. Mr. Suzuki stated that Special Education parents refuse to accept dates given for meetings in a timely manner and that some of the Special Education parents verbally or in writing harass DOE staff.

DOE already has recourse to deal with parents who fail to accept special education meeting dates. There's the Hawaii Procedural Safeguards, the Federal Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and the above cited Hawaii harassment law. All three of these give ample recourse to the DOE to handle any parent who may harass them or is non responsive to their communication. This proposed bill does not add anything that DOE doesn't already have.

This bill has a chilling impact on Special Education parents who often have to be the advocates for their children with severe disabilities. Many of these children are non-verbal or minimally verbal. Parents are their voices. These children need someone to speak for them, advocate for them and ensure their rights are upheld. Advocating for these children means communicating frequently with DOE staff on topics that are difficult and complex. The federal IDEA sections §300.300 and §300.322 stress the importance of parental participation and parental consent in the special education process. A parent is an equal participant, under the IDEA, every step of the way just as much as any teacher or principal. Parents cannot be silenced and threatened with a misdemeanor when the DOE does not like what a parent has to say. This bill allows the DOE to target parents it wants and ruins the school/parent relationship. Many studies have shown the best indicator of success for a child is a parent who is involved in the child's education. How can I be involved in the process if I have to fear that I will be charged with a misdemeanor.

In order to keep track of various issues as a Special Education parent, I must sometimes address each issue separately by letter or email. This allows me to keep track of each issue in a systematic way. Addressing multiple issues in one email or one letter conflates things and allows issues to remain unresolved. When Special Education parents send several letters they are not harassing DOE employees. These parents are using best practices to ensure each issue is addressed. I would hate to be charged with a misdemeanor simply because I sent several emails or several letters to the DOE that it did not like.

**Bill is overly broad and not backed with case studies or data**

The DOE should make public the data that necessitated this bill. Where is that data?

This bill is not supported by any case studies, data, or statements from government lawyers who have prosecuted special education parents for harassment. If this is such a problem for the DOE that it warrants creating a new misdemeanor just for the harassment of DOE employees, where are the statements from State Attorney General's Office and City Prosecutor's Office? Surely if there is a plethora of special education parents who harass DOE employees, we would hear from these two offices as they would have to press charges against numerous parents. There's silence here. All Mr. Suzuki has offered is his opinion and anecdotal statements.

The bill is overly broad. This bill does not identify who will enforce or adjudicate the "harassment". The bill will disproportionately affect minority and disadvantaged families while also working to suppress free speech rights of parents.

You as our legislators have the power to protect our special education keiki and ensure their rights and future are protected. Please be pono and do the right thing and do not pass this bill. Mahalo.

*Daniel Santos*

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 3:36:40 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paul Kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I rise in opposition to this bill.

The language used is much too broad in scope. It can easily be interpreted to outlaw any type of 1st amendment protected protest. This is in response to months' old allegation by the national teachers' association which was proven to be a talking point originating from the Biden administration DOJ.

If you want to strengthen protections for teachers against threats and violence, that's fine, but the language is overly broad and can be used to paint any parent or citizen who is unhappy with the education system and speaks up at a school board as an illegal aggressor.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:02:13 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jill White	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am opposed to HB2125. As a special needs parent who has gone through due process with the State of Hawaii we need open lines of communication with DOE to avoid the costly and lengthy litigious process when communications fail. We have the right to be an active participant to the IEP/ 504/ etc process and this bill attempts to mute parental voices in our children's education. Please stop this bill now.

Mahalo,

Jill White

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 5:21:57 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jean Leong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Parents have concerns; parents have a right to get involved in their children's education. This is working together with the educators for the good of our keikis. If a situation comes to where harassment if a problem, true consideration was not present. Be it the parents or the educators, a \$2000 fine or jail time is definitely not the answer for either group. The educators cannot impose what parents are adamately opposed to. Should the educators be fined or imprisoned? I opposed HB2125

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:22:38 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
DAVE SMITH	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Parents need to be able to provide feedback to educators without the fear of it being labeled harassment. What do our educators have to hide and what are they afraid of? Why do they want to be exempt from criticism? Who decided what qualifies as harassment is simply disagreeing with a teacher considered harassment? The State should not advocate the criminalization of parents' rights when it comes to our children. They aren't the children of the State.**

**As a parent of two children, it deeply concerns me that this Legislature would want to side with a small minority of people who view everything as a micro-aggression.**

**The silencing of dissenting voices is one more step towards the boxcar. We never just wake up and are loaded up. Its small steps like these slowly erode away people's will to resist. We always ask ourselves how dif that happen? This is how it happens.**

**Words of Wisdom from History**

**First, they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.**

**Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a trade unionist.**

**Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.**

**Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.**

**If those are the standards you want to set, remember that it always comes for you.**





**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 5:22:21 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Roxanne Earwood	Testifying for Aloha Freedom Coalition	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vote NO on HB2125. This bill does not reflect the will of the people. Free speech of American citizens is a protected right, as declared in the Constitution of the United States. Laws contrary to the Constitution of the United States are null and void. Parents MUST have access to communicate freely with teachers, administrators, superintendents, and school boards. Whose children are they? The children belong to parents, who must play an active role in the education of their children. This bill creates subjective and vague guidelines as to appropriate communication between parents and educators. Sufficient harassment laws are already on the books to cover any behaviors that exceed necessary communication between parents and educators. Bills such as HB1697 and HB2125 reveal a deeper agenda of the legislators of Hawaii, and that is to protect government officials, departments, unions, and government-appointed school boards from being held accountable to the People of Hawaii, the parents and families of Hawaii's schoolchildren, putting Hawaii's government above the People. That is backwards and upside down. The government of Hawaii exists to serve the People and to represent the will of the People in word, deed, and law. What should be made into law is a Parent's Bill of Rights, which gives them their rightful and due place in the education of their children. These children belong to parents and families, not the state. Parents want, need, and deserve the strongest voice in determining curriculum, programs, and activities being offered to our children in the public school setting. Listen to the parents! We want our children unmasked at school! We don't want inappropriate sex education at school which conflicts with our family values. We want to be able to communicate freely with public school officials and government officials, and hold them accountable for their decisions and actions. This is the law of the land, the Constitutions of the United States of America and the State of Hawaii. Stop creating laws that diminish the rights of the People and increase government overreach. Government should be of, by, and for the People. That is why government exists: to protect the inalienable rights of the People.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 12:40:39 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB2125 H.D.2. It is not harassment to interfere with the operation of and educational worker if the welfare of children is of concern. It is child protection. There are curricula that are non-fact based. Some are pure propaganda that constitutes child abuse. Parents are speaking up. That is not harassment. Parents in Loudoun County Virginia were speaking up to protect their children from erroneous and immoral programs in their schools and yet some of them were arrested. Educators deserve the same protections as any other worker -- but not additional protections. We treat everyone equally in this country. The residents of Hawaii don't want an adversarial relationship with the DOE or BOE. It is time to disestablish the BOE and DOE and return to local control of the schools. The DOE and BOE are not listening to parents. That is the problem. Under the current structure the children are not learning even though our tax dollars pour into the broken education system. It is time to put parents in charge of educational programs and that will solve the perceived "harassment" problem.

Do not pass this Hb2125 H.D.2.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 11:16:20 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Donna Brzezowski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill HB2125 goes against the IDEA act which is a federal law that ensures equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities. As parents it is our responsibility to advocate for our disabled children/adult children when they are not rightfully given the services necessary for them to thrive and accel.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 11:23:26 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is an egregious violation of the 1st amendment and the Constitution. This is a shocking piece of legislation. Kill this bill immediately!

Alice Abellanida

Waianae

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 12:19:05 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Azuma Chrupaluk	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If a faculty member is willing to go to that length to get attention for a cause, then it would be wise to listen to them, rather than to protect corruption. The Hawai'i BOE and DOE is a huge, corrupt failure to our children and families because of the support that underlying corruption and stupidity are empowered to become. No, I do not support this initiative and offer my support to your trying to find a way to get that faculty member's voice heard somewhere where an unbiased team will evaluate the solutions that are being offered by the individual.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 12:32:11 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lani Tara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii already has harassment laws in place and this bill goes against IDEA

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 5:39:24 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kimberly Andrada	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to oppose bill HB2125.

As a very concern parent of a severe special needs child, who is also non-speaking. It appears this bill contradict the little blue pamphlets, procedural safeguards notice, that parents get at the beginning each IEP (Individual Educational Plan) meetings.

The procedural safeguard notice gives procedure on how parents can file for due process; it tells parents how parents must give consent if the DOE wants to evaluate a student. Parents right to voice concerns regarding their students education program. If this bill becomes law, what will happen to parents right to voice concerns? Can the Department of Education do what they want because a teacher is fed up with certain student parent asking too many annoying questions, sharing too many concerns that their child is coming home and having gotten worse problem behavior since they've been in school all day vs. staying home on the weekend? Press charges on parents who ask too many questions and put them away? My child can not tell me what happened in school, what his peers did to him, he did to someone else. I rely on teacher communication, back and forth. If parents like me become fearful of having such communication with teachers, counselors, principal and health aid, how do DOE want parents to be more involve in students education and generalize the skills that they are learning in school to home? If parents are fearful of asking questions in IEP meetings regarding their child's educational program, how is this a collaborate meeting? A one way communication that will not benefit the students, but harmful if education programs is not effective and continue to be taught in an ineffective manner. For special needs education, without parent input on how education program is working out at home for some students, it will cause frustration for teachers in the classroom setting and sometimes teachers and aid can get hurt in the process of not understanding how certain student need certain strategies to deescalate problem behaviors or to stay away from certain triggers.

I understand protecting teachers and employees from harassment and violent, however, this bill does not serve that, it serves as a warning to concern parents that they need to stay quiet and have no input in their child's special education program. As the current law stands, I believe if ANYONE is to come on campus, make threat, brand a weapon or appears threatening, school personal have the right to call police to address such threat, perhaps this bill is not necessary.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Andrada



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 9:59:32 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Diamond	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Demand absolute NO to this bills, please.

Parents are to invited to discuss curriculum with the teacher and should they become unruly, we have existing laws for such behavior. There is no need for a separate one to existing laws in place. I have seen police called and taking swift care of unruly parents.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 6:29:53 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David E Shormann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Current law (HRS §711-1106) already addresses the issue of harassment. Were the sponsors of the bill not aware of this? Harassment is wrong, please enforce the laws we already have in place and oppose these redundant and therefore nonsensical bills. Thank you.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 7:24:21 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dr Marion Ceruti	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vote NO on HB2125. I strongly oppose this bill because it will destroy our society.

1. It will force parents and guardians to turn their children over to the "educational system," which will influence the children to become socialists, communists, and bigots who hate their country, hate their race (whatever it is) and hate each other.

2. This bill is designed to prevent parents and guardians from having any input into their children's education.

3. It is NOT needed because Hawai'i already has laws against harassment, §711-1106.

4. This bill is not about safety - just the opposite. It criminalizes legitimate behavior and creates a new class of criminals. It will cause police to divert their attention from solving real crimes like assault and murder. It will make Hawai'i less safe.

5. It places school employees, such as teachers and administrators, in a special protected class where they will be unaccountable for their actions.

6. It fosters hate and distrust in the community when we should be promoting the aloha spirit.

Please, kokua, stop this bill now before it goes any further. Vote NO on HB2125.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 10:24:12 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Boyd Ready	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator Kidani, Senator Kim, and Committee members,

I oppose HB2125.

While educators and their administrative staff are important, they are citizens like anyone else, and a special law for such misdemeanors would signal that they are more important than, say, private school teachers or staff. HRS 711-1106, & 710-1010 already cover these offenses, protect everyone equally, and apply at every level of government.

School curricula and teacher training are becoming controversial. This is a normal part of life in a democracy.

Hawaii has had universal public education for over 100 years. If the education were well done, and the citizenry well educated, these feared crimes would be few, and a law against harassing anyone, or obstructing any government operation, should be enough.

"The more laws and order are made prominent, the more thieves and robbers there will be."  
— Lao-Tzu

I oppose adding one law on top of another.

Respectfully,

Boyd Ready

Haleiwa

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 12:41:40 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Fahreen Jaffar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a parent of a child with special needs I oppose bill HB2125 and urge you not to pass this bill. I have had to work very hard for the past 6 years to ensure that the DOE school system provides the services my child needs. Had I not fought my child's corner, he would not be receiving half the services he does. As a parent I have all the right to participate in my child's IEP and education and the wording of Bill HB2125 takes away and restricts the rights of parents like me. As a parent of a child with special needs, I need the peace of mind that my input in my sons education will be respected and if I do not feel the school is doing what they can and should I have the right to disagree with them. This bill in its wordings scares parents like me for standing up for their kids in fear of being perceived as being threatening towards the DOE staff. I strongly oppose violence and all my meeting with the school have been very civil. But I fear that this bill gives the DOE staff the freedom to decide what is threatening Behaviour. Not being able to freely advocate for our child's right to services is an injustice to parents and children.

Please do not pass this bill. Being a parent with a special needs child is hard enough without worrying about the fear of advocating for them in school meetings leading to legal action against us.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 1:13:00 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dan Dresel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing this testimony on behalf of my son and my family. My wife had to work tirelessly to when our sons Individualized Education Program (IEP) wasn't being implemented. Her emails to teachers and staff were ignored and he was treated unfairly. After no response from the school we had to file a complaint which ended in a settlement in our favor. A teacher accused her of harassing her during this process. This bill could be very dangerous in denying education when anytime you as a parent advocate for a child who is disabled you are accused of harassing a teacher. I strongly oppose this bill.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 1:21:46 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
C. Vierra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a horrid bill and will affect parents advocating for their children. Especially those families with special needs children. For those of us who have experienced frustration, disappointment and due process violations at the hands of school administrators...standing up agaisnt bureaucracy, inaction, and advocating for your child and your child's rights should not be considered harassment. This bill is too vague and will open unneccassry doors for abuse by school administrators. What I call advocating, admin could deem harassment. And then what? Slap a fine on families that most likely are already experiencing financial hardships? Jail the child's parent for a year? What good does that do for the child and family? Nothing good. It hurts them. I vehemently oppose this bill.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 1:23:10 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jodie Dresel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our son is hearing impaired and dyslexic. His IEP plan was not being met and he was not being offered his Free and Appropriate education. I complained to the school and only to be not heard or answered the more I tried to talk to someone the more education he was denied. I ended up having to file a DOE formal complaint and when I did I was accused of harassment.

This bill could cause IDEA and FAPE laws which are federal to be ignored because it seems every time a disabled child doesn't get help the parent is accused of harassment. Even if they, the parents are simply sending email questions.

I strongly oppose this bill. I had to hire an attorney who ended up taking my case for free due to being such a strong case. We settled and got everything we asked for out of court. This bill could have denied my sons right to education and stopped us from advocating for him and his disability rights and we were accused of harassment.

Thank you



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 1:44:57 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Yoshioka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I strongly oppose this bill. I feel it is our kuliana (right) as parents and guardians to be able to question what the public school is teaching our children. I strongly oppose this bill as I feel this is reckless and dangerous if this bill gets past as a parent and guardian.**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 1:51:10 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aimee Yoshioka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha I strongly opposed this bill. As it is my God-given right to look over my child. And I don't agree with some of the teachings the DOE are teaching my child. I believe it's my right to be able to question and give my point without being bullied by the DOE With possible prison charges as well as fees if I don't comply to what they're teaching my child. And for that I strongly oppose this bill HB2125!!!

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 1:52:43 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janice Giles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I feel that as a parent, I have a right to say what goes on in my children's education. I do not want to be treated like a criminal because of that. I would never physically or verbally abuse anyone. But if I feel that something doesn't coincide with my family's values, I believe it's important to say something.

Please reconsider what you are presenting.

Mahalo, Janice Giles

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 23, 2022  
3:00 PM  
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

**Opposition of HB 2125 HD2**

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim and members of the committee:

As a parent of a child with a disability, I oppose House Bill 2125 HD2. Although this bill seems on the surface to be intended to protect school staff from harassment and performing official school business, if this measure becomes a law, it could also be a potential barrier which prevents or deters parents who have a child with disability from advocating for needed special education and related support services.

At the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs hearing on February 24, 2022 when the Department of Education (DOE) was asked by members of the committee to clarify the intent of this bill and why we need a bill in addition to the harassment law that already exists, the DOE's risk manager testified that this bill was to address "certain parents, adults..." He stated, "For example, in special education cases the Department is required to conduct their hearings and meetings in a timely manner or else they violate the IDEA, the federal law. Parents, such the ones we are talking about, refuse to accept emails, telephone notifications or written notifications on purpose, in order to force the Department to be in default, and therefore they can just coerce the department in getting the results that they want. So that's the reason for this bill. It's only for a certain amount of individual parents who use the system to force the Department to not be able to comply with federal and state laws for timeliness, as well as to clog up the emails, clog up the voicemails with threatening email and communications. Two steps: not only do they harass, but they interfere with the operations of the school, so that's the difference between this legislation and the regular harassment legislation."

Research supports that when parents and schools are on the same page and working together the outcomes for the student are greatly improved. So, this bill would not support positive parent/school relationships. I agree that parents should never be disrupting or interfering with the functions of any school and that collaborative efforts should be sought out first, giving the school every opportunity to work with parents and do the right thing, all with the intent of doing what is needed for the student. This bill however thwarts parents and schools working together and is not necessary.

If a parent is unlawfully on a school campus wouldn't current laws already in place be sufficient? Do we need a new law, one that could potentially hinder a parent's ability to advocate for their child, or do we need to consistently implement current laws? Based on DOE testimony and lack of reported data, my concern is that this bill is looking more like a slippery slope of intimidation tactics and less like a solution to protect educational workers from harassment, etc. HB 2125 HD2 appears to target parent advocacy and more specifically parents of children with special needs, with the enforcement of punishment versus collaboration.

In closing, I support the safety and wellbeing of all our educational workers in our public schools, especially in these challenging times. All teachers and educators should be safe and supported in their workplace so they can do their jobs effectively educating our children. We have existing laws in place that address harassment and threats that perhaps need to be more effectively implemented to protect educators who along with our children have the right to be safe in educational environments. If we are to truly bridge the gaps that exist in education, shouldn't we focus more on improving the quality of relationships, communication and trust between our schools and families? HB 2125 HD2 is not a step in the right direction. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,

Deborah Krekel

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 2:49:48 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelsea Klein	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY come to oppose this bill! Children go to school to learn how to think not what to think.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 12:32:40 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keith Ulloa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not agree with the Bill HB2125, and oppose it, because the parents need more power back in there hands, being, that is there children in the school, not the other way around, and needs the right to protect there children, without facing such high penalties to try to scare them, off, Driving without a license for the third time carries the same penalty, I don't think parents should be penalized for standing up for there childrens learning rights, i know firsthand how difficult it can be in learning in these schools already, and what the Government is up to now days, cmon guys, we need to go back to protecting our children and making morally sound decisions for our community, I oppose Bill HB2125 because parents already have enough on there plates than to intimidate them with some foolish Bill, the kids need to return home in the evening, and they not going home with the teacher, respect the parents guys, cmon.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 5:03:05 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Denise Young-Ajose	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 21, 2022

The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair & Members

Senate Committee on Education

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania St, Rm 228

Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair & Members

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania St, Rm 204

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: House Bill 2125 ,Relating to Official School Business

Dear Honorable Kidani, Rhoads and Members:

My name is Denise Young-Ajose, MD MPH. I am a resident of Oahu, a physician and mother of two children with special needs.

**I OPPOSE** House Bill number 2125, Relating to Official School Business, which holds a misdemeanor charge for harassment of an education worker and is defined as “If with intent to harass, annoy or alarm an education worker that person disrupts or interferes with the administration or functions of any school, school administration office or school board.”

I am a huge supporter of safety for our school staff. Educators and school staff face a tremendous burden caring and educating children. They deserve the right to do so without fear of harm. In cases where they are not safe, harassment laws are already in place to provide protection. Harassment law HRS 711–1106 clearly defines what behaviors constitute such offenses and already has a section protecting education workers specifically. House Bill 2125 is vague and has the unfortunate consequence of criminalizing parents and professionals (medical, legal and otherwise) who advocate for children on a regular basis.

I have practiced medicine for 22 years, 13 years in the state of Hawaii. On occasion, I have had to complete forms and speak to principals, teachers and school staff on a child’s/ patient’s behalf. The intention is to report and discuss the child’s medical needs. This is often not accomplished with one form or one communication. The vague language in House Bill 2125 could possibly make repeat communication a criminal act. This ultimately leads to the child’s medical needs not being met.

In my role as a mother of two special needs children, I have had an excellent experience with my children’s educators and school staff. Both sides embrace the concept of frequent communication as a means to preventing problems down the line. Our children are thriving as a result. The vague language in House Bill 2125 could make communication a misdemeanor and compromise the symbiotic relationship between the school and the family. The bill creates an intimidation factor that is unnecessary to protect our school staff.

The pandemic has strained our school system and educators for the past two years. Protection bills are emerging on the mainland but some are taking the approach of adding mediating resources to the school instead of criminalizing behavior. We want our school staff to be safe. They often are our neighbors. We share a community in and outside the school. We want them to use the tools already in place to keep them safe.

Approving this bill will affect families with neurotypical, neurodiverse and physically disabled children. Parents will become afraid to advocate for their childrens’ services and treatments that are crucial to their child’s development.

I respectfully ask you to vehemently OPPOSE House Bill 2125, Relating to Official School Business.



I appreciate the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Denise Young-Ajose, MD MPH

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 3:23:35 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSE!!!

Representative Saiki & Senator Kouchi should be forced to name & make public WHO came up with & proposed HB2125/SB3093 since they were "Introduced by request of another party".

HB2125 should be gutted and rewritten to read that **All who submit legislative measures for session consideration shall be required to attach their names to their proposals as a prerequisite condition to public hearing** so the public knows who to hold to account for manipulative measures as bad as this one.

"Confidentiality" cannot be misused in this instance to conceal the identity of the introducer and if this party had nothing to hide, he/she should have his/her name attached to the bill; that the introducer is concealed - especially for what this measure seeks to achieve - is particularly problematic. Representative Saiki & Senator Kouchi should be made to publicly disclose the party orchestrating such an abuse of power & overreach of authority as HB2125 seeks to achieve which clearly breaches the public's trust.

If teachers & educators are doing nothing wrong, then whatever conflicts arise in their daily actions, activities & capacities should not rise to the level of "harassment" - that such legislation is being sought points to a larger problem and THAT should be rooted out & addressed first.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 8:16:34 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bunnie Harrington	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha.

I oppose this bill and all that it includes. The government should now be raising our children nor make the final say on their education. This is the perfect example of the government overstepping their power.

I strongly oppose this bill.

Best,

Bunnie Harrington

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 5:09:18 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patricia Beekman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Parents have the right to protect their children and speak up for them. This bill, if passed, could easily lead to educators intimidating parents out of advocating for their children and effectively looking out for their well-being. Vote NO on HB2125 HD2.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 6:08:12 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Teves	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**As a HIDEOE teacher of 25 plus years, I appreciate the intent of this bill to protect educational workers like myself. However, throughout my career, I have never had a parent harass me to the point where I would want to have them fined \$2,000 or thrown in jail for a year. Parents are an integral component of the learning process to help their children develop, grow and prosper. Parents bring a unique point of view to the discussion process.**

**HB2125 is NOT necessary!**

**In addition, as a parent of a special education student, I am concerned about this bill. In order for an IEP team to function effectively, communication is key! In my experience as a parent who has been a part of numerous IEP meetings, the DOE and parent have always acted professionally. As an advocate for my son, this bill inflicts fear not only because a parent could be prosecuted with a criminal misdemeanor, but that would leave my son with no one to take care of him.**

**It is unfortunate that the DOE is moving in this direction in regards to how it tackles difficult and challenging situations. As a teacher, we teach our students to mediate and communicate their way through disagreements. I would hope the DOE would do the same. Please oppose HB2125!**

Sincerely,

Jennifer Teves

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 6:30:19 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicole Mosk	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent I strongly oppose this bill! These are children and parents have every right to be involved and have a say (especially when it comes to sex education) on what they are being taught in school!

Aloha,

Nicole



Submitted Online: March 22, 2022

**Hearing:** March 23, 2022

**To:** Senate Committee on Education  
Sen Michelle Kidani, Chair  
Sen. Donna Mercado-Kim, Vice Chair

**From:** Eva Andrade, President

**Re:** Opposition to HB 2125 HD2 Relating to Official School Business

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii. While the Department of Education offered this administration bill to “address the growing problem of continuous and threatening harassment of educational workers by parents and members of the public,” we see this bill as a very broad overreach that may ultimately silence and/or punish parents.

To be clear, this is not a partisan issue or even a faith-based issue. Individuals who violate existing criminal law and thwart school operations by harassing threats, intimidation and coercion are already covered by Hawaii law.

Over the past two years, one of the few notably positive things to come out of school shutdowns was that the closures allowed parents to supervise their keiki and witness first-hand what is being taught in Hawaii’s schools. We applaud those parents who tried to balance work and their children’s education at a time when everyone was stretched to sometimes super-human requirements. We also applaud the teachers who worked hard to balance Hawaii lockdown restrictions while providing the best educational conditions they could.

Many parents across the country have taken issue with inappropriate curriculum their children are being exposed to in classrooms. They are now participating in the public policy decision making process to object to the rise in controversial teaching about identity, sexuality, and more that has been cause for grave concern by people of faith. Social media videos and posts have shown the frustration of some of these parents as they testify at local school board hearings. Unfortunately, the way this bill reads punishes concerned parents in Hawaii and mandates that teachers who may feel “uncomfortable” with parental opposition formally report to the police for criminal prosecution.

The bottom line is that parents from across the political spectrum and religious belief are advancing the notion that they are in charge of their children’s education, upbringing, and care. That means giving them the freedom to acknowledge and question the appropriateness of curriculum being offered without fear or intimidation. In the public schools in Hawaii, that requires that those responsible for their minor students must not be made afraid to exercise their right to address their concerns to officials and teachers in the education system – especially not fear of criminal prosecution. Criminal laws in Hawaii already address how to deal with those who legitimately violate the law.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 11:30:48 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresa O	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent, I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 2125HD2.

What happened to the Aloha? Both Hawaii legislative branches, the House and Senate seem to have lost the Aloha spirit by pushing this bill forward without any data, context, proof, or documentation of harassment against school personnel while hoping to most likely criminalize special education parents.

One issue with this bill is that it is extremely vague and potentially subjective. It does not provide working definitions of a “substantial incident,” “outside actor,” “harassment,” and “government operations” making this bill difficult to enforce.

Second, Interim Superintendent of Education, Keith Hayashi identified special education parents as the harassers in his February 24, 2022, oral testimony to JHA which means that HB 2125HD2 is intended to be discriminatory against a particular group.

Oddly, his written testimony dated February 3, and February 24, 2022, do not identify special education parents per se but he does describe the shenanigans he believes are conducted by “parents.”

*“The existing laws do not address educational workers who have become victimized by irrational and uncompromising parents and individuals whose goal is to taunt, harass, and intimidate school officials so that they give in to their unreasonable demands through coercion or by intentional delay tactics. Some of the tactics used are constant badgering, name-calling, and harassing of school officials with persistent telephone calls, flooding the answering machines to capacity so that legitimate messages from parents or other individuals cannot be received, rejecting mail and email notifications, and thereby thwarting the school’s ability to perform tasks mandated by federal and state laws. The unruly behavior disrupts the school environment, causes fear and anxiety in school officials, and undermines the school’s ability to conduct its business, fulfill its responsibilities, and meet required timelines.”*

Third, the DOE’s Risk Manager, former AG, Russell Suzuki who worked on the Jennifer Felix case some years after the Consent Decree was in force, claimed in his oral testimony that this bill was intended to protect the DOE staff from harassment. He believed that these stiff penalties for



a misdemeanor of up to 1 year in jail and up to a \$2000 fine were appropriate, while refusing to compromise for first time offenders even though the DOE and parents are both required to follow the procedural safeguards and other laws for these types of shenanigans as described by Mr. Hayashi.

HB 2125HD2 is not a bill to protect DOE personnel because there are harassment laws already in place. The DOE can also call the police. They have legal options available more so than parents. The DOE personnel also have their union protections from HSTA, and HGEA as well as from their supervisors, principals, and the superintendent. Even DOE personnel who have abused students either sexually or physically are rarely arrested because these cases are always taken care of within the DOE. The DOE always protects its own. Further, this bill even will allow the DOE to assist in legal actions against the parent while parents will have little to nothing to help them in this matter.

It is no secret that special education parents are loathed by the DOE and the legislature and have been ever since the Felix Consent Decree in the 1990's.

I believe the real intent of this bill is to harass the parents of special education children and impede their services by silencing the parents and their right to advocate for them under the threat of imprisonment and up to a \$2000 fine. Parents who disagree with the direction of their child's education should have the right to voice their concerns without a threat of criminality.

HB 2125HD2 will grossly stifle parental rights, advocacy and civil liberties of both parents and students. This type of censorship under a false guise of protecting educational employees will only foster more public discourse and distrust with the government and the DOE, not less.

I am shocked but not surprised the legislature has entertained such a bill since it promotes the antagonistic and contentious "us versus them" attitude towards taxpaying, voting citizens and their children. Do we really need this in our society?

The legislature should focus on helping to prepare children on becoming independent, and productive adults in our community, not just robots who cannot think for themselves or carry out basic functions to advance themselves financially and economically. This bill will not help that cause.

HB 2125HD2 is a very bad bill and poor governance.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 5:14:32 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lauren Paer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for considering my testimony. As a citizen of Hawaii, I OPPOSE HB2125.

While I fully support the protection of educational institutions and their staff, this bill does not define what is considered "intent to harass, annoy, or alarm". This leaves it up to misinterpretation from an individual's emotional tolerance, personal opinion, and personal feelings. As a result, definitions could go from a parent provoking or acting out violence to a parent just being "irritating" for complaining. I find this ambiguity very concerning and fear it will dissuade parents from advocating for their children or being actively involved in their children's education.

If a parent threaten violence or become violent, isn't that already illegal? Wouldn't the cops be called? While I empathize with educators who at times have to deal with difficult parents, I believe there should be a high bar before the law is invoked. This bill does not set a high bar, but rather an ambiguous standard that includes "intent to annoy". For this reason, I oppose this bill.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 3:23:25 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lynne wood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 6:13:32 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amber Knopp	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill! This bill interferes with parental rights and is discriminatory.

Mahalo

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 4:39:41 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sarah McKay	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 7:06:45 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Vera Marie Asato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose of HB2125. I'm a mother of a young adult diagnose with aspergers. Even thought his not in the in DOE. I feel this bill, especially for families with special needs children is unfair to parent of their right to be involve with their children education. Especially nonverbal children. I believe that successful education for children is being able to work in a harmful manner of both party.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 4:39:24 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Loree Jean Searcy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to this bill.

For as long as I can remember parents have been able to participate in the learning process of their children as their involvement in PTA as a vital member of the education of their children. This bill which makes parent a criminal if they voice their opinion against a school curriculum concept is going above and beyond the freedom a parent has to protect their child's right to an emotionally safe school learning. Parents need to be involved and be able to provide feedback if a topic being taught is not safe, necessary and age appropriate! Parents who voice their opinion are not criminals as this bill will make them.

I am opposed to this bill.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 8:35:29 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kehaulani Avicolli	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian and concerned mother, I highly OPPOSE this bill. I believe that parents should be the ones to make any informed decisions for their keiki. It is our right to have the autonomy to voice our concerns when needed, to take any further action for our keiki in school especially regarding their protection and well-being. The school and government systems do not have the right, say, or power over parents. This bill is not pono or safe for our keiki. Please take the time to listen to us as we know what's ultimately best for our children. Mahalo nui.



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 4:30:15 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jamie Irvine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha To All Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jamie Irvine of Makaha, Hawaii and I would like to let you all know that I **STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 2125!**

With all due respect, Sirs & Mams, it seems that there's a great disconnect on the role of the Department of Education lately regarding not only on appropriate education for our children but now what deems parental involvement! May I please remind you that first and foremost the children belong to the **PARENTS AND OR LEGAL GUARDIANS** and **NOT ANY GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY, PERIOD!** You are **NOT** the ones who are to dictate what parents/guardians can or cannot say regarding their children's education and or any other school activities if there are concerns in any area. To **PUNISH** parents and guardians in any form just because they disagree with a policy is **COMMUNIST** and **MARXIST!**

DOE must have forgotten all of history's atrocities about Government Forced policies in other nations to indoctrinate horrific beliefs to the children and outlawing any parental involvement etc. Please let me remind you that **WE ARE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** with **LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL!** Not just to the select few behind creating insanity such as this!

There is much more on my heart to share but will leave you with the message that I want you to listen to:

**I ADAMANTLY OPPOSE HB 2125(& 1697!) PLEASE DO NOT IGNORE MY GREAT CONCERN!** Thank you. May Jesus have mercy on you all, and as for our keiki!

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 3:07:26 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
tiana lolotai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for your time. I strongly oppose this bill, and I pray that this bill is stopped. As a parent today we're already living in different times compared to our childhood. Bills like this I do not see as something that will benefit the child. It seems it is only to benefit the Departemnt of Education. To further along agendas that will help them, NOT THE CHILD. Then you have to think why would they want to pass a bill to make sure they can punish parents for speaking on behalf of our children?! I am a mother. An extension of my son. I stand between anything that shall harm them. Please dropped this bill. Thank you again for your time.

mahalo!

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 10:07:17 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leslie Miles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. While of course no educational employee should be harassed, threatened or intimidated, what constitutes those things? If a parent objects to curriculum and voices their opinions, is that going to be construed as threatening? If parents object to the endless wearing of masks, is that going to be construed as threatening? If parents object to pornographic, age-inappropriate sexual or racially biased material being taught in the school, is that going to be threatening? If a parent questions a teacher's grades, is that going to be construed as threatening? If a parent wishes to advocate for their child or even speak to a teacher, principal, counselor, health aid, or office staff, is that going to be construed as threatening?

I do not believe it is one's "goal" to "taunt, harass, and intimidate school officials so that they give in to their unreasonable demands through coercion or by intentional delay tactics."

Much of the so-called threats and intimidation coming from parents is stemming from a school system that they feel is indoctrinating their children with inappropriate material, and not being able to correct what they see as an educational system run amok.

There are laws against harassment and threatening behavior. If an educational employee truly feels threatened or harassed, they may file a police report and pursue legal charges.

But you cannot simply label the parents as "threatening" because you don't like it when they object to what the educational system is trying to foist on their children.

Parents have a right to know what is being taught to their children and to object when they feel it is inappropriate or dangerous. The school system should not be able to operate without impunity by claiming that parents are "threatening" them when they express their objections.

This bill is overly broad and needs to have clear guidelines as to what constitutes "threatening harassment."



# For Our Rights

a non-profit organization

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P.O. Box 1633  
Kapa'a, Hi. 96746  
[www.forourrights.org](http://www.forourrights.org)

March 22, 2022

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

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 2125, HD2

Dear Chair and Vice Chair,

On behalf of this organization and the thousands of Hawai'i residents we serve, I would like to enter this testimony in strong OPPOSITION of House Bill 2125, HD2.

As the content of public school curriculum continues to shift, imposing ideologies upon our keiki that many parents oppose, it appears as though this legislation is intended to prevent parents from their right to speak out on such matters. While on the surface this bill may seem to provide safety for school staff this new law would be merely a method to control and diminish parental rights.

Current law (HRS §711-1106) already addresses the issue of harassment. There is simply no justification for giving the Board of Education, Department of Education and Hawaii State Teachers Association Union special considerations and special laws unless the intent is to criminalize parental involvement in our children's education.

#### §711-1106 Harassment

(1) A person commits the offense of harassment if, with intent to harass, annoy, or alarm any other person, that person:

(a) Strikes, shoves, kicks, or otherwise touches another person in an offensive manner or subjects the other person to offensive physical contact;

(b) Insults, taunts, or challenges another person in a manner likely to provoke an immediate violent response or that would cause the other person to reasonably believe that the actor intends to cause bodily injury to the recipient or another or damage to the property of the recipient or another;

(c) Repeatedly makes telephone calls, facsimile transmissions, or any form of electronic communication as defined in section 711-1111(2), including electronic mail transmissions, without purpose of legitimate communication;

(d) Repeatedly makes a communication anonymously or at an extremely inconvenient hour;

(e) Repeatedly makes communications, after being advised by the person to whom the communication is directed that further communication is unwelcome; or

(f) Makes a communication using offensively coarse language that would cause the recipient to reasonably believe that the actor intends to cause bodily injury to the recipient or another or damage to the property of the recipient or another.

(2) Harassment is a petty misdemeanor. [L 1972, c 9, pt of §1; am L 1973, c 136, §9(b); am L 1992, c 292, §4; am L 1996, c 245, §2; am L 2009, c 90, §1]

For these reasons we STRONGLY OPPOSE HB2125 and ask that you halt the progression of this law in your committee to prevent the further erosion of liberty in our state.

Sincerely,

Levana Lomma  
CEO & President

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 3:09:35 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laurie West	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

***STRONG OPPOSITION TO HB2125***

Laws against assault and battery already exist and suffice; Hawai`i doesn't need this bill, which would create a chilling effect against parents' rights of free speech and assembly during potential opposition to DOE/BOE policies. This bill is another layer preventing accountability of people with significant influence over our children. If DOE/BOE employees are threatened physically or otherwise, they are free to file charges against a perceived aggressor.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 3:18:16 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Holmberg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a total over reach.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 3:51:05 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mr and Mrs John McComas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB2125

Chair Kidani, Vice-Chair Mercado-Kim and esteemed Committee Members.

We strongly oppose the passing of HB2125 relating to safety of school/educational staff.

It is important to say that we support that all HIDEOE workers need to feel safe in all educational settings and interactions- but it must be included that families and caregivers need to be included in this discussion as well. Our safety and well-being is as important as the school staff.

We have many concerns with the verbal and written testimonies of Mr. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education for Hawaii schools. Although he did clearly provide his perspective on the purpose of this bill, many of his statements were in misalignment with his other written and verbal testimony. Mr. Hayashi states in his verbal testimony on 2/3/22& 2/24/22 that the purpose of the bill is "to address personal safety", which directly conflicts with the testimony of HIDEOE risk management Manager, Russell Suzuki.

Mr. Suzuki goes as far as singling out parents of "special education cases" in his written and verbal testimonies. Mr. Suzuki fails to note that HIDEOE has recourses available to them such as Hawaii Procedural Safeguards, IDEA and Hawaii's Harassment Law ( 711-1106). The issues brought forth by Mr. Suzuki are unfounded.

This bill directly conflicts with 300.322 of the IDEA- parent participation. This bill will make parents feel intimidated to advocate for their children as provided under the IDEA.

It is concerning that neither Mr. Hayashi nor Mr. Suzuki could provide any empirical evidence of such a volume as to support the passing of this bill. It is unnecessary and redundant of laws already in place to protect HIDEOE workers and staff.

We graciously thank you for allowing us to provide our testimony in strong opposition to HB2125.

Mr. and Mrs. John McComas

Honolulu





3/21/22

I VEHEMENTLY OPPOSE HB2125. The vague nature of the definition of harassment in this bill is a Trojan Horse that will allow the government to operate with less parental involvement in matters of education due to the nature of this very bill's harassment of families of children within the State educational system. The DOE has already taken the stance of supporting the abuse of our children by accepting corrupted and unhealthy advice from unelected government officials in order to attain funding. This is an abuse of power, yet even an attempt to have a discussion about this could easily be construed by the government as harassment, when in reality it is actually called debate and accountability. HB1697 and other bills which are strongly opposed by the majority of parents in the State of Hawaii are being force fed into the curriculum without much opportunity to debate. Sure we can submit testimony to legislators, but if this bill were to pass as written, parents would not get the opportunity to discuss important matters of educational curriculum with the school board without the threat of being charged with harassment if their opinions do not conform with that of the school boards. Parents should have every right to discuss matters of educational curriculum with the school boards because the school boards work for the people and should be held accountable as such; not allowed to escape behind a law that would give them the power to become tyrants. HB2125 is clearly written to allow for corruption to take place within the educational system. Do not vote to pass this bill. Oppose it with every fiber of the oaths you swore to uphold in protecting THE PEOPLES rights; not just certain peoples rights.

Sincerely,

John Heideman

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 5:25:00 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aimee Sims	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and Mahalo for taking the time to read my testimony.

I come to you as a concerned parent. I have the upmost respect and admiration for teachers and all those who work with our amazing children. I want to see them protected and able to do their jobs safely.

However, I highly oppose this bill. This bill is so vague and leaves so much to interpretation that it will do more harm than good.

In all my years as a parent of school aged children teachers have always felt like a team mate. As they should be! How can a parent feel like a team mate in their child's class room if they are threatened with jail time if they simply annoy a teacher. How can a parent feel comfortable advocating for their child if there happens to be a teacher not doing their job correctly? We as parents need to feel safe advocating for our children. We need to feel comfortable being teammates with teachers and administrators.

Of course teachers need to feel that same protection. That is why we have the current law HRS 711-1106.

There is no need for this bill, it's a waste of time and would do more harm than help for our keiki.

Mahalo, Aimee Sims

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 5:33:37 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emily Kekuewa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB2125!!!**

Please define harrassment!! Is asking a simple question harrassment? What if my husband asks a question too? What if I send an email with a question?

Why bring this type of bill up now? Is it because of HB1697 and that you don't want parents questioning what you determine what is an "accurate and positive representation of the LGBTQIALMNOP+ community?

As a parent, I want to know everything that my child is being taught in school!!

I DON'T CO-PARENT WITH THE GOVERMENT!!

**As for HB1697, if it passes MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON ALL OF YOUR SOULS!!!!!!**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 5:45:41 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Strider Didymus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Interesting, we got Representative Scott Saiki introducing this bill on behalf of “another party;” yet it doesn’t identify who? Why not, where’s the transparency?

Is it for the Governor himself, whom the Speaker had failed to reign in during his unlawful mandates beyond the 60 day limit as defined under the Hawaii Revised Statute for an alleged “emergency” that was never proven?

Is it because this little progressive democrat (aka “socialist”) tyrant is in lockstep with other political figures in D.C. (Devil Country), those on a mission to destroy our God given Constitutional rights and country from within?

Or perhaps it’s for some other NWO globalists pushing their Agenda 2030 script from hell?

Like that of the the W.H.O. (aka “World Health Order”) first Director-General, Brock Chisholm, who once said,

“To achieve world government, it is necessary to remove from the minds of men, their individualism, loyalty to family traditions, national patriotism and religious dogmas.”

Or how about the comments of a former President (Obama) who stated, “We have to shape an International Order...”

And then it's reaffirmed by the current puppet in the White House (wouldn't this go against the libtards CRT propaganda and be deemed "racist"?), who once said as VP, "It's imperative that we act urgently to defend the liberal international order."

Who in the hell do you people think you are?

Well, I'll let Yeshua (Jesus) answer such here:

"You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." (John 8:44)

All "We The People" get from you and the media are lies 24/7, and you want to financially penalLIES us for speaking truth; especially when it comes to our faith and family?

Oh, but it's all a twist on words to legitimise your hatred for those who call you on the carpet. What's right is wrong and what's wrong is now right in your eyes.

But the this is what the word of God says about you:

"Woe to those who call evil good

and good evil,

who put darkness for light

and light for darkness,

who put bitter for sweet

and sweet for bitter.

Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes

and clever in their own sight.” (Isaiah 5:20-21)

“Sergeant of arms, officer, cite him, he’s harassing us with the gospel truth.” Going to write that into law next session too?

Well, “We The People” who pays your wages are sick and tired of your ungodliness and perversions being shoved down the throats of all of us and especially our masked children in your demented schools.

Case in point, “2022 Social Justice Summit presented by HSTA’s Human and Civil Rights Committee” - an event to promote transsexual ideologies.

<http://www.hawaiifreepress.com/Articles-Main/ID/30268/HSTA-Seminar-How-to-Transsexualize-K-12-Students>

You people are sick, demented, “vile and corrupt” (Job 15:16) for wanting to poison our young students minds; all the while as you’ve pushed the biological weapons falsely called a “vaccine” poisons into their bodies and is responsible for killing hundreds of thousands worldwide. Its called “democide” and their blood is on your hands.

Such is not some “conspiracy theory,” it’s a proven fact and all parties responsible shall be called to account one day: either as Nuremberg 2.0 or on Judgment Day before God Almighty.

Indeed, your wicked party (which once kicked God out of the platform) promotes the murder of the children in the womb and to the point of delivery, but when that doesn’t work you take bribes from big pharma to mandate dozens of other dangerous jobs as a prerequisite for public school attendance.

It's not good enough for you "children of hell" (Matthew 23:15) to just poison their very body and mind, but you also want "to steal and kill and destroy..." (John 10:10) their soul. To take them to hell with you.

Does this offend you? "More the reason to pass this bill," you say?

The truth hurts doesn't it, for it is further written:

"To whom can I speak and give warning? Who will listen to me? Their ears are closed so they cannot hear. The word of the Lord is offensive to them; they find no pleasure in it." (Jeremiah 6:10)

And as for me, I feel like "Lot [remember Sodom and Gomorrah?] a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)—" (2 Peter 2:7-8 NIV)

"They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them." (Romans 1:29-32)

And so you try to create a bill that does the above in the school system and attempts to censor parents for "saying 'NO' to ungodliness and worldly passions" (Titus 2:12)?

Yeshua also said all of the following:



“Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.” (Matthew 16:23)

“Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near.” (Matthew 4:17)

“But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” (Luke 13:3)

“But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.” (Revelation 21:8)

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’” (Matthew 25:41)

You have been warned in “the love of God and neighbor” (The Great Commandment - Matthew 22:37-40), do NOT continue on the path that you’re on.

In closing, do not forget that The Declaration of Independence, The Constitution of the United States (Bill of Rights), The Constitution of Hawaii (Bill of Rights), and the Holy Bible gives this person every legal right to petition you to rescind this bill as it violates the above.

Be advised that the United States Supreme Court has already ruled that:

“All laws which are repugnant to the Constitution are null and void” (See Marbury v. Madison, 5US (2 Cranch) 137, 174, 176, (1803)

To fine a citizen for exercising such unalienable rights under the pretext of “harassment” is “redundant” and nothing but a smoke screen, and you know it.

Further, take heed that your wicked agenda will not be tolerated much longer, the wrath of God shall be coming down upon you soon.

“Turn! Turn from your evil ways!” (Ezekiel 33:11)

Strider - Servant of God and disciple of Christ

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 6:05:14 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Larry Duclayan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE the passing of HB2125 HD2.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:45:06 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alicia Claytor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This undermines the rights of parents to have a say in their child's education. It sets up parents to be criminalized for speaking up. Parents should have a say since they pay for public education. The schools & boards ought to consider the concerns and requests of parents as they are serving the public. I oppose this bill. Mahalo!

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 4:59:20 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Erik Parubrub-Kahaulelio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 10:50:31 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Erin Psillos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is the parents right and duty to speak up and speak to their child's teacher or school administrator if they are uncomfortable with what's being taught to their children in school. Calling this harassment and a misdemeanor is quite egregious and absurd. Please vote no on this bill, stop trying to make our children property of the state and take rights away from parents!

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:03:52 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sherilyn Wells	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

You are creating a patently unconstitutional bill. Closing avenues for parents and others to express their constitutional rights and freedoms is a litigation nightmare in the making. Please use common sense and stop this insanity before it goes any further. Use the salary you earn from the taxpayers of this state to contemplate things that are useful and constitutional, please. Quit wasting time on open-ended nonsense.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 8:14:20 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Raena Okubo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill that could take away the ability for parents to voice their concerns about their children's education and welfare while enrolled in the public education system.



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:03:25 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leona Leialoha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

i respectfully oppose this bill!

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:25:42 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Megan P Hazeldean	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly opposed this bill. Do not take parents right away to advocate for their child. Harassment is a very vague concept and can be used to do more harm for our children than good when its used to accuse parents who care deeply about their childs education. Its deliberately being worded in such a vague term so that parents are afraid to speak up and ultimately afraid of their school. Lots of parents now are pulling their kids out of the public school system. If this bill passes most parents will chose private or homeschooling options because they can no longer trust the policies that don't support the people or the people's ability to advocate for their children. The state/ school will never override the parents. Please think wisely because my vote and other parent votes strongly depend on this. There is a strong opposition on social media to this bill and I will vote against such representatives come November.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 10:16:47 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anna Morozov	Testifying for Aloha Festival	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

Please do NOT PASS this criminal nazi Bill!

We The People have to be involved in raising our kids without being criminalized for being involved in their PUBLIC Schooling.

Elections are coming and We are watching You!

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 6:19:13 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Terrado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senator Kidani and the rest of the Senate Education Committee members,

I am submitting this testimony **in opposition** to HB2125 HD2 bill for the following reasons:

- 1) Hawaii already has harassment laws in place;
- 2) The HIDOE has yet to present data supporting HIDOE Interim Superintendent Hayashi's claim re: "irrational, uncompromising parents and individuals whose goal is to taunt, harass, and intimidate school officials." How many are these parents that we need to codify a law to protect HIDOE officials from them? Based on my experience from attending my son's IEP meetings, the power pendulum has always been biased towards school officials. And it seems this bill will tilt that power pendulum even more, providing parents - parents with kids with special needs in particular - little to no recourse when it's the school officials who are being irrational, uncompromising, taunting, and intimidating toward parents; and
- 3) The Hawai'i Procedural Safeguards provides guidance to the HIDOE on how to address parents who are "unresponsive." We don't need a punitive law to address 'unresponsive' parents who the HIDOE finds as "interfering with the school's operations."

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Best,

Robert A. Terrado

Parent of a HIDOE student eligible under IDEA, RN-Case Manager, U.S. Army Reservist

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 12:11:33 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aimee Kobashigawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a licensed teacher in the state of Nevada and Hawaii. My teaching experience includes nine years as an elementary school teacher in Las Vegas, Nevada and six years in Honolulu, Hawaii. During this time I taught kindergarten and grades two through four in the general education classroom, was a grade four math specialist, and served as a private tutor for children with mild to severe autism.

I share this information with you today, because I feel very strongly that in every capacity, every school, and both states I taught in, parent involvement is crucial to the success of the child. I rely on parents to ensure their child completes their assignments and communicate if any difficulties arise. Parents rely on me to care for and educate their most precious gifts. If this bill is passed, it will put a divide between parent, teacher, and administration.

Also, it is expected and understandable, that a parent become emotional if they think something/someone is hurting their child. They should be given the opportunity to express their concerns without being at risk of being labeled a harasser face a misdemeanor offense, especially since this bill appears to make the term harassment very subjective. A raised voice, or unagreeable position could be considered harassment.

Public discourse should always be an option, not shutting down parents because they may not agree with decisions that will affect their child. Also, teachers already have the option to have an administrator present when meeting with a parent, so this bill is not necessary if its goal is to 'protect' teachers from harassment by parents.

A school is there for the betterment of the child. There is no person that cares more about the child than the parent. Please don't make concerned parents criminals.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:35:59 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaipoleimanu Diaz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to oppose HB2125. We as parents should have the right to approve or decline such things that are being taught to our children that goes against our values, rights, religious beliefs etc. As taxpayers who contributes to the salary of every government official/employee we have the right above everyone else to dictate what should and shouldn't be taught to our children ESPECIALLY IF ITS OUR CHILDREN!! Hawaii has been so behind on EVERY EDUCATIONAL TIER. As educators you should be focusing on teaching these children fundamentals of math, science, English, history, creative learning, financial education, life experiences etc. Raising these hound boys and girls to be the best men and women. Raise them up to be leaders that are innovative and creative. Make Hawaii stand out!!

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:47:47 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Wendy Raebeck	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, and thank you for public service.

I strongly oppose HB 2125. The Dept of Education has no business policing the public.

It shocks me that Hawai'i would even consider such legislation.

Are you saying people shouldn't question what happens in schools?? I would only hope and pray that all parents ALWAYS look carefully at, and question when necessary, what is taking place in schools. With this bizarre legislation (Covid-driven, I suppose, or perhaps pedophile-driven), ANYTHING could happen inside a school, under any pretense or under any peculiar school employee.

If you pass this bill, a) you're implying that something altogether wrong is taking place in schools, if it's suddenly illegal to question it, and b) you can expect parents to summarily remove their kids from public schools.

Am I missing something? Are there a bunch of savage, dangerous parents on the loose?

Wendy Raebeck

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:30:41 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrea Norasinh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother of 2 young children in elementary school, I strongly oppose this bill.

Why does the legislature think that this bill is necessary other than to pave the way for what is coming in the future to our childrens curriculum? Pass the bill now and then in a year or so, start teaching them unacceptable and inappropriate subject matter. Parents will be upset and then you can slap us with a misdemeanor or have us arrested and imprisoned. We as parents are FULLY aware of what has happened in other states and know EXACTLY the purpose of this bill. Why is there an assumption that there will be altercations between educators and parents if inappropriate subject matter is not being taught?

We have a right as parents to be involved in our childrens education.

Again, strongly oppose.



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:53:03 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gregg Hamm	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is an infringement of rights provided by the US Constitution. Passing this bill would be a criminal act against citizens. DO NOT attempt to violate our rights.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 11:10:15 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lois J Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani and Education Committee,

We don't need this bill when Hawaii law already exists for assault and battery.

This is a tyrannical attempt to silence loving parents who are deeply concerned about our eroding education system. One wonders where our tax dollars go when our schools are ranked one of the lowest in the nation. Our constitutional right to free speech and dialogue is in jeopardy should this bill pass. Hawaii parents see this as an attempt to silence them. Their right to dialogue with the BOE/DOE may be construed as "assault" when it is merely an expression of values and principles.

I consider this bill an actual threat to free speech on WE THE PEOPLE.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 2125 HD2. VOTE NO!!!

Mahalo, Lois Young

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 8:52:37 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mark Iwasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a parent, teacher, and citizen of Hawaii, I formally oppose HB-2125 HD2. I feel that this measure is unnecessary, extremely subjective, and creates a further divide between the Department of Education and the families it is entrusted to serve. Threatening legal action against parents for advocating on their child's behalf may not be the intent of this measure. However, the language of the measure gives all power to the "educational worker", without regard to the legitimacy and objectivity of parental concerns.

There have been a number of instances where my wife and I have advocated for the educational needs of our son and faced unwarranted criticism for doing so. We voiced concerns over addressing contraversial topics in class, utilizing social media as a means for "teaching", and discussing academic progress and all of these issues could be considered harassment in the subjective language of this measure. Therefore, my wife and I would be served a misdemeanor, and lose our careers as public teachers ourselves. All for advocating for our child. The subjective nature of the language in this bill would make this so.

As a teacher, I have faced a number of instances where parental concerns were communicated in very forceful ways. And perhaps, these types of physical and/or verbal exchanges are at the "heart" of this measure, but I do not believe that all schools and/or "education workers" would use this measure in an ethical manner. Instead, it will serve as a legal means for schools to not communicate with "difficult" parents. Parents that teachers have ideological differences with, parents that question teacher practices, and parents that will openly share their disdain for anything less than the best for the children attending Hawaii's public schools. Again, the language of this measure is so subjective that anything could be viewed a harassment, and any parent for any reason could be served a misdemeanor.

Lastly, as a citizen of Hawaii, it is my responsibility to share my concerns for our community. This measure does not encourage open dialogue between teachers and parents, or parents and schools, or parents and any "educational workers". Instead, this measure seems to tell parents that they need to keep their facts to themselves. That no measure of objective concern is enough to warrant an open discussion to address an issue. That the final say will always be that of the "educational worker" in whatever capacity that may be.

Considering all the issues I find with the subjective nature of this measure, I am very much opposed to it.

Respectfully,  
Mark Iwasaki

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:55:15 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
kristofor gellert	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill it will be to easily manipulated to make parents have no say in our children's education.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:23:45 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Donna P. Van Osdol	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Kidani and Vice Chair Kim and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

It is really unfortunate that this bill has been introduced because the role of parents and teachers should always be one of mutual agreement especially with regards to the curricula being taught in our schools.

However, recently, parents have been confronted with horrible ideologies being taught in schools that go against their family values. Those ideologies are actually to exploit and indoctrinate their children against predatory behaviors among others. With that in mind, it should not come as a surprise when parents are furious when they realize what is happening and what is actually being taught.

This bill does not allow parents any type of recourse to defend their position because the word harassment is so easily misinterpreted and subjective.

More importantly, because the bill will actually go into effect on July 1, 2050, I consider any and all bills that go into effect several decades later a total waste of time and MY taxpayer money.

Please hold this bill.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 10:09:34 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Celle Galarza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB-2125. I feel it is about criminalizing parental involvement in their keiki's education. Parental involvement is KEY when it comes to the education keiki of all ages! All family members should be able to speak openly and freely about how they feel about the education of their children without any penalties. HB-2125 is encouraging parent against parent, taking away parental rights, division, taking away freedoms, and liberties; while indoctrinating our keiki with whatever the school sees fit. Please vote no!

Sincerely,

Celle Galarza

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:37:10 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica Gellert	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

It takes away from parental rights and the word "harrassment" is too subjective.

Parents have a right to have a say in their childrens' education and curriculum.

Yet, this bill means if I as a concerned parent come forward I can be fined or thrown in jail. This is INSANE.

If this bill passes I will be taking my four children out of the public education system.

Stand for parental rights, KILL THIS TERRIBLE BILL.



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 7:09:21 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristen Lemonds	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 2125. It is unnecessary, vague, and a government overreach. There are already laws for harassment in place that cover all citizens.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 11:58:35 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeanette White	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Afternoon,

I strongly agree that teacher/educator safety is important, and action taken by HIDOE on their behalf – but not through this bill.

- The Department should enforce the current harassment laws and train Administrators and Districts to ensure current laws are being utilized including but not limited to conflict resolution and addressing parent concerns.
- Strengthening and supporting parent-school relationships is needed.
- Parent frustration does not occur in a vacuum and IDEA implementation needs oversight. Dispute Resolution is not available to all.

I OPPOSE this bill as it is unnecessary:

- This bill is punitive to discriminatory to the advocacy of special needs parents
- The purpose and intent of this bill conflicts with parent rights under IDEA/federal law
- Targets minority and disadvantaged families
- Ruins the parent-school relationship (indicator for student success)
- HIDOE can address the issues raised in testimony by guidelines set forth in current state and federal law
- It is duplicative of current harassment law
- It is ambiguous and subjectively interpreted
- Does not identify who will enforce or adjudicate “harassment”

I truly wish the HIDOE would expend their energy toward providing what is needed for a child's best outcome by working with families and following federal laws instead of sneakily devising ways to avoid doing the right thing. This bill being the perfect example.

Thank you for your time,

Jeanette White

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 10:19:40 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marcelle Liana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this bill!

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 11:00:04 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kathy Lyn Rocha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

We are opposed to HB2125, Harassment of an Educational Worker; Misdemeanor, because we believe that there are already sufficient, and appropriate, harassment laws in place to address the concerns presented by those supporting the bill, more specifically, HIDOE. HIDOE already has policies addressing unruly conduct by students. HIDOE can make policies addressing unruly behaviors by non-DOE adults while interacting with HIDOE employees.

We also believe that the way in which HB2125 is worded, is too broad and too overly subjective which will easily allow abuse by HIDOE in employing said legislation. As there are no working definitions of “annoy” and “alarm” provided in the legislation, general definitions will need to be employed. This will be problematic as the tolerance between one person, and another will vary making fair and equal application of this legislation untenable.

As parents of a special needs child, we were very persistent in our advocating for services from HIDOE. We were never aggressive or abusive, but persistent. HIDOE did not make it easy. What is to keep a HIDOE employee from claiming that the high frequency of emails, calls or in-person meeting requests is annoying and keeps him/her from doing their job because of all the time consumed in addressing the emails/calls and time spent in meetings? It is every special needs parents’ fear that, because of the ease with which this legislation can be misused/abused, that it will be used against them when advocating services for their child.

Furthermore, there is no sufficient data, or evidence, to support this legislation. Per Kyle Shimabukuro, principal at Mililani Mauka Elementary, submitted testimony saying he deals with “angry and belligerent people about once per month.” While he said, “active listening and empathy” on his part help him deescalate many situations, there are still “one or two incidents per year where the person is unreasonably aggressive and does not back down.” (CivilBeat.Org 2/8/22)

And, DOE spokesperson Nanea Kalani said she does not have an exact number of cases or threats made against school officials in the current school year. Because we have over 40,000 employees, we do not track that consistently,” Kalani said. “I only have anecdotal examples.” (CivilBeat.Org 2/8/22)

Policy and enforcement of current laws are more than sufficient to address issues/concerns with a frequency of “once a month” or “one or two incidents per year,” not new legislation. HIDEO management level employees need to take a more active role in drafting new policy and providing guidance to HIDEO employees on enforcing those policies. They must also call the appropriate law enforcement agency to enforce current harassment laws when the situation calls for it.

Lastly, if HIDEO employees being attacked is such a high priority and concern for HIDEO, then why is that, per DOE spokesperson Nanea Kalani, “Because we have over 40,000 employees, we don’t track that consistently.” Even if just 10% of HIDEO employees were experiencing such abuse, it should have generated a large amount of data, reports to law enforcement and/or cases that should be easily tracked.

New legislation should be supported by data, evidence, and solid research, not “anecdotal examples,” low frequency of incidents (based on “anecdotal examples” vs reported to law enforcement) and insufficient agency (i.e., HIDEO) policies.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:58:23 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Donna Thompson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Parents have the right to oppose what is being taught in schools, especially when the subject matter includes critical race theory and transgenderism. Some of this education has included graphic and very inappropriate content, which I highly oppose. Parent opposition is not harassment, this bill is too broad in scope.

March 20, 2022

The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair and Members Senate Committee on Education  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 228  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair and Members Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 204  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Kidani, Rhoads, and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 1499, Relating to Official School Business

I am a resident of O'ahu and parent to a child with Special Needs.

I OPPOSE House Bill No. 2125, Relating to Official School Business, which holds a misdemeanor charge for Harassment of an Education Worker and is defined as, "If with intent to harass, annoy or alarm an education worker that person disrupts or interferes with the administration or functions of any school, school administration office or school board."

I am a large supporter of school safety and all of our school staff, and my family is full of DoE retirees and educators. I know firsthand how crucial DoE employees are for our children's development, and have been blessed to work with the most incredible and exemplary educators at our child's current school. However, after listening to the testimonies by Superintendent Keith Hiyashi and Principal Representative Reid Kuba, I find this bill to be unnecessary due to the following reasons:

1. **It is duplicative.** There are EXISTING Harassment and Terroristic Threatening laws that cover these types of incidents and are more clearly defined as to exactly what type of behavior constitutes committing these offenses. For example, the EXISTING Harassment law HRS 711-1106 states, 'Taunts or insults to likely provoke an immediate violent response or repeated unwelcomed communication.' In addition, there is ALREADY a specific section for threatening an educational worker under HRS 707-716 Terroristic Threatening in the 1st Degree.
2. **It weakens the EXISTING law protecting Hawai'i's educational workers.** The specific section for threatening an educational worker under HRS 707-716 Terroristic Threatening in the 1st Degree, a law already in effect, is a higher Class C Felony. But Bill 2125 actually LOWERS the severity of the crime. Also, because it poorly attempts to duplicate the current Harassment law, which has a clearer definition of the elements necessary for this offense, Bill 2125 makes offenses harder to charge and prosecute.
3. **It is histrionic.** Superintendent Hayashi's testimony stated that the bill was necessary to stop and prevent threats and harassment to their school staff and to create a safe and healthy learning environment especially during the pandemic. The Mayor's Emergency Proclamation regarding COVID-19 restrictions will expire on March 25, 2022, allowing the DoE to adjust their own existing rules

as each school sees best, for health and safety. It appears this would alleviate a good portion of the alleged problems that the Superintendent claims the DoE has regarding parents. Furthermore, sufficient data was NOT provided to justify this bill. Where is the evidence of the problems this bill is intended to uniquely solve?

4. **It is not from DoE staff.** DoE staff are not asking for this bill. Representative Reid Kuba stated that he supports this bill and that he believes DoE staff would also support it, but doesn't know if many staff are aware of the bill. This is a concern because he is misguidedly advocating for employees who are unaware of the options they already have. With the current laws, actions to stop and prevent problems of this nature can already be taken. Instead of helping education workers and families, Bill 2125 confuses the situation and muddies the waters. The solution is for DoE administration to educate DoE staff of the rights they already have. The real problem appears to be a breakdown in clear communication from DoE administration to staff, and creating a new bill will not remedy that problem.
  
5. **It is discriminatory against Special Needs children and families.** Neuro-typical students may only have 1 meeting with teachers a year unless something arises that needs to be addressed. However, families with Special Needs children will have 2 meetings a year at minimum, depending on the amount of assistance their child needs. We, like many Special Needs families, have multiple meetings with school administration every year. The most important meeting is the negotiation of our children's IEP (Individual Education Plan). It is a legally binding, yearly education contract for a child, and as such can be intimidating. While we have been lucky to work with understanding and caring DoE staff at our child's current school, we have NOT always been so fortunate at other DoE schools in the past. Also, our past experience is not unique. Any parent whose child needs extra assistance due to developmental issues, physical handicaps, or attention deficit will need an IEP. These meetings already have parents at a disadvantage as they are greatly outnumbered, at least 2:1. If a DoE member construes any question as an "annoyance," this bill would carry severe consequences for a Special Needs family—an unnecessary and debilitating intimidation and ultimately eroding any trust between the school and family. Letting this bill pass will intimidate parents and prevent treatment and services that are crucial to a child's development, as what constitutes "harassment" and "annoy" is unclear in the bill's language. This bill discriminates against and unfairly targets Special Needs children and families, who were **specifically mentioned** in the DoE's testimony at the House Hearing. To **deliberately target Special Needs children and families**, one of the most vulnerable groups in Hawai'i, as the DoE did in its House testimony, is ignorant and cruel at best, beneath the educators it purports to help, and injures all the children it exists to serve.

For these reasons I implore you to please OPPOSE House Bill No. 1499, Relating to Official School Business. I appreciate the opportunity to testify.



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 7:14:27 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
J. Wolfe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully OPPOSE HB2125.

This bill is punitive and discriminatory to parents advocating with the DOE. It targets special needs families who need DOE services. Hawaii already has strong Harassment laws in place that protect all, and specific laws for education workers in particular. This bill also interferes with parental rights and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act--the Federal Special Education LAW. The DOE administration needs to show the data of any threats or police reports to justify such a bill. It does not add protection to education workers and actually damages parent-school relations. I am a voter and a parent. This bill is misguided and wrong, and the amendments made to it do not clarify it, make it useful or less redundant, or address its inherent flaws.

I OPPOSE HB2125.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 7:23:09 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth German	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 8:08:51 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julia M. Yano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this Bill; it should never be a 'CRIME" for parents to share their concerns for their children's education with teachers and administrators. Working as a "team" is healthy and positive for all involved, most especially the child(ren).

Thank you for taking my opinion into consideration for this highly important decision.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 8:50:22 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chris Wikoff	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to H.B. NO. 2125 H.D. 2. HI Rev Stat § 711-1106 already defines harassment and establishes the act of harassment as a misdemeanor. There is no necessity on the part of the Legislature to enact yet another statute specifically for the harassment of educational workers. Further, H.B. NO. 2125 H.D. 2 is poorly written. Whereas HI Rev Stat § 711-1106 clearly defines what activity constitutes harassment, H.B. NO. 2125 H.D. 2 leaves the definition of harassment of an educational worker in a subjective state that is open to interpretation. An educational worker could make up any definition of harassment as they please and claim that the action "interrupted" or "interfered" with their function as an educational worker or administrator. The Legislature should instead investigate why there is suddenly a perceived need to create a specific statute addressing harassment of education workers. Perhaps the Legislature would do better by determining how educational workers can better work with parents and students and engage in a sharing of ideas on how the children the parents birthed and raised should be educated in Hawaii. It instead appears that there is brewing hostility between parents and educational workers because the curriculum is overwhelmingly influenced by educational concepts created outside of Hawaii that do not reflect the best interests or beliefs and morays of parents and students attending school in Hawaii. If any statute is to be enacted regarding education, it should require parent teacher and administration interaction in regular meetings to develop curriculum that is in the best interest of Hawaii residents with school children attending public schools. H.B. NO. 2125 H.D. 2 will simply increase any feelings of hostility between parents, students and educational workers without solving the underlying issues that cause concerned parents and students to reject the education Hawaii's children are receiving. Without resolution for all parties, this leads to frustration that may stir some parents and students to feel threatened by the education workers when their voices are not heard or headed. Subjectively turning normally law abiding parents and students into law breakers and giving them misdemeanor records is not the solution. For all of these reason, I strongly object to H.B. NO. 2125 H.D. 2.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:46:21 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Vernelle Oku	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose taking away a parents first amendment rights. This bill will criminalize parents who want to have a say or discussion about what or how their children are being taught in school.

Aloha Sirs and Madams,

Thank you for the work that you do to address many issues affecting our people. Mahalo for the opportunity to hear our voices regarding HB 1697 and 2125.

We are mothers, fathers, educators, and involved members of our community. We pay attention to the making of laws intended to address issues of injustice and inequities affecting many in our communities especially children.

HB 1697: While this bill aims at addressing an issue pertaining to the sexual health of the LGBTQ population, it is not equitable and is an injustice in that it forces teachers, parents, and children without the exercise of their agency to choose. The language of this bill is an exercise of control and unjust dominion over others. It's thought policing aiming at forcing people to honor the LGBTQ lifestyle insinuating and ASSUMING that not teaching this specific curriculum in the way that they demand to be taught constitutes injustice and hatred towards the LGBTQ population. The bill also ASSUMED that teachers are not comfortable not teaching this idea. What evidence is there to support that teachers are uncomfortable to begin with? Also, this bill interferes with the rights and obligations of the family unit. We do not support HB 1697 for these reasons.

HB 2125: While this bill protects educational workers, it threatens the power of people to speak against what they don't like being taught to their children and how those in leadership roles administer educational programs affecting children. It leaves parents' without any say in what is taught to their children. We do not support threats against anyone, yet those in leadership roles must be held equally accountable to the stakeholders, even parents and guardians who are tax payers. Furthermore, there are current laws already in place that protect educational workers and all other citizens against harassment, and acts of violence. We do not support HB 2125 for these reasons.

Sincerely,

Chris and Sofai Lowe  
92-711 Palailai St.  
Kapolei

Laakea and Trevor Kaimikaua  
92-739 Aoloko Place  
Kapolei

Randy and Sharon Kim  
92-708 Makakilo Dr  
Kapolei

Betty Kumata  
92-708 Makakilo Drive  
Kapolei

Kylie and Nick Kim  
91-1292 Likolehua Loop  
Ewa Beach

Kristin, Taylor and Jody Fortin  
91-1137 Kaipu St  
Ewa Beach

Marvin and Jamie Kim  
91-209 Nohoana Pl  
Ewa Beach

Cory and Lacie Komatsu  
91-209 Nohoana Pl  
Ewa Beach

Arthur and J'yn Davis  
91-231 Kupiapia Pl  
Ewa Beach

Haunani Pagdilao  
92-664 Nohona St  
Kapolei

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 10:14:20 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Teresa Lyons	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our tax dollars provide educator's salary. Parents should be provided with all material our children are being taught! Exposure to disgusting sexual deviants/material is criminal and those educators who engage in such activity should be arrested!



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 10:15:16 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
SUSAN P HUGHES	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a retired teacher with the DOE, I agree it is not the fault of the teachers or personel at the schools to deal with irate parents. They should not have to carry the brunt of unreasonable laws that block their path to reaction.

There needs to be a way for the recipients of these laws to ibe reviewed and responded to in a constructive way.

1. Put these "great ideas" on the ballot and let the voters decide if they want it or not. IF it doesn't reflect the will of the people, then for God's sake drop it!
2. Have open PTA meetings and invite the community to join in with recorded input.

My resonse to this bill is negative. It needs to go in it's entirety.

Thank you for lending an ear.

Susan

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 10:17:36 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robin Rush	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB-2125. Current Law (HRS 711-1106) already addresses the issue of harassment. This Bill is attempting to take away the right of parents to voice their concerns of the education of their children.

HB-2125 is about criminalizing parental involvement in their keiki's education and turning neighbor against neighbor. Its an another attempt to divide the community. HB-2125 is against our parental rights, freedoms, and liberties.

Our tax dollars pay for our childrens education. The schools work for the parents and the children. The school board, teachers and administrators must answer to the parents if they have concerns of what our children are being taught.

VOTE NO on HB-2125

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 10:22:59 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joanna Weber	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ALOHA.

Please, **OPPOSE HB2125 HD2**

MAHALO, JOANNA WEBER

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 10:30:23 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gary Hipp	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to voice my opposition to HB2125 as I believe it is worded in such a manner that it can be used to silence opposition by intimidating parents, relatives and otherwise concerned citizens with criminal charges for voicing their position. The current laws on the books regarding harrassment are sufficient. Thank you for recording my viewpoint.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 10:36:41 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Debbie Wyand	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to this bill. Parents must have the right to speak to their childrens teachers, principals and administrators without fear of reprisal.

Current laws already exist against threats or harassment. We do NOT a need more regulations.

Please vote against this bill.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 10:38:03 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
debra engel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

THIS BILL IS AN OVER REACH OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE THE BEGINNING OF COMMUNISTIC GOVERNMENT. OUR KEIKI ARE NOT OWNED BY STATE, OR GOVERNMENT. THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT BIRTH A SINGLE CHILD. THIS HAWAII GOVERNMENT SHOWS ITSELF TO LACK COMMON SENSE, MORALITY AND HAS NO REGARD FOR PERSONAL FREEDOMS. IF THIS ADMINISTRATION IS CHOOSING TO TEACH IMMORALITY, THEN WE HAVE NO CHOICE THAN TO PULL OUR KEIKI OUT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLING, CREATING NEW JOBS FOR TEACHERS. WE PAY TAXES FOR OUR SCHOOLS, WHICH GIVES US, WE THE PEOPLE, WE THE PARENTS, THE AUTHORITY TO BE INVOLVED WITH THE CIRRICULUM AND HAVE AUTHORITY TO BANN SUBJECTS THAT SHOULD NOT BE TAUGHT.

THIS BILL SHOULD BE KILLED.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 10:43:04 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
taryn sutherland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

this bill is not for our children...it is about taking away the rights of the parents and elders...it is a clear misrepresentation of the truth as has become the modus operandi of so much introduced from the government in these times...our children do not belong to the government! it is the right of the parents and their elders who truly care love and care for their wellbeing!

enough government overreach! i strongly oppose this bill and all overrarching control over the children and family unit!!! please stop and do what is right! maay goodness and real truth prevail!

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 10:44:45 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kurt Otto Wadzinski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There already is a crime for harassment that has clear legal definitions. This turns a disagreement about your child's best interests now against the parent. If the teacher or school admin does not like a parent's involvement to work together, they can just complain to make it into harassment and no way for parent to still argue on behalf of their own child other than remove from school completely for homeschooling. Support parents and teachers. Find another way.



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 10:45:27 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rona Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I OPPOSE HB 2125!!! WE AS PARENTS HAVE A RIGHT TO BE INVOLVED IN OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION AND A VOICE FOR THEM. IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY AND OUR DUTY TO SPEAK UP AND PROTECT OUR CHILDREN WHEN IT COMES TO THEIR EDUCATION. AGAIN, I OPPOSE HB 2125.**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 10:46:12 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
juhl rayne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

oppose HB2125 for OBVIOUS reasons!!!! parents are in control of their children ... NOT the government military schools!

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 10:54:03 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Canuto Bacal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I opposed HB 2125.

Current law (HRS §711-1106) already addresses the issue of harassment, but that's not good enough. The Board of Education, Department of Education and Hawaii State Teachers Association union want to make themselves a special class with special considerations and special laws. HB 2125 is violative of the rights of the people and runs afoul of at least 2 provisions of the Hawaii State Constitution, and certainly the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States:

Hawaii State Constitution: Article I, Section 2. All persons are free by nature and are equal in their inherent and inalienable rights. Among these rights are the enjoyment of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and the acquiring and possessing of property. These rights cannot endure unless the people recognize their corresponding obligations and responsibilities.

Hawaii State Constitution: Article I, Section 4. No law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

United States Constitution, Amendment 1. Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Also HB2125 may be violative of federal law -- 18 USC Section 242. In effect HB 2125 deprives the people of Hawaii of their constitutional rights under the US Constitution's First Amendment to their freedom of speech and their right to peaceably assemble and petition the Government for the redress of grievances:

18 USC Section 242. Deprivation Of Rights Under Color Of Law. Whoever, under color of any law, statute, ordinance, regulation, or custom, willfully subjects any person in any State, Territory, Commonwealth, Possession, or District to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States, or to different punishments, pains, or penalties, on account of such person being an alien, or by reason of his color, or race, than are prescribed for the punishment of citizens, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than one year, or both; and if bodily injury results from the acts committed in violation of this section or if such acts include the use, attempted use, or threatened use of a dangerous weapon, explosives, or fire, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both; and if death results from the acts committed in violation of this section or if such acts include kidnapping or an attempt to kidnap, aggravated sexual abuse, or an attempt to commit aggravated sexual abuse, or an attempt to kill, shall be fined under this title, or imprisoned for any term of years or for life, or both, or may be sentenced to death.

I am opposed to HB2125.

Thank you.

Canuto H. Bacal Jr.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 10:55:37 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gail Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The first amendment of the Constitution insures free speech, to be heard and considered, not silenced. I oppose HB2125.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 10:56:16 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is already a harassment law/statue to protect all workers, so why does it have to be specific for "educational worker". It seems like this bill is creating a protective class and basically targeting anyone that does not agree with the programs, lessons, activities, etc. that is being taught by the school system and/or by an educational worker a criminal because if we do not agree with it and voice our concerns then that can be deemed as a form of harassment. As a concerned parent, I definitely oppose this bill because it infringes on my freedom of speech to voice my opinions regardless it is for or against the issue(s) at hand. I want to have a voice and ability to decide and speak out about what my child is being taught in school and/or other forms of higher education/institution without having it be a form of harassment because you do not agree. Again, there are already laws in place for harrasment and to specify a group such as educational workers is unnecessary and redundant unless the underlying goal of this bill is to suppress how concerned parents can interact with the educational system/institution. I oppose HB-2125.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:00:07 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Charles White	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Afternoon,

I strongly agree that teacher/educator safety is important, and action taken by HIDOE on their behalf – but not through this bill.

- The Department should enforce the current harassment laws and train Administrators and Districts to ensure current laws are being utilized including but not limited to conflict resolution and addressing parent concerns.
- Strengthening and supporting parent-school relationships is needed.
- Parent frustration does not occur in a vacuum and IDEA implementation needs oversight. Dispute Resolution is not available to all.

I OPPOSE this bill as it is unnecessary:

- This bill is punitive to discriminatory to the advocacy of special needs parents
- The purpose and intent of this bill conflicts with parent rights under IDEA/federal law
- Targets minority and disadvantaged families
- Ruins the parent-school relationship (indicator for student success)
- HIDOE can address the issues raised in testimony by guidelines set forth in current state and federal law
- It is duplicative of current harassment law
- It is ambiguous and subjectively interpreted
- Does not identify who will enforce or adjudicate “harassment”

The HIDOE would spend less time and money on risk management of special education families if they followed federal laws and stopped trying to punish families for asking for the support each child needs to succeed.

Thank you for your time,

Charles White

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:06:46 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ovheilia Washington	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Current law HRS [711-1106](#) already address issues of harassment but that's not good enough the Board of Education. The Board of Education, Department of Education and Hawaii State Teachers Association want to make themselves a special class with special considerations and special laws. This bill will take away my rights as a parent. I will not coparent with the government, nor allow the government to dictate my choices in raising my children.

The LGBTQ community is a choice. This community is always compared to the black or African American community. It is not the same, it is significantly different. One cannot choose to take off the color of their skin one day and put on another color or race. However, you can choose the LGBTQ lifestyle if you want. This bill takes away my choice as a parent in raising my kids in a Christian household with moral values. I'm against my children learning this lifestyle through sex education in public schools. This is my choice as a born US citizen and it is not up to the government to transmit their version of moral values to my children. I will not allow them to confuse my children about their gender and pressure their innocence minds. I have rights as a parent and I will choose what my children will learn. The government will not take my rights away with this bill and hidden agendas behind it. The government will not put me or any other parent in jail with our own tax dollars because of disagreement and not harassment.

I completely oppose this bill .



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:08:20 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
M Stanwood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to urge legislators to VOTE NO on this bill HB2125.

We need more parental involvement in schools, not less. A bill criminalizing a parent for standing up for their child is criminal in of itself. The children are entrusted to the schools to teach them, but the children are ultimately the responsibility of the parents. Parents need to be able to enter the school and speak with teachers and administrators without fear. If administrators and teachers are acting in the best interest of the students, there is no need for such a bill as HB2125.

The covid restrictions and mandates have created a less than ideal situation for many students, to put it lightly. This has damaged parental trust and confidence in the school administrators and teachers. This bill, would only deepen the divide between schools and parents. These children DO NOT belong to the state.

Furthermore, the 1964 law allowing the governor to nominate the school board should be repealed and the voting in of school board official should be reinstated.

I would also like to see a full, available to the public, audit of school funds throughout the state. Where does the \$14,000 per student go? How is this money being used? As well as a public audit of all the Covid money that has been given to the schools.

Crimes against children are being perpetrated in the name of health and safety by making them wear masks in school and it is terrible for everyone.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:08:33 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Katja Bajema	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee members,

I am a mother of 3 school aged children in Honolulu and I strongly oppose this bill 2125. This bill is 100% unnecessary as there already is a law against harassment. (§711-1106). What this bill does is discourage parents and caregivers to be involved in their children's education. There may be certain topics that do not belong in school curricula or extracurricular activities and when a parent voices their concern it could be construed as harassment. For example, my children's public elementary school had their 4th graders dance to a song by Maroon 5 about a sexual predator. I was against this of course and spoke out. They stopped it that year, but the following year they had their 3rd graders dance to a song about sex and drugs by Nikki Minaj. I again needed to step up. Sexual songs have no place being introduced to children K-12 by the school! This bill would make it that I can't speak up as a concerned parent because if anyone at the school disagrees they can say I am harassing them. This is not ok, this is an attempt at legalizing tyranny. Again I strongly oppose this bill and I ask you to kill it. There already is a law against harassment.

Thank you, Katja Bajema

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:11:06 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dorisa Pelletier-Yamasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern, (In regards to HB 2125) I am a teacher in the DOE, and even I oppose this bill. Parents should have a right to have a say when it comes to their children. Our children belong to their parents, not an institution such as the DOE or State. I've been teaching 16 years now, and we have been just fine dealing with difficult parents. We don't need to "criminalize" parents for having a voice. Thank you, Dorisa Pelletier-Yamasaki

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:13:26 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
William Gorman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 2125 on the grounds that parents have the right to express their feeling on what and how their children are being taught in school. The school board works for the public and should not be able to silence the opinions of parents by claiming harassment. This is a bad bill and should be rejected.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:57:34 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeffrey Shitaoka	Testifying for Koko Head Elementary School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to offer my full support for passage of this legislation.

There are extreme occasions where school administrators and educators are threatened and harassed by the public and these actions ultimately hurt the students, staff, and the community that we serve.

Your consideration to support this bill is greatly appreciated as it will facilitate our ability to protect school administrators and educators without requiring procedures that delay and or hinder serious threats and harassment. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to offer my testimony.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:30:01 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa-Ann Ching	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Parents should be able to speak against what they believe to be wrong in their children's lives without being charged with a misdemeanor. The government should not interfere with that ability to parent.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:15:23 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Katie Dye	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am not comfortable with this bill.

Parents with children with IEPs need to be able to communicate the needs of their child with the school and teachers. I am afraid this could come across as harassment. Our children have suffered to much the last 2 years. Open Communication needs to be ok and not looked at at harassment. Honestly I can't even believe this bill is in discussion.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:17:36 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kat Culina	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

Remember you're serving your constituents, not outside parties who wish to label parents as domestic terrorists when trying to protect their children from the school boards. This has already happened and cannot be allowed to go further. Children need to be protected.

Thank you to all representatives who said No, we see you and appreciate you. Those who said yes, we see you too and certainly don't appreciate your actions.

The history is being written right here. How do you want to be remembered? Either way, spoiler alert, good people win.

With God Always,

Kat Culina



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:18:04 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa Kerman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To All Concerned,

I absolutely with no shadow of a doubt, oppose HB2125 HD2.

This bill is obviously not about harrassment or safety, but rather to further an agenda of removing parental rights when it comes to how and what our children are being educated about in our public schools here in Hawaii.

If your objective with this bill is to run our state as though we're a communist country, which we're moving closer to each and every day, you're doing an extremely good job of it by passing bills like this one.

I have many friends who have chosen to remove their children from the public school system due to government overreach on how our school system is being run. For instance, schools have been allotted special funding if they can prove that they indeed are forcing the children to adhere to the mask mandate. If this is not fulfilled, the schools funding gets cut. Please realize that if this bill passes, many more parents will be removing their children from the public school system.

The public is waking up and learning so much about this "pandemic", the misinformation and lies we've been told throughout this past two years. We're tired of being told what to think, what to wear on our faces, what to put in our bodies and how to raise our children. We want our lives back!

Parents have their God given right to raise their children as they see fit (as long as this is done with all good intention), the government overreach has got to stop, and this bill needs to be tossed out with the bath water!

Lisa Kerman

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:20:29 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thomas Stanton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I strongly oppose HB2125. This bill is trying to make Department of Education and Hawaii State Teachers Association employees a special class with special considerations and special laws. Any potential harassment of these employees is covered with Current law (HRS §711-1106). HB2125 could cause unnecessary persecution of parents exercising their right to disagree with School Board Members or Department of Education and Hawaii State Teachers Association employees.

Sincerely,

Thomas Stanton

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:24:25 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Terri J Tulenchik	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No to HB2125

It is the responsibility of parents to be involved in the children's education. Stop trying to silence our voice. There is already a harassment bill in place which is a petty misdemeanor. Your trying to introduce another special harassment bill that has stiff penalties attached. A Misdemeanor, fines up to 2,000 and imprisonment. This seems to be removing the voice of parents, grandparents, aunties and uncles. Shame on you!

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:26:07 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maggie Costigan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is NOT about safety for educators working in schools. It will **criminalizing parental involvement** in their keiki's education.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:26:43 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaliko Trusdell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Parents have always had an intimate relationship with the educators of their Children in Hawaii and in the United States. Open lines of communication in regards to a child's education and the policies that govern children's daily lives while in the public education system are warranted and an absolute necessity. Removing and or deterring open lines of communication between the two parties by implementing HB2125 is potentially taking the "public" out of public education.

Scrutiny of educators and Hawaii states education system is an absolute when it comes to the future leaders of our Communities and our Nation.

H2125 can and will provide protections for extremist ideologies adopted by rogue educators, protecting those extremist individuals from being questioned and or held accountable for the implementation and expose public educations students to cultist beliefs and practices.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:31:01 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shaylene M. Fahey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please let it be known that I highly oppose of the HB2125 Bill, I Will Retain My 100% Parental Rights involving my minor childrens education along with Everything else that involves my child!

Thank You very much!!!

Shaylene M. Fahey

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:33:45 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alexandra Stanton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I strongly oppose HB2125. This bill is trying to make Department of Education and Hawaii State Teachers Association employees a special class with special considerations and special laws. Any potential harassment of these employees is covered with Current law (HRS §711-1106). HB2125 could cause unnecessary persecution of parents exercising their right to disagree with School Board Members or Department of Education and Hawaii State Teachers Association employees.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Stanton

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:51:49 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicole Kaleopaa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to this bill because I do not believe that there is a need for increased protection for educational workers to conduct school business. I believe that the laws that we already have in place are sufficient to address any harassment issues. Harassment is also a very broad and subjective term which could lead to misinterpretations of various actions. This bill could also cause parents, who may be persistent in contacting their child's teacher or administrators for a legitimate reason, to be charged with a misdemeanor.



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:52:47 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caroline Kong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is just the continuation of your abuse of power. As the parent of a special needs child who dealt with ALL YOU FOLKS in all the areas listed here. My child was abused on a DOE campus and the person reporting the abuse was threatened in the loss of a job BECAUSE OF REPORTING CHILD ABUSE. You folks are pushing your agenda WAY TOO FAR NOW. Unbelievable.

NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO and shame on you for drafting this garbage.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:58:34 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sara Patton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This proposed legislation is ludicrous. It is time for you folks to remember that you work for us and start behaving with integrity as true representatives of the people. We live in a democracy that guarantees the right to free speech. Throw this bill away today. It is garbage.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:58:46 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tish Rothwell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We as parents have the right to speak up for our children. We are their protectors, advocates, and have their best interest at hand. This should NOT be a government responsibility. If we see something wrong, in the education system, we must reserve our right as parents and grandparents to be able to speak up.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 12:02:29 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Adele Henkel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

1. This bill will criminalize parental authority and involvement in their children's education. This challenges parents' sovereignty as citizens.
2. This bill will further degenerate family bonding...alienate children from their parents. It will not lead to the development of children's character.
3. The current law, HRS §711-1106, suffices to address potential harassment. Have any of the parties promoting HB2125 proven, beyond doubt, otherwise?
4. Is this a veiled attempt to protect people working within the government school system from being challenged if they are overreaching their legal and ethical purposes?

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 12:09:14 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amy Shimabukuro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have a special needs daughter and this bill would prevent me from rightfully advocating for my child.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 12:14:50 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Randy Wolfshagen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No, no, no.

We - as parents of Pueo our 7 year old son - oppose this crazy over reach and re-writing of the definition of harassment requested by SAIKI (Introduced by request of another party.) And just who is SAIKI representing here? Certainly not parents of children attending public schools.

Harassment as defined in current law (HRS §711-1106) adequately protects those who need protection. This rewrite is a taking of individual's right to access and debate un-elected officials who's opinions and regulations may be at extreme odds with the populace.

Do NOT support this over-reach.

It is your job and moral obligation to represent those who elected you with their votes, not those who financed your campaign.

You constituents, Randy, Mirka, and Pueo Wolfshagen

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 12:18:49 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joann Salakielu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am OPPOSED to this bill!

What exactly do you define as harrassment? Harrassment means different things to different people. Is passionately verbalizing your opinion considered harrassment? Is holding a sign harrassment? Is raising your voice harrassment? Do we not have a right to voice our opinions regarding our children's care? This is a bad bill. You are trying to muzzle parents that may not agree with the curriculum or rather "indoctrination" they may be taught.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 12:30:05 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caroline Nascimento	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We oppose censorship and but support the rights of parents to support and protect their children. What exactly does this HB2125 cover? I surely hope not to allow parents to project their thoughts and voices and allow teachers to do whatever and teach whatever they want in the classroom with no repercussion or consequence? Isn't there a current law HRS 711-1106 that already protects teachers against harrassment, although it didn't protect the Stevenson Middle School Principal from death threats for over a year from a stalker did it? What are you all trying to protect them from? And who's paying you to put out this bill? WE NEED TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN FIRST!!!! We HIGHLY oppose any more censorship or denial of fair hearings or discussions between parents and teachers regarding their children, this is NOT harrassment! I hope I stated this loud and clear. Thank you & God Bless!



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 12:31:59 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephanie Coleman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee,

We as parents have a right to be involved in what is being taught to our children by educators. This law, if passed, takes away our rights to intervene when something against our beliefs and morals is being forced upon our children. I oppose HB2125 as it strips away the voice of the people and protection of our children. Thank you for your consideration and respectfully ask your opposition to HB2125.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Coleman

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 12:32:54 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lissa Cockett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB2125.

The Hawai'i govt has turned a deaf ear to the very foundation of this state. A culture rooted in ohana, that elected leaders are seeking to silence by introducing and then even considering passing as law. A bill that seeks to criminalize parents if they choose to voice a concern in the education of their children. And instead, overstepping and meddling in rights and decisions that should always be granted to parents vs the govt.

This is a poorly written, vague proposal that threatens parents vs inviting them into the process of decision making in areas that have the utmost importance in child rearing.

Please stand for the rights of the people of Hawai'i vs stripping them unlawfully away. Laws should be passed to PROTECT rights. Elected officials have taken an oath to do so.

Please OPPOSE HB2125.

Thank you for listening to these testimonies. The people of Hawai'i need to know that they are being heard!

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:44:36 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Revelyn Plaza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill as this can backfire on parents who are advocating for their child. The parent may bring this concern to the teacher, principal etc. or who ever school individual involved and can easily say a parents frustration is harrassment. As parents, we want what is best for our kids, to ensure their safety, get the services they need and we can become frustrated however school officials can easily turn around and say its harrassment, when in actuality its not. As parents, we are the voice for our kids and we know what's best for them and will work with the school/staff to address the concerns however if school staff will use this as an excuse to state harrassment, when the parent is voicing their concerns in a professional/cordial matter, who protects us as parents and who stands up for our children and their safety and ensure their needs are met. This goes to children in regular classes, Special education, and other classes. Parents just don't bring up an issue if the issue was addressed to begin with. For example, my kid was marked absent by the same teach 2x but my child was in school and present for all other classes. I know my kid is in school and doesn't cut class. With me voicing my concern 2x, this staff that I'm speaking to or teacher addressing this issue could easily turn around and say "I'm harrassing them" when in actuality I'm not because the teacher failed to thier job and properly address the situation of noting that my child was present in this class. Parents don't address any issues if the school/staff/teacher does their job and what rights do we have as parents if we can't voice our concerns, without worrying about it being turned around as harrassment! This is unfair to the parents who do voice their concerns and these parents, along with myself only call the school if their is an issue that has been brought up to my attention. In this case, this is 2x the teacher made this mistake, with the 1st attempt having the VP go this class and address the teacher. What makes the teacher accountable for their action and who corrects this mistake if it wasn't brought to the attention of the parent! Today, there aren't many parents who are as involved with their kids well being in school but I am not 1 of those parents and anytime their is a concern brought up, I always work to with the parties involved to address that matter in a civil way. Please don't pass this bill and those reviewing this bill are parents themselves. Put yourself in any parent's shoes, whose child is being bullied and nothing being done about it with the staff aware of it or parents of special education kids whose services aren't approved or decreased or like me parent trying to correct a teachers mistake 2x. How do you advocate for your child if you had these rights taken away, fearing you could charged with harrassment or a \$2000 fine! Please put yourself in our shoes, of the parents who care for their kids well being in the school before you think about passing this ridiculous bill! There are other important matters than this that takes our rights as parents, who are only doing what's best for our kids!

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:59:34 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicole Gueco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern;

I vehemently oppose HB 2125 as it criminalizes parental involvement in our keiki’s education. This is the opening door to slash parental rights, freedoms, and liberties; while leaving the door wide open for the indoctrination of our keiki (including but not limited to Critical Race Theory, LGBTQ+, racism, etc.).

I am appalled that this Bill has even passed the House here in Hawaii, where we value family, our elders and each other! This is a travesty of Justice! The BOE and DOE are funded by our tax dollars. Parents and citizens have the right to be able to attend meetings and express what our children should or should not learn without the threat of a misdemeanor, fines, jail time and being labeled a “domestic terrorist” for what is interpreted as “harassment.”

Please do what is right in the sight of the Most High God and your fellow man. Please kill this bill.

Sincerely,

Nicole Gueco

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 12:13:23 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
ESTHER SHERRARD	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The reason sexual health is taught in school is for the sole purpose of the study of reproduction. By explaining in depth and about alternative forms of sex to a child under the age of eighteen should be considered CHILD ABUSE. Sexual orientation and gender selection can be presented as extra information to teach and promote tolerance and respect for each other and should be optional for those who feel inclined.

Please do not usurp our right as parents to raise and teach our children CHOICE. By forcing this so called education in to the minds of teachers and children you are building a foundation for HATE CRIMES against each other. A child's mind is not meant to be used as a spring board to further political agenda.

A child's mind cannot be expected to process this information in an objective manner and will eventually turn to hate something that they feel is not natural.... sex education even the traditional way is hard enough. Stop perverting the education system and let the teachers do their job. Do not bring political agenda into the playground. Please stand up for what is good and true...DO NOT LET OUR CHILDREN GROW UP IN HATE.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 12:34:07 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alexis Caramonte	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that educational workers should be protected, but this bill lacks clarity and therefore I oppose. As a parent who has dealt with the educational system heavily to ensure my child received the proper resources needed I have had to deal with unresponsive teachers who felt meeting a concerned parent "was taking up their time" and was told that my dyslexic son should study his spelling words to pass their class. I was also told by some that they felt a bothered by my constant requests for meetings. This bill will allow individuals in the educational system the power to use at will if they simply are bothered feeling harrassed. Parents will loose their ability to stand up of their child due to a few educational workers who don't care about your childs education. Again I strongly oppose this bill.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 12:36:31 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Geneve Chong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Parents have every right to voice their concerns ALWAYS!

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 12:52:26 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeannette N. Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My testimony on this bill as an individual is that I am not in support of HB2125.

Mahalo,

Jeannette N. Lee



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 12:52:45 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keith Kenyon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I believe HB2125 will cause needless consternation, if passed.

Please reference these words within the bill (Section 3): “Harassment of an educational worker. (1) A person commits the offense of harassment of an educational worker if, with intent to impede the government operations of an educational worker, that person disrupts or interferes with the administration or functions of any school, school administration office, or school board.

I think what this is saying is that we (Hawaii) won't accept anybody's personal beliefs in the future and we won't tolerate any interference with what is taught in the schools—personal beliefs won't be considered (or even allowed AND worse yet, punishable). This does not represent the Hawaiian spirit that I have grown up with and live by. And does not represent our Hawaii Sate motto, Hawaii state motto: Ua Mau ke Ea o ka 'Āina i ka Pono. ("The sovereignty of the land is perpetuated in righteousness")

I oppose HB2125. Please defer this bill. Thank you.

Please consider

Aloha

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 12:58:45 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deborah Kobayakawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

The Senate Committee on Education

State Capitol, State of Hawai'i

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

March 22,2022

Dear Senator Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: HB 2125

I am submitting my testimony in opposition of HB 2125, as a parent. I have concerns about the ramifications of this proposed bill should it become a law and the impact it will have for families. I want to go on the record that I 100% support the safety and well being of all of our public school teachers, staff and employees.

I am the parent of a 32 year old young man with Autism and IDD and I'm his fiercest advocate and I am his voice.

I have to ask the hard questions, check to make sure what was agreed to is being implemented and do constant follow up. He was in special education for 17 years, from the age of 3 until he was 20 years old. I had no knowledge of special education when he began preschool at age 3, so

I had to trust the DOE and our school and they kept my trust. Trust is hard to earn and so easily broken on both sides, but especially for parents.

Disagreements will happen and there will be tough situations you find yourself in as a parent working with the DOE. It's part of the journey. When parents and family members know they are a valued part of their child's education team then true family engagement is achieved. If a parent has to worry about how many emails they send or phone calls they make due to fear of a criminal charge then we erode family engagement.

If HB 2125 becomes a law we risk damaging the relationships that are necessary in the special education process. We need to get to the root of the problem: why are some parents getting so upset, angry and frustrated? What tools does the DOE already have in place to help in these situations. For example, facilitated meetings can be helpful for both sides and takes away the personal issues.

We must empower parents and families to let their voices be heard, but in a mindful way. What all parents and families need is to be advocates for their child(ren) whether they have special needs or not. By providing information, support, and training, lots of training to families we can create mindfulness. Unlike me, many parents are afraid to speak up or to rock the boat, a common trend in some of the diverse cultures here in Hawaii. Why we would we ever want to silence a parent who is making reasonable requests?

If this is such a big problem that a bill is now being proposed to our legislators, why haven't we heard about it?

The HIDOE hasn't provided any data on the number of threats and harassment by parents. As a parent who serves on the Hawaii State Council for Developmental Disabilities, there are no reports of harassment or threats happening in our schools in their written reports submitted to the Council. Nor have there been any reports provided to the Community Children's Council meetings that are statewide, of which I'm a long standing member.

We need to build bridges not tear them down. If HB 2125 becomes a law it will create further divisiveness between parents and schools. It could target parents of special needs students who must advocate strongly for the services and supports their child(ren) need. Please do not silence parents with fear and punishment. Ask the HIDOE to provide the data so the numbers can guide

all of us. There will be trends and information that can be used for steps towards true problem solving and resolution.

We have existing harassment laws in place to protect all workers in our state, therefore this bill is not needed.

If the DOE needs more security on their campuses, they should get it. If email and other tech operations are being clogged and unusable during the school day, can these be blocked? I believe solutions are possible, once the real problems are identified. Research shows, punishment does not work; positive interventions are the only the way to change behavior for the long term.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my testimony.

Very Respectfully,

Deborah Kobayakawa

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 1:01:15 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rachel Doo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition to HB2125. I feel that the language of this bill is unclear regarding the definitions of "harassment against an educational worker" and "disruption of classes". As a parent who has an active role in my child's education, I would like the opportunity to collaborate with my child's educational team appropriately. I believe the language in this bill inadequately represents the parental right engage in discussions regarding topics of education. While harassment toward any individual by means of threatening and/or force is by no means acceptable, the language in this bill does not clearly define that as the qualifications of criminal harassment. Further ammendedments must be made to protect both the educational worker as well as the rights of the parents.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 1:04:53 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kenneth Ordenstein	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 2125

Why not put time, effort and money into fostering communication rather than criminalizing it? If two people can't communicate, why is one subject to criminal sanctions and the other isn't. The failure belongs to both. Why isn't there a process where an educational worker can call a time out and bring in a third party western or non-western professional arbitrator to work out communication blocks.

In addition, this bill is so broadly and poorly written that any parent who is perceived by anyone working at the DOE as threatening in an email, voicemail or conversation could be charged and serve a year in jail or pay a \$2,000.00 fine. Taking a parent away from their child to spend a year in jail or penalize the child's family with a \$2,000.00 fine for a failure to communicate does no one any good, especially the child.

I am a former DOE teacher who in addition to my teaching duties was editor of the school's monthly newsletter to parents. I supervised parent volunteers and worked with hired parent teaching assistants.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 1:17:06 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lee Ann Trent	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this bill!

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 1:19:46 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
ROSS ANDERSON	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha committee members and thank you for reading my thoughts.

I urge you oppose this measure for several reasons:

1 This bill basically creates a protected class of citizens based on their employment and does not use the traditional standards of definition for such a class of people.

2 This bill threatens the right of free speech. Having read the previous versions of this bill to help understand the intent with which it was introduced- it is clear that the desire of this legislation would appear to be to discourage disagreement with DOE policies; and individuals that stood against such policies would be subject to penalties. We must have robust debate on controversial topics in order to arrive at the best policy for our community.

3 There are existing laws that already cover harassment in our community. Let's use those should the situation ever arise that they are needed. The teachers and staff are covered by a strong Union that can assist them should they ever need to utilize the legal system.

4 Set good policy. Let's get back to the core mission of our educational system- Reading Writing and Arithmetic along with the STEM disciplines. Stay away from the controversial topics of gender fluidity, various sexual education theories and critical race theory. Those topics should be tackled at home not in school; get back to this, and the need for this Bill goes away completely

By and larger teachers and educators are loved by our community. We collect money for thank you gifts and shower them with lei at the end of the year. We don't need this bill to protect them.

thank you for listening

Ross Anderson



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 1:20:35 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Ameen Jr.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a very vague bill that will stifle any opposition voiced by parents toward anyone DOE employee. This will criminalize free speech. And also shut down any valid concerns and opposition that parents face and voice against any teacher, worker in their school district.

Do not pass this bill. This is an anti free speech bill. This will also create another waste of taxpayer money by creating a whole new division of control and regulation in the DOE. I oppose it.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 1:31:39 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bryan Ito	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 22, 2022

Representative and Senators,

My name is Bryan Ito and I am in strong opposition of HB 2125.

I am the father of a child with autism and am greatly concerned about the intent and inadvertent effect of its passing.

There are obvious issues with the bill as it relates to:

- Conflict with first amendment rights.
- Limiting parent participation.
- Duplicate laws for what the superintendent calls "...only for the most egregious offenses...".
- Due Process Administrative Rules which already exist.
- Making laws for the extremely few cases in relation to the overall impact of the scope.

Additionally, there are other not so obvious issues as follows:

1. Accountability of the DOE – The Department of Education being concerned about the “educational worker” is great. They should be concerned about employee safety. However, one goal of education is to raise the civility of our society. It is their expertise and existence that focuses on educating a society that can communicate with each other, vigorously or calmly. By passing this bill it would only allow them to “pass the buck” to others. They have the ability and education to handle the issue themselves. They should be held accountable for their actions and if it is creating a hostile environment then they should observe, adjust and educate themselves into what they can do to avoid it from happening. If this bill passes, it is just another tool for the DOE to make it someone else’s problem, which by the way, is at the core of identifying and educating the disabled appropriately. If the DOE can teach the disabled at a younger age, it avoids the child becoming an adult dependent on the system. The system being law enforcement, public safety, health and human services. The child only ends up in foster care or separated from

their parent if this bill passes. It doesn't help the parent, child or public. It simply allows the DOE to make it someone else's problem.

2. The Creation of a Protected Class of Citizens – This bill begins to create another class of protected citizens in combat to an already established class of protected citizens. It is difficult for anyone to have equal empathy who is not disabled. Similar as it is difficult for some men to understand women rights. There are so many basic human rights that were violated against the disabled that a protected class of citizens was created. The DOE is asking to create a new class to protect “educational workers”. It would be like creating special penalty laws for women who attack men. The “educational worker” is no more special than an “airlines worker” or “retail worker” who likely receive just as aggressive behavior during their employment and lifetime. All workers are equally important. All parents are equally important too.
3. The “Volume” is Getting Louder – If there are more situations of aggressive behavior happening, the DOE should listen. They should not just ignore the issue and call it harassment. There is always a reason. No doubt that those who offend the law should be punished but there are already established laws for that. The DOE should observe and learn from the parents who are being aggressive. Not silence them by creating penalty laws. This passive aggressive behavior could be the reason why the “volume” is getting louder. Passing this bill will only create more visceral behaviors. It doesn't stop the parent who is emotionally advocating for what they believe is a violation of their child's rights. The DOE needs to talk to the parents like adults who have just learned that their child requires a lifetime of supports. They need empathy and care. Not penalties.

Please do not pass HB2125. The DOE needs to be held accountable for their actions. They need to stop addressing their problems through legislation. If this bill passes it only reinforces their behavior to make it another agency's responsibility. In fact, it will become their strategy.

Sincerely,

Bryan Ito

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 1:36:28 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jonathan Steeper	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I object to the content and consequences of this bill (HB2125). Parents play an integral role in their children's education. Very respectfully, Rev. Dr. Jonathan P. Steeper, Senior Pastor, Kalihi Union Church

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 1:38:46 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sarah Parker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Parents should have the right to oppose school curriculum without fear of criminal prosecution, intimidation, or threat of arrest. Parents are the primary educators of their children and they should have the freedom to question their children's school curriculum. Parents have the right to curriculum transparency and should be able to ask questions. I oppose Bill HB2125! It strips parents of their rights to know what their children are being taught and the right to question/oppose it.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 1:40:52 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cindy R Ajimine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha and mahalo for serving and accepting testimony for HB2125 HD2!**

**I am in OPPOSITION to HB2125 and respectfully ask for your support.**

**It's unfortunate that we have to address the few (but increasingly more) who are not civil. While I support the intent of the bill, can this be deferred so time can be taken to create a more inclusive bill vs. one that probably will require yet another bill? Does not Hawaii's criminal code provides adequate means to address the concerns expressed in this bill? This would allow time to rework this bill to be sustainable and positively impact teachers, parents, and students for generations to come.**

**Parents are the first and foremost educators of their children. Parents have the right to curriculum transparency and should be encouraged and allowed to ask questions. Can we also address the acceptable parental processes to express concerns in a way that is respectful and safe for both parents and teachers? Can language be inserted to support their engagement in their children's lives and provide them with the freedom to acknowledge and question the appropriateness of curriculum being offered without fear or intimidation of threat of arrest/imprisonment? In addition, the language of this bill is unclear regarding the definitions of "harassment against an educational worker" and "disruption of classes." This bill does not address guidelines and protections for parents.**

**Mahalo for your time and kind consideration. As a voting Hawaii citizen, your service to better our island state to the benefit of her people for generations to come is greatly appreciated.**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 1:43:53 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica Furukawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

thank you for the opportunity to have a voice in this matter. I am writing to oppose bill hb2125 Please defer this bill- hb2125, as it makes a very large impact on the rights as a parent to teach our children our beliefs. I believe this bill crosses the line to dictatorship by taking away our rights to stand for our beliefs in a place we should have freedom to speak with our families on such a sensitive issue. Please hear the cry of a mother of 5 little boys, surrounded by distraction and confusion brought on by this world. Our hearts desire is to teach our boys wisdom and grow to be a stronger generation than this! Please don't take away the right to build the next generation.

mahalo again for your time.

may the lord bless you, our county, state and country.

Sincerely

jessica furukawa

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 1:47:05 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rochelle Mahoe	Testifying for HIDOE	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a necessary bill to protect our school administrators and educators, who in rare occasions are harassed/threatened by the public with no recourse. We are not referring to disagreements, or minor disputes, but rather the extreme cases in which members of the community make threatening gestures, remarks, letters, and/or phone calls that hinder and/or interfere with our ability to service our students, staff, families and community in the proper manner.



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:09:29 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Justin S. N. Mew	Testifying for HIDOE: Kaiser High School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of HB 2125. All educators must feel safe from harassment as they carry out their duties. Student learning is affected negatively when the harassed educator's time, energy, focus and spirit are to address the harasser. This Bill would also provide a progressive disciplinary approach because it may prevent the harasser from escalating to a felony-level offense. A vote for this Bill sends a message of support to our educators and Board, who always act in the best interests of our keiki and should be protected from those who are close-minded and stop at nothing to seek only their agenda.



To: The Senate Committee on Education  
From: PEACE Global by Executive Director, Shirley Y. Kinoshita

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2022  
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB2125 HD2

The non-profit, educational advocate organization of PEACE Global is testifying in opposition to HB2125 HD2.

There is an important correlation between Parental Involvement and Student Academic Achievement understood by educators and parents alike. As an educational advocate, we have learned that the more parents are involved in their children's education, the better the academic grades are. Therefore, we believe in encouraging this involvement via a cooperative school environment for parents, teachers, and students, rather than focusing on the few instances where misunderstandings can be misconstrued. In difficult cases, rather than jump to an adversarial position, perhaps a mediation solution could be made available, such as a dispute resolution.

Also, it is unclear why new amendments are needed to Chapter 302A and Chapter 711 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to cover harassment of DOE's employees. As we understand it there was a total of 6 reported harassment cases, during the pandemic, that would have been covered by existing law. The current laws in place in our state should be sufficient for the category of "Harassment" without duplicating them in other laws such as HB2125 HD2.

Several lawmakers in the House Chamber Video of Tuesday, Mar 8, 2022, mentioned that the harassment incidences occurred during the period of Covid-19. PEACE Global was also affected by the mandates issued by state leadership including the shut downs of in-person presentations and the number of students allowed in each classroom. However, we were aware of conflicting issues affecting families in the early months of the pandemic with the Department of Education in which families were told that on-line teaching of students was set-up and available when in fact, it was not. Many of the families were unprepared for the technical requirements of on-line education such as computers, internet, and the economic means to provide for them. As a result, it might be expected that these families would be very frustrated and upset. Now that we are all learning how to live with Covid-19, let's give our parents, teachers, and students the benefit of the doubt that we all want what is best for our families.

For these reasons, we oppose HB2125.

Shirley Kinoshita  
Executive Director  
PEACE Global

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:13:19 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tihani wilbur	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill! I disagree with this entirely! This is dumb!

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 1:53:47 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kathy Pulotu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 2125. The proposed updates are too vague and sufficient measures for dealing with harassment are already in place for "educational workers" enacting "government operations." This bill slyly criminalizes honest parents and community members who rightfully voice opinions and even oppose "educational workers" for the benefit of their own children. "Educational workers" are not always right and not always the best influence on children and educational processes. How will parents advocate for their children with a misdemeanor hanging over their heads? Please carefully examine the unintended (or intended?) consequences of the language that is being proposed. Do not pass this bill.

March 22, 2022

SUBJ: HB2125-HD2 Relating to Official School Business; Harassment of an Educational Worker; DOE; BOE

Dear Senators Kidani, Rhoads, Kim and Keohokalole and other members of the Senate Education Committee and Senate Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for serving the people of Hawaii.

Public school teachers have a very important responsibility as teachers and are major influencers on our children's education, beliefs, values, and attitudes. As a parent and now grandparent of children attending public schools, I truly appreciate teachers who work hard and are dedicated to teaching children.

The last thing I would want to do is to cause harm or to "harass" teachers or anyone in the Department of Education. However, US citizens and legal alien residents of our country have certain inalienable rights as guaranteed in the First Amendment in the Constitution of the United States of America as follows:

- the freedom of speech
- the freedom of press
- the right of the people peaceably to assemble
- to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

HB2125 is attempting to deny the people of Hawaii their Constitutional rights.

Also, there are existing laws that cover "Harassment" in our Hawaii Revised Statutes under §711-1106.

Therefore, HB2125 is redundant, unnecessary and appears to be an attempt to use fear and government overreach to deny people the Right to Free Speech. Will holding signs, passing out flyers expressing parents' disapproval of an educational curriculum, assembly peaceably or petitioning our government be considered "harassment" in HB2125?

In the video "Orwell's Final Warning" where George Orwell, author of "1984" said referring to the future, *"there will always be the intoxication of power"* and *"if you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face"*. He said *"The moral is a simple one, "Don't let it happen. It depends on you."*

Are you as a Hawaii lawmaker going to deny our First Amendment Rights? Are you going to make Hawaii become authoritarian like China's Communist Party? Would you have denied or arrested Martin Luther King, Jr. and 25,000 others from leading a 5 day, 54-mile march from Selma, Alabama to the steps of the Capitol in Montgomery, Alabama to peacefully protest.

Please, I humbly ask you to vote "No" to HB2125-HD2.

Respectfully,  
*Florence Tanaka*

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:04:26 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Martina Harms	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to oppose HB2125. We need more parent involvement, not less! I am a parent of 3 young children and I feel that expressing my concerns to a teacher, administrator or the DOE should not be criminalized. Advocating for my children is part of being a parent. This bill would potentially criminalize parents who advocate for their kids. The bill is written in a way that any parent could be perceived by anyone working with the DOE as threatening in an email, voicemail, post or conversation and could be charged and serve a year in jail or \$2000 fine.

Current law (HRS §711-1106) already addresses the issue of harassment. This Bill would allow The Board of Education, Department of Education and Hawaii State Teachers Association union would have higher protections than students and parents.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:02:41 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bonnie Marsh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is not a pono bill

please reject it

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:07:53 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa Reeder	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representatives,

I write to you as a very concerned mother of 4.

The issue this bill addresses should not even need addressing because it is not the job of the school to teach or even address sex education. This is a job solely for parents.

Beyond what I just stated above is the issue of morality. It is immoral to teach children these controversial beliefs when their parents are directly opposed to such teaching.

And to add to this, the Bill would punish parents who disagree and speak up?

To say that this is all reprehensible is putting it mildly and too nicely.

Please do away with this Bill.

Focus on teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic.

Acknowledge parental rights.

Teach love & kindness for all people, while acknowledging that we are entitled to our personal worldview.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Reeder



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:08:42 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
CECILIA A SHIZURU	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to HB2125 because of the irreparable harm it will do to our young keiki, if parents & family members are not given full, honest & complete disclosure and access BEFOREHAND to what their own children are exposed to & are being taught in the school system. Parents can then make their own decisions on whether they want to allow their children to either remain in the environment of what's being taught & reinforced, or remove their child from those situations/curriculum that does not align with the family values currently being taught & practiced in the home. To further put our keiki in a position to have to choose one authority over another (parents versus school) will cause nothing but confusion, fear & insecurity--the characteristics that no one wants them to have, which will have damaging impact on them, the rest of their lives.

"Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord." ~ Colossians 3:20 ~

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." ~ Proverbs 22:6 ~

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:12:49 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carl E. Harris	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill and as a constituent and as a responsible parent and resident oppose this bill.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:20:02 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Malaea Wetzel	Testifying for Hale`iwa Elementary	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

My name is Malaea Wetzel and I have been the principal of Hale`iwa Elementary since 2009. I strongly support HB 2125 and I urge you to pass this bill also. As an educational officer since 2004, I have worked hard to take care of the staff and students who are under my care and my responsibility. But I have not always felt that the "system" has done the same for me as an administrator. HB2125 is necessary to ensure that those of us who work hard to ensure the safety and security of our students may also feel safe and secure in performing our responsibilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Malaea Wetzel

Thank you, Chairwoman Senator Michelle N. Kidani and Vice Chair Senator Donna Mercado Kim and Committee members for the opportunity to speak against HB2125 HD2.

As an Oahu constituent and retired military veteran who served our great nation for 36 years, I vehemently oppose HB2125 for three specific reasons:

1. This bill is an intimidation legislation to cause pause for parents in the State of Hawaii to address grievances of Hawaii's Department educational material, instruction, policies, security, and safety measures that conflict with their family values and ethics to their DOE school boards and administration and faculty. This bill does not offer any additional security or criminal protections for Hawaii's educators and administrators that are already provided in the existing criminal code that addresses the concerns expressed in the bill, i.e., 1) HB2125 HD2 section 1. Sub sec 2 line 7 Establishing the offense of harassment of an educational worker; 2) Section 2, line 12-15; 302A – Harassment; reporting; procedures; claims; legal actions; training; a. The department shall: 1. Report all substantial incidents of harassment to the proper law enforcement authority; 3) Section 3, Line14-19, 711-Harrasment of an educational worker. 1) a person commits the offense of harassment of an educational worker if, with intent to impede the government operations of an educational worker, that person disrupts or interferes with the administration or functions of any school, school administration office, or school board.; 4) Section 3, sub sec 2 line 20; Harassment of an educational worker is a misdemeanor.
2. This bill divides educators and the public. It creates a destructive façade and narrative of division between parents and school administrators, teachers, school board members and faculty. In light of the National School Board Association (NSBA) letter dated September 29, 2021, to President Biden that was later rescinded and disavowed by the NSBA on their initial assertion as noted in the original letter as such:

“As these acts of malice, violence and threats against public school officials have increased, the classification of these heinous acts could be the equivalent to the form of domestic terrorism.”

It appears that HB2125 HD2 as written is inspired by the NASB's attempt along with the White House, US Department of Justice, and the FBI to thwart and intimidate parents from engagement with their children's school administrators and educators; one of the scare tactics is this line of effort of labeling parents as “harassers and domestic terrorist” when they oppose or address concerns to the State of Hawaii's Department of Education at any level. HB2125 HD2 will only reinforce this divide and not unify.

3. This bill will create more lack of transparency. Due to the COVID lockdowns that created online learning for children from K-12, it generated more hands-on involvement by the parents in their children's education and its material. Parents suddenly became aware of the material and instruction their children were being taught that weren't in line with

their family core values and ethics, so a surge of concerned parents flocked into school board meetings to oppose the educational material that were not transparent to them. As more parents across the nation spoke up in opposition to the educational material selected by the school boards and educators, they showed up in mass to school board meetings. This did not bode well with school board members and educators because their lack of transparency was on full display nationally. They were questioned and opposed at a huge scale that made them uncomfortable. School boards and administrators, up until COVID lockdowns had the luxury of not being held accountable for their implementation of educational material that were in direct conflict with parents who opposed selected material and instruction. Again, if HD2125 HD2 is passed this will encourage more secrecy and less transparency by the DOE administrators and intimidate parents from voicing their concerns on material being selected to teach their children.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I will keep you all in my prayers and hope you carefully consider all submissions for and against HB2125 HD2 and vote wisely. God sees everything and we all will answer to Him one day. Pray you will be able to say, "I voted correctly in Honor of you Lord."

Respectfully,  
Sheila Medeiros  
Kapolei, HI  
Retired Military Veteran

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:25:32 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Valerie Butler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Fear of possibly being charged with harassment and dealing with misdemeanor penalties may deter many from expressing their concerns, especially if it is opposes Board of Education/Department of Education position on a topic.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:28:37 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laine Furukawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB-2125 is not about safety. HB-2125 is about criminalizing parental involvement in their children's education. HB-2125 is a warning to parents, tutus, aunties, uncles, if you have a problem with what the Hawaii education oligarchs are teaching, introducing and exposing our children to, tough, keep it to yourself or risk a possible \$2,000 in fines or up to one year in jail. HB-2125 is about turning neighbor against neighbor and is chipping away at our parental rights, freedoms, and liberties; while indoctrinating our keiki. As a father of 5 boys, I couldn't more oppose this bill.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:13:03 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Winifred Yamashiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB2125.

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution specifies:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

The Constitution of the United States of America is adopted by the people of Hawaii.

Article I. Hawaii's Bill of Rights. FREEDOM OF RELIGION,SPEECH, PRESS, ASSEMBLY AND PETITION. Section 4. Restates the First amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

I understand this to mean that a citizen may express opposition to Government over practices or laws that go counter to his/her beliefs.

I oppose HB 2125 because it will effectively neutralize Section 4 of Hawaii's Bill of Rights. Freedom of Religion, Speech, Press, Assembly. It will deny Hawaii's people the opportunity and right to oppose measures to which they do not want their children subjected.

It is a sad day when our elected representatives enact laws that deny the people they represent the opportunity to speak up for their children against government-initiated programs that go counter to these constituents' strongly held beliefs--without fear of imprisonment or of being treated as a criminal.

This bill devalues us citizens, and effectively says that what we have to say is not important to those who represent us.

Please, for love of Hawaii and her people, reject this bill. Do not pass it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Winifred Yamashiro



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:22:32 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deborah Umiamaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB-2125 is about criminalizing parents' involvement in their children's education, not about safety. HB-2125 is a warning to parents, tutus, aunties, and uncles: if you disagree with what the Hawaii education oligarchs are teaching, presenting, and exposing our children to, keep your opinions to yourself or face a fine of \$2,000 or a year in prison. HB-2125 aims to pit neighbors against one another, but this is part of a larger strategy to keep us all separated. HB-2125 is about indoctrinating our children while eroding our parental rights, freedoms, and liberties. HB-2125 is a bill that I strongly oppose.

Sincerely, Deborah Umiamaka.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:25:24 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amber Burbage	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in opposition of this bill. While I most certainly do not condone any sort of "harassment", basically what this bill is doing is completely stripping away any individual (such as a parent) Who has the natural right to present their concerns and even petition what their child is being taught in the educational school system. This particular bill is trying to justify the right to say that because I have freedom of speech, no one can exercise that right because it can be deemed harassment. While this bill was presented under the assumption that it's going to protect the "workers" what it's really doing is stripping away any right that I have or any parental or guardian has to verbally bring forth a cause for concern if any.

Thank you for your time.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:32:34 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ana Mo Des	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Elected Members of Senate and House,

It is with great concern that I write to you in strong opposition of this bill HB2125, this is an abhorrent piece of legislature furthering the divide between yourselves and those that have elected you to represent them in service. How can you consider criminalizing parents interested in participating in their childrens education and standing up against anything they disagree with? This is due to the insurrection against Board of Education members and the panhandling of elicited material guised as education. It is beyond wrong that you are even taking the time to allow such faulty legislation to be passed and it is not going unnoticed. Do not pass this in the Senate!

Mahalo,

Ana Mo Des

Mother and Kauai Resident

County Chair of the Kauai Republican Party

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:39:17 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anita Yokota	Testifying for LDAH	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

*3/22/22*

My name is Anita Yokota. I am a mother of a 21 year old Special Needs child, and a parent volunteer at LDAH. I would like to submit my opposition to HB2125. This is a redundant bill because Hawaii already has laws in place to protect DOE faculty and employees. This bill also goes against IDEA which is a Federal Law! There is just not enough data to justify such a harsh bill that results in the same punishment as someone who committed murder. This is not the kind of message the DOE needs to send to parents who are trying to help their children succeed and get an education. It will most directly impact children like my daughter who can not speak up for themselves. Please do not pass this bill HB2125. The childrens best chance to succeed is when parents and teacher work together, this bill seeks to further divide. Mahalo for your time, Anita Yokota

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:37:01 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chelsea Castillo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PARENTS NEED A VOICE WHEN IT COMES TO THEIR CHILDREN. THIS IS BILL IS  
WRONG TO EVEN BE BROUGHT UP!

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:37:18 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Denise Tory	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. As a parent and now a grandparent, it concerns me that you would want to purpose this HB2125 HD2 that will criminalize parents who speak out against the DOE. All the years that I have lived in Hawaii, the doors have always been open for parents to be involved with their children's education and curriculum. Not to mention to voice their concerns at Parent Meetings. And studies have shown that the more parents get involved in their child's education, helping teachers and helping them with their learning, the more successful the school is. I have not heard of any incidents at a school board meeting where a parent attacked a member of the DOE. In fact, the Hawaii people would be out ragged knowing that such an action took place here in our islands. Not to mention that we already have (laws) that prevents such things to happen. So as a concerning parent/grandparent, I am asking you why are you allowing this bill to be even considered. Knowing that many of you are parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles, brothers or sisters...our Keiki are our future. They are an extention of our lives and the best people to be involved in their lives are their families looking out for them. So please let this bill die and let the families be the ones to raise their children and be a voice in their lives and education.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:40:19 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alberta Lono	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Comments:

Strongly opposed Bill 2125

First of all according to the U S Constitution, this is unconstitutional by taking our first amendment rights away. These elected officials took an oath to protect the people of Hawaii Constitutional rights. Parents have all the right to protect their children. Harassment begins from within the department of education when information is not provided to parents when requesting answers to problems or solutions. Also this bill is very broad without any explanation of what harassment really means. I believe this Bill 2125 is anti-family. We have a right to be part of our children's education and of any due process of what our children are being thought in school. I pray that God will speak to your hearts and remove any unholy alliance that is warring in you. God loves parents that bring up their children in the ways of God.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:40:27 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Natasha Welch	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

How is this Legally right to do. We are there parents we have every right .



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:41:28 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Derek Napoleon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly appose HB2125. I believe The language of this bill is vague and unclear and may inhibit my ability (or any parent's ability) to engage DOE staff regarding the education of my child. The terms "annoy" and "alarm" are particularly concerning. The bill does not define these terms withing the context of HB2125. A great many things can be considered annoying to any individual. Who determines what is actually annoying or is really someone not wanting to deal with an issue. The same can be said for the term "alarm". If a DOE employee is allowed to determine for themselves at any time what is annoying and alarming, this could be a tremendous obstical to a concerned parent having a voice into and being invloved in their child's education.

As a voting citizen with a wide circle of influence, I urge you not to approve HB2125.

Thank you for your service.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:46:32 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carol Kamai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Carol Kamai from Pauoa Valley Hawaii and I am in opposition of HB 2125. As this bill is written, it assumes that the educational workers are the only parties being harrassed. It gives the educational workers a pass and assumes they inflict no harm. This bill does nothing to protect the Ohana for speaking up for their keiki as they go thru the educational system. If the goal is for diplomatic or cordial discussions then training should be provided to the families. There needs to be a clearer channel for the family to engage and a definition of what defines harassment. Additionally there needs to be protection for the family members. This bill in its original form is poorly written and I strongly oppose it.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:47:42 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Catherine Collado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for accepting testimony for HB2125 HD2.

I am writing in OPPOSITION to HB2125 HD2 and respectfully ask for your support.

It is of utmost importance that parents of children be responsible for their children's education and safety. Although I understand the intent of this bill, I am concerned with the wording of, and definition of "harassment". In this bill, "harassment" can be a parent walking into the classroom after school to bring a concern up with the teacher. With the multiple facets of bullying, safety among other students, homework deficiency, etc., the definition of harassment is not clear. Further clarification is necessary to delineate the definition.

Please consider the request of clarification of the definition of "harassment".

Thank you for your attention.

Catherine Collado

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:50:48 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mark Arinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HB2125 HD2.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:57:42 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
mari pereira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"Official School Business"?

Yes, Official School Business is only School business.

Official School Business does not relate to, is not defined as, pertain to, have any say over any individual, individuals in a family, any parent/ parents---in any family. Children, young adults, adults in any educational system in the United States Of America are free individuals. The educational system in the USA cannot tell parents what happens to themselves or their own children.

PERIOD

REMINDER: The United States of America is not a communist country.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 3:04:31 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leslie J.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please defer this bill. We already have sufficient laws to address cases of harassment, and our law enforcement community is well-trained to handle cases in this area. Perhaps DOE and HPD could parter on providing informational seminars to educational staff, if this is not being done already, so that the educational staff are aware of how to report a harassment case to HPD and let HPD take it from there. We want our parents and teachers to be partners in the education of our children; let's let cooler heads prevail, and if someone gets out of hand, HPD can handle it. Let's not put that burden on the DOE. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 3:05:20 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janette Snelling	Testifying for Hawaii Department of Education	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am support of HB2125. In daily operations, administrators, teachers, and support personnel in the Hawaii Department of Education are charged with making decisions that uphold regulations and serve in the best interest of all students. While engaged in carrying out the departments essential educational functions, it is inevitable that our decisions may be met with disagreement. To disagree is a personal right, but we need to send a clear message that it is not acceptable to voice disagreement inappropriately. Administrator and their support personnel shoulder the burden of making tough decisions everyday; they need to be protected from harrassment and threats.

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 3:23:15 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sarah Dela Cruz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB-2125 is wholly unnecessary as there are existing laws that protect individuals from harassment. Passing this bill will only serve to disenfranchise parents, family, and community members from having access to schools, teachers, and administrators. HB2125 does nothing to protect the concerns and voices of parents and would instead penalize them. The BoE and DoE do not require additional protections. Engaged community members, parents, etc, are not to be treated as enemies of the state.



Dear Committee Members,

I would like to ask that you kindly reconsider passing HB2125. I am opposed to it because I believe it is an attempt to hinder my right as a citizen or parent to address concerns I have with what the school teaches our keiki. As a former school teacher, I understand that real harassment as in intimidation or outright threats and abuse should never be allowed to anyone much less teachers or staff. There are already laws in place to handle this.

HB2125, though, is creating a new line of reasoning that anyone who intentionally disagrees with what the school is doing or condoning and chooses to express their opinion at a school board meeting or a meeting with an administrator or teacher is liable to be charged for harassment if said staff "feels" that the concerned citizen disrupts or interferes with their job. That is a very suspect line to be drawing for the citizens to whom the school is supposed to "serve". Concerned citizens and parents should never be treated as hindrances to education. There is no one more invested in their child's education. Please avoid leaning towards that side which paints parents as adversaries. That is not in anybody's best interest. Please oppose HB2125.

Thank you for your consideration of my humble views.

Sincerely yours,

Rick Kariya

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 3:48:39 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Esther Kanehailua	Testifying for Hawaii Department of Education	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo in advance for your support of HB2125 that protects our public educators allowing them to focus on our keiki.

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



Rie Doi-Stewart  
Wednesday, March 23, 2022  
Support for HB2125, HD2 Relating to Official school business

I, Rie Doi-Stewart is a Master of Social Work & Public Health Program, Thompson School in University of Hawaii at Manoa student and individuals committed because I affirm that under no circumstances should one party be deprived the freedom of speech. There are two sides to the issue, the school and the guardian(s).

I oppose HB2125, HD2, relating to official school business, the offense of harassment for educational workers in the State of Hawaii.

First, some people are slightly misunderstanding the 14th amendment. It is to the U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1868, granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States—including former enslaved people—and guaranteed all citizens “equal protection of the laws.” Therefore, it is not wrong to protect school workers. However, in history, this amendment was used for the protection of equal race and gender issues by the supreme court. Also, Title IX protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance. So, Title IX is part of the 14th Amendment. The 14th Amendment provides, in part, that no state can "deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." Title IX specifically prohibits sex discrimination.

We can see the true fear of school workers by watching the BBC News "US to combat threats of violence against teachers-Back to school causes fierce US debate over student masks-". I understand why this bill has passed. Parents will bring in political thoughts to school, being terrorist, threatening, and violent, which are criminal. It extends to the act, which is why schools need a bill to protect school workers. And I can understand it well. But if the law blocks not only parents' actions but also their opinions, it is no different from communism. It's easy to contain people by law, but it's like a forcing of control power. Government should not have the ability to silence individuals. Educators have taught students that in history they do not judge people by gender or race. Teachers have been telling us about the mistakes of silencing such as the example of amendment 13th, people judging people and controlling them of modern-day enslavement. Of course, safety must be maintained but it's not this way to oppress people, in order for teachers to protect themselves.

Education is based on free speech. Parents' opinions, especially in the childhood of their child, should not come from reluctance or fear. I still believe that teaching is a noble profession. Please decide on a bill of justice so that children can be proud of their education at any time.

For these and other reasons, I took the act, testified.

Thank you for this opportunity.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 4:19:35 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paula Aila	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 4:36:11 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dave Willweber	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair & committee,

I strongly oppose this bill as it is government overreach. It's a nice sounding way of beginning to intentionally take freedoms from parents. Keiki are governed 1st and foremost by parents. Parents entrust their keiki into the 2ndary authority of the D.O.E. Parents therefore have the right to speak to teachers, principals, CAS, DOE superintendent, B.O.E. when education goes beyond basic reading, writing, arithmetic.

Ke Akua pu,

Dave Willweber, Parent with keiki in the D.O.E.

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 4:48:49 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chandra Fulton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2125, I feel that it will criminalize parents and take their parental rights away regarding what they feel is best for their children.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 4:52:20 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marie Le Boeuf	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am VEHEMENTLY opposed to this bill!

**LATE**

As parents, we entrust the care of our children to the education system where they will spend on average 6 hours a day. Policies and procedures are in place to protect educators, staff, and students. So why the need for HB2125?

HB2125 is aimed to criminalize parents, care givers and loved ones. Voicing our concern and or disagreeing with curriculum being taught to our Keiki will be deemed "harassment." Fines and or jail time will be the consequence. HB2125 is crossing the line and has no place here!

As a parent, we have the right and due diligence to advocate for our children and ourselves regardless of what educational oligarchs deem appropriate. The veil has been lifted and we can see the chipping away of our God given inalienable rights. Enough is enough! For those of you pushing this bill, please remember that without our Keiki, you have no job. You get no funding. I speak from experience- my high schooler didn't know how to write a bibliography, didn't know how to use a dictionary, and had no idea what the holocaust was. Class curriculum was vague regarding the rated R movies to be shown in social studies class, however, when the federal survey came home, I was expected and encouraged to complete the form and turn it in so that their school could get monies.

No longer can we be blind to the indoctrination being taught in schools. We see parents and communities rallying together to protect the children. Wake up Hawaii! Protect the Keiki. Protect your Parental Rights. NO TO HB2125

**LATE**



**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 5:21:02 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
McKenzie Hatcher	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill HB2125 . Bill HB2125 takes away and disrespects parental rights . Hawaii as well as all states are already covered in cases of harassment as it is a federal crime.

Being able to voice our opinions and concerns without being labeled as "harassing" is a crucial part of feeling safe in sending our children to school where we know they will be treated well. Not being able to tell a teacher or a facility member concerns or opinions will result in an untrust along the bored. It's important for parents to have a voice -These are, OUR children who are going to schools the DOE would not exist without us parents. . It is my parental right to be able to tell anyone how they should be treating my child wetheter that's in school or any other relationship in life .

thank you .

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 5:31:52 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Faith Burns	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Really, guys? Really? I will say something poignant, and here is is: Dis ain't da Mainland. This proposed law is despicable, infringes on our right to free speech, and is totally against the Constituion of the U.S. AND the Hawaii State Constitution. There are already laws on the books regarding criminal harrassment. Auwe!

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 5:39:02 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james pirtle	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill HB2125. I believe it removes the parental right to oversee their child's education and the topics and curriculum they are being taught. Without parental oversight there is no chain of responsibility and the direction of which a young mind molds and grows will be left to individuals who may not have the best interest of the child's future at hand. I am in opposition of this bill. Mahalo for your time.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 5:48:35 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chad Mahoe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

I strongly oppose HB2125 because it is too vague on its description of harrassment against educational workers. As a DOE employee for over 15 years, I have been harrassed before and have reported these situations directly to my supervisors and it has been handled appropriately. The danger in how this bill is worded is that it could be used against parents for certain disagreements on the way each school decides to roll out controversial topics. Since there are already processes that are followed in the DOE in regards to harrassment, I do not feel this bill is necessary. It seems very suspect that this bill is being passed in lieu of disagreements with school boards across the nation. I believe that schools are there to teach children, not indoctrinate with politically motivated agendas. Imagine teaching your children what is right and wrong, and then they go to school for 13 years and someone else is teaching something opposite from what you've been teaching them. I'm sure you can imagine the frustration and hopelessness you would feel if this bill was passed, and you would be charged with a misdemeanor for opposing (harrassing) educational workers. Please vote against this bill.

Mahalo,

Chad Mahoe

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 6:23:34 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristen Tuifua	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senate Education Committee,

I respectfully ask that you vote NO to HB2125. There are laws already in place that cover the kind of harassment that would warrant a misdemeanor against any person (DOE employees fall in to this category). I agree that DOE employees need to be protected, and we love them as we have our children in the public school system. However, I feel this bill is redundant, and can potentially lead to other bills that weaken the rights of parents advocating appropriately for their children.

Please vote NO. If an employee is feeling severely threatened, the police should be called regardless.

Respectfully,

Kristen Tu'ifua

808-382-9202

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 7:00:35 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
brandon najarian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senator Michelle N. Kidani,  
Chair  
Vice Chair  
Committee on Education

Senator Donna Mercado Kim,

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Relating to official school business HB 2125

Support for HB 2125, Relating to official school business and teacher protections

Aloha, my name is Brandon Najarian, and I am testifying in support of HB 2125, which requires the DOE and BOE to take certain steps to better address the harassment of its employees.

I am the child of a 35+ years professional in early childhood education, and I have heard and seen the problems teachers face daily. From parents with unrealistic expectations to community members who want to force their personal and political beliefs on educators, teachers are usually innocent bystanders caught in the middle of two difficult situations. Long have I heard stories of the physical violence and death threats that can come from unadjusted or uninformed parents towards staff in Hawaii that it's become commonplace to hear of these situations happening almost weekly. Teachers are unfortunately on the front line when it comes to enforcing new rules and regulations. They have to face these parents and guardians who don't agree with these decisions and sometimes feel like an insult or threat of violence towards staff is the solution. All DOE and BOE employees should feel safe when at work, and part of that feeling is ensuring that if/when a situation arises where any staff member feels threatened, there are steps to follow that will ensure their safety. As of right now, I can personally tell you stories of a parent who has entered a school on the windward side on multiple occasions and made threats to damage property and hurt staff. Despite the countless complaints made against the parent (over many years and across numerous schools), NOTHING was done to protect the staff by preventing the parent from returning. If staff feel threatened by anyone, the DOE and BOE need to have a process to consult the offender, and a means to remove violent offenders if necessary.

I am again restating my support for HB 2125. By providing these basic protections, educators can perform their jobs to the best of their ability without fearing repercussions from parents. The

statue would also remind the general public that everyone deserves respect and to feel safe in their place of work. If there are complaints about an educator, there is a process, and nowhere in that process does it say to scream in the face of a teacher.

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 7:06:52 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joel Berg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If this bill becomes law it will be weaponized against parents who dare speak out about DOE policy. You've already created a generation of mental health problems for school age children because you were too cowardly to challenge the extension of the governors emergency powers. You're all complicit in child abuse and you should all be ashamed of yourselves.



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 7:17:21 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jasmine Mano'i	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 7:36:28 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa Shorba	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators Kidani, Mercado Kim and Committee Members,

I oppose HB2125 HD2 and request that this measure be held in committee. This bill is not necessary, as laws currently exist to address problems related to harrassment in every setting, including education.

This measure may also potentially create further problems when it comes to parental rights; I firmly support parents and believe they have every right to advocate for their children when they disagree with what is being taught in the schools. The schools also need to support not only the students, but their parents. We all need to work together and malama the relationships that exist between DOE employees, children and their family members. Please do not pass this measure.

Mahalo,

Lisa Shorba

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 7:42:53 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
kanoe Davis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel this bill takes away a parents rights and obligations to their children. I have a special needs son. There has been a time where employees of DOE thought I was irritating and possibly felt a lil harassed by my emails and phone calls. I have had to "fight" for my sons rights. There are federal laws that the DOE has to follow for disabled children. Resources and accommodations do not come easily. If this passes with the way it is written, then I may have been arrested if an employee thought I was harassing, when in reality, I'm doing a parents job.

I support my teachers and am grateful that there is people out there like them. At no time should they be threatened or made to feel unsafe. But there is laws already in place for that kind of behavior. I have a feeling if this bill passes as written, there will be law suits in the near future for parents rights being violated. This state has been there many times and has had to pay out so many settlements. Which is just costing taxpayers. Let's try to learn from the past please.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 8:01:56 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Scottlyn Aiko Kajiwara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

What constitutes harassment?

As a parent, concerned for the well-being of my child with special needs, I have, on multiple occasions, found myself confronting teachers and staff in regards to getting help for my son. Any of these DOE employees could consider my persistent attempts to see justice for the bullying my son endured as harassment. In fact, there have been occasions where situations became confrontational simply because my persistence has diverted principals and other staff from their "important meetings". My son's safety, OUR CHILDRENS SAFETY, COMES FIRST. A parent's right to protect his/her children should not be infringed upon in a place where children should feel safe and we(parents) should not be threatened with punishment for standing up for our children when necessary.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 8:33:26 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
May Akina	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

First, thank you for taking the time to read my opposition testimony for HB2125. In 2021, my first grade daughter was mistreated by her first grade teacher. The lessons were via Zoom and both my husband and I witnessed the mistreatment and favoritism over the course of two months. I escalated our concerns to the Principal. However, while this was a teacher "known" to both the Principal and the Complex Area Superintendent to be difficult and have many complaints against her. Both parties did nothing to address the neglect and mistreatment my child endured. We ultimately made the decision to withdraw the student from the school after two and half months of no changes. How my story relates to this bill is that the teacher falsely accused my husband and I of sending her a threatening email. However, this was not the case at all. In my electronic communication with her, I was very tactful and I cc'd the Principal on the two emails I sent her. So, the connection with HB2125 is that we cannot take away a concerned parent's right to speak up against poor teaching. Additionally, in my experience with this teacher, my two very polite and respectful emails were portrayed as harassment (by the teacher) when they were absolutely not. I am worried this bill will hinder parents from speaking up and empower inadequate teachers to continue their mistreatment of our students.

I certainly have fear of reprisal if I were to share the specific school and teacher involved. Our public school system feels as though the parents don't have any power when it comes to advocating for a quality education for our children.

In closing, the current law (HRS 711-1106) already addresses the issue of harassment. The Board of Education and Hawaii State Teachers Association Union would have higher protections than students and parents.

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 8:37:20 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tesla Palavi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This does not protect parents from teachers who really don't have the best interest of their students. Many teachers aren't as compassionate as others are and this bill will Gove them the power to ruin a parent's life simply for speaking to them with stronger emotions, or for not agreeing with their teaching methods. I agree harassment to our educators should have consequences but this is not it. There is no way to control this and prevent it from being used as a power chip against good parents and not so good educators. I think this needs to be re- discussed and planned better. No parent will want to send their children to school at the risk of being put in Jail for disagreeing with their child's teacher for anything related to that child's education. There's absolutely no way to prevent teachers from taming advantage of parents.

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 8:49:50 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
sylvie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

current law (HRS711-1106) already addresses the issue of harassment, but thats not enough.

The DOE and hawaii state teachers association union wants to make themselves a special class with spwcial consideration and special laws.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:29:54 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deanna Wentworth	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Kumu in Hawaii for the last 16 years I am highly opposed to this bill. Parents input and involvement are crucial to the success of the keiki. If we discourage 'ohana from getting involved with a bill such as this it just shows parents the schools don't even want to hear from them. Parents can be intense when they are speaking about the welfare of their child and teachers and admin need to be prepared to deal with this in an effective and calm manner but excluding parents is out of the question. This bill goes out the window!



**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 10:56:57 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Fisher	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My children have been entrusted to you, educators, teachers, administrators and principals. I expect you to be held to the highest standard. If you think you have the authority to over ride my authority you are sadly mistaken.

We are each a sovereign entity and to those who are in authority are held to the highest responsibility, myself and you included. However, I am accountable to God, Jesus, my Lord and Saviour for everything I pour into my children's lives...so are you! No mask, No experimental vaccines, NO MORE LIES. We live on God's truth and I am sorry to say that the government and all it's agencies are far from the truth.

Thank you for your understanding,

Shannon Fisher

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:04:05 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kirk Wakaumi	Testifying for Shakamaps LLC	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We oppose HB2125.

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 11:41:10 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Botello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to this bill. It is an overreaction to perceived threats that have no basis in fact. There have been very few actual incidents that would fall under this bill and is only going to lead to criminalization of free speech. Do not pass this bill. It is unconstitutional to its core and will do nothing but infringe upon the rights of parents to direct the course of their childrens education.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 12:17:57 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alec Wong-Miyasato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2125 HD2. While I agree that harassment of our educators is wrong, any issues should be left to the police.

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 12:48:44 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Fred Delosantos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

please oppose this bill. Parents who care about their child's education and choose to get involved in the direction it's going should not be treated as terrorists.

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 1:37:58 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Adi Siki Ikakoula	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing in opposition to bill HB2125. There are already enough harassment policies in place to protect the teachers. This bill does not promote parents/teachers and children to work together for the betterment of education. Parents are forced out of the equation of what should be a joint effort to educate our children. Please reconsider if you're in favor of this bill. It's doing more harm than good.

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 7:14:26 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Veronica Milotta	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposed. Hawaii already has harassment laws in place. The DOE did not reveal any data about threats that justifies this and it goes against IDEA. Seems very unprofessional.

The wording of this bill takes rights away from the parents and ultimately the children they advocate for. The school should not have different harassment laws than other service workers receive like Doctors etc. who also work with our children.

In my time in the DOE I have always been respectful in my communications with the school. Parents advocate for their children until children are old enough to do it themselves. It is par for the course. I am worried about a \$2000 fine. Half of Hawaii is on government assistance through medicaid etc. according to the stats. This is penalizing the underpriveleged and taking the voice away from the children who often have very specific needs in order for them to get a good education.

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 7:43:17 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sarah Martins de Souza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill and do not believe it is for the best of the employees, the parents, nor the students.



**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 8:15:49 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lagafuaina Matai Wei	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support schools. Faculty and staff do a fantastic job day in and day out. We strive for perfection but many times we fall short. Schools are no different. While faculty and staff are expected to nurture the academic growth and personal development of our children, there is always the factor of human error. In such cases, parents must intervene. We are obligated to the overall wellbeing of our children. We are the “checks and balance” for the schools and our children should expect nothing less from us. In our endeavor to protect our kids, we must follow up with school officials, conduct unscheduled visits to schools and speak when it is needed.

This newly created bill will incapacitate and silence me as a parent. It will make parents powerless while giving school officials an avenue to ignore parents. This new bill will school faculty immunity when none was ever needed. This new bill will restrict me as a parents from being present and involve with my kids while in schools. We are used to hearing the statement “schools are failing our children.” If you pass this bill, we will all remember how “the legislators failed our kids.”

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 8:30:07 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Claudia Pokipala	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill HB 2125. As parents it is our right to teach our children morals and values.

Recently, there has been disturbing teachings stemming from the DOE that are incongruent with those morals and values we hold so dearly to our hearts. This Bill carries the potential to discriminate parents from speaking up against immoral and damaging theories and views that will harm our children, our most vulnerable population!!!!

Parents who passionately believe in their values and morals and in raising their precious children with them should never be hindered and potentially charged for being so concerned and disturbed when a child's psychi is warped. Furthermore, it is an overstepping of Our Constitutional Right to free Speech. Especially on Parents whom are most concerned with the future of their children and potential harm. It is only natural for them to be protective over them.

Please do Not Pass this Bill!

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 8:35:14 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laura Miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It does not support a good relationship between parents, teachers and students for the betterment of their education. There are already good policies in place that safeguard teachers against harrassment. This bill threatens the advocacy rights of parents for their students special needs. It FORCES parents out of what should be a joint effort to educate our children and does not provide for sufficient support in their education by parents. We as parents have a RIGHT to oversee and be actively involved in our children's education! NO ONE has the right to take that away from us and therefore put the rights and needs of our children in jeopardy! NO to Bill 2125!!!!!!

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 8:38:01 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kara O'Neill	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It is removing parental rights and that is wrong no matter how you look at it. I am a teacher and do not and will not stand for this attack on parental rights and sadly on our children and the next generation of Hawaii's keiki.

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 8:43:03 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rayjean amisione	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill n feel like parents should work together with teachers for the betterment of our children n their education!!!!

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 9:08:57 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Richard Wei	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I send my child to school to get educated. In that process, I make sure I uphold my end of the bargain by being the best and supportive parent ever for my child and for the school responsible for educating my child. My support can come in many forms. With my child, I instill in her community values and morals that make them a decent human being. This allows her to understand what is acceptable behavior as well as boundaries with students and faculty. I assist her with homework, school projects and problem solving. I also discipline her when necessary. As a parent, I also have a responsibility to the school my child attends. I support by contributing financially to school fundraisers, giving to donation drives and requests, becoming part of the Parent Teacher Association and making sure my child is squared away for school. Technically, the more help I give my child directly benefits the school. My duty as a parent also compels me to confront issues and or concerns I see and or hear at the school my child attends.

Like myself, many parents share this obligation to their children and their education. Parents are their childrens voices, arms and feet. Bill HB2125 seeks to remove the role of parents in schools. What parent wants to see their child fail? Parents speak when there are genuine concerns with the system and or staff. Our children need to be heard. We, parents, are their voices. Are you going to silence us?

**DO NOT PASS THIS BILL!!!** There are already criminal laws in place for unruly behavior. This will only render parents powerless and voiceless just like our children.

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 9:20:58 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aimee Takaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in support of HB 2125. As Sup. Hayashi mentioned in his testimony, the current harassment law isn't applicable in the situations described as making this law necessary. Much of the opposition seems to stem from a misguided understanding of the laws intent. This law is needed to ensure school operations can continue without undue disruption on the part of interfering parents and not to further a fantasy situation that some argue is part of a "gay agenda" or "attack on Christianity."

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 9:29:49 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
J. Bonifacio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB2125. Since when is it a felony for parents to voice their concerns over their child's education? There are already measures in place that protect teachers and other educational staff from real harassment. You and I know that this bill is in response to try to cut off the opposition that is coming with bills that have been introduced. You and I know that this is also in response to all the examples from across the nation where parents have been voicing their opposition to curriculum or mandates. This is one, an infringement on parents' first amendment rights, and two, an excuse to stop parents from opposing bills, measures, or mandates you know that are wrong and will be introduced soon. Remember that you work for the People. You represent the People. Do not forget that. Please vote NO on HB2125.



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 9:34:06 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maata Tukuafu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It takes a village to raise children, and all should be in cooperation to help each other; parents, teachers and DOE workers alike. Mahalo.

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 9:59:08 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Grabow	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I OPPOSE this bill because it is NOT about safety for educators working in schools.**

**It is designed to criminalize parental involvement in their child's education and to interfere with citizen's rights to control their own health and safety from the experimental vaccines (which aren't really vaccines.)**

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 10:59:15 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
meredith murphy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not allow this to happen. talk about freedom of speech rights being trampled, here this proposed bill will cost way too much to reap any benefit. Corruption needs to be cleaned out of the system.

Mahalo

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 11:43:25 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Doneileen Willets	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I don't understand why parents will now face consequences for being the only voice their children has. I was once an aide myself, not all parents are perfect but you could easily tell how each child was raised. Not all teachers/staff are perfect but you could easily tell what type of day they're having. The FERPA rights needs adjustment but you don't see parents fighting to change that. I don't agree with this bill and respectfully there will be a lot of homeschooling should this bill pass. There has to be some way Community and School can come in agreement on something bigger than this. Do better.

Mahalo!

DW

**LATE**



Date: 03/23/2022

To: Senate Education Committee

Bill Title: HB 2125 RELATING TO OFFICIAL SCHOOL BUSINESS.

Bill Purpose: Creates a misdemeanor for disrupting or interfering with the administration or functions of any school, school administration office, or school board.

Testimony by Children's Health Defense - Hawai'i Chapter : OPPOSE

Children's Health Defense - Hawai'i Chapter appreciates the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

After viewing committee reports and prior House testimony for HB2125, it's apparent this bill was introduced by the DOE due to the increased outcry and interactions with many parents opposed to school COVID policies.

As a global defender of children's physical and mental health, the COVID pandemic also resulted in our organization receiving an outpouring of complaints and distress calls from frustrated and angry parents concerned for the health of their children.

It is well established that ***school children suffered*** the brunt of society's response to COVID. Policies to keep our kids "healthy and safe" are actually now being proven to have created harm in many ways. Parents were shut out of school campuses, in-person BOE or school administrator meetings, and many intelligent, thoughtful, science-based emails and phone calls were simply ignored or at best responded to with "because the CDC said so."

We definitely do not condone or support harassment of school officials as defined in HRS 711-1106, but we can and do understand how the novel COVID landscape created bottled up emotions in thousands of parents, who had legitimate concerns, but were many times denied efficient pathways for open debate, discussion, or reasonable accommodations. "Like it or lump it" will never work for a parent who feels their child is in harms way.

HB2125 will do nothing to make school officials or schools “more safe.” Prudent actions and clear definitions already exist for harassment in HRS 711-1106. If DOE/BOE employees feel harassed or threatened to a point of bodily harm, interference with their job or the functioning of the school, they are already free to file charges against a perceived aggressor.

Language in the proposed amendment to Chapter 711 is too vague. It removes the clear and traditional definitions of actual harassment and opens the door for subjective misinterpretation of “impede the government operations of an educational worker,” and “disrupts or interferes with the administration or functions of any school, school administration office, or school board.”

Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of the DOE, stated in his testimony:

“This bill is not intended to apply to rational disagreements between parents and schools but is intended to apply to those individuals who cross the line of civility and thwart school operations by harassing threat, intimidation and coercion.” ***If this is the true intention of the bill then consider further amendments to define and clarify this intent.***

We must also safeguard a parent’s right to civilly question or disagree with school policy without fear they will be unjustly silenced and criminalized.

HB2125 will merely serve to:

1. Drive a deeper wedge between covid-fatigued, alienated, frustrated parents and school officials.
2. It may increase distrust of our government institutions and schools.
3. Inspire more families to pull their kids out of the public school system and
4. Create a windfall of lawsuits to preserve parent’s God-given right to protect their children from harm.

Let’s instead find constructive solutions and procedures that heal, unify, and enhance collaboration between parents and schools. A good start being to never again lock parents out of their child’s school campus.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Kim Haine  
President  
Children’s Health Defense - Hawai’i Chapter



**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 1:16:27 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chloe Schmall	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a concerned citizen, I ***strongly oppose*** HB2125 HD2! This bill is a direct attack on the rights of parents and their right to hold educators responsible for what is taught in the class room. This bill has no intention of protecting educators but rather, protecting dangerous agendas disguised as education! Children belong to parents, not the state! When a parent believes that the welfare of their child is being undermined by the school system; it is that parent's **duty** to not only hold the teachers and school administration accountable, but also the BOE and the DOE if necessary! To criminalize, belittle, and down right ***attack*** that duty and right is **NOT** pono! This bill is **NOT** pono! And shame on any public servant that allows this bill to pass!

Thank you.



**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 1:42:42 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
chad takara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose hb2125 there's no reason for this bill!!! It removes parents rights to hold anyone in the school system doe boe schools accountable in teaching its inappropriate curriculum in the school system

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 2:05:36 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noelavon Wiegandt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

Please stop chipping away at our Constitutional right to free speech. We are given this through the First Amendment Right of Freedom of Speech

CONGRESS-SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECTING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION, OR PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF; OR ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS; OR THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE PEACEABLY TO ASSEMBLE, AND TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES.

We as parents can object to what others deem "right" for our children, we as parents know our children better than anyone. To expect us to sit back and ignore what is going on in the classroom and to accept what a certain group of people perceive as right is totally insane. Furthermore, to threaten parents with arrest and jail time, is straight out wrong. Many parents do believe that teaching K-12, about LGBTQ+ is unhealthy and unimportant for them to be successful as they grow.

As a parent, I am the person to teach my child about these very sensitive issues. Not the School Boards or the teachers.

Remember, it is WE THE PEOPLE, so get that straight in your head and remember that WE THE PEOPLE are your Employer, we voted you in and believe me, we can vote you out.

So , do the right thing and LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE.

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 2:06:43 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emmeline Macanas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB 2125. This bill criminalizes parents for "harassing" any educational worker or anyone affiliated with the BOE/DOE and/or school staff. Parents have every right to voice their opinions to the school system if there is a need or concern regarding the welfare/safety of their child/children. Since when were parents "silenced" for questioning the school system or any type of curriculum that was of concern to them? Since when were parents voicing their opinions and concerns considered "harassment" or also recently considered a "domestic threat" or considered parents as "domestic terrorists"? It is every parent's rights and duty to question the school system if they feel that certain procedures, curriculum, practices, etc are not deemed appropriate or unnecessary. What has happened to our Constitutional rights and our First Amendment of freedom of speech? We, as parents, should be allowed to engage and share our input and participate in our children's activities, curriculum, procedures, practices, sports, etc.

We are citizens of the United States of America and we have Constituonal Rights that this Bill HB 2125 is trying to take away from us and do more harm than good. Not only is this bill unethical, but it is also unconstitutional!! We are living is the United States of America, the land of the free. We are NOT Australia, We are NOT Canada. We are NOT Venezuela. We are NOT Russia. We are NOT Ukraine. We are NOT COMMUNIST China. For those "PUBLIC SERVANTS" who introduced this bill and are on board with it should be ashamed and should review and familiarize yourselves with the OATH you took to serve the PEOPLE, for the PEOPLE, and with the PEOPLE of Hawaii!!

**LATE**

**HB-2125-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 4:43:54 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tenaya Calhoun	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Parents have God given rights to raise their children, teach their children, and defend their children. To allow an entity and employees whom the parents pay their salaries; to determine if the parent is a criminal because the parent is advocating for their child is outrageous. Parents need ALL authority over their children. Schools are there to teach. I completely oppose this bill and its vague wording that criminalizes parents.