



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

Date: 02/10/2022

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 2456 RELATING TO SAFETY.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the Department of Education to assign school resource officers or guards to serve at public elementary schools and state prekindergarten programs. Requires the Department of Education to seek funding from federal grants. Appropriates funds.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) provides comments on HB 2456.

Student safety is a critical element at all schools and is monitored primarily at the school level. Currently, the Department applies various forms of safety programs, from on-campus security teams to private security companies, to monitor and address ongoing and new situations. Training is offered and provided for schools which includes threat assessment and safety enhancement programs. Within the Department's Office of Facilities and Operations, the Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness Branch (SSEPB) focuses on campus safety along with the school administration.

The Department appreciates the initial funding, but is concerned with the need for recurring funds for salaries as federal grants are not guaranteed and would want to have a more sustainable source of funding. The need for recurring salaries would be quite substantial.

National statistics show various applications, from school-based law enforcement to school management, dealing with safety issues without law enforcement on campuses. Unfortunately, crimes against students continue to rise, while issues such as social

media are used to aggravate the situation.

There are School Resource Officers (SRO) and School Safety and Security Officers/School Security Attendants (SSSO/SSA) assigned to Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii county high schools and middle/intermediate schools. The City and County of Honolulu does not have any SROs in its schools, but there are SSSO/SSAs assigned to its high schools and middle/intermediate schools. Currently, there are no security staff assigned to any of the Department's elementary schools or pre-kindergarten programs.

Security staff assigned to elementary school/pre-kindergarten programs could serve to foster positive relationships with students by engaging in classroom/campus activities throughout the school day. They could also serve as first responders during emergencies, confront trespassers/unauthorized visitors, and help coordinate vehicular/pedestrian traffic before, during, and after school hours.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

HB-2456

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:24:29 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Keith Hayashi | Hawaii Department of Education | Comments | Yes |

Comments:

Comments

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2456

February 10, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Room 309 and Videoconference

RELATING TO SAFETY

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 2456 amends Chapter 302A, HRS, to require the Department of Education to: 1) assign school resource officers or guards to serve at public elementary schools and State prekindergarten programs; and 2) seek funding from federal grants to fund the costs relating to the hiring of school resource officers and registered guards. The measure also appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 to carry out the purposes of this bill.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

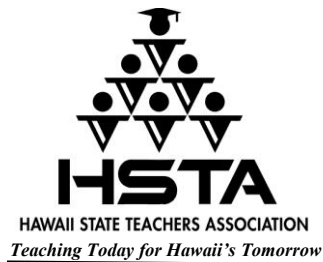
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



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Osa Tui, Jr.
President

Logan Okita.
Vice President

Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HB 2456 - RELATING TO SAFETY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **opposes HB 2456** relating to safety.

This bill will require the HODOE to assign school resource officers or guards to serve at public elementary schools and state prekindergarten programs, requires the DOE to seek funding from federal grants, and appropriates unspecified funds.

With all due respect to the bill's introducer, we do not need guards, off-duty police officers, or the like at our schools. Doing so doesn't necessarily keep our keiki safe and diverts otherwise sorely needed financial resources. To put a stop to the school-to-prison pipeline, we need more resources for educators, support staff, supplies, and infrastructure. Our schools to need more focus on prevention. Not enforcement.

Between 1995 and 2005, the federal government spent \$300 million on creating school policing infrastructure. However, research shows that the employment of resource officers in schools significantly increases students' likelihood of being punished, expelled, and arrested *without* measurably increasing student safety outcomes measured through incident reports or academic outcomes measured through standardized tests.

The American School Counselor Association recommends a counselor to student ratio of 1:250. Schools in Hawai'i don't come close to achieving that ratio. What's more, research suggests having a resource officer on a school campus doesn't statistically contribute to a measurably safer school climate or lower rates of dangerous activities on school campuses where these resource officers are placed. In fact, there is some evidence to suggest that the presence of resource officers may actually escalate conflicts when there



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is significant room for their discretion in how to respond to student behavior.

In short, our schools need more qualified teachers, more school psychologists and/or social workers. We need a registered nurse on each campus and wrap around services and resources for our keiki, not more security.

To provide a supportive environment for our keiki to learn in Hawai'i, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **oppose this bill.**

HB-2456

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 3:21:41 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Gerard Silva | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

Your Making our Schools look like Prisions. All this Crap Has to Stop.

HB-2456

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:10:55 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Makanoe Hufana | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha I support HB2456 relating to the requirement of the DOE assigning Security Guards/Safety Officers on Elementary and Preschool Campuses.

Mahalo,

Makanoe Hufana