



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/06/2024

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 2675 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the Department of Education to provide and disseminate its procedures for dealing with bullying. Requires principals, teachers, and staff to disseminate the Department's bullying procedures to students. Defines bullying procedures.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on HB 2675, which requires the Department to provide and disseminate its procedures for dealing with bullying.

Our students' safety, social-emotional health, and well-being continue to be a top priority for the Department. The Department is committed to fostering culturally responsive, supportive, and inclusive learning environments, which includes ongoing bullying prevention efforts.

Therefore, the Department has an established annual notification for all employees to ensure a consistent understanding of Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) Chapter 19 Subchapter 8 and HAR Chapter 89, the Civil Rights Policy and Complaint Procedure for Student(s) Complaints Against Adult(s). This includes providing and distributing information on the Department's bullying procedures to students.

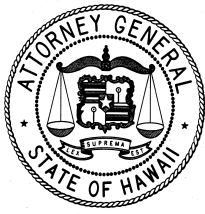
At the beginning of each school year and during student enrollment, the Department provides each student with an opening school packet that includes: a student bill of rights; a parent letter that defines clear definitions of bullying and retaliation;

descriptions of behavioral offenses; and procedures for filing complaints of student-to-student behavior related to discrimination, bullying, and harassment (including sexual harassment). Furthermore, the Department provides a process to access the "Speak Now" application, enabling K-12 students and parents to promptly report bullying incidents to school officials through electronic devices.

HAR Chapter 19 and the Implementation Guidelines address student safety through comprehensive provisions related to discipline, reporting, investigation, and notification of parents regarding bullying, harassment, retaliation, and discrimination. This includes immediate interventions and creating safety plans for the victim of the bully. Additional ongoing interventions are provided through the school's "Here to Help" program, which includes social-emotional learning supports, restorative practices, and trauma-informed care for students.

The Department believes we are currently carrying out the mandates dictated in this bill and therefore think this bill is unnecessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2675.



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**  
H.B. NO. 2675, RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**BEFORE THE:**  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024      **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 309 and Videoconference

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Emma R. Christopherson, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

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

The bill: (1) requires the Department of Education (DOE) to provide and disseminate its procedures for dealing with bullying; (2) requires principals, teachers, and staff to disseminate the DOE's bullying procedures to students; and (3) defines bullying procedures.

Section 2 of the bill proposes to amend chapter 302, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to require the DOE to deal with bullying. However, chapter 302 was repealed in 1985. Consequently, section 2 should be revised to state that it is amending chapter 302A, HRS, not chapter 302. The references to "Chapter 302" should be replaced with "Chapter 302A" and "§302A- " on page 1, lines 7 and 10, respectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

February 06, 2024

The Honorable Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
House Committee on Education  
And  
The Honorable Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair  
House Committee on Water & Land  
Thirty-Second Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i  
96813

Dear Representative Woodson, Representative Ichiyama, and Committee members:

**SUBJECT: HB2675 RELATING TO EDUCATION**

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB2675**, which requires the Department of Education to provide and disseminate its procedures for dealing with bullying. Requires principals, teachers, and staff to disseminate the Department's bullying procedures to students.

This endorsement is rooted in the Council's acknowledgment of the critical need to address bullying within the educational system. HB2675 aligns seamlessly with our overarching goal of nurturing safe and inclusive learning environments for all students. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), children with disabilities face a significantly heightened risk of being bullied due to their disabilities. Although Hawaii currently lacks local data on this issue, evidence from the CDC indicates that children with disabilities may endure low self-esteem, depression, loneliness, or anxiety, exacerbating the impact of bullying.

A comprehensive review of 32 studies conducted by Rose, Monda-Amaya, and Espelage (2011) reveals that the involvement in bullying of individuals with developmental disabilities exceeds 50%, showcasing the pronounced vulnerability of this population to bullying. This underscores the pressing need to implement procedures that effectively address bullying within the educational framework. Furthermore, research suggests that individuals with developmental disabilities are at an increased risk of victimization for various forms of mistreatment, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, and criminal acts. This heightened

Honorable Representative Woodson  
Honorable Representative Ichiyama  
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vulnerability strongly indicates that individuals with developmental disabilities are also at an elevated risk of experiencing bullying. The Council emphatically underscores the importance of addressing bullying within our educational system, especially considering the vulnerability of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB2675**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator

**HB-2675**

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 8:23:22 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Golojuch Jr	Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i; Hawai'i's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization fully supports HB 2675.

We hope you all will support this important piece of legislation.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)  
Chair and SCC Representative  
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH

**HB-2675**

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 9:56:45 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We had assumed this might have already been being done. If not, it certainly should be. Bullying is obviously harmful for all victims but for children with disabilities it can be particularly devastating.

**HB-2675**

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 2:49:40 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2675. I've been attending various meetings about school bullying since the 1980s. It is time to take positive action to curb bullying in schools which is still occurring. Please pass this bill.

Mike Golojuch, Sr.



**HB-2675**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 1:25:21 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB 2675, bullying is a big problem and can negatively affect our youth as they grow up. I think it is important that everyone know the rules and procedures to effectively combat school bullying.

Mahalo for your commitment to the safety of our students.

Tamara Paltin

**HB-2675**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:59:34 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Melody Young	CARES	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair & Committee,

**Bullying is a form of youth violence and an adverse childhood experience (ACE). CDC defines bullying as any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths, who are not siblings or current dating partners, that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance, and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated. Bullying may inflict harm or distress on the targeted youth including physical, psychological, social, or educational harm.**

The US Department of Health & Human services declares,

**“Kids who are bullied can experience negative physical, social, emotional, academic, and mental health issues. Kids who are bullied are more likely to experience:**

- 1. Depression and anxiety, increased feelings of sadness and loneliness, changes in sleep and eating patterns, and loss of interest in activities they used to enjoy. These issues may persist into adulthood.**
- 2. Health complaints**
- 3. Decreased academic achievement—GPA and standardized test scores—and school participation. They are more likely to miss, skip, or drop out of school.”**

**The DOE is committed to providing a safe and enjoyable learning atmosphere for students, families and educators. The Department of Education works to reduce bullying and cyberbullying by emphasizing a culture of respect, responsibility and resiliency, using a frame work of prevention, response & reporting. The Department of Education & the Board of Education works with communities to promote understanding, and investigate incidents to ensure student safety.**

**The City & County of Honolulu enacted Bill 52 to stop bullying of youths and to create a safe space at all City Departments & City programs. Bill 52 is an effort to prevent bullying and to prevent retaliation against those who report bullying, and to establish strict policies and procedures to provide a protected environment for youths.**

**Community-wide initiatives & strategies can help identify and support children who are bullied, redirect the behavior of children who bully, and modify the attitudes of adults and youth who tolerate bullying behaviors in peer groups, schools, families and communities. This flier is starting the community with outreach and CARES proposal is to ask the DOE to post this flier.**

**Support needs to be provided to victims and bullies to address the conditions that have contributed to incidents to help prevent bullying. These conditions may include issues at home, stress, abuse, domestic violence, gang activity, health, social-emotional and behavioral health issues. Counseling, mental health resources & Social Emotional Learning (SEL) are effective strategies to providing this kind of support to children, parents, staff, teachers & principals. We must raise awareness about the effects of bullying.**

**Please join us in this movement to raise awareness about bullying, to teach, empower & train students & teachers to be equipped to respond.**

**Blessings,**

**CARES**

**LATE**

**HB-2675**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:23:52 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melissa Harper-Osai	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair & education committee, I'm testifying in support of HB2675. I'm a mother of a child with multiple disabilities who was cyber bullied and violated in a general education bathroom at James Campbell High School. I've organized multiple sign waving events, social media outlets and community meetings to bring awareness to this injustice. No students should fear going to school or utilizing the bathroom. Bringing awareness and educating the entire student body, staff, and administration about bullying and the criminal ramifications of these actions is a must. The policies in place through Chapter 19 are not an effective deterrent. Posting signs in all DOE school bathrooms "no pictures/videos" and the consequences should be implemented by the DOE.

Dear Chair, Vice Chair & The Education and Water & Land Committee,

I'm a 3rd grader at Kapalama Elementary School. I don't like bullying because bullying hurts people and their mental health. People don't like getting bullied because they are humiliated after they get bullied. This design I created with my teacher was inspired because people could do these things to bully others. We should feel safe at school. Please support this policy.

Love, Chloe

**LATE**

**NO HURTING**  
*show aloha*  
HE KEHAU HO'OMA'EMA'E KE ALOHA

**PHYSICAL ABUSE**  
HO'OMĀINOINO KINO

**LITTERING**  
HO'OPALAPALA

**GOSSIPING**  
'ŌHUMU

**BULLY-FREE ZONE**  
HOOWELIWELI

**SWEARING**  
HOHIKI INO

**PULLING HAIR**  
HUKI LAUOHO

**DESTROYING PROPERTY**  
HOOPAU WAIWAI

**ANIMAL ABUSE**  
HO'OMĀINOINO HOLOHOLONA

**CYBERBULLY**

**Do not be afraid to tell an adult, teacher or counselor.**  
MAI MAKA'U E HA'I AKU I KE KANAKA MAKUA, KUMU A I 'OLE KĀKĀ'ŌLELO