



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

Date: 02/01/2024
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 1906 RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROMOTE STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates moneys for the Department of Education to enhance the Panorama platform and Trust Circle mobile app. Declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 1906.

The Department appreciates and supports efforts to enhance and sustain a platform that includes social-emotional learning surveys and provides a centralized database capturing critical student information. The Department also appreciates and supports efforts to implement a mobile application for student mental health and well-being.

Social Emotional Learning and Data Platform

The Panorama Education platform is currently used by teachers twice a year to survey students' social-emotional learning (SEL). This survey enables students to share their perceptions of their social-emotional competencies in the areas of sense of belonging, self-management, social awareness, and emotional regulation. Using this information, schools are implementing school-wide SEL lessons and strategies. Panorama Education platform also serves as an integrated data tool used by teachers to document and track tiered and layered student supports when implementing Hawaii's Multi-Tiered System of Support (HMTSS).

Mental Health and Well-being Platform

A platform such as TrustCircle provides students 24/7 access to well-being activities, check-ins, and community helplines, expanding the Department's ability to connect students with vital

mental health resources beyond the school campus and school day. Using adaptive technology, such a platform helps schools identify at-risk students and take proactive action to promote health and wellness. Unlike other mental health solutions focused on crisis intervention, this approach uses real-time data provided by students, fostering prevention and early intervention.

These systems are critical to quickly identify and respond to students who require targeted or intensive support. Without them, access to timely learning and mental health interventions may be jeopardized, especially for at-risk youth who may not outwardly exhibit signs of distress. This will likely result in an increase in youths experiencing mental health crises without appropriate interventions.

These systems are necessary to ensure effective implementation of Act 271 (2019) and in alignment with the purpose of Act 209 (2022). The Department appreciates the funding provided in this bill as it is one of the priorities in the Department's Board-approved budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1906.



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LATE

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TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAII HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Item: **HB1906 - Relating to making an appropriation for the Department of Education to promote student mental health**

Position: **Support**

Hearing: **February 1, 2024, 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 309**

Submitter: **Osa Tui, Jr. – President, Hawai'i State Teachers Association**

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association **supports** HB1906 which appropriates monies for the Department of Education to enhance the Panorama platform and Trust Circle mobile app.

We have seen post-COVID and also post-Maui wildfires (for those who have had to experience that traumatic event and the devastating after-effects), the need for student mental health resources is needed more now than it has been for a very long time. Access to enhanced mental health and well-being supports can enable earlier identification and intervention for students experiencing mental health issues and can create a positive ripple effect on the overall school environment and student outcomes.

However, while digital devices may have some effect, nothing can beat the one-to-one support that school counselors and other school personnel can provide for students in need. Anything we can do to increase those vital mental health personnel in our schools will go a long way towards helping students be successful in school and in their future.

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** HB 1906.

HB-1906

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 11:54:02 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimomi Ka'aihili Leong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do believe this should be addressed in curriculum as a DOE employee however, I don't believe that legislation is an appropriate avenue to tell the DOE what to teach. The DOE has so many laws that it is now forced to follow that don't make sense or are effective and efficient because the people who make these laws are not working for the DOE.

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HB-1906

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:10:51 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brad Kusunoki	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

My name is Brad Kusunoki, and I am the Student Services Coordinator and School Counselor at Alvah Scott Elementary, and I am writing in support of this measure.

As school counselor, my main goal is to ensure the emotional well-being of every student through the school counseling program and direct interventions as needed. With a case load of 450 students, that can be a challenge, especially since most students are not willing to speak up about their emotional state or ask for help for various reasons.

I have had the opportunity to use the Trust Circle Mobile Platform at my school for the last two years and have found it to be an extremely useful tool to help with this goal. By using the mobile platform, students share their emotions through a quick, daily 4 question survey. The results are analyzed by the program and provided to me realtime so that I can provide immediate assistance to any students who may need it. It also provides schoolwide data which I use to help drive my school counseling program. The platform itself has many other great features that the students can use to support social emotional well-being.

Hawai'i has been fortunate not to yet have a highly publicized tragic incident such as the ones we're all aware of in Colorado, Connecticut, Florida and Texas. Perhaps the students involved in those tragedies could have been helped if their schools had a similar tool to help make them aware of their students's emotional well-being and been able to provide interventions to support them. Hawai'i has that tool in Trust Circle.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.