

# OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

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To: House Committee on Finance

From: Cheryl Kakazu Park, Director

Date: February 23, 2024, 1:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Re: Testimony on H.B. No. 2222, H.D. 1  
Relating to Education

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill, which would create a Staggered School Start Times Task Force in the Department of Education. The Office of Information Practices (OIP) testified previously with concerns about a proposed Sunshine Law exemption for the Task Force, but the previous Committee removed the exemption from the H.D. 1 version of this bill. OIP has no further concerns with this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

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

**Date:** 02/23/2024

**Time:** 01:00 PM

**Location:** 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Finance

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 2222, HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the Department of Education to convene a staggered school start times task force to study and evaluate the issues and implications of instituting a staggered school start times program, including effects on school bus schedules. Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on HB 2222, HD 1.

The school bus driver shortage has been widely publicized, and is part of a greater nationwide driver shortage that is only expected to increase in scope over the coming years. Instituting staggered school start times could allow the Department to more efficiently transport students utilizing the resources available to it. For example, three buses are allocated to a school complex with one elementary school, one middle school, and one high school. If all schools start at about the same time, each bus could only service one school apiece. However, if the bell schedules were staggered such that the elementary school started at 7:15 am, middle school started at 7:50 am and the high school started at 8:30 am, all three buses could first service the elementary school, then the middle school, and lastly the high school.

However, the staggering of bus schedules would need to align with the academic needs of our schools. As such, eliciting the input of school principals would be a vital part of this process and the Department appreciates the inclusion of principal voice on this task force.

Additionally, the Department appreciates the appropriation provided in this bill to carry out the work of this task force. However, this task force was not envisioned when the Department was crafting its budget and as such it is not included in the priorities of the Department's Board-approved budget.

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



## UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024**

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Friday, February 23, 2024, 1:00 PM  
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

**Re: Testimony on HB2222, HD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”) is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which includes blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties.

UPW provides comments on HB2222, HD1, which requires the Department of Education (“DOE”) to convene a staggered school start times task force to study and evaluate the issues and implications of instituting a staggered school start times program, including effects on school bus schedules.

UPW represents the hard-working men and women of Bargaining Unit-1 who are employed as custodians, plumbers, carpenters, and general laborers. While staggered school start times may not have a significant impact on most of our DOE members, the work schedules of our school cooks and cafeteria helpers are likely to be affected. Should the committee decide to pass this measure, we humbly request that it be amended to add a UPW representative to the proposed task force.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kalani Werner', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kalani Werner  
State Director

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