

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:** 03/16/2023

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 1044, SD2 RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH.

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds to hire complex-based behavioral health specialists for Hawaii's rural public schools. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports and appreciates SB 1044, SD2. The appropriation of funds to increase the school-based youth mental health workforce would strengthen the Department's efforts to meet the needs of students in Hawaii's rural areas experiencing trauma, grief, family separation, depression, and other crises.

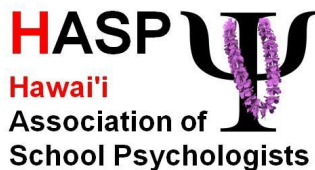
The Department previously requested an appropriation of \$861,000 to fund twelve behavioral health specialist positions to serve six complexes. However, the Department inadvertently excluded the Nanakuli-Waianae Complex.

As such, the Department respectfully requests to amend the previous request and asks for an appropriation of \$974,918 per year that would fund two behavioral health specialist positions for each of the following seven complex areas:

Hilo-Waiakea Complex;  
Kau-Keaau-Pahoa Complex;  
Honokaa-Kealakehe-Kohala-Konawaena Complex;  
Kapaa-Kauai-Waimea Complex;  
Hana-Lahainaluna-Lanai-Molokai Complex;  
Nanakuli-Waianae Complex; and  
Baldwin-Kekaulike-Kulanihako'i-Maui Complex.

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





SB1044  
Relating to Mental Health

Aloha Chair Woodson and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists (HASP) offers comments on SB1044:

HASP strongly supports the intent of the Department of Education to increase the number of mental health service providers in schools to address issues such as suicide, trauma, grief, family separation, depression, and other crises.

School Psychologists receive extensive training in crisis prevention and preparedness, response, and intervention and recovery. School Psychologists are uniquely trained to address mental health in schools, including suicide, trauma, grief, anxiety, family separation, depression, and other crises. In schools, School Psychologists are the educators who know the most about psychology, and the psychologists who know the most about education.

Using funds requested in this Legislation to increase the number of School Psychologists by addressing recruitment and retention challenges, will ensure the State's keiki have access to high quality school-based mental health services by individuals most qualified to do so in school settings.

We therefore recommend that lines 12-13 of page 2 be amended to read as follows:

2024-2025 to hire [~~complex-based behavioral health specialists~~] School Psychologists for the State's rural public schools.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

Respectfully Submitted:

Alec Marentic, Ed.S., NCSP  
HASP President

# Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i

House Committee on Judiciary

Hearing Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023

Hearing Time: 2:00 PM

Location: State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Re: SB 1044 SD2 Relating to Mental Health

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the Committee:

We are writing in **strong** support of SB 1044 SD2 relating to mental health;

This bill will appropriate funds to hire complex-based behavioral health specialists for rural public schools.

Integrating complex-based behavioral health specialists into the rural public-school environment can impact students lives by offering timely and accessible mental health support. With these readily available services embedded within an administration, students are likely to reach out for the help they may need. Ultimately, addressing mental health early on can foster a more supportive learning environment empowering all students towards success.

The Opportunity Youth Action Hawaii Hui is a collaboration of organizations and individuals committed to reducing the harmful effects of a punitive incarceration system for youth; promoting equity in the justice system; and improving and increasing resources to address adolescent and young adult mental health needs. We seek to improve the continuity of programs and services for youth and young adults transitioning from minor to adult status; eliminate youth houselessness and housing market discrimination against young adults; and promote and fund more holistic and culturally-informed approaches among public/private agencies serving youth.

**Please support SB 1044 SD2.**

**SB-1044-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 12:11:00 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/16/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

**SB-1044-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 9:20:27 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/16/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

These are the people Resopsible for Screwing up our Children!! We do not need these people in our Schools!!!