



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 2222 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.

Department's Position:

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

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, the 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.

OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

STATE OF HAWAII
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT BUILDING
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 107
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: 808-586-1400 FAX: 808-586-1412
EMAIL: oip@hawaii.gov

To: House Committee on Education

From: Cheryl Kakazu Park, Director

Date: February 6, 2024, 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill, which would among other things create a Staggered School Start Times Task Force in the Department of Education. The Office of Information Practices (OIP) takes no position on the substance of this bill, but has concerns about the proposed exemption of the Task Force from part I of chapter 92, the Sunshine Law.

The Task Force is to “study and evaluate the issues and implications of instituting a staggered school start times program in the public school system[.]” The implications of changing the daily schedule for the public schools is an issue on which current and former public school parents and students are likely to have thoughts, including useful information based on their own experiences, that they wish to share. However, the Sunshine Law exemption for the Task Force means it would not have to accept or consider public testimony presenting those thoughts and information. Similarly, the Task Force would not be required to keep the public abreast of its work by holding open meetings or publishing minutes of its discussions. And since the proposed exemption applies to all of chapter 92 (the Sunshine Law is only part I of chapter 92), the Task Force would also be exempted

from various other statutes in chapter 92, including the one authorizing groups to charge copy fees for government records.

If the intent of this Task Force is to gather relevant information from those affected by a change to staggered school start times, then exemption of this Task Force from the Sunshine Law is the wrong way to go about it. Further, the issue of staggered school start times does not seem to be one of particular sensitivity or that is likely to involve discussion of individuals' health or similar private information. OIP notes that the Task Force is intended to act in an advisory capacity, but the Sunshine Law encompasses boards that act in a purely advisory capacity – in other words, the fact that it is advisory is not a reason to exempt it from the Sunshine Law. OIP therefore recommends that this Committee delete the Sunshine Law exemption set out in subsection (d) on bill page 5, lines 3-5.

Thank you for considering OIP's testimony.

HB-2222

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 1:28:47 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Generally speaking I am in support of allowing charter school students to participate in sports with regular DOE campuses if they should choose to and their charter school does not have that sport. The main issue is which school they would participate under and I think that these guidelines seem reasonable, I would just ask if there is currently a different way that charter school students choose which DOE school they participate with that those students be allowed to finish out their high school careers with the school they first started with if they so choose and this start upon entry of the incoming high school classes for continuity of students.

Mahalo for your commitment to our students,

Tamara Paltin