

**SB-684**

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 6:56:54 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2025 3:05:00 PM

| Submitted By     | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                   |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Andrew Crossland | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

**I STRONGLY SUPPORT** this Bill to help students focus on learning in school without the distraction of cell phones. I urge all members of the Committee to **VOTE YES** on this Bill.

**SB-684**

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 12:15:19 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2025 3:05:00 PM

| Submitted By    | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Renee Dieperink | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I **SUPPORT SB684** re. banning the use of cell phones in schools

However, as a teacher, I would like to add to **ban this only for STUDENTS**, not for teachers and staff!

We use our cell phones and specific apps like Remind to communicate with parents, and with our coworkers. For example if I'm on yard duty and there is an emergency, it helps to have my cell phone to communicate with the office. I could list numerous other examples, but I think you know what I mean.

**SB-684**

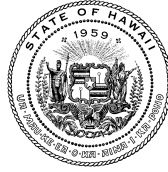
Submitted on: 2/2/2025 1:29:10 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2025 3:05:00 PM

| Submitted By     | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                   |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Alice Abellanida | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support this bill



**STATE OF HAWAII  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Senate Committee on Education**

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

3:05 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229

**Measure: Senate Bill 684, Relating to the Board of Education**

**Purpose of Measure:**

Requires the Board of Education to adopt administrative rules to ban the usage of cell phones at Department of Education schools.

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education (Board) supports the intent of Senate Bill 684, and appreciates the Legislature's concern.

The Board recognizes the importance of fostering an environment conducive to our students' learning, and the significant impact of cell phones on our lives.

Currently, policies regarding cell phone use are implemented at the discretion of the individual schools. The Board oversees curriculum as part of its constitutional and statutory authority to set statewide education policy, and believes a Board policy would allow for consistent implementation for schools across the state.

A Board-level policy would also allow for the nimbleness needed to respond to the speed of technological advances.

The Board previously debated banning cell phones in public schools statewide, but opted not to after members voiced concern about students being able to access phones during an emergency.

Policies that have been implemented across the nation range from a complete ban on cell phones, and blocking access to social media platforms during the school day, to providing pouches in which students can safely store their phones during class time, and allowing teachers to make exceptions for use of phones for educational purposes.

The Board is again looking at a policy and recognizes the many considerations that must be balanced in the formulation of such a policy. We note that the Board's process for policy development requires public engagement to ensure the consideration of stakeholder input.

We would support a resolution that encourages the Board's work to develop a policy, and requires the Board to report to the Legislature on progress made.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.