



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

Date: 03/20/2025

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Resolution Title: HCR 0095 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH INFORMATION PERTAINING TO CHANGES TO GUN SAFETY AND STORAGE LAWS.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) would like to provide comments on HCR 95. The Department is committed to providing a safe and secure educational environment where students can thrive. As firearms are one of three major causes of death among school age children in the United States, the Department is concerned of the threat that firearms pose to our keiki.

In Hawaii, it is illegal for anyone under 21 years old to own a gun. Furthermore, a permit must be granted for anyone over 21 years old to acquire a firearm. Therefore, our K-12 students should not be in possession of a gun and our schools do not allow firearms onto campus. Every year, parents are provided a letter indicating "No Firearms Allowed on Campus" requests parents to share with their child about the dangers of bringing a firearm to school, and identifying that any child that brings a firearm to school shall be removed from school for at least one calendar year. Firearms are not allowed on school campuses, in the child's backpacks, on school buses, and at all school-related activities.

In addition, the Department also provides schools with posters to put on campuses that inform students that firearms are not allowed and students will be disciplined.

The Department concurs that responsible gun ownership can improve student safety and is willing to work with the Legislature to improve safety at schools. The Department is proactively requesting support via its budget requests and legislation for school resource officers, and additional security facilities improvements such as door locks, fencing, security cameras, fire alarms, etc.

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

HCR-95

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 1:13:47 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael EKM Olderr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this resolution. The more access and transparency the public has to our laws, the more likely they will be law-abiding citizens. Ignorance of the law can be a crime, so it's in our best interest to be as open about our laws as possible.