



To: Senator Ige, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Jessica Perez-Mesa

Date: March 28, 2014

RE: House Bill 1675

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I am **opposed** to this bill eliminating 1080 hours of instructional time.

I am a product of Hawaii public schools, a mother of two children attending public school and my mother taught in the public school system for 35 years. I know how hard teachers work.

Four years ago I spent hours calling schools on the mainland and then testifying about why it was so important to legislate HOURS of instructional time and not JUST DAYS.

We knew but now the Department of Education has clarified it. Our Hawaii secondary schools are in session much less than schools on the Mainland.

We have been watching this issue for the past four years and happily we have seen steps towards improvement this year. Only because it was law. In prior years, well-meaning Principals have been unable to change bell schedules to increase learning time.

Change is difficult. Two years from now, no one will blink at 990 hours.

Let's at least try for 1080 hours of instructional time. Give schools a chance to reach for this goal.

PROTECT OUR CHILDRENS INSTRUCTIONAL TIME.



To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Melanie Bailey  
277-5121

Date: March 27, 2014

Re: HB1675

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Testimony in **OPPOSITION**.

Please do not delete the 1080 instructional hour's requirement!

I am a parent of a student currently attending a Hawaii public high school. I have been following this issue and researching instructional time around the country since the first student furlough day in October of 2009.

Hawaii currently has secondary schools with less than 800 hours of instruction a year. Because of Act 167, secondary schools across the state have been successfully modifying their bell schedules to reach 5 hours and 30 minutes a day of instructional time for students. 990 hours a year.

Since we began our efforts many states have been regulating instructional time. These are some of the states with over 1000 hours a year:

Arizona	1000	Missouri	1044
California	1080	Montana	1080
Colorado	1056	Nebraska	1080
Delaware	1060	New Mexico	1080
Kansas	1116	North Carolina	1025
Kentucky	1062	North Dakota	1038
Louisiana	1062	Oklahoma	1080
Maryland	1080	Washington	1080
Michigan	1098	Wisconsin	1137
Minnesota	1020	Wyoming	1100

A difference of 100 hours is equal to about 4 weeks of school days!

Teacher time is a contract issue, we agree.

If teacher time was the same as student time, ALL high schools in Hawaii would be limited to FOUR HOURS AND 17 MINUTES a day of instructional time, because that is what the contract says is the maximum a teacher can teach. That would be 771 hours a year which is UNACCEPTABLE.

FOUR HOURS AND 17 MINUTES is unacceptable for students.  
FOUR HOURS AND 17 MINUTES is the contract for teachers.

How do you increase student time without increasing teacher time in secondary schools?

If a teacher teaches 5 of 7 classes, a student could have up to 6 hours of instruction a day. If a teacher teaches 5 of 6 classes, a student could have up to 5 hours and 14 minutes of classroom time, the rest of their instructional time would need to be Advisory, Study Hall, Computer Lab, etc...

History has shown, student instructional time has not been a priority in Hawaii. Student furloughs made us aware of how far behind the mainland we are. Now, we can't look the other way.

- **Push the implementation of the 1080 to the 2018-2019 school year. This will give the stakeholders four years to adjust to the first phase and time to evaluate if this is a goal we can attain.**
- **Let the Board of Education define what Educational time means.**

Thank you for your consideration.



To: Senate Ways and Means  
From: Zsuzsa Rodgers  
Date: March 28, 2014  
RE: Instructional Time HB 1675

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Testimony in **opposition**.

**Do not delete the goal of 6 hours of instructional time (1080 hours per year).**

I am a mother of three children, aged 16, 13 and 9.

In 2009 I was very disappointed when the government failed to prevent furloughs and my children had to be out of school for days. Being concerned and caring parents, as well as tax-paying citizens believing in our democratic system, we looked to our elected representatives for solutions. We were told the furlough fiasco was a bargaining issue and the Governor's fault. You promised us that furloughs would never happen again because a new law that you passed mandates the minimum time our children will spend at school.

But, what use is 180 days if students are given only limited time with their teachers? The fact that secondary students have less than 5 hours of instruction a day is not right. Our Elementary students have more! What use is increasing the amount of classes a student takes from 6 to 8, without including additional instructional time?

We are tax payers. My children should receive the SAME AMOUNT OF INSTRUCTION TIME as their cousins on the mainland.

We are engaged parents. We should be able to send our children to PUBLIC schools and not have to contemplate the expense of private education.

This year Secondary Schools are to transition to 5 hours and 30 minutes a day of instruction. This additional time has taken four years of advocacy.

**Do not delete the goal of 6 hours of instructional time (1080 hours per year).**

Please support the future of Hawai'i by investing in our children and giving them the necessary time in school to be able to become successful citizens.