

SB2139 – In opposition

Senators,

Once again the legislature has found it prudent to show absolute disdain for its public school teachers. When will it stop? As a recruited special education teacher that has taught in Hawaii's public school system for the last 18 years, I am an endangered species. I was recruited during the Felix Consent Decree era, and on the island of Kauai I know of no other teacher as myself that has stayed. Rather than fulfill the federal mandate of Special Education teacher retention as part of this decree, you pander for media attention introducing bills that will do nothing but continue the exodus of credentialed teachers.

As if balancing the State's budget shortfalls with furlough days at the expense of Hawaii children's education and educator's livelihoods wasn't enough; with the additional hours placed on the school day and work required to satisfy the new "Educator Evaluation System," the exodus will only get worse. In the next 5 years this new system will be the antecedent that pushes your most seasoned credentialed teachers out the door. This new system should be renamed the "Educator Eradication System."

Teacher's need your support not disrespect and blame for the myriad of societal challenges to education we face on a daily basis. Hawaii's State legislature should be added to this ever growing list of clutter impeding our ability to teach. As a bill is introduced to align the Superintendent's salary with mainland positions, I continue to struggle to make a living wage and see a future for my family.

I am in opposition of SB2139 and believe that if the legislature added the equivalent amount of days to their legislative session, they could use the time to review how ineffective their previous efforts have been. Stop pandering and start problem solving. Start by showing respect for your public school teachers by paying them a wage they may build futures on and treating them as professionals. If you think adding 2 weeks to the school year is going to make a difference, you probably graduated from a public school in Hawaii and are part of the problem.

Altruistically,

Howard Hurst, M.S. SpEd

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**SB2139**

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Testimony for EDU on Jan 31, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
WINTON SCHONEMAN	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a former chair of an SCC I cannot tell you how important it is to increase the amount of instructional time for Hawaii's students. All too often, because there is insufficient classroom time, students are taking home three or more hours of homework per night...and weekends. Yes, teacher prep time is important, but not at the expense of student face time. The amount of instructional hours that students receive what is important...leave it to DOE to implement it without limit on days.

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