



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

**Date:** 04/01/2015  
**Time:** 02:30 PM  
**Location:** 308  
**Committee:** House Finance

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 0822, SD1, HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Clarifies the implementation schedule and calculation method for minimum number of days and student hours required for Department of Education schools in each school year. Applies the requirement for a 180 day, 1,080 hour school year to all school years beginning with the 2016-2017 school year. (SB822 HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Department supports SB 0822 SD1 HD1. The changes align with the feedback from schools and the Department's Legislative Report, recommendations, and previous testimony on this matter.

The Department's position is that through implementation of the statute, "student hours" should be defined to be inclusive of all the full school day, in alignment with the state's General Learner Outcomes. With this change, the 1080 hours annual requirement is equivalent to a minimum 6-hour school day for a 180-day school year. As can be seen in the research by the Education Commission on the States, most states that have established a "minimum hours per day" requirement have set requirements lower than 6 hours per day.

The Department urges the Legislature to take action on this measure this session to provide the clarity and relief schools need to plan for subsequent school years.

The Department is appreciative of the opportunity to work with the Legislature on this measure.



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Secretary-Treasurer  
Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

DATE: APRIL 1, 2015

RE: SB822, SD1, HD1 – INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Scott Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **strongly supports SB822, SD1, HD1**  
Relating to Instructional Time

Since the passage of Act 167, (Session Laws of Hawaii 2010) schools across Hawaii have been working towards implementing a bell schedule to conform to Act 167. The teachers and school officials have spent time in numerous meetings, making plans in order to implement Act 167/52. The Department of Education (DOE) has also tried to manage a plethora of different bell schedules which all resulted in numerous changes, redefining definitions of instructional time, and revised DOE memos stating issues and errors.

As amended, SB822, SD1 provides clear guidance to schools about the expectations related to student hours. Further, it gives the school professionals the appropriate responsibility to ensure that student hours are maximized for student success. This combination will provide our families confidence that there is consistency throughout the system, it provides direction to the Board of Education and the Department of Education, promotes Hawaii's commitment to public education as measured in this area against other states, and allows the schools and school communities to develop schedules that are most appropriate to supporting student success.

Given that school schedules for 2015-16 must be prepared soon and that this Senate draft is reflective of the language this committee previously approved; we are hopeful that this legislation is able to pass, without amendments, and continues to receive your support throughout the legislative process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of SB822, SD1, HD1.**

841 Bishop St., Suite 301  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530  
Contact@HEECoalition.org

House Committee on Finance  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

April 1, 2015

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for SB822 SD1 HD1 on student hours.

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

The purpose of Act 167/52 was to prevent future furloughs for students and to provide equity among Hawaii students and their mainland peers with respect to instructional time. According to the Education Commission of the States, all states have either a minimum number of instructional days or hours or both required per school year in statute.<sup>1</sup>

Since the inception of the law, we have heard that schools have experienced tremendous challenges in implementing Act 167/52. Therefore, we support the amendment that changes student instructional hours to "student hours." We know that schools need flexibility and we believe this change will help.

We also agree with the amendment in SB822 SD1 HD1, which clarifies that the number of school year hours shall be calculated based on the actual hours included in a full school day.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura  
HE'E Coalition Director

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<sup>1</sup>Education Commission of the States, Number of Instructional Days and Hours in the School Year, October 2014 (<http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/01/15/05/11505.pdf>)

Academy 21  
After-School All-Stars Hawaii  
Alliance for Place Based Learning  
\*Castle Complex Community Council  
\*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS  
Coalition for Children with Special Needs  
\*Faith Action for Community Equity  
Fresh Leadership LLC  
Girl Scouts Hawaii  
\*Good Beginnings Alliance  
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation  
\*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars  
\*Hawai'i Charter School Network  
\*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition  
\*Hawaii State PTSA  
Hawai'i State Student Council  
Hawai'i State Teachers Association  
Hawai'i P-20  
Hawai'i 3Rs  
Head Start Collaboration Office  
It's All About Kids  
\*INPEACE  
Joint Venture Education Forum  
Junior Achievement of Hawaii  
\*Kaho'omiki  
Kamehameha Schools  
Kanu Hawai'i  
\*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council  
Keiki to Career Kaua'i  
Kupu A'e  
\*Leaders for the Next Generation  
Learning First  
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds  
Our Public School  
\*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning  
\*Parents and Children Together  
\*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i  
Punahou School PUEO Program

Teach for America

The Learning Coalition

US PACOM

University of Hawai'i College of Education

YMCA of Honolulu

*Voting Members (\*) Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 12:10 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: dercoff@aol.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB822 on Apr 1, 2015 14:30PM

**SB822**

Submitted on: 3/31/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2015 14:30PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Beatrice DeRego	Individual	Support	No

Comments: • S.B. 822 SD1 HD1, as currently amended, provides clear guidance to schools about the expectations related to student hours. Further, it gives the school professionals the appropriate responsibility to ensure that student hours are maximized for student success. It also provides each school the flexibility needed to address their community's needs. • The change to "school hours" and elimination of instructional minutes, to recognize the full school day, is in alignment with the state's General Learner Outcomes. With this change, the 1080 hours annual requirement is equivalent to a minimum 6-hour school day for a 180-day school year. The research by the Education Commission on the States show that most states that have established a "minimum hours per day" requirement have set requirements lower than 6 hours per day.

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**FIN-Jo**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2015 1:25 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** bonitarai2002@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB822 on Apr 1, 2015 14:30PM\*

**SB822**

Submitted on: 3/31/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2015 14:30PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bonita Cavanaugh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 8:07 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: garth\_spurrier@notes.k12.hi.us  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB822 on Apr 1, 2015 14:30PM

**LATE**

**SB822**

Submitted on: 4/1/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2015 14:30PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Garth K. Spurrier	Individual	Support	No

Comments: SUPPORT

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**FIN-Jo**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2015 2:54 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** lisalessing@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB822 on Apr 1, 2015 14:30PM



**SB822**

Submitted on: 3/31/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2015 14:30PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Lessing	Individual	Support	No

Comments: SB 822 as currently amended provides clear guidance to schools about the expectations related to school hours. It provides the school the flexibility needed to address their community's needs. The change to "school hours" and elimination of instructional minutes to recognize the full school day is in alignment with the state's GLO's. Please support teachers and help them support our kids. I am a school teacher at one of the few schools that went crazy year with extra hours and saw terrible effects.....no time to meet with kids, parents and each other to plan. Please be reasonable and support us! Mahalo!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**LATE**

*46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Executive Director*

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**TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 822, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1,  
RELATING TO EDUCATION**

**House Committee on Finance  
Hon. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Hon. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair**

**Wednesday, April 1, 2015, 2:30 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

Honorable Chair Luke and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 300 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of Senate Bill 822, SD1, HD1, relating to education.

While we feel that instructional time requirements should be subject to collective bargaining, we understand that variances in instructional time statewide have precipitated difficulty in evaluating achievement outcomes. That said, the link between instructional time and student achievement is an imperfect science at best. For assessment purposes, it is important to ensure that all schools operate from a common baseline. Yet, a number of secondary schools have had difficulty meeting the 990 student instructional hour requirement called for by §302A-251, prompting intraschool debates over school schedules, grievances over process compliance by departmental administrators hastily changing bell schedules, and, ultimately, the reclassification of school activities like homeroom and study hall as instructional time. Such problems are likely to be exacerbated if schools are forced to implement the greater instructional time requirement of up to 1,080 between 2016-2018. Most importantly, when assessing instructional time, we must always remember that quantity does not equal quality, and that increasing the quality of instruction will most directly raise student success. To quote Assistant Superintendent Ronn Nozoe's recent comments to the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, "We've spent this incredible amount of time counting and focusing on compliance and accounting for minutes and tweaking definitions, and it's been very burdensome. It's caused a lot of frustration and it's been, frankly, a distraction from some of our priorities. Year after year, we have not been able to measure a relationship between seat time and student outcomes. More time has not yielded us better results."

To meet the requirements of Act 167, which this bill seeks to revise, the Department of Education created different bell schedules to which schools could align (or request a BOE waiver). Teachers found the proposals to be cumbersome, however, compromising their capacity to plan lessons and engage in meaningful professional development. Moreover, this bill subjects the definition of “student instructional hours” to BOE approval, in consultation with collective bargaining units, but we believe that any definition, no matter how broad, will be impractical when employed in tandem with mandatory school hours. Students engage in a variety of activities on public school campuses, including robotics, senior projects, service learning, and project-based learning. Variances in instructional time will persist as long as students are allowed to pursue different activities. The department does not currently have an effective data system for tracking differences in student output. Even if it could, administrators are unlikely to have time to analyze all of the required data needed to track and standardize these variances, given all of the other reform-oriented tasks they are being asked to perform, including management of the state's new educator effectiveness system. If discrepancies between students remain unaccounted for, then the DOE's purpose in standardizing instructional hours to establish a baseline for learning will be jeopardized. **Thus, the most logical course of action is to repeal Act 167's instructional time mandates in their entirety.**

Last February, secondary schools were required to submit bell schedules meeting the 990-hour requirement for departmental review. Unfortunately, many of the proposed schedules were rejected by the department for not meeting the 1,285 weekly *teacher instructional minute* requirement outlined in Article VI of the HSTA-BOE Master Agreement, which the department now interprets as an absolute total, instead of a maximum amount (in the past, teacher instructional minutes have always been interpreted as a maximum figure). Even schools who submitted schedules that met the 990-hour requirement were told to revise their proposals or seek a waiver if their schedules' teacher instructional minutes totaled less than 1,285 by a mere 1 or 2 minutes! This absurdity has been wrought by an untenable focus on increasing instructional hours in state law, leading to some schools keeping their students on campus beyond 3 p.m., and much longer when the 1,080-hour requirement becomes the norm.

Since the DOE has estimated, as of 2014, that each added day will cost up to \$6.1 million, policymakers should focus on the cost of increasing the number of hours in terms of the equivalent number of calendar days added. Under current *statutory* student instructional time requirements and definitions (approximately 5-hours per day for elementary schools and 5.5 hours per day for secondary schools), forcing elementary schools to increase their hours from 915 to 1,080 hours is tantamount to a 33-day increase, while compelling secondary schools to increase their hours from only 990 to 1,080 equals the hourly equivalent of a 16-day increase. Repealing Act 167, on the other hand, preserves collective bargaining, while providing schools with the flexibility to craft bell schedules that meet the needs of their unique learning communities, so schools can focus on providing *quality* instruction, rather than scrambling to meet *quantity* demands. **That said, the 1,080 hour requirement called for by this bill will be**

**met by the “bell to bell” definition of student hours inserted by the House Education Committee, which effectively codifies into law a 6-hour school day for elementary and secondary schools. We wholeheartedly support this definition and urge you to pass it.** Because of the importance of dealing with this matter this year, we urge the State Legislature to make this change in statute, rather than waiting for Hawaii State Board of Education to act on their own accord.

If teachers perform additional days of service, they must be fairly compensated for their efforts. Thus, it is imperative that any extension of instructional hours take place within the context of collective bargaining to ensure that teachers' exclusive representative, HSTA, has an opportunity to seek salary and benefit enhancements commensurate with the scope and extent of the increased workload. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,  
Kris Coffield  
*Executive Director*  
IMUAlliance