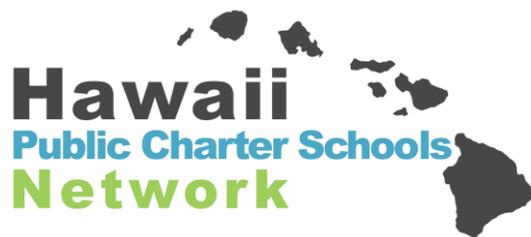


LATE



Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Education
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

DATE: Friday, February 13, 2015

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229, Hawaii State Capitol

Chairs Kidani and Keith-Agaran, Vice Chairs Harimoto and Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committees;

Re: SB 822 & SB1039

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on SB 822 and SB1039. Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network (HPCSN) supports the continued exclusion of charter schools from §302A-251 School year; instructional time.

HPCSN represents 30 of 34 public charter schools in Hawaii and is committed to quality education for all public school students through our support of, and work with, charter schools. Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this very important matter to charter schools. Your support of Hawaii's public students is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Finnegan".

Lynn Finnegan
Executive Director

From: aaron_kondo2001@yahoo.com
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose SB822
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2015 8:51:07 PM

Aaron Kondo
1068 ulu kanu st
wailuku, HI 96793-8320

February 13, 2015

2015 Senate Committee on Education
HI

Dear 2015 Senate Committee on Education:

Aloha,

My name is Aaron Kondo

I am a teacher at Maui High

I am writing to oppose SB822.

Since the passage of Act 167, teachers and school officials in schools across the state have taken away planning and collaboration time to spend time meeting on ways to implement this unfunded mandate and to adjust to the numerous changes and definitions sent out in DOE memos. The results have not matched what was intended by the law and instead adversely impact our students by creating increased class sizes and counting passing time and home room as instructional minutes.

Teachers strive to connect with each child, discover passions, and unlock potential
We support learning environments with class sizes and opportunities that enable teachers to connect one-on-one with each student.

As trusted professionals, we have valuable input to help make school and classroom decisions to ensure student success. We would like to work with all parties to appropriately address students learning, how it is impacted by days and/or instructional hours, and how we might be able to ensure some level of basic scheduling consistency while providing the schools the flexibility needed to promote student success in our unique learning communities.

Please support a full repeal of Act 167.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony.

Sincerely,

Aaron Kondo
8083447807

From: silverhonu77@hotmail.com
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose SB822
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2015 8:51:07 PM

Anjanette Naganuma
106 KANIAU RD
LAHAINA, HI 96761-1810

February 13, 2015

2015 Senate Committee on Education
HI

Dear 2015 Senate Committee on Education:

Aloha,

My name is Anjanette Naganuma and I am a teacher at Lahainaluna High School.

I am writing to oppose SB822.

Since the passage of Act 167, teachers and school officials in schools across the state have taken away planning and collaboration time to spend time meeting on ways to implement this unfunded mandate and to adjust to the numerous changes and definitions sent out in DOE memos. The results have not matched what was intended by the law and instead adversely impact our students by creating increased class sizes and counting passing time and home room as instructional minutes.

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Please support a full repeal of Act 167.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony.

Sincerely,

Anjanette Naganuma

From:
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose SB822
Date: Sunday, February 15, 2015 3:08:49 PM

Keith and Patricia Ishihara
98-1684 Laauhuhua Pl
Pearl City, HI 96782-1859

February 15, 2015

2015 Senate Committee on Education
HI

Dear 2015 Senate Committee on Education:

Aloha,

Our names are Keith and Patricia Ishihara.

We are teachers at Kawanakoa Middle and Moanalua Middle Schools, respectively.

We are writing to oppose SB822.

Since the passage of Act 167, teachers and school officials in schools across the state have taken away planning and collaboration time to spend time meeting on ways to implement this unfunded mandate and to adjust to the numerous changes and definitions sent out in DOE memos. The results have not matched what was intended by the law and instead adversely impact our students by creating increased class sizes and counting passing time and home room as instructional minutes.

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Please support a full repeal of Act 167.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony.

Sincerely,

Keith and Patricia Ishihara

LATE

Osa Tui, Jr.
1039 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96814
594-0931

February 13, 2015

Chair Michelle Kidani
Vice Chair Breene Harimoto
Senate Committee on Education

Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran
Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

I am writing today in opposition of SB822.

I am a teacher and the registrar at McKinley High School. As a registrar, I am in touch with other registrars throughout the state. On this Friday the 13th, I share with you many of the horror stories which have been related to me.

Senate Bill 822 does not go far enough. Act 167 and Act 52 have exacerbated the feeling at schools that the DOE and BOE have become top-down, compliance-driven entities. They act without regard for the differences that exist in the various communities throughout our state.

One school with unique needs is Hana High and Elementary. There, secondary teachers have had their preparation periods embedded within the school day in order to comply with the requirements. Like many schools, school days now end at the same time for both teachers and students. Elementary schools, on the other hand, find it cost prohibitive to embed teacher preparation periods within the school day. Hana is no different. As a result, their elementary school students end 45 minutes earlier than their secondary students and require a separate bus run in the afternoon. County council officials have asked the school to redo their schedules for next year so that students can end at the same time. The council wants to minimize the hazards caused by having large school buses twice as often in the afternoons on their tiny narrow roads. Young children are also getting home before their older siblings are able to look after them. In order to address these issues, Hana has applied for a waiver to reduce minutes for secondary students – minutes that are otherwise “fluff” meant to comply with the law.

Speaking of “fluff,” many schools have added to their bell schedules nebulous times like study hall, opening, and closing in order to be compliant. At McKinley, we had to add a five minute opening to each day in order to meet the requirements. At Kohala Middle, teachers now have to cover large study halls once a week like babysitters so that they are in compliance. Because their study hall is not connected to a particular class, it is very difficult to get students to do work and stay on task. At Kealakehe Intermediate, PTT's and PPT's have to be paid in order to monitor study hall so that teachers can have planning time.

In order to make sure schools were in compliance, model schedules were developed by the DOE if schools could not come to an agreement. Some of these models turned out to violate the teaching contract and many of them did not have the best interests of the students in mind. Models featured short class periods with many transitions between classes. These models, while they may have complied with the law, would be very chaotic and did not take into account larger campuses which require additional passing time.

Schools, to their dismay, have also had to design schedules that did not consider students first and foremost. At Kalakaua Middle, their Wiki Lunch has changed from the early lunch that is used to be (and that students preferred) to essentially a second breakfast because of timing. This has resulted in a lower lunch count for the school.

The DOE has had to make concessions so that schools were able to comply with the law and with collective bargaining agreements. Where once the DOE insisted that teacher instructional times were absolute, they now agree those specifications are maximums in order to meet compliance thresholds. Deputy Superintendent Ronn Nozoe briefed the Board of Education last week that, "Development of optional model bell schedules for SY14-15 has highlighted concerns about the feasibility of complying with continuously increasing requirements without unintended negative consequences on teaching and learning." He also presented that, "Schools have consistently

reported that the time spent calculating schedules and monitoring Act 167 requirements in relationship to CBA agreements has detracted from staff morale, created unnecessary burden, and distracted from a focus on quality of time and student results."

Teachers are trying so hard to stay positive and make great learning happen, but teaching is becoming increasingly demoralizing and stressful and causing exhaustion for both students and teachers. At Paauilo Elementary and Intermediate, dedicated teachers who were once willing to give their time are giving up to the teachers who no longer want to do anything more than what is stipulated in their contract.

Stress and exhaustion are also the result of increased class sizes throughout the state. It is no longer mathematically feasible for some schools to allow secondary teachers to have a common preparation period at the beginning or ending of the day. Like I mentioned with Hana earlier, schools are now embedding prep periods within the school day so that students are covered by a teacher from the start of the day to the end. However, this limits the number of teachers available to teach in any given period and has seen some schools with dramatic increases in their class sizes. Juggling the needs of 40 unique students in a class makes for less effective instruction. The only way to ease this load is to hire more teachers, but that is not going to happen under the Weighted Student Formula.

The loss of meeting time is a huge concern for all schools. At Kohala Middle, weekly meeting time has gone from 200 minutes to just 94. Moanalua Middle has had the same problem which makes it difficult to get proper feedback or discussion on topics. Things are happening there, but often not everyone is on the same page. Their 1:1 computer initiative requires lots of inservicing on integrating technology, but the school has already used up the 21 additional hours that schools were provided in order to address professional development for Common Core, Educator Effectiveness System training, and Student Learning Objectives. There, IEP meetings run a lot later which costs the school more money to pay hourly skills trainers. At McKinley, some IEP meetings are now being attended by non-classroom teachers like curriculum coordinators in order to have a teacher present.

The concept of a middle school has been lost at Kalakaua Middle. As middle schools require team planning time in order to be effective, Kalakaua was not able to accommodate this with their bell schedule. Students are no longer grouped so that they have the same core teachers and this allows problem children to more easily fall through the cracks. Common planning time used to allow for parent/teacher meetings to be more easily scheduled with all team teachers able to attend. Teachers are not able to collaborate and plan enriching field trips for students. Advisory time, which used to be daily, is now weekly and much less effective as the bond the students used to create with the teacher is no longer there. Infrequently seeing students also makes it more difficult to collect required information like federal survey cards or registration cards and makes schoolwide initiatives that much more difficult to monitor.

The end of the school day for many schools has also taken a toll. Students are not willing to stay after school as regularly because now they end just as late as the teachers do. Teachers who used to be afforded time to meet with students before their day was over have found that time no longer budgeted and are not able to stay longer because of their own obligations to attend to. Substitute teachers more and more are not completing the tasks they need to do like submitting attendance or grading paperwork because they leave when the students do. Complex areas where busing is shared are finding students being dropped off at school before 7:00 am or picked up after 4:00 pm because schools no longer have the flexibility to coordinate their schedules. Later end times for students have also affected middle school sports teams which have had to reduce practice time and find coaches always in a rush.

The unintended negative consequences schools have had to endure far outweigh any benefits Acts 167 and 52 were supposed to provide. Applied here, the Law of Diminishing Returns tells us that the more hoops schools are mandated to jump through, the less of a return you'll get for each hoop. As Deputy Superintendent Nozoe has said, "The Department has found no measureable relationship between minimum student learning time and student outcomes." Empower schools rather than trip them up and please do not pass Senate Bill 822!

Mahalo,

Osa Tui, Jr.

From:
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose SB822
Date: Saturday, February 14, 2015 3:38:11 PM

Sarah Shewmaker
249 Kaokoa Way
Haiku, HI 96708-5380

February 14, 2015

2015 Senate Committee on Education
HI

Dear 2015 Senate Committee on Education:

Aloha,

My name is

I am a teacher at

I am writing to oppose SB822.

Since the passage of Act 167, teachers and school officials in schools across the state have taken away planning and collaboration time to spend time meeting on ways to implement this unfunded mandate and to adjust to the numerous changes and definitions sent out in DOE memos. The results have not matched what was intended by the law and instead adversely impact our students by creating increased class sizes and counting passing time and home room as instructional minutes.

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Please support a full repeal of Act 167.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony.

Sincerely,

Sarah Shewmaker
510 306 6151

From: bcraddick@hawaii.rr.com
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Oppose SB822
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2015 9:21:10 PM

William Craddick
1556 Puolani St
Honolulu, HI 96819-3858

February 13, 2015

2015 Senate Committee on Education
HI

Dear 2015 Senate Committee on Education:

Aloha,

My name is William Craddick

I am a teacher at Olomana School

I am writing to oppose SB822.

With the passage of Act 167, the number of students per class/teacher has continued to increase, leaving students with LESS personalized attention, and teachers with LESS time to help individual students in and outside the classroom. When Act 167 added instruction time per week without providing additional teaching staff, the end result is bigger classes. Act 167 deceived the public and students. Act 167 should have been titled: MORE STUDENTS PER TEACHER AND LARGER CLASS SIZE ACT. Education research strongly establishes that increased classroom size negatively impacts student learning.

Please support a full repeal of Act 167.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony.

Sincerely,

William Craddick
847-8837