



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

Date: 04/17/2019
Time: 03:30 PM
Location: 329
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HCR 056, HD1 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR THE PREVENTION, IDENTIFYING AND REPORTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HCR 056, HD1 as it aligns to its vision and mission that ensures all of Hawaii's children are provided with opportunities that foster health, safety, education, school readiness and success.

Department schools may be the place of first alert when a child is being abused. The Department has an articulated process by which child abuse and neglect is reported. The Department maintains a strong collaborative partnership with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide annual procedural guidance to all Department employees, contractors and volunteers, which delineates the reporting requirements, and when to report child abuse and neglect. Additionally, all members of the Department including contractors and volunteers are required to annually view a training video which guides the viewer through the process of reporting child abuse.

Within the Department, a tri-level support structure comprised of the complex area, school and state offices have staff members available for consultation, guidance and information about child abuse reporting. The Department also utilizes direct support from DHS Child Welfare Unit for questions and consultations regarding child abuse reporting. Live training on mandatory reporting and commercially sexually exploited children is available year-round. In November 2018, the Department collaborated with the DHS, the Children's Justice Center and the Susannah Wesley Community Center to offer a statewide training, "Recognizing Child Abuse and What You Need to Do".

Additionally, representatives of the Department have been appointed to or actively participate in committees or work groups including the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Steering Committee, the Interagency Advisory Committee and the Sexual Violence Prevention Education in Public Schools. These groups focus on a collective, interagency response to the various types

of child abuse and the abuse continuum in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HCR 56, HD1.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



TO: Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

DATE/LOCATION: April 17, 2019; 3:30 p.m., Conference Room 329

RE: COMMENTS RE: HCR 56

Thank you for the opportunity to share comments on HCR 56, HD 1 requesting the Department of Education to establish training programs for the prevention, identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.

As a provider of child abuse and neglect and family strengthening services, we understand the important role that training plays in helping to identify and report child abuse and neglect. Our keiki rely on the adults in their lives to be their protectors and champions. Schools are places where children spend most of their time and it pays to give our educators the tools and support needed to be the best protectors of and champions for our keiki. We recognize that child abuse, neglect, sexual violence and sexual exploitation are among the toughest issues. We commend the Department of Education for continuing to strengthen their education and training programs for all department staff to ensure the highest levels of care and safety for the keiki of Hawaii.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 15,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 18 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to share comments regarding **HB 1346**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.

HCR-56-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/12/2019 3:02:06 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/17/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Golojuch Jr	Testifying for LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii supports the passage of HCR 56.

Mahalo for your consideration and for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

Chair

LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

HCR-56-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/15/2019 4:32:41 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/17/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nora Sanford	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Hello, my name is Nora Husted Sanford, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in **strong support** of HCR 56/HD 1. This amended Resolution is requesting the DOE to ESTABLISH training programs for the PREVENTIOM, IDENTIFYING, AND REPORTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

I know from personal experience that the DOE already has annual mandatory training for the identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect. They have recently brought into the DOE a program to further assist in the identification component through YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID training and even I have recently been trained as an instructor for this program. The DOE is making proactive changes in "IDENTIFYING AND REPORTING" child abuse, child neglect, and school bullying.

Even with these measures, ongoing bullying, cyber bullying, child abuse, school wide violence, and suicide remain serious concerns for the families and students of Hawaii. Parents are frustrated and pushing for change.

There is a phrase I heard a long time ago, "DO WHAT YOU ALWAYS DID, YOU GET WHAT YOU ALWAYS GOT."

After an in depth compliance review, on January 18, 2018, the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, issued a letter to the Hawaii DOE. Contained in this letter, they state "...the survey evidence OCR gathered suggests that Chapter 19, beyond specific shortcomings, has not proven effective as a means of systematically addressing the presence of bullying and harassment in Hawaii Department of Education schools."

In October 2018, the DOE was presented with a class action law suit from parents of bullied students who "believe that the DOE's policies, procedures, and practices for responding to and PREVENTING incidents of harassment and bullying are grossly inadequate and/or are not enforced."

It is evident that something is being missed, overlooked in what the DOE is currently doing, and the missing link is "PREVENTATIVE TRAINING". By having a standardized preventative training in fundamental skills that will support effective communication and conflict resolution, that all parents, staff and students participate in at the onset of

school, will create a paradigm shift in our state. It will shift from focusing on dealing with abuse and bullying after it happens to preventing abuse before it happens.

I testify to also in response to my personal experience that happened over a decade ago. In 2005, my student, Talia Williams, was killed at the hands of her father. As a teacher I had years of training on how to identify abuse after it happened. Every day Talia came to school was another day I missed the carefully concealed signs and symptoms of her abuse. In the end, the system failed her, I failed her.

What could have been done differently? After years of woulda, coulda, shouldas, I have concluded that the educational requirement to only train teachers to identify abuse is only part of the solution. The missing part of the solution is to include the families and students and teach all stakeholders in education the fundamental skills that will reduce the incidence of abuse BEFORE it happens.

What is this you ask? Think about it. When we get angry, how well do we communicate? For those individuals inclined to take out their anger and frustration in physical ways, abuse and bullying happen. Instead, if all parents, educational staff and students were provided with Preventative training at the beginning of school in how to listen for understanding, how to communicate effectively, and how to resolve conflict, then everyone is equipped with the skills needed in life. Problems happen, conflict is inevitable. But when parents, staff, and students learn and practice these basic skills, when conflict does arise, it is dealt with in a healthy manner and ultimately the incidences of abuse and bullying will decline.

I challenge you to consider the trajectory our children are on. Undealt with anger at home effects the children. Children either implode or explode. Their emotions can go inward resulting in self harm or even worse suicide. Their emotions can explode resulting in bullying, behavioral problems, or violent retaliation. The impact of abuse is far reaching .

If one of the missing pieces to the puzzle of reducing abuse in our state is simply communication, then we must address it, teach and practice it with our families, staff and students BEFORE more children get hurt and possibly die.

Thankyou for including PREVENTATIVE training in the amended Resolution. By being proactive and prevention minded in training all families, all staff and all students, we will be able to prevent future harm from being done to our children here in Hawaii. Also, you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** on this matter of great importance to our future for the safety and wellbeing of all families, educational staff and students of Hawaii.

Thank you,

Nora Husted Sanford,MSEdL

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LATE

HCR-56-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/16/2019 10:51:21 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/17/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katherine Sanford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair San Buenaventura and Vice Chair Nakamura of the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Subject: House Resolution 57 and House Concurrent Resolution 56: Requesting the Department of Department of Education to Establish training programs for the PREVENTION, identification, and reporting of child abuse and neglect

April 3, 2019

My name is Katherine Sanford, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in **strong support** of HCR 56/HD1.

This resolution will help to alleviate suffering in our communities by giving children, young adults, and adults non-violent communication skills. Abuse can come in many forms, such as child abuse, domestic abuse, and bullying.

Trauma experienced during youth can shape a person's entire life. Teaching people what constitutes "abuse" may deter potential-abusers from hurting others, or for ongoing-abuse to be recognized by victims, abusers, or third-parties. Abuse comes in both physical and psychological forms and may be disguised under more innocent names. "Discipline" may escalate into child abuse. Out of "love", someone's partner may isolate them from family, friends or other support networks. A group of children might be "joking" with their friend and have it turn into cyberbullying.

Even for people outside the umbrella of abuse, the training will provide an invaluable set of communication skills that can be used in day-to-day life. This includes empathy & sympathy, awareness of one's self and others, and intentionality. By raising children this way, our future communities will thrive. By teaching adults this, cycles of abuse can be broken and healing can occur.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** on this matter of great importance to our future generations.

Katherine Sanford

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LATE

HCR-56-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/17/2019 12:15:13 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/17/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priorities Committee	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair; the Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Education:

The O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priority Committee submits its testimony in support of HCR56 HD1 which requests the Department of Education is to establish training programs to empower parents, teachers, students, and administrators on how to prevent, identify, report, and mitigate all forms of child abuse that may take place. This Resolution is borne out of Talia's Law which stemmed from the death of Talia Williams who was killed by the hands of her own father on a Military Base in Hawai'i. Talia's Law requires any abuse taking place on a military base to be reported to civilian authorities. Likewise, HCR56 HD1 provides for training in the public schools to identify and report child abuse. As such, the O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priority Committee supports DOE training programs to identify, report, and mitigate child abuse.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit support testimony on HCR 56 HD1.

Mahalo nui loa

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priorities Committee