



LATE

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

Date: 04/03/2019
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 325
Committee: House Judiciary

Department: Education

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

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

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HCR 56 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.

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.

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HCR-56

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 3:50:04 PM

Testimony for JUD on 4/3/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

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

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HCR-56

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 9:47:22 PM

Testimony for JUD on 4/3/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

HCR 56/HR 57 - I respectfully request that the wording in this Resolution be adjusted to "Training programs for the PREVENTION , identification, and reporting of child abuse and neglect."

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.

I ask you, 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 die. I request that you amend this

resolution to include the words "Preventive Training" because we need to prevent abuse before it happens so we can keep all of our children safe.

HCR-56

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 9:49:30 PM

Testimony for JUD on 4/3/2019 2:00:00 PM

LATE

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dara Carlin, M.A. | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HCR-56

Submitted on: 4/3/2019 2:33:26 PM

Testimony for JUD on 4/3/2019 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bryan Husted | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

I am requesting the Department of Education to establish training programs for identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect because I believe that it will help reduce child abuse among our children.

Thank you for supporting this program.

Sincerely,

Bryan Husted

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

March 25, 2019

My name is Jonathan E. Fern, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in **strong support** of HR 57/HCR 56.

This resolution will help prevent one of the most fundamental causes of a wide range of social and economic problems in our community. If we can have healthier children – not just physically healthy, but socially and mentally healthy children – we can have a healthier society. This is a crucial investment in our future.

I am a retired schoolteacher. I helped start Ho`ala School in Wahiawa over 35 years ago. I continue to teach classes to parents, so that they can more effectively nurture their children and more effectively work out issues that every family encounters. This sort of training is enormously valuable. Please pass this bill – HR 57/HRC 56.

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

Mr. Jonathan Fern
1619 Hoolulu Rd. Wahiawa 96786
jffrn24@gmail.com
808-284-5307

Chair and Vice Chair of the Judiciary Committee

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

April 3, 2019

My name is Nora Husted Sanford, and I am a concerned citizen. I am testifying in **strong support** of HR 57/HCR 56.

I am also specifically requesting that HR 57/HCR 56 be amended to include "TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR PREVENTING, identifying, and reporting child abuse and neglect". It is essential that there is a standardized initial training that all parents, educational staff, and students participate that protect our student population and PREVENT systematic bullying in our schools and potential abuse at home. Change won't happen overnight, but it is critical that all stakeholders learn the fundamental skills of listening, communication, and conflict resolution before there is more future harm done to our children in and out of our schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** on this matter of great importance to our future generations and I strongly encourage you to amend this resolution to put into place preventative training for the safety and wellbeing of all families, staff and students of Hawaii.

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