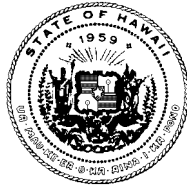


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

January 29, 2018

TO: The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Health & Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 133, Relating to Child Abuse**

Hearing: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill as teachers, students, and parents need to know and recognize signs of child abuse and neglect in order to protect children, for children to protect themselves or their siblings or peers, and to obtain the needed help from Child Welfare Services or the police; however, DHS does not require a statute to do this work, and provides the following comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to increase access and visibility of the Child Welfare Services (CWS) hotline number within the DOE schools and charter schools, and to enable students and victims to better self-report.

Recent local and nationally reported cases of children being abused and tortured by their parents, or by authority figures highlight the need for continued public outreach and education to prevent harm or neglect from happening at all, to provide more information about signs of abuse and neglect, and to provide for a safe and responsive process for people to report what they suspect, or for children to disclose what they are experiencing.

One can imagine that with proper education and information, every parent and child should be aware of the trusted adult in the school setting to whom they may report

with confidence that they are being harmed or neglected, or a peer is being harmed, and that trusted person will take appropriate action. Also, we can imagine that every adult in the school setting who receives such a report of suspected abuse or neglect, would be knowledgeable and responsive to alert the police or Child Welfare Services. We know that nationwide and within our state, teachers, more than any other profession, already report the bulk of the cases of suspected child abuse and neglect.

With regard to disclosures by children themselves, children's disclosures are often accidental and indirect, are most often made to peers or mothers; and if the response to disclosure furthers the child's fear, anxiety or isolation, retractions are likely. See <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/research-reports/no-one-noticed-no-one-heard-report.pdf>. The report identified the common reasons that helped the student disclose the harm:

- Someone who noticed change in behavior or injuries intervened;
- Realization that the harm was not normal;
- The victim was no longer able to cope with the abuse;
- The nature of the abuse changed and became more violent; and
- The instinct to protect others, usually a sibling, from the abuse.

The report "No One Noticed, No One Heard" is an excellent resource in terms of the complexity of the strategies required, so at a minimum, in addition to posting the CWS Hotline number, the legislature needs to also support current outreach efforts that require materials development, consultation with experts, stakeholders and communities, training, staff, and funding to sustain a public outreach campaign with measurable goals.

As reported last session on this measure, DHS works with the DOE to provide in-service training to its staff regarding the Child Protective Act and the mandated reporter responsibilities. We will continue to work with DOE to ensure that the CWS hotline number is visible and accessible, which may include posters, in the DOE and charter schools.

However, successful public outreach and to encourage disclosure by children as noted above, require more than a poster. As reported last year on this measure, DHS, Department of Health, and the Action Strategy Network, continue to work to develop a public outreach campaign addressing family violence, abuse and neglect. In November 2017,

with a majority of funding from the Omidyar Family foundation, and contributions from DOH and DHS, the Action Strategy network has engaged nationally recognized FrameWorks Institute, to further develop a successful public outreach campaign to increase information on positive parenting and reduce family violence, including child abuse and neglect. In December 2017, consultants from FrameWorks Institute began their work conducting numerous meetings with stakeholders in three counties to hear provider and community members' perspectives on family violence, child abuse and neglect in Hawaii.

Also reported last year and consistent with "No One Noticed, No One Heard" report, any campaign will require training of staff and information provided to parents. Responses to our preliminary survey of early childhood providers about a messaging campaign directed at students included:

1. Images and messaging need to be clear and easy to comprehend; many suggested that images and messaging be positive and encouraging to reach out, as opposed to being ominous or contain strong visuals with mixed messages;
2. Images and messaging need to be developmentally appropriate, and outreach efforts will differ depending on age requiring different strategies for elementary, middle and high schools are required;
3. Materials for parents should accompany any outreach campaign made directly to children;
4. Materials and training for DOE staff should accompany the outreach materials; and
5. Testing of the materials and feedback from focus groups should be done and obtained prior to any roll out.

Other comments of note were:

- materials should not be provided to parents as parents may discourage their children from calling the hotline and it could potentially lead to threats to children or more abuse;
- poster campaigns are not effective; what is needed is training to raise awareness of teachers, counselors and staff;

- DOE staff may require more training as to what to do and how to support a child who reports something;
- A curriculum should be developed with messaging that informs kids where they can turn to if they are abused in any way;
- A school's over all message should be that it is a safe place; and
- Provide training on trauma, how to accept/support children who we know are experiencing trauma.

While work has been on-going to design an outreach campaign, more work is required. To be most successful, the departments, including DOE, may require appropriations and staff, to develop an appropriate and consistent outreach effort to reduce family violence, to provide sufficient and appropriate information for children to disclose harm or neglect, and for on-going training for professionals to provide a safe and nurturing response.

While support is needed, the departments do not require a statutory mandate to do this work.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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

Date: 01/30/2018
Time: 09:30 AM
Location: 329
Committee: House Health and Human Services

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 0133 RELATING TO CHILD ABUSE.

Purpose of Bill: Requires Department of Education schools and charter schools to post signs containing the Department of Human Services hotline for reporting child abuse and neglect.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 133 and has continued to dialogue with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to ensure signs containing the DHS hotline for reporting child abuse and neglect will be printed and distributed to schools.

DHS again actively sought stakeholder input on preliminary poster designs to ensure prior concerns from early childhood stakeholders focused on the need for age- and grade-appropriate artwork and messaging are addressed.

Further, DHS has kept the Department apprised of its progress. Upon receipt of the approved poster design, the Department stands ready to move forward with printing and distribution of the poster to schools.

Given the commitment of both agencies, we respectfully submit that mandating the placement of informational signs through legislation is not needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

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.

HB-133

Submitted on: 1/27/2018 3:11:47 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/30/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018**

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

9:30 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 133, RELATING TO CHILD ABUSE

To the Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair; the Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 133, relating to the child abuse or neglect hotline. The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. 133 and support its passage.

House Bill No. 133, is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it aims to protect children against abuse and neglect by requiring the Department of Education schools and charter schools to post signs

containing the Department of Human Services hotline for reporting child abuse and neglect. Specifically, the DPH Platform states, "We must protect our children, our future, from violence and neglect and provide them with a safe and healthy environment in which to grow and thrive." (Platform of the DPH, P. 4, Lines 186-187 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No. 133 requires the Department of Education schools and charter schools to post signs containing the Department of Human Services hotline for reporting child abuse and neglect which will assist student victims to seek help, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889

HB-133

Submitted on: 1/26/2018 1:20:35 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/30/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ray Oda		Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii

To: Honorable John Mizuno, Chair House Committee on Health and Human Services, Vice-Chair Bertrand Kobayashi , and Committee Members

Person Testifying: Janice Bundas

Subject: Support of HB133, Relating to Child Abuse

Hearing Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018, 9:30a.m.

Location: Conference Room 329, Capitol

Purpose of Bill: Requires Department of Education-Schools and Charter Schools to post signs containing the Department of Human Services hotline number for reporting child abuse and neglect

My name is Janice Bundas. I am a child advocate working on behalf of child abuse victims nationwide. Passing HB133 will allow Hawaii to join 27 other states that have already passed similar types of legislation.

I am passionate about helping children who are suffering sexual abuse. Starting at the age of six, I was molested by 2 brothers and a cousin. It continued into junior high. They worked together as a group and as individuals. I was raped. My mother and Aunt knew I was being molested. And instead of stopping the abuse, I was warned not to tell. My mother would walk thought the room, when I was being molested, without hesitating to help me. Often times other people were in the same room; they ignored what was happening to me. I wanted to scream, I didn't because I knew no one cared. I knew that I had no value.

As an advocate for children, I asked myself what can be done today for theses children that would have helped me. The answer is this poster.

Requiring schools to post the child abuse hotline number in an area students frequent, is a perfect mechanism to accomplish 3 goals:

1. It gives students the knowledge they are valued
2. The knowledge they right to self-report abuse
3. It gives them the mechanism to do so, while in the safe environment of the school, without having to look someone in the eye to make the initial report.

The following statistics are provided by the Center of Child Advocacy. Please consider the financial impact they have on Hawaii.

- 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys- will be sexually abuse (before the age of 18)
- The median age of a child who is sexually abused-is 9 years old.
- 1 out of 7 victims, reported to law enforcement, is under the age of 6
- Teen pregnancy-60% preceded by sexual abuse
- Homelessness-50% of homeless women had been sexually abused
- Drug and alcohol dependency- 70-80% had been abused
- Incarceration -60% of women had been sexually abused

The Children's Advocacy Center created a poster for this legislation. It is available to every state in the nation at no cost. The message is clear, positive, easy to comprehend, and appropriate for all ages.

Using an adobe writer, Hawaii can insert their child abuse hotline number on to the poster and put it online. The only cost to schools to download and print the poster is paper, ink and the material it takes to laminate the poster. HB133 is not a hardship on schools.

The National Conference of State Legislators wrote a brief in January 2015, vol. 23, No.1, in support of this legislation, calling it concrete-and simple and inexpensive-way for school children to be able to seek help in a safe environment.

In 2015 the Department of Education testified against HB2505, stating they could 'accomplish the task without having to a law passed.' To date, the Department of Education has not accomplished the task. For the time between 2016 and 2018, children who were being sexually abused did not receive the education they deserved, the information the poster provides

I encourage and urge you to vote yes on HB133.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak concerning this matter.

LATE

HB-133

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 3:47:37 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/30/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Gaoteote		Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed to HB 133 that requires the Department of Education to post posters in schools and charter schools with the number to the Child Welfare Services hotline because many children do not understand the difference between discipline and abuse and neglect. Children may also make false allegations and reports against their parents when they are upset with their parents or make false reports against other people. This will also increase the number of calls to the hotline and will require more workers at Child Welfare Services Intake Unit. Instead of posters with the Child Welfare Services hotline number, maybe the Department of Education should put up posters to encourage children to speak to their counselor or school staff if they are being abused or neglected at home and then have the school staff or counselor contact Child Welfare Services. The school staff are mandated reporters and can discern if a report needs to be made to Child welfare Services. Also, if the children are too young to use the telephone, they won't understand the posters so it would be better to speak to a counselor or someone they trust at the school to help them make the report to Child welfare Services.

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Jan 30, 2018, 6:56 am

HB-133

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 9:58:19 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/30/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shereen Doi		Support	No

Comments:

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Rep. Della Au Belatti; Rep. Andria PL Tupola; Rep. Lei R. Learmont

HB 133

RELATING TO CHILD ABUSE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

DATE: Tuesday, January 30, 2018

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

Conference Room 329

PLACE: State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha, my name is Shereen Doi and I am a MSW candidate at University of Hawaii at Manoa Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work. The purpose of HB 133 is to encourage educating and empowering students who are victims of abuse or neglect to seek assist them by requiring DOE schools and charter schools to post signs containing department of human services child abuse or neglect hotline. I am testifying in favor for passage of HB 133. I strongly support the mandatory posting of signs in all DOE and charter schools in Hawaii which includes DHS hotline number as a resource for students who may be experience abuse and or neglect from their parents or caregivers. Initiative to reduce the amount and frequency of child abuse and neglect in Hawaii is needed. This bill can provide the further and much needed investigation and

opening of new and or old cases where physical, emotional and verbal harm is being conducted by parents, guardians and or caregivers. We are fortunate to live in a time where different ways and means to discipline children without abuse, parents or caregivers can be practiced and learned through education and re-teaching parenting techniques. HB 133 provides hope and opportunity for students who may be scared and unsure of what resources are out there to help them get out of their particular situation and report perpetrators to ensure safety.

I ask the committees to keep in mind that innocent students within the DOE system are falling through the cracks and suffering tremendously. By passing HB 133, brings forth steps toward more awareness and resources provided to students to utilize and reach out to professionals who will hopefully get them help, security and create a safer environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Shereen D.

shereenc@hawaii.edu