July 6, 2021

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President and Members of the Senate
Thirty First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai’i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai’i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

I am transmitting herewith SB811 HD1 CD1, without my approval and with the statement of objections relating to the measure.

SB811 HD1 CD1 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai’i
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU
July 6, 2021

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO SENATE BILL NO. 811

Honorable Members
Thirty-First Legislature
State of Hawai‘i

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 811, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to the Department of Education."

The purpose of this bill is to require the Department of Education (DOE) to publish a weekly report on the DOE’s website identifying schools that have reported positive COVID-19 cases.

This bill is objectionable because the DOE and the Department of Health have already established protocols to report cases, notify contacts, and prevent transmission in schools. This bill may also increase the potential for individuals to be identified, harassed, or discriminated against if weekly reporting is required. As written, this bill possesses a high potential for privacy violations, particularly in smaller communities. An increase in bullying, harassment or social isolation can have negative impacts on a student’s educational outcomes. Instances of bullying and harassment are likely under reported, as students may be hesitant to make official complaints to school administrators. This bill could significantly increase the potential for harassment at a time when students should be allowed to focus on getting back to in person learning and their own academic achievement. Additionally, reporting of positive cases may lead to disruption and anxiety among members of the school community, hindering the ability of school administrators to conduct normal school business.
For the foregoing reasons, I am returning Senate Bill No. 811 without my approval.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor of Hawai‘i
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. (a) The department of education shall publish a weekly report on schools that have a student, staff member, or affiliated individual who has tested positive for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The report shall include:

(1) The school's name;

(2) The date the COVID-19 positive test result was reported to the school; and

(3) The date that the positively tested individual was last on the school campus.

(b) The report shall be published weekly commencing after July 1, 2021, on the department of education's website.

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED this day of , 2021

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII
THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Date: April 27, 2021
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021.

[Signature]
President of the Senate

[Signature]
Clerk of the Senate
SB No. 811, HD 1, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 27, 2021
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021.

Scott K. Saiki
Speaker
House of Representatives

Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives