

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hawaii

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of West Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm

Reduction Center

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kokua Ohana Aloha (KOA)

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native

Hawaiian Health Care Systems

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and

Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services

& Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

February 4, 2020

To: Representative Justin Woodson
And members of the Committee on Lower and Higher Education

Testimony in Support of HB 2048 Related to Bullying

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2048 Relating to Bullying

For 9 out of the past 13 years, bullying has been one of the top concerns of the youth who participate in the annual Children and Youth Summit at the State Capitol each October. They tell us that teachers and other school staff do not respond effectively when they witness bullying or bullying is reported by students.

As one concerned grandparent told me, “We are teaching our granddaughter about the issue. Last year she reported 3 kids to teacher because they were taunting a home less girl...{My granddaughter said the teacher just told them not to do again...the kids got nothing out of it.”

According to the Hawaii Youth Behavioral Risk Survey, Hawaii has a low rate of youth violence in almost every area except bullying. The number of youth who have stated that they were afraid to go to school or have missed school due to bullying is much higher than the national average. 22.6% of middle school students in Hawaii were cyber-bullied, 40% were bullied on school property, 23.1% seriously considered suicide, and 12.4% attempted suicide during past 12 months (Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2017)

Parent concern about the bullying experienced by their children in public schools has led to multiple lawsuits and judgments against the Department of Education.

In 2018, 3 families sued the Hawaii Dept. of Education alleging “alleges the department has failed to provide a safe environment to its students due to lackluster policies and procedures governing student-on-student bullying and harassment.” {Honolulu Civil Beat, 8/31/2018}

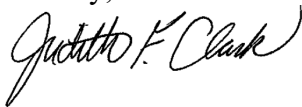
Also in 2018, the Dept. of Education “agreed to pay \$10,000 to settle a two-year-old lawsuit alleging school officials did nothing to address recurring sex-based harassment against two students on the Big Island.”

“The lawsuit, brought by former Hilo resident Joshua Franklin on behalf of his two minor sons, claimed the boys were taunted by other students and called homophobic names like “faggot” and “queer” as school administrators stood by and didn’t stop the harassment or properly investigate the complaints. It also alleged school officials didn’t receive proper training on LGBTQ issues.” {Honolulu Civil Beat, 9/14/18}

School personnel are not prepared to prevent or intervene effectively to address bullying and harassment. Middle school is the time when bullying is most prevalent. Thus, the pilot training project targets middle schools.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



of Hawaii

Hawaii State House of Representative Committee on Lower and Higher Education
Hearing Date/Time: February 6, 2020 2:10PM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309
Re: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2048

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Quinlan, and Members of the Committee,

Members of AAUW of Hawaii are grateful for this opportunity to testify in support of HB2038, which would appropriate funds for bullying-intervention "train the trainers" training for selected public middle school teachers.

Bullying is a serious problem for the students in Hawaii, especially for the middle school students. According to the CDC 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 22.6% of middle school students in Hawaii were cyber-bullied, 40% were bullied on school property, 23.1% seriously considered suicide, and 12.4% attempted suicide during past 12 months of the survey. Youth who report frequently bullying others and youth who report being frequently bullied is at increased risk for suicide; youth who report both bullying others and being bullied have the highest risk for suicide.¹

Three out of eight groups of students, who participated in AAUW Honolulu-Ceeds of Peace-Women's Fund of Hawaii's Girls Talk Back program, identified bullying as most serious problem they wanted to work on. While some teachers try to address the problem, bullying continues; some teachers even shrug it off or dismiss it saying "everyone goes through bullying".

While mandating bullying prevention for all students, employees and parents, and bullying intervention training for all employees is ideal, this bill will appropriate funds to pilot "train the trainers" with those who are most eager to learn. While trainings for primary schools and high schools are also needed, this bill will pilot the training for middle schools

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/bullying-suicide-translation-final-a.pdf>

for the bullying problem is the worst for middle school students, according to the CDC 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawaii is a state-wide organization made up of six branches (Hilo, Honolulu, Kauai, Kona, Maui, and Windward Oahu) and includes just over 650 active members with over 3800 supporters statewide. As advocates for gender equity, AAUW of Hawaii promotes the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons.

Please pass this important bill to save our keiki. Mahalo.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Younghee Overly', with a stylized, cursive script.

Younghee Overly
Public Policy Chair, AAUW of Hawaii
publicpolicy-hi@aauw.net

HB-2048

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 4:51:02 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Hawaii Women's Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2048

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 7:20:39 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs and members,

According to a CDC report 22.6% of middle school students in Hawaii were cyber-bullied, 40% were bullied on school property, 23.1% seriously considered suicide, and 12.4% attempted suicide during past 12 months.

At the annual Children and Youth Summit at the State Capitol, youth have selected bullying prevention and intervention at one of their top priorities in 9 out of the past 18 years. Summit participants consistently report that DOE staff do not respond effectively to reports of bullying. {Hawaii Youth Services Network internal data}

In 2018, 3 families sued the Hawaii Dept. of Education alleging “alleges the department has failed to provide a safe environment to its students due to lackluster policies and procedures governing student-on-student bullying and harassment.” {Honolulu Civil Beat, 8/31/2018}

Also in 2018, the Dept. of Education “agreed to pay \$10,000 to settle a two-year-old lawsuit alleging school officials did nothing to address recurring sex-based harassment against two students on the Big Island.”

“The lawsuit, brought by former Hilo resident Joshua Franklin on behalf of his two minor sons, claimed the boys [were taunted](#) by other students and called homophobic names like “faggot” and “queer” as school administrators stood by and didn’t stop the harassment or properly investigate the complaints. It also alleged school officials didn’t receive proper training on LGBTQ issues.” {Honolulu Civil Beat, 9/14/18}

The current situation is UNACCEPTABLE. Something needs to be done. This bill is step in the right direction.

Much Aloha,

Ann S. Freed

Co-Chair Emeritus,

Hawaii Women's Coalition

HB-2048

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 6:14:58 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee on Lower and Higher Education,

I am writing in support of HB2048.

This Anti-Bullying Bill will establish a pilot program to address bullying in our schools.

The pilot will “train the trainers” to lead bullying-intervention workshops with middle school teachers and staff.

Please support this bill.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

HB-2048

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 7:51:14 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-2048

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:14:37 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenichi Yabusaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee Members:

I strongly support the passage of HB2048 for the purpose of teachers and/or school officials being trained via best practices that are culturally sensitive for anti-bullying in Hawaii's schools. Children need to know when you hurt others, you hurt not only one's self, but one's family, the community, the State of Hawaii, and it's a reflection on our Country as a whole.

Kenichi K. Yabusaki, Ph.D., retired biochemist

HB-2048

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:49:57 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danielle Bergan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a certified instructor for Mental health America if Hawaii (MHAH) in Youth Suicide and Bullying Prevention (YSBP) I urge that bill be moved forward and passed. While bullying is not a direct cause for suicide it is a risk factor and raises the risk of a youth to take their own life. This is the connection.

YSBP was created by Mental Health America of Hawaii. This training is based on local and national statistics as well as real experiences of local youth, increases knowledge and understanding of bullying and suicide, identifies risk factors and warning signs, and provides skills and resources to help prevent or intervene.

.If the legislature allocates funds for trainings I know MHAH would be willing to do a T4T)Train the Trainer) for several Middle School teachers especially these in health.

Please move this forward.

Sincerely,

Danielle M. Bergan



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

LATE

Date: 02/06/2020

Time: 02:10 PM

Location: 309

Committee: House Lower & Higher
Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 2048 RELATING TO BULLYING.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds for selected public middle school teachers to attend an evidence-informed or evidence-based and culturally relevant bullying intervention training session and for those selected public middle school teachers to provide training on bullying intervention to other public school employees in their respective schools. Appropriates funds.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 2048 and respectfully provides comments. The Department is committed to providing a comprehensive array of evidence-based practices, culturally-responsive support, and training for staff, teachers, school administrators, complex area, and district personnel to ensure that all students feel supported and safe in school socially, emotionally, intellectually and physically as reflected in *Board of Education Policy 101.7*

The Department continuously works to reduce bullying and cyberbullying by emphasizing the importance of a positive school climate and the effective implementation of an evidence-based social and emotional learning (SEL) program. *Statewide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)* training and technical assistance is provided to support schools in addressing, improving and maintaining a positive school climate. *PBIS* is an application of a behavioral-based systems approach to enhance the capacity of schools, families, and communities to design effective school environments that focuses on a school-wide system of positive support. It includes proactive strategies for defining teaching and supporting appropriate student behaviors to create positive school environments.

Research has shown that bullying prevention efforts in the middle school years have the greatest impact when integrated within a positive school climate and strong SEL program. Currently, the Department is offering training to all complex areas on the implementation, capacity building, and sustainability of both PBIS and SEL within the Hawaii Multi-Tiered

System of Support. Additional support is provided to schools through Vulnerability Assessments and the Tiered Fidelity Inventory.

The Department continues to maintain strong and collaborative interagency partnerships on the Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force and the Bullying Prevention Task Force as well as the Mental Health Task Force to address such issues. The Department continues collaborating with state and community agencies to maximize all available resources and training opportunities.

Finally, the Department is thankful for the appropriation within the bill but would look forward to further discussions as to the appropriate amount needed as the current amount would not be sufficient when taking in to account additional costs such as the need for substitute teachers to cover for staff attending the bill-mandated training.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2048.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



JOHN S.S. KIM
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

LATE

FOR: HB 2048 Relating to Bullying
DATE: February 6, 2020
TIME: 2:10 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Lower and Higher Education
ROOM: Conference Room 309
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 2048 with amendments**. This measure provides funds to train selected public middle school teachers on bullying intervention so that those teachers may train other teachers in their respective schools.

The Commission requests that this **measure be amended to clarify that any training provided on bullying intervention should include charter middle school teachers** as well as teachers in department schools. Of the 37 public charter schools operating, 30 schools have a middle school division; three schools, out of the total amount of 30, exclusively serve middle school students. The Commission would further support any additional funding for this measure that would be needed to provide this training to the 30 charter schools serving middle school students.

The Commission looks forward to collaborating with the committee, the DOE, other interested stakeholders, and public charter schools in moving this legislation forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



Hawaii
Children's Action Network Speaks!
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

To: Representative Woodson, Chair
Representative Hashem, Vice Chair
Representative Quinlan, Vice Chair
House Committee on Lower & Higher Education

LATE

Re: **HB 2048- Relating to bullying**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309
2:10PM, 2/6/2020

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Quinlan, and committee members,

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!, we write in support of HB 2048-relating to bullying.

Bullying is a major problem across our country. The impact of being bullied and bullying last long into adulthood. Children who are bullied are more likely to experience depression and anxiety, poor academic performance, and health complaints. Locally, 40% of middle school students said they'd been bullied on school property. And more shockingly, 1 in 10 middle schoolers attempted suicide and of the female students, that number is almost 1 in 5.¹ We cannot allow these statistics to remain; we need to do better for our kids.

Teachers and school staff play a large role in how students feel about their school as a safe place or as a place for potential violence. A teacher who students see as modeling positive behaviors and fairness can help reduce bullying in their classrooms and across the school. This bill takes a "train the trainers" approach to mitigate bullying through interventions that can then be brought back to other school faculty. This is not to replace any current anti-bullying efforts but to add an additional layer. Bullying is pervasive and we cannot stop at a single approach.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2048 and respectfully request the committee pass the bill.

Thank you,

Kathleen Algire
Director, Public Policy and Research

¹ CDC 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, <https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/Results.aspx?LID=HI>