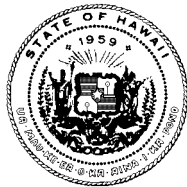


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
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March 7, 2020

TO: The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2703 HD2 - RELATING TO PREVENTING SCHOOL VIOLENCE**

Hearing: March 9, 2020, 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill to invest in the prevention of school violence in Hawaii; DHS defers to the State Fusion Center and the Department of Education as to the implementation of the proposed pilot.

PURPOSE: Establishes a pilot program to prevent targeted school violence. Appropriates funds to the office of homeland security for resources to prevent targeted school violence. Takes effect on 7/1/2050. Repeals on 6/30/2024. (HD2)

Hawaii received a STOP the School Violence grant from the US Department of Justice; the grant is being administered by the State Fusion Center. Prevention of violence in school and providing intervention services should be priorities for Hawaii's children and youth; efforts should be comprehensive as incidents of violence can occur on or off school campuses. The Legislature should consider additional investment in outreach and treatment services that address the root causes of bullying, depression, youth suicide, with heightened attention to the needs of families with youths arrested before age 13; youths arrested before 13 are at a higher risk of future violence, crime, school drop-out and substance abuse.¹

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/yv-technicalpackage.pdf>



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

Date: 03/09/2020
Time: 02:45 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 2703, HD2 RELATING TO PREVENTING SCHOOL VIOLENCE.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a pilot program to prevent targeted school violence. Appropriates funds to the office of homeland security for resources to prevent targeted school violence. Takes effect on 7/1/2050. Repeals on 6/30/2024. (HD2)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2703, HD2 provided that its passage does not adversely impact the Department's Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness Branch's continuous efforts to obtain additional resources to accomplish its vital mission and vision.

Threat assessment is a problem-solving approach to violence prevention that involves assessment and intervention with both students and adults who have threatened violence in some way. Every act of violence is preventable if people recognize the signs. Several major and authoritative publications such as *Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model* and the *Final Report of the Federal Commission on School Safety* have established threat assessment programs as a best practice and mandated its implementation.

The development and establishment of a threat assessment program in the Department has been a priority of the Department's Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness Branch for over three years. The branch has been working and coordinating closely with both the Hawaii Office of Homeland Security and the Hawaii State Fusion Center in developing a proactive threat assessment program that would help prevent targeted violence in our schools. The partnerships have been invaluable. Developing and establishing a threat assessment program ensures the Department is meeting national school safety and security standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

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>
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Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: HB 2703 HD2 Relating to Preventing School Violence
DATE: March 9, 2020
TIME: 2:45 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 229
FROM: Yvonne Lau, Interim Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Committee:

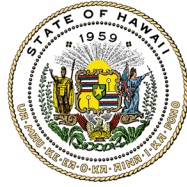
The State Public Charter School Commission ("Commission") appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 2703 HD2** which establishes a pilot program to establish a start-to-finish response to threats of targeted school violence and provides long term resources to prevent targeted school violence. The measure clarifies that the pilot program may include one public charter school.

In addition to the option that this measure provides through the pilot program , the Commission has also begun working with the Fusion Center on school safety issues to see what resources and training options are available for public charter schools. Additionally, the Commission has assisted in arranging school crisis and active-shooter training for some public charter schools.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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STOP SCHOOL VIOLENCE PROGRAM

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2703 HD 2 RELATING TO PREVENTING SCHOOL VIOLENCE

PRESENTATION TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

BY

PATRICIA KICKLAND
PROGRAM MANAGER, STOP SCHOOL VIOLENCE PROGRAM
OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

MARCH 9, 2020

Chair Michelle N. Kidani and members of the Committee on Education: I am Patricia Kickland, Program Manager for the Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing School Violence ("STOP") program. STOP operates in partnership with the Hawaii State Fusion Center ("HSFC") under the State of Hawaii Office of Homeland Security ("OHS"), Department of Defense ("DOD"). STOP provides written testimony in **SUPPORT OF THE INTENT** expressed in this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget. We defer to the agency with direct responsibility for implementation. This Bill seeks to prevent school violence by establishing a pilot program for threat assessment in schools; and providing funding for program management and threat assessment.

The STOP program seeks to prevent acts of targeted school violence, such as school shootings and bombings. STOP currently is funded through a federal grant. STOP resources may be used to train students and school personnel on preventing student violence against others and themselves; to develop and operate anonymous reporting systems for threats of school violence; to develop and operate school threat assessment and intervention teams; and to support any other measure that may provide a significant improvement in training, threat assessments and reporting, and violence prevention.

Since the STOP program began operating in Hawaii on September 20, 2019, there have been at least twenty-five (25) threats of targeted violence against Hawaii public K-12 schools. Even though none of the threats has come to fruition, the threats themselves have caused trauma to students, parents, and school personnel. Schools have gone into lockdown. Attendance has suffered. School events have been cancelled. The constant barrage of threats has caused communities to wonder whether the next threat could be real. At the same time, when students keep hearing about bogus threats, students develop complacency and may be less likely to report new threats to trusted adults.

The good news is that research shows that targeted school violence may be prevented by threat assessment. On November 7, 2019, the U.S. Secret Service published “A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School Violence.” Key findings included information about attackers’ motives, use of firearms, psychological, behavioral, or developmental symptoms, interest in violent topics, social stressors, negative home life factors, bullying, school disciplinary actions, and prior contact with law enforcement. An especially important finding was that all attackers exhibited some kind of concerning behavior that elicited concern from others – yet the people who observed the behavior did not act.

This Bill would provide support for the establishment, training, and operation of school threat assessment teams. These teams, which include school personnel, mental health professionals, law enforcement, and other interdisciplinary team members, can be trained to distinguish between credible versus negligible threats. Members of the teams combine the knowledge that they have about the concerning signs of violence, with the members’ area of expertise, and then assess the threat. These teams then mitigate threats against schools by making sure that the students who make the threats get the help needed to avoid future acts of violence.

Social media often provides a motive for targeted school violence, as well as a means of assessing credible threats. Attackers may suffer cyber bullying. Attackers may also use social media to communicate their intent to cause violence in schools. For that reason, social media has become an important source of information when there is a targeted threat of violence. STOP and/or the HSFC have encountered multiple school threats posted online, including photos of guns and posts saying the author would use bombs or firearms to cause violence.

This Bill would provide support for social media analysis in threat cases. Such analysis is important to assess whether threats are credible so that educational institutions and law enforcement may make decisions on the level of response necessary. The analysis is also important to spot trends and copy-cat threats.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2703 HD 2.

Patricia Kickland, Program Manager
STOP School Violence Program
Office of Homeland Security

