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SUPERINTENDENT

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
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Date: 02/26/2020

Time: 01:10 PM

Location: 211

Committee: Senate Judiciary
Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 0591 RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Purpose of Bill: Increases the amount of damages allowed for public school restitution agreements from \$3,500 to \$10,000.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports SB 591 which increases the amount of damages allowed for public school restitution agreements from \$3,500 to \$10,000.

For damages up to \$10,000, this measure proposes a process where a written agreement specifying the manner in which restitution is to be made for damages is agreed upon by the principal and the pupil and his or her parent or guardian.

The Department previously sought feedback from our Principals on this measure. For your consideration, we would like to share some of those comments:

"By raising [the amount] for restitution agreements, it will act as a further deterrent."

"...sends a strong message about the premium we place on schools who are trying to improve their infrastructure. As an example, any destruction to surveillance cameras, computers, chilled water fountains, bathroom toilets... [this increase for restitution agreements] would send a message to students' families."

"Cost of replacement [for damaged equipment, etc.] increases year by year."

"Families should be financially responsible for damages that their children commit."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 591.

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.

LATE

SB-591

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 10:46:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2020 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rayne	Individual	Support	No

Comments: