

Date: 02/03/2010

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2378

Educational Accountability; Schools; Education

Purpose of Bill: Amends the Educational Accountability System to include additional requirements for the Department of Education, Superintendent of Education, and Board of Education. Establishes a school grading system based on certain criteria as well as a report card system to be furnished to parents. Requires the establishment of a longitudinal data collection system.

Department's Position: Although the Department of Education (Department) is in support of the numerous accountability requirements already set forth in Section 302A-1004, Hawaii Revised Statutes, we note the following concerns and are thus opposed with respect to the proposed language reflected in H.B. No. 2378:

- (1) The bill calls for three levels of accountability (students, staff, and schools). For two of these (students and staff), there is no comprehensive accountability system in place. This will involve many of the same issues associated with school accountability. Some will overlap and dovetail with school level efforts and others will be unique. For example, data reporting, collection and quality, longitudinal

tracking, FERPA, collective bargaining, graduated sanctions/rewards, assistance such as tutoring or professional development, and funding. The bill provides the most detail around school accountability, but not too much with regard to student and staff accountability. For example, what measures will be used and when and to what extent will sanctions/rewards be applied to students or staff.

- (2) Assessing and tracking measures of academic achievement, safety and well-being, and civic responsibility of individual students at all grade levels and reporting trend data on these measures over time annually will be challenging since the Department does not administer standardized assessments at every grade. Thus, alternate achievement measures will need to be developed for non-tested grades.
- (3) The Department currently does not have access to workforce data and would not be able to link this information since there is no unique identifier.
- (4) In subparagraph (a)(10)(B), the bill refers to an evaluation of the satisfaction of stakeholders affected by the work of the complex area superintendents and principals which may be measured by broad based surveys. The section does not define or identify the stakeholders, nor provide funds to administer a survey.
- (5) There is no clear definition of progress, gains, growth and

improvement. It is also unclear as to the difference between less than satisfactory progress and failing to make adequate progress.

- (6) There is no clear definition as to learning gains and student growth.
- (7) It is unclear as to whether the bill is defining at-risk students as those that score in the bottom quartile of the Hawaii State Assessment.
- (8) Indicators of return on investment also needs to be defined.
- (9) Requiring the schools to provide a report card to parents on an annual basis is also an unfunded mandate. The Department already provides a report card of all schools pursuant to NCLB, so this would be an additional burden on the schools.
- (10) The "second lowest performance category" is also not defined. The bill also references advancement to a higher category but doesn't specify what the categories above "lowest performing" are, nor any indication as to what distinguishes each of the other subsequent categories.
- (11) There needs to be more details relating to the creation of a training program and community assessment team.
- (12) The language in subsection (l) relating to access to the data system should be amended to ensure student privacy under federal law.

The Department of Education opposes the vague, unclear, and burdensome language as reflected in H.B. No. 2378.

berg1-Matthew

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2010 8:51 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: autofreeann@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2378 on 2/3/2010 2:00:00 PM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for EDN 2/3/2010 2:00:00 PM HB2378

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ann Kobsa
Organization: Individual
Address: Papaya Farms Road Pahoehoe, HI
Phone: 965-6273
E-mail: autofreeann@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/28/2010

Comments:

Please support the important work of controlling invasive species through this emergency environmental workforce. Invasives cause many of our biggest problems.

Mahalo,

Ann