

Date of Hearing: March 01, 2011, 12:00 p.m.
Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Annette A. Nishikawa, Complex Area Superintendent, Leeward

Title: H.B. 945, HD 1 Instructional Days; Multi Track Public Schools

Purpose: Requires multi track public schools to meet at least 171 days or 90 per cent of the minimum days required of other non-charter public schools for each respective school year, whichever number is greater, and at least 90 per cent of the minimum number of student instructional hours required of other non-charter public schools for each respective school year.

Requires the DOE to submit to the legislature a plan to implement a school year for multi track schools beginning with the 2015-2016 school year of no less than 90 per cent of the minimum number of instructional days and hours required of other public schools.

Department's Position: Multi track schools address overcrowding and limited school facilities by having one fourth of the students on intersession at any given time and rotating in and out of school every 15 days. Once the rotation begins they are in school for 45 days. It is an answer to an economic problem of not being able to build enough schools in areas of ever-increasing populations. Where regular calendar schools have about 7 weeks to transition to a new school year, our students may have 7 days. Our teachers end the school year on June 30 and begin the next school year on July 1 – overnight! Students in multi-track schools have only state holidays, Thanksgiving and the winter break in

common with their siblings in the adjacent elementary, middle or high schools. Hiring experienced teachers is difficult because they do not want to change their way of life to adapt to ours. Teachers cannot attend summer school and neither can students. School custodians, clerical and custodial staffs have no "down time" for deep cleaning or concentrated, uninterrupted work. It is an undesirable system that addresses an economic problem, but we make it work and we work hard at ensuring that our students thrive in a safe, nurturing learning environment. Hopefully, we will be able to convert to traditional calendars when populations decrease or you are able to fund construction of new facilities. In the meantime, with some flexibility, multi-track schools can still provide students the instruction they need while recognizing the realities of families and school staff in these growing communities.

Many bills have been introduced in this legislative session to amend Act 167 which defines the number of days and hours that our children will receive instruction beginning next school year to give exemptions and flexibility to multi-track schools. HB 1352, SB 190, HB 907 and its companion bill SB 1172, and HB 945 and its companion bill 1375 all have varying degrees of merit and we thank Senators Gabbard, Kidani and Takumi and Representatives Lee, Pine and Tokuda for your support. It is evident that you understand that there are challenges that we multi-track schools face as we try to meet the demands of Act 167.

As the founding principal of Kapolei Middle School, one of the four multi-track schools, and the current (Acting) Complex Area

Superintendent, I know first-hand the challenges that a multi-track calendar poses to our Ewa Beach and Kapolei Communities, their families and school staffs. I am also the grandmother to a soon-to-be Mililani Middle School sixth grader whose family will have to live with two school calendars for the duration that he and his brother are in the Mililani Schools.

I speak today **in opposition to House Bill 945, House Draft 1** which will amend Act 167 and require multi-track schools to meet at least 171 instructional days or 90% of the minimum number of days required of other non-charter public schools for each respective school year, whichever number is greater. **House Bill 945, House Draft does not address a needed flexibility in the number of required instructional hours of multi track schools for each respective school year.** It is critical to note that multi-track schools currently meet the legislations minimum instructional hours for the first two years of the legislation and all schools meet the NCLB Adequate Yearly Progress requirements for the All Students category in reading and math. Additionally all schools have low to negligible student discipline rates and student retention data - accomplishments done in about 154 days in 2010.

It would be impossible to carve 180 days from a calendar for each of four tracks. **By only focusing on the number of days, students at these facilities – which are already used year-round – could lose holiday breaks with their families, have no common winter break as their siblings/peers in regular calendar schools, and/or have classes on Saturdays.** Family schedules would further be disrupted.

Hiring and retaining top-notch teachers, counselors, administrators and staff to these schools would be even more difficult.

Additionally, as the years of implementation go by, the number of instructional hours increases. The multi-track schools need to have flexibility in the required instructional hours as well. Requiring no less than 90% of that time would allow our students adequate time to be “children” after school. For instance an elementary school could start at 8 am and end at 2:15 pm next year, however by SY 2015, our elementary students could be in school until 3:30 pm. This is a very long time for our little 5 and 6 year olds. Middle schoolers and their teachers could be in school as late as 3:46 pm in SY 2015. And, if start times at all schools are staggered on a daily basis to save transportation costs, our middle school students could be in school until 4:15 pm. Neither of these scenarios is developmentally appropriate. Consider the impact on family and after-hour activities for these students. When will they be allowed to just be “children”?

For our multi-track schools, more could be worse. Add the after school hours for teachers to attend IEP meetings, parent conferences and voluntarily conducting after school activities such as robotics, tutoring, library club, art club or athletics, we are looking at the possibility of a teacher being in school to 5 or 6 pm. How many of us would sacrifice our time for free to continue these activities at such late times?

Legislators, we have made multi-track work for our communities and the children. We will continue to provide the education that addresses the whole child so that our students will be equipped with 21st century

skills. We have chosen this profession to truly make an impact on children and give back to the system that gave us our education. We ask that you help us by providing us much needed flexibility. We **oppose HB 945, HD 1 in its current form.**



February 28, 2011

Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice-Chair
Committee on Finance
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Via Email: FINTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: H.B. 945 HD1– Relating to Education-Multi-Track Schools
Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 12:00 pm, Conf Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee and Committees Members:

I am support of **AMENDING** HB945-HD1 which amends Act 167, Section 3, Chapter 302A-251, which mandates the number of instructional days and instructional hours for elementary and secondary students.

My name is Gary Yasui, Principal of Holomua Elemetary School in Ewa Beach. As you may be aware, Holomua Elementary is a public multi-track school serving nearly 1,400 students in grades K-6.

I humbly ask that the language previously removed, and currently found in SB1375, which is the companion bill to this one, be restored. Specifically in Section 1, Part 2 the following requirements be reinserted.

2) Ninety per cent of the number of student instructional hours required in other public schools, except charter schools, under subsections (a) and (b) for each respective school year.

As written in HD1, the amendments to Act 167 take in to account the physical limitations imposed by the multi-track schedule on school facilities. The Legislature understands that is nearly impossible for multi-track schools to meet the requirements of Act 167 without large disparities of instructional days between the various groups of students. However by not

reinserting the above language, it may unintentionally cause many students to be forced to not participate in extra-curricular activities, as well as cause afterschool tutoring and enrichment programs to be cancelled. This may create undue hardship on the students, families and staff of multi-track schools, and lead to the opposite effect for which it was intended.

In closing, I respectfully ask that you AMEND and pass HB945 –HD1 in order to ensure that students in multi-track schools are mandated to receive the number of instructional days and hours that are physically able to be accommodated within the school's facilities.

Sincerely yours,

Gary Yasui
Principal
Holomua Elementary School

February 28, 2011

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Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice-Chair
Committee on Finance
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I am support of **AMENDING** HB945-HD1 which amends Act 167, Section 3, Chapter 302A-251, which mandates the number of instructional days and instructional hours for elementary and secondary students.

My name is Elynne Chung, Principal of Mililani Middle School. As you may be aware, Mililani Middle is a public multi-track school serving 1749 students in grades 6-8.

I ask that the language previously removed, and currently found in SB1375, which is the companion bill to this one, be restored. Specifically in Section 1, Part 2 the following requirements be reinserted.

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Sincerely yours,
Elynne Chun
Principal
Mililani Middle School

February 28, 2011

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Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice-Chair
Committee on Finance
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I am support of **AMENDING** HB945-HD1 which amends Act 167, Section 3, Chapter 302A-251, which mandates the number of instructional days and instructional hours for elementary and secondary students.

My name is Michael Miyamura, Principal of Kapolei Elementary School. As you may be aware, Kapolei Elementary is a public multi-track school serving 1173 students in grades K-5.

I ask that the language previously removed, and currently found in SB1375, which is the companion bill to this one, be restored. Specifically in Section 1, Part 2 the following requirements be reinserted.

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As written in HD1, the amendments to Act 167 take in to account the physical limitations imposed by the multi-track schedule on school facilities. The Legislature understands that is nearly impossible for multi-track schools to meet the requirements of Act 167 without large disparities of instructional days between the various groups of students. However by not reinserting the above language, it may unintentionally cause many students to be forced to not participate in extra-curricular activities, as well as cause afterschool tutoring and enrichment programs to be cancelled. This may create undue hardship on the students, families and staff of multi-track schools, and lead to the opposite effect for which it was intended.

In closing, I respectfully ask that you **AMEND** and pass HB945 –HD1 in order to ensure that students in multi-track schools are mandated to receive the number of instructional days and hours that are physically able to be accommodated within the school's facilities.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Miyamura
Principal
Kapolei Elementary School

TESTIFIER: Melanie Bailey
Kathy Bryant

To: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

Attn: **Committee on Finance**
Representative Oshiro, Chair
Representative Lee, Vice Chair

Re: HB 945, HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing Date March 1, 2011 Noon

Testimony in Support

We are in SUPPORT of HB945 and recognize the unique challenge of operating Multi-Track schools.

The intention of Act 167 was to insure the students of Hawaii receive the same amount of instructional time as those on the Mainland. An exemption from 180 instructional days is okay as long as the schools meet the instructional hours as stated in Act 167.

The current phase of Act 167 calls for 915 hours of instructional time for Elementary Schools and 990 hours of instructional time for Secondary Schools. This can be achieved within 171 days with an increase of 16 minutes in Elementary Schools and 17 minutes in Secondary Schools per day.

| <u>Instructional Time</u> | <u>Traditional-180 days</u> | <u>Track-171 days</u> |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Elementary School | 5 hours and 5 minutes a day | 5 hours and 21 minutes a day |
| Secondary School | 5 hours and 30 minutes a day | 5 hours and 47 minutes a day |

We have shown that currently 32% of states instruct 6 or more hours per day, so we do not feel this is an unreasonable request. We are confident that a solution can be found to meet the instructional hours in Act 167.

We look forward to working together to find a solution for multi-track schools without sacrificing instructional time for students.

Thank you for your time.

HB 945 HD1
March 1, 2011

Aloha, my name is Jocelyn Bonilla, I am a 6th grader in Green Track at Holomua Elementary, and my name is Sherry Pataray. I am in Blue Track. Holomua became a multi-track school in June 1999. Our school was built to have 850 students but our enrollment is currently at 1,378 students. Approximately, 528 students above the limit!

To accommodate all of our students, we have 4 tracks – Yellow, Green, Blue and Red. Each track has approximately 345 students. At any given time, 3 tracks will be on and one track is off. This year, each track has 169 days with approximately 1530 instructional minutes per week.

Last year, Act 167 was passed requiring 180 school days for school year 2011-2013 with 915 instructional hours. From 2013 to 2015, the instructional hours increase to 1080. Beginning 2015, the number will increase to 190 days with 1140 instructional hours.

We are in support for House Bill 945 to be changed. This bill used to allow multi-track schools to have 171 school days with 90% of the instructional hours, but the 90% for instructional time was taken out. It should be put back in.

If we are required to have 180/190 school days, we will not have a common winter break like the other public schools. Yellow Track will have their break during December, Green Track in January, Blue Track in November and Red Track in February.

When I graduate from Holomua, I will have my winter break in December but my brother will be having his break in January.

If we are required to have the number of instructional hours, that will be the end of our after school activities. When the instructional hours increases to 1080 hours, school will end at 3:05 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. On Wednesdays, school will end at 2:15 pm. When the instructional hours increases to 1415 hours, school will end at 3:30 and at 2:25 on Wednesdays.

I (Sherry) am in our performing arts program. We meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00-3:30. Our music teacher does not get paid extra for working with us. We give a Christmas concert to our student body and also

go out to the community and perform. In May, we put together a musical play and have 5 performances. In 2009, we did "Jungle Book". Last year, we did "A Kid's Life" and this year, we will be doing "Dig It". Currently, we have over 125 students in Performing Arts.

If our hours are increased, will future students at Holomua not be able to participate in our Performing Art?

I (Jocelyn) am in our enrichment class. We participate in the First Lego League Tournament. To compete, we meet after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Our robotics teacher also does not get extra pay. We build a robot for competition and put together a presentation on a different topic each year. Last year, we had to create an idea of a robot helping our traffic situation. This year, the robot we created helped people with asthma. Holomua even sponsored a District Tournament. On Saturday, November 13th, we had 12 teams participate in our tournament. We were so excited when both our teams qualified for the state finals. That would not have happened if we didn't have a dedicated teacher to help us work after school.

If our hours are increased, will future students at Holomua not be able to be a part of the First Lego League tournament?

On Monday, we did a quick survey asking 25 students the question, "How will you feel if we had longer school hours and less time, if any, for after school activities?"

4 students said it would be a good thing

5 students said they weren't sure and

16 students said it would not be a good thing!

Please consider changing House Bill 945 HD1. Adding days and hours may work for the other public schools but it will not work for us. We need for you to look at what will be best for the students.

Thank you for listening and Aloha!

Jocelyn Bonilla
Sherry Pataray

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro - Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee - Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Winton G. Schoneman, 486-9269 (H)

Tuesday March 01, 2011

Recommending that HB 945 HD1 be amended - Relating to Education - Minimum instructional time

Distinguished members of the House Finance Committee, I offer testimony recommending that HB 945 HD1 be amended to remove references to the number of required school days. By way of introduction, I am a small business owner in Hawaii Kai, I have no children in school (public or private) and have spent the last 6 plus years committed to improving education in the community in which I conduct business (I live in Aiea). I have been the School Community Council chair at Kamiloiki Elementary School since Act 51 established the SCC in 2004. That being said, I am offering testimony as a citizen and not representing the views of Kamiloiki Elementary School or the SCC.

I believe that it is sufficient to make known to the Department of Education, by law, that the children in our communities deserve a minimum amount of instructional time comparable to the best schools in the United States. However, in an attempt to eliminate teacher furlough days we have clouded the collective bargaining process and hamstrung the DOE by the including the number of school days in ACT 167. Therefore I ask you to consider amending HB 945 HD1 to remove references to the required number of school days and allow the DOE and the schools to manage their schedules. I have taken the liberty of attaching a draft recommendation.

Thank you,

Winton Schoneman

[§302A-251] School year; instructional time. (a) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, for the 2011-2013 school years, all public schools, except charter schools, shall implement a school year of ~~one hundred eighty days, excluding professional development days and other non-instructional days negotiated pursuant to chapter 89,~~ that shall include:

- (1) Nine hundred fifteen student instructional hours for the elementary school grades; and
- (2) Nine hundred ninety student instructional hours for the secondary school grades.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, for the 2013-2015 school years, all public schools, except charter schools, shall implement a school year of ~~one hundred eighty days, excluding professional development days and other non-instructional days negotiated pursuant to chapter 89,~~ that shall include one thousand eighty student instructional hours for both elementary and secondary school grades.

(c) For purposes of this section, "student instructional hours" means student learning time during which students are engaged in learning activities including regularly-scheduled instruction and learning assessments within the curriculum, and does not include lunch, recess, or passing time. [L 2010, c 167, §3]