



February 5, 2011

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Education  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Via Email: [EDNTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:EDNTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Re: H.B. 945– Relating to Education-Multi-Track Schools  
Hearing: Monday, February 7, 2011, 2:00 pm, Conf Room 309

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Belatti and Committees Members:

My name is Gary Yasui, Principal of Holomua Elementary 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 am in **SUPPORT** of HB945 to amend Act 167, Section 3, Chapter 302A-251, which mandates the number of instructional days and instructional hours for elementary and secondary students.

As written, Act 167 does not take in to account the physical limitations imposed by the multi-track schedule on school facilities. Quite simply, it will be incredibly difficult for multi-track schools to meet the requirements of Act 167 without large disparities of instructional times between the various groups of students. In order to meet the requirements of Act 167, students and staff would have to attend school on Saturdays, and nearly eliminate any Christmas break. This may create undue hardship on the students, families and staff of multi-track schools.

HB945 alleviates the concerns expressed by the legislature in regards to all students, except those in charter schools, receiving the same amount of instructional time, whether through days of attendance or hours of instruction.

In closing, I respectfully ask that you pass HB945 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



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - LEEWARD DISTRICT  
KAPOLEI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
91-1119 Kama'aha Loop  
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

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Re: H.B. 945-- Relating to Education-Multi-Track Schools  
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Dear Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Belatti and Committees Members:

My name is Michael Miyamura, Principal of Kapolei Elementary School. As you may be aware, Kapolei Elementary is a public multi-track school serving nearly 1,160 students in grades K-5.

I am in **SUPPORT** of HB945 to amend Act 167, Section 3, Chapter 302A-251, which mandates the number of instructional days and instructional hours for elementary and secondary students.

As written, Act 167 does not take in to account the physical limitations imposed by the multi-track schedule on school facilities. Quite simply, it will be incredibly difficult for multi-track schools to meet the requirements of Act 167 without large disparities of instructional times between the various groups of students. In order to meet the requirements of Act 167, students and staff would have to attend school on Saturdays, and nearly eliminate any Christmas break. This may create undue hardship on the students, families and staff of multi-track schools.

HB945 alleviates the concerns expressed by the legislature in regards to all students, except those in charter schools, receiving the same amount of instructional time, whether through days of attendance or hours of instruction.

In closing, I respectfully ask that you pass HB945 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



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Re: H.B. 945– Relating to Education-Multi-Track Schools  
Hearing: Monday, February 7, 2011, 2:00 pm, Conf Room 309

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Belatti and Committees Members:

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 am in **SUPPORT** of HB945 to amend Act 167, Section 3, Chapter 302A-251, which mandates the number of instructional days and instructional hours for elementary and secondary students.

As written, Act 167 does not take in to account the physical limitations imposed by the multi-track schedule on school facilities. Quite simply, it will be incredibly difficult for multi-track schools to meet the requirements of Act 167 without large disparities of instructional times between the various groups of students. In order to meet the requirements of Act 167, students and staff would have to attend school on Saturdays, and nearly eliminate any Christmas break. This may create undue hardship on the students, families and staff of multi-track schools.

HB945 alleviates the concerns expressed by the legislature in regards to all students, except those in charter schools, receiving the same amount of instructional time, whether through days of attendance or hours of instruction.

In closing, I respectfully ask that you pass HB945 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,  
Elynne Chung  
Principal, Mililani Middle School

Date of Hearing: February 7, 2011 2:00 p.m.  
Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Annette Nishikawa, Complex Area Superintendent, Leeward District

Title: H.B. 945 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 instructional days and hours required of other public schools.

Department's Position: As the founding principal of Kapolei Middle School, one of the four multi-track schools in the state, 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 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 support of HB 945 which will require multi track schools to meet at least 171 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, and at least 90% of the minimum number of student instructional hours

required of other non-charter public schools for each respective school year. It is critical to note that multi-track schools *are already* meeting the legislation's minimum instructional hours and are *not* looking for an exemption from that requirement. Multi-track students would spend as much time in the classroom as their peers in other public schools. By only focusing on the number of days, students at these facilities – which are already used year-round – could lose holiday breaks, have no common winter break as their siblings/peers in regular calendar schools, and/or have classes on Saturdays. This would further disrupt family schedules while making it even more difficult to attract top-notch teachers, counselors, administrators and staff to these schools. Servicing enrollments of 1,173 at Kapolei Elementary, 1,392 at Holomua Elementary, 1,455 at Kapolei Middle School and 1749 at Mililani Middle, all schools met the Adequate Yearly Progress requirement for the No Child Left Behind law in SY 2010 with 154 days or less. Additionally, these schools have low to negligible student discipline rates and student retention data.

The multi-track schedule is not attractive to anyone attending or working at them but the schools have made it operational while providing challenging studies in safe, nurturing environments. Multi-track is an answer to an economic problem of not being able to build more/enough schools in areas of ever-increasing populations. Multi-track schools will eventually be able to convert to traditional schedules

when you are able to fund construction of new facilities. In the meantime, with some flexibility, multi-track schools can still provide students the instructional time we all agree they need, while recognizing the realities that the families and school staff in these growing communities are facing.

TESTIFIER: Melanie Bailey  
Kathy Bryant

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

Attn: Committee on Education  
Representative Takumi, Chair  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair

Re: HB 945 RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Hearing Date February 7, 2011 2:00pm

### Testimony in Opposition with amendments

We are in OPPOSITION to any reduction to instructional time for students in multi-track schools. However we would support an exemption to the 180 days if the instructional time stated in Act 167 is still required. We are confident that a solution can be found to meet the instructional hours in Act 167.

The intention of Act 167 was to insure the students of Hawaii receive the same amount of instructional time as those on the Mainland. 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 170 days with an increase of 18 minutes in Elementary Schools and 20 minutes in Secondary Schools per day.

Instructional Time	Traditional-180 days	Track-170 days
Elementary School	5 hours and 5 minutes a day	5 hours and 23 minutes a day
Secondary School	5 hours and 30 minutes a day	5 hours and 50 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.

In addition, we would like to point out that teaching ten less school days equates to 70 additional hours a year which works out to 25 minutes a day. This should provide adequate flexibility to negotiate a longer work day for track teachers in exchange for working fewer days.

We recognize the complexity of Multi-Track schools, appreciate the creative solutions that have been developed, and realize there may be additional expenses involved. This is an opportunity to discuss our long term objectives for these schools. While the discussion evolves these students deserve the same amount of instructional time as those with traditional schedules.

We recommend that the bill be amended to recognize the unique challenge of operating Multi-Track schools by allowing an exemption from 180 instructional days, but include language that specifies that the schools must meet the instructional hours as stated 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.



## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 06, 2011 2:34 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** shaglund@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB945 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM HB945

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Sue Haglund  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [shaglund@hotmail.com](mailto:shaglund@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/6/2011

**Comments:**

Multi-track Public Schools should not be exempted from the minimum 180 days and required instructional time. By decreasing and exempting multi-track public schools it is committing a disservice to these students. They already faced the lower minimum days compared to non-multi-track public schools due to the furlough Fridays. Increase the hours of the day for students to meet the equivalency of the minimum 180 days required so that way these students are shafted and cheated out of a quality of education they deserve.

Thank You