



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

Date: 03/02/2015
Time: 09:00 AM
Location: 211
Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 1345 RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of education to develop a transition plan to end multi-track schedules in public schools and report to the legislature regarding the plan and any proposed legislation. Requires the department of education to give priority to overpopulated schools, including multi-track schools, among capital improvement project appropriation requests submitted to the legislature.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education supports the intent of S.B. No. 1345, and the need to provide adequate classroom capacity to enable schools, which are currently operating on a multi-track schedule, to accommodate full student enrollment within a single-track school year. Multi-track scheduling breaks the school year down into four tracks staggered at three month intervals. When originally instituted, this allowed schools to manage up to 25 percent more students. To decouple these schools from the multi-track schedule would require significant additional capacity to house this additional 25 percent of enrollment. Redistricting may accommodate some of the needed capacity, with the balance provided by the construction of new classroom buildings on existing campuses. Schools that were originally designed for a multi-track schedule would also need to consider the capacity of their support facilities (i.e. cafeteria, library, gym, etc.) and whether these would need to be enlarged to meet the greater on-campus student enrollment.

The cost associated with this initiative is expected to be considerable. Without appropriate funding, the work associated with this bill may be ineffectively protracted across multiple budget cycles.

Chantal Keliioomaluu--UHM Social Work Student & Mother of five in Kapolei Multi-Track school system.

Friday , February 6, 2015

Support for SB1345, Relating to Public Schools. Dept of Edu; Multi-Track Schools; Capital Improvement Projects.

Aloha, I am Chantal Keliioomaluu I am a resident in the Kanehili (most recent of the three) Hawaiian Homes division in Kapolei--we have lived there since June 2010. We have five children in grades—5—8—10—11-- and (12th) just finished GED. The oldest four have all attended the Kapolei Multi-Track schools. At one point we had children simultaneously in the Kapolei Elementary, Middle, and High School. We now have removed all of our children from the Kapolei schools. Currently we have two grandchildren living with us and attending Kapolei elementary in 1st and 3rd grades. I am in **Extreme Support of SB1345** to transition all Multi-Track School Systems to traditional school schedules by expanding classrooms and existing schools and building new schools.

I concur and support the statements by ¹Stand Com Rep No 117 that the “...multi-track school schedule is economically-motivated...is not driven by educational outcomes...simply a strategy for accommodating a larger number of students...” And the ²testimony submitted by DOE on 02/06/15 stating the “...need to provide adequate classroom capacity to enable schools ...to accommodate full student enrollment within single-track school year.”

Please know that the Multi-Track system is clearly a chaotic and crazy making system for parents and families forced into them. It causes daily, monthly, and annual scheduling conflicts, robs children of summer-time experiential and cultural learning opportunities, causes financial hardship, restricts residence and or job opportunities, and has no built in safe and affordable childcare situations as would be covered in a traditional schedule with such programs as Summer-Fun...among other unintended consequences.

As a parent the two most prominent issues for me are the **lack of congruence of schedules between the Elementary, Middle, and High School** and an entire generation of children being **robbed of summer-time experiences, memories, trips, and cultural learning opportunities!!**

Firstly—Kapolei Elementary and Middle Schools are on Multi-Track while Kapolei High School is on traditional Single-Track schedule. As hard as it is to schedule around a Multi-Track

¹ STAND. COM. REP. NO 117--Honolulu, Hawai'i--RE: S.B. No. 1345

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system--adding to that aggravation is the fact that not all of our children, in the same district, are on the same schedule.

Additionally--to add to frustration and crazy making--the Elementary has the early release on Wednesday in accordance with the rest of the schools in the state--while the Middle School has early off on MONDAYS instead of the standard Wednesday--to top it off the High School gets out EARLY on MON, TUE, THUR, FRI, and has LATE RELEASE on WEDNESDAY!!!!???? This is utter crazy making for families. (At this time the second Kapolei Elementary is being built and is scheduled to be open and operating by next school year 2015-16—subsequently both Kapolei elementary schools will be single-track *but* Kapolei middle school will continue (for now) on multi-track. Thusly—Kapolei elementary and high school will be single-track but Kapolei middle school will be multi-track.)

Now imagine the dreams answered to a family to receive a Hawaiian Homes--IRONICALLY to discover that your children's new MULTI-TRACK school schedule completely blocks out their primary source of cultural experiences and learning from the Kamehameha Explorations Programs--for summer Sessions, Fall, and Spring Break activities. We have seven children in total--the oldest two are twenty-six and thirty--neither were touched by Kamehameha Schools outreach programs. With the expansion of the Kamehameha Explorations series from the original summer one-week program after fifth grade--to one or two weeks during summer from after fifth through tenth grade *and* day camp during Fall and Spring breaks--our five children literally would not be who they are today if it were not for the Explorations series programs. They know their culture, language, songs, chants, sacred places and stories on all the islands, they understand the environmental issues, they have made friends from all islands, they are mindful of their actions and self-directed in education and giving back to the community. My husband is approximately 75-80% Native Hawaiian and is of the "lost generation", culturally speaking--he is literally learning his culture through his children.

Imagine as a parent you have to make the choice between cultural learning experience or missing school for a week at a time several times a year. On the one hand it is an easy decision and majority of the time the school was in support of that decision. Then I had a child with learning disabilities (who experiential learning is THAT much MORE important for!) who was struggling in school and the decision becomes that much harder. **Who would have imagined that moving to a HAWAIIAN HOMES would mean giving up your child's primary source of cultural learning??!! There are three Hawaiian Homes Subdivisions in the Kapolei school district putting a large population of Hawaiian Children at risk.**

All summer experiences and programs are wiped out--all learning and memories--ROBBED. Summer camps, Na pua No'eau, Jr life guards, family trips etc.--an entire generation ROBBED OF SUMMER--the best times of a child's life. And try to squeeze something in in-between of breaks--good luck--because the school calendar usually is not ready in time to coordinate dates when applications or planning would take place--due to the teachers' contract has not been ratified on time. Then one has to use the prior years' calendar for estimates and end up missing school for at least half a week anyways. CRAZY MAKING. Add to that that in actuality each child's "summer-break" is broken up into chunks of weeks throughout the entire school year--and many teachers still presume to assign HOME WORK during these three week

interval breaks—that is actually THEIR SUMMER TIME. These breaks are literally their summer and teachers have the audacity to assign homework. Besides the fact that we as a family are scrambling to cover bases during these “BREAKS”—they are NO BREAK for me as a parent--

THEY ARE CRAZY MAKING and increase the demands and jobs and coordinating that are already on me.

During traditional summer there are programs imbedded that provide affordable childcare such as Summer Fun. During the Multi-Track break I have heard rumors that there might be some sort of child care through one of the very expensive private companies. For us that was not an option. Majority of families in this area are nuclear families and do not have Tutu-Ma or Tutu-Pa on-demand to watch kids on breaks. Majority of families in this area have two parents working full-time. When I first entered this school system I grilled the school administration--“how do they expect us to work?!?!...how do families do it!?!?”--they shrugged their shoulders. I will tell you what most do. Most parents instruct their children to stay inside at least during what would be school hours--FOR THE THREE WEEK BREAK. This means three weeks of no-supervision. Three weeks of TV and Video games. We cannot have 25% of the school population running around on the streets unsupervised all day. But what are we supposed to DO with them?? Even for parents who can modify work schedules somewhat or compromise and take some time off during breaks--who can take three weeks off of work every six weeks?? IT IS CRAZY MAKING.

Our older daughter had a need to move in with us last year—to escape a bad relationship--but due to her job location/schedule and the age of her children she could not manage having them on a Multi-track system and was forced to keep them out of our home district. It was too much to bear and eventually she had to move out. Multi-track schools were literally a barrier to our daughter and grandchildren having a safe home to retreat to in her time of need. Circumstances have forced her to return to our home and put her children in the Kapolei Multi-track schools. We are scrambling to cover child-care and it is restricting when she can work—which is restricting her income and adding to her barriers as a single-mother.

The Multi-Track system literally restricts jobs and or residency options for people and families--that is insane and CRAZY MAKING. If my children had been any younger or I had not happened to be thrown into going to college at the time we moved in--so that being that I did not have classes on every day and I could compromise the kids being home alone only half the week--we literally would have been closed out from the opportunity of having a Hawaiian Home.

Not to mention that for families that are on free or reduced lunches have increased expenses of food and utilities covering these three week “breaks” when under a traditional schedule these children would be in summer programs that food programs--not home watching TV and needing additional food sources. These are realistic additional strains to already tight annual incomes for people.

These are some of the realistic challenges, financial hardships, and problems that are caused by these Multi-Track school systems. These are hard working families who deserve the same accommodations as any other family with school age children.

Family life is hard enough as it is. PLEASE VOTE AND SUPPLY NECESSARY FUNDING TO STOP MULTI-TRACK SCHOOLS AND TRANSITION ALL OF OUR KEIKI AND OHANA BACK TO SINGLE-TRACK CONGRUENT SCHOOL SCHEDULES.

SB1345

Submitted on: 2/27/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB1345

Submitted on: 2/28/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Orozco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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