

SB1345



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

Date: 02/06/2015

Time: 01:15 PM

Location: 229

Committee: Senate Education

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 special funding for this work other equally important needs may go unfunded, or the work associated with this bill may be ineffectively protracted across multiple budget cycles.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION

Wil Okabe
President
Joan Kamila Lewis
Vice President
Colleen Pasco
Secretary-Treasurer
Alvin Nagasako
Executive Director

DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2015

RE: S.B. 1345 - RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PERSON TESTIFYING: WIL OKABE
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chairs Michelle Kidani, Honorable Vice Chair Breene Harimoto and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **strongly supports S.B. 1345**, relating to public schools.

HSTA is the exclusive representative of more than 13,500 public and charter school teachers statewide. As the state affiliate, of the 3.2 million members of the National Education Association, HSTA believes that the Department of Education (Department) and the Board of Education (Board) should only consider multi track-year round schools and should reject the use of multi-track year round schools primarily as a cost-savings measure

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of S.B. 1345**.