Committee Hearing before the Joint Committees on Judiciary and Labor and Ways and Means in support of the Safe Schools for All Students Act

Wednesday, April 8, 2015

Conference Room Number 211

9:55 am

Statement submitted by:

Anne Nunnari, MS MFTT

Attn: Committee on Ways and Means:

Aloha Ways and Means Chair Jill N. Takuda,

Thank you for your continued leadership on the important issue of school safety and for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB819. I am Anne Nunnari, MS MFTT from the Department of Education, Honolulu District, School-Based Behavioral Health. We are responsible for providing therapeutic behavioral health services for IDEA and section 504 identified students to help them achieve academic success, become lifelong learners, and active members of their communities.

Bullying and harassment are truly vital issues, both in Hawai'i and throughout our country. Too many students are afraid to go to school each day because of the relentless bullying they know they will face. The problem can be exacerbated for vulnerable student populations such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth, students with disabilities, and students of color. Based on GLSEN's *2013 National School Climate Survey*, research found that schools are unsafe and unwelcoming for the majority of LGBT students. Sixty-five percent heard homophobic remarks and 30% missed at least one day of school in the past month because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable. It is clear that there is an urgent need for action to create safe and affirming schools for our LGBT youth.

Fortunately, years of research has provided us with solutions that work, such as comprehensive, enumerated anti-bullying policies included in HB819. Research has shown that enumeration is necessary to ensure that anti-bullying policies provide protection for all students.

Enumerated anti-bullying policies, collection and analysis of statewide bullying data, and alternative school discipline are all necessary aspects of ensuring school safety in Hawai'i. We thank you for examining these important issues and urge the Committee to pass HB819 to provide all Hawai'i students with a safe, supportive educational environment. Passing HB819 will send a strong message to our youth that LGBT individuals are equal in the eyes of the law.

Mahalo for your time,

Anne Nunnari, MS, MFTT School Based Behavioral Health Specialist DOE, Honolulu District/Kalani High School



HAWAI'I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

April 8, 2015 Rm. 211, 9:55 a.m.

To: The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

> The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Linda Hamilton Krieger, Chair and Commissioners of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission

Re: S.B. No. 819, H.D.2, S.D.1

The Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai'i's laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and statefunded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawai'i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5.

The HCRC strongly supports H.B. No. 819 H.D.2.

H.B. No. 819 H.D.2 requires all youth-serving state and county agencies, their contractors, or entities that receive state funding to adopt, maintain, monitor and enforce anti-bullying policies and procedures, establishes a Bullying Prevention Task Force within the Department of Education and prohibits public charter schools from discriminating against a student based on gender identity or expression. The HCRC supports this measure because bullying can be a form a discriminatory harassment and because charter schools should be prohibited from discriminating against students based on their gender identity or expression.

The HCRC strongly supports passage of H.B. No. 819 H.D.2, S.D.1



April 8, 2015

- To: Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor
- To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair Senator Ronald Kouchi, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Co-Chair

RE: HB 819 HD2 SD1 Relating to Bullying Hearing: Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 9:55 a.m., Room 211

POSITION: Strong Support

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus writes in strong support of HB 819 HD2 SD1 Relating to Bullying.

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawaii's women and girls it is because of this mission that that the caucus strongly supports this measure.

Federal statistics show that one-third of all students experience physical or cyberbullying. Bullying continues to be a problem in our schools and other organizations which provide services to children.

Our children often face bullying in schools based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender and gender identity and other common characteristics. This measure will strengthen our current policies and help to provide needed protection for our children so that they may learn in an environment free from intimidation, harassment, and violence. It is our responsibility to provide a safe learning environment.

We ask that the committee pass this measure and we thank the committee for the opportunity to provide testimony.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street * Honolulu, Hawaii 96819 Tel: (808) 833-2711 * Fax: (808) 839-7106 * Web: www.hsta.org

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR AND WAYS AND MEANS

Wil Okabe President Joan Kamila Lewis Vice President

Colleen Pasco

Secretary-Treasurer Wilbert Holck Executive Director

DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2015

RE: H.B. 819, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 - RELATING TO BULLYING

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE PRESIDENT HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chairs Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Jill Tokuda, Honorable Vice Chairs Maile Shimabukuro and Ronald Kouchi and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association strongly supports <u>HB 819, HD 2, SD 1</u>. We believe that the school environment must be free from all forms of bullying, including physical, psychological, and cyber bullying.

From our perspective, students learn best when they know they are safe from antisocial behavior. We believe that every child should be able to come to school without feeling intimidated or bullied by others. Bullying and cyber bullying rob students of their opportunity to learn and leave emotional scars that can last a lifetime. Victims of bullying face increased odds of falling behind their peers academically, missing classes, and eventually dropping out of school. It is our shared responsibility to ensure that every child learns and every teacher works in a secure public school.

Anti-bullying education should start at a young age, and should involve teachers, support professionals, administrators, parents, and students in dialogue about respectful social interaction and ending discrimination. These norms have been codified into two anti-bullying policies by the Board of Education: BOE Policy 4211, for students, and BOE Policy 1110-7, for employees.

Finally, when bullying does occur on campus, we contend that schools, as well as the department, should have someone ready to respond immediately to make sure that harassment doesn't escalate into violence or self-destructive behavior. Our teachers are committed to preventing bullying in their classrooms and providing safe solutions to students who may be targeted by their classmates, so that harassment does not hamper student achievement. We hope that the department will be equally committed to ending bullying against teachers, from no matter whom the harassment originates.

HSTA is in strong support of HB 819, HD 2, SD 1.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Phone: (808) 531-2198 Fax: (808) 534-1199 Web site: http://www.hysn.org E-mail: info@hysn.org

Daryl Selman, President Judith F. Clark, Executive Director Aloha House American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii Bay Clinic, Inc. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu Big Island Substance Abuse Council Blueprint for Change Bobby Benson Center Catholic Charities Hawaii Child and Family Service Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii Courage House Hawaii Domestic Violence Action Center EPIC, Inc. Family Programs Hawaii Family Support Hawaii Hale Kipa, Inc. Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc. Hawaii Behavioral Health Hawaii Student Television Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition Hina Mauka Teen Care Hui Malama Learning Center Kaanalike Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth) Project Kids Hurt Too Kokua Kalihi Valley Life Foundation Marimed Foundation Maui Youth and Family Services Palama Settlement P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc. Parents and Children Together (PACT) Planned Parenthood of Hawaii REAL Salvation Army Family Intervention Srvs. Salvation Army Family Treatment Srvs. Sex Abuse Treatment Center Susannah Wesley Community Center The Catalyst Group The Children's Alliance of Hawaii Waikiki Health Center Women Helping Women YWCA of Kauai

April 2, 2015

To: Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair And members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

> Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair And Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 819 HD2 SD1 RELATING TO BULLYING

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youthserving organizations, supports HB 819 HD2 SD1Relating to Bullying.

For the past 6 years, bullying has been one of the top concerns of the youth who participate in the annual Children and Youth Summit at the State Capitol each October.

According to the Hawaii Youth Behavioral Risk Survey, Hawaii has a low rate of youth violence in almost every area except bullying. The number of youth who have stated that they were afraid to go to school or have missed school due to bullying is much higher than the national average.

Children and youth who are victims of bullying are not able to take full advantage of their educational and recreational opportunities. They are unable to concentrate on their studies, may avoid participation in sports and recreation to avoid contact with bullies, and, in extreme cases, find the bullying so intolerable that they choose suicide as the only way to end it.

HYSN believes that that funding should be allocated to support a comprehensive approach to bullying prevention and intervention that includes:

- Bullying prevention education and character education for children and youth designed to promote peace and harmony and positive ways of resolving disputes;
- Education for parents and community members on how to prevent bullying and respond appropriately;



- Training for educators and students on prevention and intervention skills, and alternative means of dispute resolution;
- Law enforcement involvement only when other means fail.

HYSN has conducted bullying and violence prevention training for youth workers and educators in Hawaii and the Northern Mariana Islands for the past 4 years and is a member of the Anti-Bullying Task Force convened by Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Gutto F. Clark

Judith F. Clark, MPH Executive Director



April 2, 2015

Chairs Senator Keith-Agaran and Tokuda and Committee Members

Re: HB 819 HD 2 SD1 Testimony in Support Hearing on April 6, 2015

Dear Senators Keith Agaran and Tokuda and Members of the Committees:

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support HB 819 HD 2 as it would make progress toward a more comprehensive program to reduce bullying. We appreciate a Task Force to look into the DOE's policies and enforcement of antibullying. We do note, however, that the bill lacks the language to include suicide prevention, language we found in SB 978 to appropriate funds for anti-bullying and suicide prevention in the DOE. We either you to amend HB 819 HD 2 SD 1 to include such language.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel President

Committee Hearing before the Joint Committees on Judiciary and Labor and Ways and Means in support of the Safe Schools for All Students Act

Wednesday, April 8, 2015 Conference Room Number 211 9:55 am

Statement submitted by: GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network) Hawai'i

Attn: Committee on Ways and Means:

Aloha Ways and Means Chair Jill N. Takuda

Thank you for your continued leadership on the important issue of school safety and for this opportunity to present testimony in support of HB819. I am Kaleo Ramos, Co-Chair of GLSEN Hawai'i. GLSEN is the leading national education organization focused on ensuring safe schools for all students. For 25 years, GLSEN has worked to ensure that each member of every school community is valued and respected, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression. We do this by providing staff professional development as well as supporting students in their efforts to help create a safe and welcoming school climate. In addition, we work with student clubs commonly known as gay straight alliances. We work to ensure that all students have a safe place to voice their concerns regarding any issue, including bullying and/or harassment.

Bullying and harassment are truly vital issues, both in Hawai'i and throughout our country. Too many students are afraid to go to school each day because of the relentless bullying they know they will face. The problem can be exacerbated for vulnerable student populations such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth, students with disabilities, and students of color. Based on GLSEN's *2013 National School Climate Survey*, research found that schools are unsafe and unwelcoming for the majority of LGBT students. Sixty-five percent heard homophobic remarks, 30% missed at least one day of school in the past month because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable and 85% were verbally harassed in the past year. It is clear that there is an urgent need for action to create safe and affirming schools for our LGBT youth.

Fortunately, years of research on bullying and harassment has provided us with solutions that work, such as comprehensive, enumerated anti-bullying policies such as HB819. Research has shown that enumeration is necessary to ensure that anti-bullying policies provide protection for all students. Students who attend schools with enumerated policies report less bullying and harassment, a higher rate of intervention by teachers, an overall increased feeling of safety, and a greater willingness to

report incidents of bullying and harassment when they occur.¹ However, research shows that students in states *without* enumerated laws have roughly the same experience of bullying as students in states with no anti-bullying laws at all.²

We also strongly support the provisions of HB819 which provide for statewide reporting of incidents of bullying and harassment. The collection and analysis of data about bullying and harassment is an important component of any strategy to confront this issue. Statewide data collection would allow the Governor, Department of Education, educators, and the general public to annually receive an aggregate report about incidents of bullying and harassment in Hawai'i. This would help make funding decisions and consider any further updates to the law to better address bullying and harassment. The availability of aggregate data would also allow the Governor to make an informed assessment of how the law is working, to suggest improvements, and to tailor implementation efforts. Finally, these annual reports would help school districts tailor district anti-bullying efforts to address particular bullying issues, such as cyberbullying or bullying against LGBT students.

Enumerated anti-bullying policies, collection and analysis of statewide bullying data, and alternative school discipline are all necessary aspects of ensuring school safety in Hawai'i. We thank you for examining these important issues and urge the Committee to pass HB819 to provide all Hawai'i students with a safe, supportive educational environment. Passing HB819 will send a strong message to our youth that LGBT individuals are equal in the eyes of the law.

Mahalo for your time,

B. Kaleo Ramos Chapter Co-Chair GLSEN Hawaii

¹ Kosciw, J. G., Greytak, E. A., Diaz, E. M., and Bartkiewicz, M. J. (2013). The 2013 National School Climate Survey: The experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth in our nation's schools. New York: GLSEN.

² Ibid.



The Honorable Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-AgaranThe Honorable Sen. Jill N. TokudaChair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and LaborChair, Senate Committee on Ways and MeansState Capitol, Room 221State Capitol, Room 207415 South Beretania Street415 South Beretania StreetHonolulu, Hawaii 96813Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

April 6, 2015

Re: **SUPPORT for HB 819, Testimony from the Human Rights Campaign in support of comprehensive anti-bullying legislation.**

Dear Chairperson Keith-Agaran and Chairperson Tokuda:

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against LGBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all. HRC believes that all youth deserve a safe educational environment that is free of bullying and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. On behalf of HRC's nearly 6,000 members in Hawaii, we thank you for allowing us to submit testimony in favor of HB 819, as amended, which will protect youth in Hawaii from bullying and harassment. We urge you to pass this important legislation.

The passage of this anti-bullying legislation is critical to ensure the safety and well-being young people in Hawaii. Bullying and harassment has become a serious public health crisis in our nation's schools. Nationally, sixty-five percent of teens have been verbally or physically harassed or assaulted based on a characteristic that makes them different from some of their peers, like their race, religion, or gender, and sixty-five percent of junior high school teachers report that bullying and harassment is a serious problem in their school.ⁱ In Hawaii in 2013, nearly 19% (1 in 5) of students reported being bullied on school property and more than 15% reported experiencing cyberbullying.ⁱⁱ

Bullying and harassment has often increased adverse effects on marginalized students, including those who identify as LGBT. A national survey of LGBT youth showed that nearly 75% of LGBT students experience verbal or physical harassment in school.ⁱⁱⁱ LGBT students who experienced high levels of victimization were three times as likely to be absent from school and had grades on average a half a grade lower than their peers. Though these statistics reflect the experiences of LGBT students, consequences like absenteeism, lowered educational aspirations and academic achievement, and poorer psychological well-being can affect all students who experience bullying and harassment.

Research demonstrates that a crucial part of addressing bullying and harassment in schools is the adoption of enumerated anti-bullying policies, meaning policies that protect all students but that

identify characteristics that are commonly targeted for bullying and harassment. Enumeration is necessary to ensure that anti-bullying policies provide protection for marginalized students such as LGBT youth. Students who attend schools with enumerated policies report less bullying and harassment and a higher rate of intervention by teachers when bullying occurs.^{iv} We applaud the sponsors of this legislation for making this bill as inclusive as possible.

HB 819 is more comprehensive than the majority of states' anti-bullying legislation because it applies to all youth-serving agencies in Hawaii. This will help ensure that young people feel safe and welcome in parks and in libraries as well as public and charter schools. Moreover, the bill places an emphasis on alternative discipline and preventive education, rather than exclusionary discipline or zero-tolerance policies. This is essential because exclusionary discipline policies do little to make schools safer, and they have an increased negative impact on marginalized students, such youth of color, LGBT youth, and youth with disabilities.^v Finally, the bill creates an implementation task force to ensure that schools and agencies work together to address bullying in a concerted way across Hawaii.

We strongly support HB 819, comprehensive anti-bullying legislation which will help ensure the safety of all youth in Hawaii. If you should have any questions regarding HRC's support for HB 819, please contact me at 202-572-8960 or by email at <u>Alison.Gill@hrc.org</u>.

Sincerely,

Alison Gill, Esq. Senior Legislative Counsel Human Rights Campaign

ⁱ Harris Interactive and GLSEN (2005). *From Teasing to Torment: School Climate in America, A Survey of Students and Teachers*. New York: GLSEN. Available at

http://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/From%20Teasing%20to%20Torment%20Full%20Report.pdf

ⁱⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Available at: <u>www.cdc.gov/yrbs</u>. Accessed on February 2, 2015.

ⁱⁱⁱ Kosciw, J. G., Greytak, E. A., Palmer, N. A., & Boesen, M. J. (2014). *The 2013 National School Climate Survey: The experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth in our nation's schools*. New York: GLSEN. Available at <u>http://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/2013%20National%20School%20Climate%20Survey%20Full%20Report_0.pdf</u> ^{iv} Id.

^v American Psychological Association Zero Tolerance Task Force (2008). Are zero tolerance policies effective in the schools? An evidentiary review and recommendations. The American psychologist, 63(9), 852-62.



7 April 2015

The Hon. Gilbert Keith-Agaran Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor The Hon. Jill Tokuda Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means State of Hawai'i Honolulu, HI

Aloha, Chair and Committee Colleagues:

It is my honor to offer this written testimony in **strong support for HB819**, the Safe Schools for All Students Act (SSASA), which the joint committee is scheduled to hear tomorrow morning. I write on behalf of Equality Hawai'i, the state's largest political, social justice and advocacy organization for the LGBT community and our allies.

The Legislature took an important step forward in 2011 with passage of Safe Schools Act. But in the years since, we've come to know more intimately that the Safe Schools Act needs to be strengthened significantly to provide the protection and care that children who study in our public schools or who are served by other agencies of the state so fundamentally deserve. The legislation you'll consider tomorrow will do that. Here's how:

- SSASA will create a standard definition of bullying for all public schools, state agencies that serve youth and grantees (including private schools that receive state funds). It will also enumerate the standard characteristics recognized by law elsewhere for which students are commonly bullied, such as race, religious affiliation, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity.
- SSASA mandates annual bullying prevention training for teachers and other staff who deal with youth. Intervening in bullying situations is already a legal requirement for these professionals, and it is our strong position that giving them such a responsibility without ongoing training is unfair to those employees, a potential liability for schools and agencies and, most of all, unacceptable for our children. Through universal training and creating a single bullying standard, we can ensure that no matter which arm of the state or which of our public school campuses are serving our youth, they and their families can expect a consistent, quality standard of response.
- SSASA will mandate creation of a gubernatorial task force that will articulate a model antibullying policy for consideration by schools and affected agencies. It will also identify free and low-cost options for bullying prevention/intervention training that will meet the demands of this law and mitigate any strain on training budgets. It's important to know that SSASA would

address all of the above in service of all of our keiki.

Equality Hawai'i primarily serves LGBT individuals and interests, and while we recognize that LGBT youth all too often bear a disproportionate share of the bullying burden, we also recognize that a law and policies that provide relief to LGBT youth will be helpful for everyone. It is in that spirit that Equality Hawai'i strongly encourages the members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor/ Senate Ways and Means committees to pass this measure so that it may be considered by your colleagues and ultimately become law. Our children and our families deeply appreciate your attention to their safety and wellbeing.

Mahalo,

Mith Black

Mathew Bellhouse-King Co-Chair Equality Hawai'i



- TO: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair
- FROM: Ryan Kusumoto President & CEO Parents And Children Together
 - RE: In Strong Support of HB 819 HD2, SD1, Relating to Bullying
- **DATE:** April 6, 2015

My name is Ryan Kusumoto and I am the President & CEO of Parents And Children Together. I also serve on a number of national and community boards that promote social and economic justice for working families. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support of HB 819, HD2, SD1 Relating to Bullying**. Perhaps my most important contribution to ensuring a violence free Hawaii for all families is to be the best father I can be to my two daughters. Bullying is definitely a threat, not only to them, but to every child in Hawaii, whether in public or private school.

I strongly urge you to support the passage of **HB 819, HD2, SD1 Relating to Bullying**. Although I am not inclined toward disciplinary action such as suspension as a first course of action, I am in favor of creating safe environments on school campuses that encourage those who witness bullying to step forward, get help from school officials and end this type of insidious violence. I am in favor of offering both the bullied child and the bully counseling. Suspending a bully has not and will not change their behavior. Listening to bullies and redirecting their behaviors is one of the best ways to stem the tide of this form of school violence.

I am also in favor of a school milieu that encourages respect, tolerance and collaboration. I believe that bullies behave the way they do because they know no one will object due to fear. If schools were to promote a campus environment that values peaceful interchange, that values that ole pre-school adage, "Use your words children," we can begin to forge thriving school communities that are abuzz with learning and joy, free of the insidious violence of bullying.

We must start now while we still have a chance to influence a young mind and heart because children who are bullies grow up to be adults who are bullies. Adult bullies compromise the well-being of all of us. Thank you for this opportunity to testify **in strong support of HB 819**, **HD2**, **SD1 Relating to Bullying**.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
То:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM
Date:	Tuesday, April 07, 2015 6:53:15 AM

Submitted on: 4/7/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monique Frazier	Pearl City High School's GSA Club CREATE	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Ways and Means Chair Jill N. Takuda, Thank you for your continued leadership on the important issue of school safety and for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB819. I am Monigue Frazier, from Pearl City High School's GSA Club CREATE. As a high school student, I have witnessed numerous acts of bullying towards the LGBT community. This is an opportunity for us to make a difference that will benefit the safety of the LGBT youth in Hawaii. Bullying and harassment are truly vital issues, both in Hawai'i and throughout our country. Too many students are afraid to go to school each day because of the relentless bullying they know they will face. The problem can be exacerbated for vulnerable student populations such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth, students with disabilities, and students of color. Based on GLSEN's 2013 National School Climate Survey, research found that schools are unsafe and unwelcoming for the majority of LGBT students. Sixty-five percent heard homophobic remarks and 30% missed at least one day of school in the past month because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable. It is clear that there is an urgent need for action to create safe and affirming schools for our LGBT youth. Fortunately, years of research has provided us with solutions that work, such as comprehensive, enumerated anti-bullying policies included in HB819. Research has shown that enumeration is necessary to ensure that anti-bullying policies provide protection for all students. Enumerated anti-bullying policies, collection and analysis of statewide bullying data, and alternative school discipline are all necessary aspects of ensuring school safety in Hawai'i. We thank you for examining these important issues and urge the Committee to pass HB819 to provide all Hawai'i students with a safe, supportive educational environment. Passing HB819 will send a strong message to our youth that LGBT individuals are equal in the eyes of the law. Mahalo for your time, Monique Frazier Concerned Student GSA

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email

webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM
Date:	Monday, April 06, 2015 10:03:34 PM

Submitted on: 4/6/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Hildebrand	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dear Honorable Committee Members: Please amend HB819 HD2 to include protection for secular and atheist children from bullying. Secular and atheist kids are noticeably absent from this bill which protects from bullying youth including those of "actual or perceived race; sex; including gender identity or expression; sexual orientation; color; religion; ancestry; or disability; or any other distinguishing characteristic; or on a youth's association with a person, or group with any person..." Bullying of secular children by religious children is all-too-common – why are they being excluded? Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.



STATE OF HAWAII STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES 919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814 TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543 April 8, 2015

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Aragan, Chair Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor and The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair Senate Committee on Ways and Means Twenty-Eighth Legislature State Capitol State of Hawaii Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Keith-Aragan, Senator Tokuda, and Members of the Committees:

SUBJECT: HB 819 HD2 SD1- Relating to Bullying

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **SUPPORTS THE INTENT OF HB 819 HD2 SD1.** The purpose of the bill is to require all youth-serving agencies, public schools, and public charter schools that receive State or County funding to adopt, maintain, monitor, and enforce policies and procedures related to all forms of bullying and cyberbullying to protect youth in the State.

People with DD are most vulnerable to be bullied. Bullying has been labeled as the leading cause of high suicide rates among our youth. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Department of Education, Hawaii has the highest rate in the nation of high school students who have made suicide plans.

According to the National School Boards Association, currently, Hawaii does have State laws covering anti-bullying. However, Hawaii does not have a State model policy that provides for a Communication Plan, which includes a plan for notifying students, students' families, and staff, of policies related to bullying, including the consequences for engaging in bullying. Nor does it provide Training and Preventive Education, which includes a provision for school districts to provide training for all school staff, including, but not limited to, teachers, aides, support staff, and school bus drivers, on preventing, identifying, and responding to bullying. Without such a policy to provide guidelines, institutions and agencies are not able to effectively address the issues of bullying. The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Aragan The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda Page 2 April 8, 2015

The Council appreciates the bill's approach in the development of bullying prevention policies, programs, and reporting procedures, and establishment of a Bullying Prevention Task Force. Although comprehensive, we are concerned that it will be challenging to implement, monitor, and enforce the provisions in the bill without necessary staff and fiscal resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **supporting the intent of HB 819 HD2 SD1**.

Sincerely,

Var Mulli Ky Cabral

Waynette K.Y. Cabral, M.S.W. Executive Administrator

Rosie Rome_

Rosie Rowe Chair

DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII

STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION ('AHA KULA HO'ĀMANA)

http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov 1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR:	HB819 HD2 SD1 Relating to Bullying
DATE:	Monday, March 16, 2015
TIME:	9:55 a.m.
COMMITTEE(S):	Senate Committees on Judiciary and Labor and Ways and Means
ROOM:	Conference Room 211
FROM:	Tom Hutton, Executive Director State Public Charter School Commission

Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Shimabukuro and Kouchi, and members of the Committees:

The State Public Charter School Commission appreciates the opportunity to submit this written testimony supporting the intent of House Bill 819 HD2, "Relating to Bullying," which would establish require policies and practices for the prevention and remedying of bullying of public schools and other entities that provide services, activities, or privileges to youth.

The Commission is strongly committed to ensuring that all students have safe and supportive learning environments in Hawaii's public charter schools. The Commission supports the proposed amendment to Hawaii's charter school law, Chapter 302D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, that would clarify that discrimination on the basis of sex includes discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression.

We would note that although the Commission, as the authorizer of public charter schools, does not provide services, activities, or privileges to youth, the requirements of this measure may prove administratively challenging for the public charter schools themselves, which typically are lightly staffed. The Commission appreciates the role of the proposed task force in making assistance and resources available to schools and other affected agencies and grantees, and we strongly support the appropriation of funds for the implementation of the bill's provisions by schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM
Date:	Monday, April 06, 2015 4:47:03 PM

Submitted on: 4/6/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aki de Leon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a former school counselor, I support this bill

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM
Date:	Monday, April 06, 2015 9:00:05 PM

Submitted on: 4/6/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Honorable Committee Members: Please amend HB819 HD2 to include protection for secular and atheist children from bullying. Secular and atheist kids are noticeably absent from this bill which protects from bullying youth including those of "actual or perceived race; sex; including gender identity or expression; sexual orientation; color; religion; ancestry; or disability; or any other distinguishing characteristic; or on a youth's association with a person, or group with any person..." Bullying of secular children by religious children is all-too-common – why are they being excluded? Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM*
Date:	Monday, April 06, 2015 5:19:41 PM

Submitted on: 4/6/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM
Date:	Monday, April 06, 2015 11:09:43 PM

Submitted on: 4/6/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anna Khoma	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support this bill. Please consider it to make our school environment safer.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM*
Date:	Monday, April 06, 2015 8:35:04 PM

Submitted on: 4/6/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cherrie Castillo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM
Date:	Monday, April 06, 2015 10:39:35 PM

Submitted on: 4/6/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Fowler	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please ammend this HB819 HD2 bill to include protections for atheist, secular/undecided, or non-religious or secular children from bullying. It is very important to curtail relgious beliefs when it comes to public places and protecting individual freedom. This is especially important in hawaii where we seem to have a proliferation of churches everywhere and religion is becoming a very dominant force on the islands.

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April 5, 2015

Dear Honorable members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in strong support of HB819 HD2 SD1. I am currently in my third year as a graduate student at the University of Hawaii's Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work. I also previously worked for over 10 years as an instructor and program coordinator working with "at risk" youth in the Hawaii National Guard's Youth Challenge Academy.

Having spent a decade working directly with high school aged students who had gotten off track from the traditional education timeline, I had the opportunity to get to know and hear the personal testimonies of hundreds of the students that made their way through the program. An overwhelming majority of these kids relayed stories to me regarding the challenge they faced of dealing with a school system that often let them fend for themselves in situations where they were either new to a school or in alternative learning classes or facing serious social challenges such as poverty or family members who are drug users or incarcerated and the isolation and alienation they would experience from the ridicule of others who were less challenged.

When I worked at the Youth Challenge Academy we enjoyed the benefit of an atmosphere that was highly controlled and even though this was the case, bullying still occurred. When it did we, as the responsible adults, were expected to investigate any reports of bullying and upon discovering its occurrence, hold the individuals responsible for their damaging behavior and to notify the families of all parties involved of the occurrence and outcome. This was not always easy to do given the emotions that may sometimes be involved on behalf of the family members, but it was what we gave our word that we would do when parents first entrusted the care and safety of their children to us and it was simply, the right thing to do.

The obligation that adults have to ensure the equity and safety of all of those minors entrusted to their care cannot be understated. I strongly support this legislation designed to hold institutions and their staff accountable for creating an anti-bullying reporting, investigating and punishment system that is designed to create safe learning environments and to re-educate those who are not treating others with dignity, respect and honor.

Insisting that all agencies that receive funds from state revenue, adopt and enforce antibullying policies, which hold the institution and the adults charged with the execution of it's mission to a standard of equity and safety, is just the right thing to do.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher M. Slavens

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM*
Date:	Monday, April 06, 2015 5:14:23 PM

Submitted on: 4/6/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
christy clanin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM*
Date:	Monday, April 06, 2015 8:32:17 PM

Submitted on: 4/6/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM
Date:	Friday, April 03, 2015 7:24:56 AM

Submitted on: 4/3/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doran Porter	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This year I will turn 63, I still carry the scars of bullying that occurred when I was in school some 50+ years ago. NO-ONE should have to experience bullying. It is important to educate teachers as well as the children on bullying and its impact. I remember to this day the teacher who stood up after a bullying episode and said to the bully "I would not give a dime for someone who can not stand up for himself" thus further diminishing my self worth at such a young age. Please pass this bill and STOP the bullying NOW.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM*
Date:	Monday, April 06, 2015 4:13:40 PM

Submitted on: 4/6/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emily Stephens	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM
Date:	Monday, April 06, 2015 4:41:51 PM

Submitted on: 4/6/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eve Teeter-Balin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I very strongly support this bill.

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Aloha Ways and Means Chair Jill N. Takuda,

Thank you for your continued leadership on the important issue of school safety and for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB819. I am Jacquelyn Pang, from Pearl City High School. I am a teacher as well as a club advisor for our school's G.S.A. (Gay Straight Alliance) club on campus. Having the club on campus has helped to greatly improve school climate for all students. It also helps to promote acceptance and tolerance and provides a support system for the LGBT youth and their allies. Being a teacher has given me perspective into the experiences of youth within our schools; however, the LGBT youth are even more susceptible to bullying and are constantly taunted directly and indirectly almost every day in and out of class.

Bullying and harassment are truly vital issues, both in Hawai'i and throughout our country. Too many students are afraid to go to school each day because of the relentless bullying they know they will face. The problem can be exacerbated for vulnerable student populations such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth, students with disabilities, and students of color. Based on GLSEN's *2013 National School Climate Survey*, research found that schools are unsafe and unwelcoming for the majority of LGBT students. Sixty-five percent heard homophobic remarks and 30% missed at least one day of school in the past month because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable. It is clear that there is an urgent need for action to create safe and affirming schools for our LGBT youth. Fortunately, years of research has provided us with solutions that work, such as comprehensive, enumerated anti-bullying policies included in HB819. Research has shown that enumeration is necessary to ensure that anti-bullying policies provide protection for all students.

Enumerated anti-bullying policies, collection and analysis of statewide bullying data, and alternative school discipline are all necessary aspects of ensuring school safety in Hawai'i. We thank you for examining these important issues and urge the Committee to pass HB819 to provide all Hawai'i students with a safe, supportive educational environment. Passing HB819 will send a strong message to our youth that LGBT individuals are equal in the eyes of the law.

Thank you for your time,

Jacquelyn Pang Teacher Pearl City High School

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM
Date:	Saturday, April 04, 2015 10:00:44 PM
Subject:	3

Submitted on: 4/4/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jamie Moana Kawauchi	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I strongly support, HB819 HD2 SD1 Measure Title: RELATING TO BULLYING. Report Title: Bullying; Child Safety (\$) Description: Requires state and county agencies and grantees that serve youth to adopt bullying prevention policies. Establishes a task force to assist the Governor with bullying prevention policies in the State. Appropriates funds. (SD1) Mahalo nui loa for your support!!!

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Aloha Ways and Means Chair Jill N. Takuda,

Thank you for your continued leadership on the important issue of school safety and for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB819. I am Jared Kanahele-Bautista, from Pearl City High School's GSA Club CREATE. GSA is an acronym for gay straight alliance and is an LGBT friendly organization that educates and advocates for the LGBT youth within our schools to attempt to create safety for our youth. As a transgender student seeking knowledge within the state of Hawaii, it is of upmost importance that I feel safe within my own school. Being different from other cisgenders (those who identify as the gender they were assigned at birth) may make me a target of bullying and I believe that by passing this bill, the safety that GSAs, GLSEN, and other organizations have tried to achieve within our schools can be that much closer to being accomplished.

Bullying and harassment are truly vital issues, both in Hawai'i and throughout our country. Too many students are afraid to go to school each day because of the relentless bullying they know they will face. The problem can be exacerbated for vulnerable student populations such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth, students with disabilities, and students of color. Based on GLSEN's *2013 National School Climate Survey*, research found that schools are unsafe and unwelcoming for the majority of LGBT students. Sixty-five percent heard homophobic remarks and 30% missed at least one day of school in the past month because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable. It is clear that there is an urgent need for action to create safe and affirming schools for our LGBT youth.

Fortunately, years of research has provided us with solutions that work, such as comprehensive, enumerated anti-bullying policies included in HB819. Research has shown that enumeration is necessary to ensure that anti-bullying policies provide protection for all students.

Enumerated anti-bullying policies, collection and analysis of statewide bullying data, and alternative school discipline are all necessary aspects of ensuring school safety in Hawai'i. We thank you for examining these important issues and urge the Committee to pass HB819 to provide all Hawai'i students with a safe, supportive educational environment. Passing HB819 will send a strong message to our youth that LGBT individuals are equal in the eyes of the law.

Mahalo for your time,

Jared Kanahele-Bautista

PCHSStudent GSA

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM*
Date:	Thursday, April 02, 2015 3:15:51 PM

Submitted on: 4/2/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM*
Date:	Thursday, April 02, 2015 2:58:10 PM

Submitted on: 4/2/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Hairgrove	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM*
Date:	Monday, April 06, 2015 7:51:23 PM

Submitted on: 4/6/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Lieu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM*
Date:	Tuesday, April 07, 2015 8:11:45 AM

Submitted on: 4/7/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Mares	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM
Date:	Tuesday, April 07, 2015 8:26:48 AM

Submitted on: 4/7/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jessica ignaitis	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
То:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM
Date:	Monday, April 06, 2015 8:49:31 PM

Submitted on: 4/6/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joe Wilson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Hawaii State Senate Ways and Means & Judiciary and Labor Committees, I am writing in strong support of HB819, requiring certain state and county agencies and grantees to adopt bullying prevention policies. Bullying and harassment in elementary and secondary educational settings is a continuing problem for school districts, parents, and students. The impact of bullying has been well documented - studies have shown that difficulty making friends, loneliness, low self-esteem, depression, poor academic achievement, truancy and suicide are all associated with being bullied. Bullying, whether offline or online, is often motivated by prejudice and hate, and some of the most serious cases are the result of bias based on the victim's personal characteristics, such as race, religion, national origin, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Whether bullying is related to identity-based group membership, or more universal characteristics such as appearance or social status, this form of social cruelty can produce devastating consequences for the targets and the perpetrators of bullying - and may be a precursor to more destructive behavior. Federal statistics show that one-third of all students experience physical or cyberbullying. We see this issue play out too often in Hawai'i schools, with LGBT students too often paying the price. A poll of registered voters around our state released last year by Equality Hawai'i show that 92 percent said it is "important" for the state to take new steps to address bullying. This bill recognizes that students in Hawai'i often face bullying based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender and gender identity and other common characteristics and strengthens approaches to training and reporting. We can and should do better by our children than current law allows. Based on best practices nationwide, this bill will help us do that. Please pass this bill. Mahalo piha ... Joe Wilson Haleiwa, HI 96712

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM
Date:	Monday, April 06, 2015 2:53:18 PM

Submitted on: 4/6/2015

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Raffesberger	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB819 because all children have the right to a safe learning enviornment.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM
Date:	Friday, April 03, 2015 8:35:44 AM

Submitted on: 4/3/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kahana Ho	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kouchi, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Labor, and Ways and Means: "I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HB819 HD2 SD1 As lifelong resident of Hawai'i, having gone through public and private education here, as well as extracurricular and summer activities, and as a victim of bullying for most of my k-12 years, including not just in school, but before school, after school, and during summer "fun", i can attest that bullying, assault, and worse left a profound effect on me, which carries on into my adult life, affecting my ability to function in work, social, and most public settings. Childhood was a living hell that i am lucky to have survived, in part because of bullying, and adulthood echoes it. I sincerely wish this had been in place when I was a student - I can't imagine how different, how normal my life might be now. But nothing, nobody, was there. for 12 years. And that was and is simply wrong. On a technical note, I wish it could be even stronger, to protect the voiceless ones, such as adding national origin, social-economic status, domiciled status (i.e., houselessness") as other parts of the definition of bullying. I would also like to see provisions for the implementation of criminal charges against "bullies", since "bullying" often involves assault and harassment, and by definition, aggravated by bias motivations; essentially, they are hate crimes, and need to be addressed as such. For the ones who still have to survive the crucible, and for those who will be poured into it, so that perhaps they won't have to endure what some of us have, please pass HB819 HD2 SD1 Relating to Bullying, and perhaps even strengthen it. Mahalo a nui loa Kahana Ho Honolulu, Hawai'i

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I believe that bullying at any age is wrong. That everyone, especially children deserve to be in a safe environment. That " because students learn by example, school administrators, faculty, staff, parents, guardians, and volunteers should be expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior, treat others with civility and respect, and refuse to tolerate bullying and harassment." This said, I hope that by passing this bill, that it can also be enforced. My testimony is on what I have seen or experienced and as follows:

When I first moved to Hawaii and attended a public school, the home room teacher I was assigned, didn't like me on sight. Which in later years, I was to find was normal, as she often found one in her classroom to pick on. One incident I remember, was when we were all assigned to scrub the chairs and tables in our classroom. The child next to me mentioned how clean mine was, and I commented on it. With which the teacher came by to loudly express that my cleaning abilities were tied into how fat I was. The teacher being very rotund herself, to which the child next to me mentioned, and started a few near enough to us giggling about. To which, the teacher promptly hauled us to the restroom and told us to wash our mouths out with soap and that we would not be allowed to leave the restroom until we had done so. While teachers from the neighboring classrooms came to see what all the commotion was about, did nothing. With even a few approving the action, and remaining to watch. After the incident was over, and while the principal was notified, no action was taken against the homeroom teacher. (It could have been due to tenure with the school, as I believe she had been there longer than he had. Which leads me onto tenure within the schools. In college, I had one professor who called upon me as I was Japanese and should know the importance of the color blue to my heritage. When I discussed items with her, she mentioned her tenure. A required English course at the time. I had another required Eng. Course, where the professor reeked of alcohol every day. To another Eng. Professor, from another college, who while proudly touting the fact that he had been married 8 times, deplored the smell of cigarette smoke. Though after a discussion with him, after he had gone on about it at the beginning of each class session, and one girl who admired the professor decided to chime in, did stop.)

More recently, I'd say adults/educators/parents and the like are more apt to train up and coming bully's than they are to prevent the growth of more. As commentary from preschoolers and up have increased in the past 7 yrs for me. In the beginning it was comments from a single family, with the child being walked to the preschool nearby of "should have bought both sides". (I disregarded the commentary, as this was from the child of who's parents threw fireworks at me when I came home, after ensuring all the children were watching; threw items into our yard with comments of how the marbles they threw were laced with arsenic; beer bottles & cigarette butts in our bushes; would run into the living room revving the chainsaw; teaching the kids to use a heavy bag, and "beat her up", etc. As they were "punking her", and "everybody threw rocks in your yard" were shouted out.) With commentary to other parents as they dropped off their child each morning, meant to be overheard. Or at midnight, shouts of signing a petition, party's that ran into the am, with at times the sound of little children mixed with the clink of bottles. Which of course led to fire drills after 3pm, with adults and children yelling "fired" not fire, recently. A 5 yr. old boy, walking by to complain about not being able to "pay the rent". Etc. Or 5 am, "see I went back to preschool" from a male, with a number of young children then yelling "Hi!". (This has sort of ended recently after yrs. of this type of action, after a couple stopped by to say "stop involving the school, we'll lose our license" (twice. With other's commenting for a few weeks, as it was

not something I listed on my page). With follow up commentary of how I post everything now. Not to mention, after they stopped yelling "bad dog", the "bad dog" stopped barking at them. Which actually started, after walking my dog, seeing a woman leave the preschool, walk up to a young male, and ask him to stop selling marijuana. Which as a neighbor, I asked the boy if he sold marijuana, and he said no, that he lived down the street. So mentioned where I lived, as I can see if he continues. The woman didn't seem to appreciate my interference, so stopped after that. (The male's friend in the white truck shouted at me, but the young male just called him stupid and told me not to listen. After which, it seemed they, several young male's and a female, hung out on the corner every night thereafter for a bit to stare up at my home. Though didn't see any cars stopping to pick up anything and just the small group hanging out, so eventually ignored them, and tried getting the dog to ignore them as well. Though a police officer did mention that the young male was a drug dealer.) And for my interference, I just had shouts at night, later on, of how I don't have children so shouldn't interfere, it's none of my business, among other things, from what sounded like the female who came to talk to the young male about dealing. (Even was called a user, after a few yrs. to explain their behavior/attitude toward me. Which considering, I contacted HPD about the situation was hilarious to me. And led back to commentary of shouldn't have stuck my nose in, "we like drug dealers", & a whole lot of "everybody does it". Etc. Not that I should be surprised, when I was in high school, while everyone knew there were drug deals going on at this one location on campus, nothing happened to prevent it.)

In any event, I hope that not only will the bill be passed on bullying, but that they actually enforce the bill.

Aloha Ways and Means Chair Jill N. Takuda,

Thank you for your continued leadership on the important issue of school safety and for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB819. I am Kyle McKinney, a concerned citizen of Hawaii who attends Pearl City High School as a senior. As a gay student and president of my high school's GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance), I would like to express the importance of this bill to not only myself, but to all students of the Aloha State. Being harassed or bullied simply because of the color of my skin or who I happen to be attracted to is NO reason to be a target of tormenting. The Aloha State is a state of diversity, love, and kindness; so regardless of our differences, we should accept each other for who we are.

Bullying and harassment are truly vital issues, both in Hawai'i and throughout our country. Too many students are afraid to go to school each day because of the relentless bullying they know they will face. The problem can be exacerbated for vulnerable student populations such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth, students with disabilities, and students of color. Based on GLSEN's *2013 National School Climate Survey*, research found that schools are unsafe and unwelcoming for the majority of LGBT students. Sixty-five percent heard homophobic remarks and 30% missed at least one day of school in the past month because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable. It is clear that there is an urgent need for action to create safe and affirming schools for our LGBT youth.

Fortunately, years of research has provided us with solutions that work, such as comprehensive, enumerated anti-bullying policies included in HB819. Research has shown that enumeration is necessary to ensure that anti-bullying policies provide protection for all students.

Enumerated anti-bullying policies, collection and analysis of statewide bullying data, and alternative school discipline are all necessary aspects of ensuring school safety in Hawai'i. We thank you for examining these important issues and urge the Committee to pass HB819 to provide all Hawai'i students with a safe, supportive educational environment. Passing HB819 will send a strong message to our youth that LGBT individuals are equal in the eyes of the law.

Mahalo for your time,

Kyle McKinney

A concerned citizen,

CREATE One Ohana, GSA HI, GLSEN HI

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM*
Date:	Monday, April 06, 2015 10:06:57 PM

Submitted on: 4/6/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lexi Kaneshiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM*
Date:	Monday, April 06, 2015 4:09:01 PM

Submitted on: 4/6/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lillian McCollum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Aloha Ways and Means Chair Jill N. Takuda,

Thank you for your continued leadership on the important issue of school safety and for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB819. I am Linda McKinney, a wife to a retiree of the US Army and mother to a gay 18 year old young man attending school in the beautiful state of Hawaii. As a parent, it is at upmost important that my child not only gets the education that he is promised by law, but to be safe while receiving that knowledge.

Bullying and harassment are truly vital issues, both in Hawai'i and throughout our country. Too many students are afraid to go to school each day because of the relentless bullying they know they will face. The problem can be exacerbated for vulnerable student populations such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth, students with disabilities, and students of color. Based on GLSEN's *2013 National School Climate Survey*, research found that schools are unsafe and unwelcoming for the majority of LGBT students. Sixty-five percent heard homophobic remarks and 30% missed at least one day of school in the past month because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable. It is clear that there is an urgent need for action to create safe and affirming schools for our LGBT youth. Fortunately, years of research has provided us with solutions that work, such as comprehensive, enumerated anti-bullying policies included in HB819. Research has shown that enumeration is necessary to ensure that anti-bullying policies provide protection for all students.

Enumerated anti-bullying policies, collection and analysis of statewide bullying data, and alternative school discipline are all necessary aspects of ensuring school safety in Hawai'i. We thank you for examining these important issues and urge the Committee to pass HB819 to provide all Hawai'i students with a safe, supportive educational environment. Passing HB819 will send a strong message to our youth that LGBT individuals are equal in the eyes of the law.

Thank you for your time, Linda McKinney A concerned Mother and Citizen

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM
Date:	Monday, April 06, 2015 9:44:16 PM

Submitted on: 4/6/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marsha Mochizuki	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dear Honorable Committee Members: Please amend HB819 HD2 to include protection for secular and atheist children from bullying. Secular and atheist kids are noticeably absent from this bill which protects from bullying youth including those of "actual or perceived race; sex; including gender identity or expression; sexual orientation; color; religion; ancestry; or disability; or any other distinguishing characteristic; or on a youth's association with a person, or group with any person..." Bullying of secular children by religious children is all-too-common. I am certain this oversight was not intentional; however I ask you to please explicitly include secular and atheist children in this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

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Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM
Date:	Tuesday, April 07, 2015 6:56:20 AM

Submitted on: 4/7/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Tactacan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Ways and Means Chair Jill N. Takuda, Thank you for your continued leadership on the important issue of school safety and for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB819. I am Matthew Tactacan and I am a student at Leeward Community College. As an ally (someone who supports the LGBT community), I feel the need to speak up to help my LGBT friends who do not deserve to be discriminated against. I have seen multiple forms of bullying regarding the LGBT community and strongly believe that it must come to an end. Bullying and harassment are truly vital issues, both in Hawai'i and throughout our country. Too many students are afraid to go to school each day because of the relentless bullying they know they will face. The problem can be exacerbated for vulnerable student populations such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth, students with disabilities, and students of color. Based on GLSEN's 2013 National School Climate Survey, research found that schools are unsafe and unwelcoming for the majority of LGBT students. Sixty-five percent heard homophobic remarks and 30% missed at least one day of school in the past month because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable. It is clear that there is an urgent need for action to create safe and affirming schools for our LGBT youth. Fortunately, years of research has provided us with solutions that work, such as comprehensive, enumerated anti-bullying policies included in HB819. Research has shown that enumeration is necessary to ensure that anti-bullying policies provide protection for all students. Enumerated anti-bullying policies, collection and analysis of statewide bullying data, and alternative school discipline are all necessary aspects of ensuring school safety in Hawai'i. We thank you for examining these important issues and urge the Committee to pass HB819 to provide all Hawai'i students with a safe, supportive educational environment. Passing HB819 will send a strong message to our youth that LGBT individuals are equal in the eyes of the law. Mahalo for your time, Matthew Tactacan, a concerned college student

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Date:	Monday, April 06, 2015 4:20:15 PM

Submitted on: 4/6/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa Sutherland	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Decreasing suicide rates in Hawaii caused by bullying would send the message to other States that we care about and protect people in all walks of life. We are an ethnically diverse State and we embrace and support the right to be unique and different.

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Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM
Date:	Thursday, April 02, 2015 10:27:31 PM

Submitted on: 4/2/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mika Mulkey	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM
Date:	Monday, April 06, 2015 3:26:49 PM

Submitted on: 4/6/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yvette Konigsberg	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I have an 11 year old daughter and know how cruel kids can get with each other. Other states have bills to prevent bullying and I believe that Hawaii should have some measures in place too. I support this bill.

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Cc:	
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB819 on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM
Date:	Monday, April 06, 2015 11:05:21 PM

Submitted on: 4/6/2015 Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:55AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yvonne Yokono	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill.

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