

SB2386

Measure Title: RELATING TO CHILD ABUSE.

Report Title: Education; Child Abuse and Neglect; Signs; Child Welfare Services;
Department of Human Services

Description: Requires Department of Education schools and charter schools to
post informational signs that include the Department of Human
Services phone number for reporting abuse and neglect.

Companion: [HB2505](#)

Package: None

Current Referral: EDU/HMS, WAM

Introducer(s): BAKER, ESPERO, KIDANI



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

Date: 02/05/2016

Time: 01:15 PM

Location: 229

Committee: Senate Education Senate
Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2386 RELATING TO CHILD ABUSE.

Purpose of Bill: Requires Department of Education schools and charter schools to post informational signs that include the Department of Human Services phone number for reporting abuse and neglect.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) appreciates the intent of SB2386. However, we respectfully submit the placement of informational signs should not be mandated through legislation.

The Department welcomes the opportunity to meet with the director of human services on this matter to work on a viable solution that does not place an undue operational nor cost burden on schools or the Department.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this matter.

Natalie Sheehey
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February 3rd, 2016

To: Senator Kidani, Chair
Senator Baker
Senator Espero
Committee on Education
Committee on Human Services

From: Natalie Sheehey, BSW

RE: SB 2386, Relating to Child Abuse, **Support**

Senators Kidani, Baker, Espero, and committee members: I am testifying in support of SB 2386, Relating to Child Abuse. My name is Natalie Sheehey and I am a graduate student in the School of Social Work at the University of Hawai'i. I support this bill for the following reasons:

- Children are a vulnerable population that need guidance, advocates, and support. Increasing access to information and help regarding cases of abuse or neglect could give these vulnerable children a voice.
- Children are not the only individuals who would utilize the information and help hotlines. Many parents, teachers, or faculty members might not be aware of the proper ways to report child abuse. Visibility and access of information could potentially increase the number of reports made by adults as well. As a Social Worker, I believe that it is critical to provide equal community access to resources and information. Every individual and child deserves a chance to be heard.
- I strongly support this bill because without it, Hawaii's most vulnerable children and families are at risk for negative consequences due to a lack of knowledge and information regarding reporting child abuse and neglect.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.