



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

Date: 02/08/2019

Time: 02:55 PM

Location:

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0591

Purpose of Bill:

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports SB 591 which increases the amount of damages allowed for public school restitution agreements from \$3,500 to \$10,000.

For damages up to \$10,000, the proposed amendment in SB 591 will allow for a written agreement that specifies the manner in which restitution is to be made for damages to be agreed upon by the principal and the pupil and his or her parent or guardian.

The Department sought feedback from our Principals on this measure. For your consideration, we would like to share some of those comments:

"By raising [the amount] for restitution agreements, it will act as a further deterrent."

"...sends a strong message about the premium we place on schools who are trying to improve their infrastructure. As an example, any destruction to surveillance cameras, computers, chilled water fountains, bathroom toilets...[this increase for restitution agreements] would send a message to students' families."

"Cost of replacement [for damaged equipment, etc.] increases year by year."

"Families should be financially responsible for damages that their children commit."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 591.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.

SB-591

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 2:52:10 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/8/2019 2:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments: