

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/02/2023

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1329 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of education to work with certain organizations to develop and implement an active shooter training program in all public schools under the jurisdiction of the department.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 1329 and is committed to providing its schools with a training program to effectively address an active shooter threat.

The majority of public schools in Hawaii are constructed in a distinct open-air setting. Due to their unique architectural design, Hawaii schools pose an array of security concerns for school administrators and law enforcement alike.

As a result of these concerns, the Department has collaborated with and will continue to work with local and federal law enforcement and its contracted active shooter training vendor. Due to the recent unprecedented increase in school shootings, the Department recognizes the need to enhance its commitment to provide a robust active threat training program.

The Department would like to note that should there be any circumstances where an employee's safety is in any way compromised, the Department does have existing processes in place to address these concerns and ensure the safety of all administrators, teachers, and staff at our schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



CATHY K. IKEDA
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
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Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: HB 1329 Relating to Education
DATE: February 2, 2023
TIME: 2:00 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
FROM: Yvonne Lau, Interim Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to offer **SUPPORT with comments on HB 1329** which requires the Department of Education to work with certain organizations to develop and implement an active shooter training program in all public schools under the jurisdiction of the department.

The Commission respectfully requests that the Committee consider including language to explicitly include public charter schools as charter schools are also public schools. We must ensure that all public schools have access to this vital active shooter training program that would be made available through this measure.

The Commission is available to work with this committee, the DOE, and our public charter schools in moving this legislation forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR



JORDAN LOWE
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL S. VINCENT
Deputy Director
Administration

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu

1177 Alakea Street
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Vacant
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1329
RELATING TO EDUCATION
Before the House Committee on Education
Thursday, February 2, 2023; 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 390
WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) supports House Bill 1329.

This bill requires the Department of Education to work with certain organizations to develop and implement an active shooter training program in all public schools under the jurisdiction of the department.

The DLE supports increasing security and training in our schools and looks forward to working with DOE in this ongoing effort. While in the process of standing up our Department, the DLE has already engaged in conversations with DOE leadership regarding opportunities and options to increase the security of our schools and DOE staff. These efforts will continue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

HB-1329

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 12:58:16 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/2/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael I Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in support of this bill, but honestly believe it does not do enough. We cannot simply prepare for when such a violent event takes place, but do what we can to prevent them in the first place.

Security at our schools is a joke, plain and simple, our campuses are far too open and easily accessible to unauthorized individuals, and I'm not just talking about potential shooters. When a homeless person can wander into the girls bathroom of an elementary school with his pants around his ankles and not be confronted until one girl informs a teacher 'Miss there's a naked man in the bathroom' we have a **SERIOUS** problem.

When a student is walking around campus with a gun and robs students at gunpoint who are selling drugs, and no police response is requested by admin **WE HAVE A SERIOUS PROBLEM.**

A friend of mine stated that in Scotland they had one mass casualty event at a school, and after that incident they fortified their schools to be castles. No one in or out unless they were authorized and strangers are confronted almost immediately when caught trying to get onto the property.

LATE

HB-1329

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:41:13 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/2/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Todd Yukutake	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I support HB1329. It is very important to keep our schools safe and it is surprising that this training wasn't done in all schools long ago.

This is only one part of the solution. A physical security plan needs to be implemented for schools such as secure locking doors, implements to bar the doors, securing windows, security cameras, etc. There also needs to be an armed presence on campus to deter and immediately deal defend against any active shooter incidents whether it's armed teachers, staff or resource officers.

HB-1329

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 2:24:45 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/2/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evan Anderson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I write today to express my opposition to the mandatory implementation of "active shooter" trainings in our public schools. While the intention behind this proposal may be noble, the consequences of exposing young children to this type of training can have serious and long-lasting effects on their emotional and psychological well-being.

Studies have shown that such trainings can instill fear and anxiety in children, negatively impacting their ability to learn and leading to long-term trauma. Children are already exposed to a significant amount of stress and anxiety in their daily lives and such trainings would only serve to exacerbate these feelings.

Furthermore, research has indicated that the likelihood of a school shooting happening is extremely low and the focus should instead be on creating safe and supportive learning environments for our children. This can be achieved through various measures such as providing resources for mental health support, improving school security, and promoting positive school cultures.

Additionally, it is important to consider the resources that would need to be allocated for the implementation of these trainings. The cost of providing such training to every school in the state would be substantial, would take considerable instructional and planning time away from students and teachers, and it would be much more effective to invest these resources in programs that have been proven to have a positive impact on students and their well-being.

In conclusion, while the goal of ensuring the safety of our children is commendable, mandatory "active shooter" trainings in our schools is not the solution. Instead, let us focus on providing children with safe and supportive learning environments, addressing the root causes of violence in schools, and investing in programs that promote well-being and positive school cultures.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

HB-1329

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 6:37:00 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/2/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl B.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE this bill for active shooter training. We do not need more police-like tactics in schools. We need more people hired for counseling, mental health practitioners. Research as well as recent history of school shootings have not proven that active shooter training actually is an effective use of funds for schools. It is putting a bandaid on a deep wound and does more harm than it does help. Instead of using the funds for this "training" and paying a company to go into the schools, ask the people in the schools and community what would make their buildings safer for all. Here are some websites to assist you. WE do not need to follow the US continent in their ways , we are Hawai`i and can with a new lens find better ways to protect our communities. <https://www.everytown.org/solutions/active-shooter-drills/>. <https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/blog/advocacy/active-shooter-drills-harmful-or-helpful/>

<https://apafdn.org/news-events/blog/active-shooter-drills-first,-do-no-harm>

HB-1329

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 12:26:18 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/2/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shauna Springer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kāko‘o wau! I support!

HB1329 February 2, 2023

Susan Pcola-Davis written testimony

In strong support

On January 10, 2023 the House Committee on Education held an Informational Briefing on active shooter protocols and COVID -19 Updates. It was eye opening so I decided to transcribe it to verify what I was hearing. This transcription is my testimony. Yes, it is long but necessary.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE INTERIM OF 2022
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Lisa Marten, Vice Chair

Rep. Jeanne Kapela	Rep. Sean Quinlan
Rep. Rose Martinez	Rep. Chris Todd
Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi	Rep. James Kunane Tokioka
Rep. Amy A. Perruso	Rep. Diamond Garcia

NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING

DATE: Tuesday, January 10, 2023

AGENDA

The purpose of this first informational briefing is to update the committee on safety-related impacts from the Department of Education and the Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission to include active shooter protocol and COVID-19 updates.

Vice Chair Martin, House Education Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to update you on the Department's efforts to ensure student and staff safety on our campuses and to provide an update on our efforts around COVID19. With me today is Deputy Superintendent Kirk Otuguro responsible for Operations, Assistant Superintendent Randall Tanaka from our Office of Facilities, and Operations and Assistant Superintendent Annie Kalama from our Office of Student Support Services.

In our presentation today we'll go over some national and local context, current Safety and Security measures in place and plan Safety and Security measures that we've initiated and are committed to undertaking.

We'll close by providing an update on our COVID19 response efforts and **I can also direct you to our slides that are if you later on the top there on the street.**

I'll begin with school safety starting with the national context around this issue. According to Education Week, there were 51 school shootings at K-12 campuses Nationwide in 2022.

This tally includes incidents where a firearm was discharged, where an individual other than a suspect or perpetrator was wounded by a bullet, that occurred on a K-12 school property or on a school bus, and that occurred while school was in session, or during a school-sponsored event.

The second deadliest K-12 shooting in the U.S history occurred last year at Uvalde, Texas where 19 children and two adults were killed at Robb Elementary School. While we hope to never be faced with this type of unspeakable tragedy, we do have emergency preparedness plans and programs in place to equip our schools to the best of our ability.

These plans are designated to help ensure our schools are prepared to respond, to mitigate, and recover from man-made and natural disasters threats to our schools. Include threats made for students and staff are on the rise.

Last calendar year, our Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness Branch and Communications Branch were made aware of **at least 152 threats made to schools.** Threats are made primarily through social media posts, texts, email, school phone calls, graffiti, verbally and even through fax.

These range from vague to very specific and all threats are taken seriously. It takes a collective effort to ensure the safety of our campuses. So our schools emphasize to students, families, and community members, that if you see something, say something.

Based on National Trends, threat clusters typically occur before school breaks and during anniversaries of significant events. The lower number of threats in 2020, as seen on this slide is due to the pandemic; when students were distance learning and employees were teleworking. In addition to this, to the security training and emergency planning that we'll discuss later in this presentation.

We know it's crucial to ensure our school staff are properly trained when it comes to caring for the emotional well-being of our students. We continue to expand professional development opportunities on trauma-informed education and social and emotional learning to ensure that all students feel safe and supported at school.

During the months of June, July, and December 2022, we hosted student risk assessment training and support sessions for staff across our system. This is part of our commitment to

ensure that every student feels comfortable turning to a trusted adult in crisis. And that staff members are equipped with the tools to secure appropriate supports for students.

The training provided the tools needed to assess when a student is at risk for potential harm to themselves or others and strategies designed to disrupt, prevent, or mitigate a potential act of targeted violence.

Altogether over 1,000 School administrators and other DOE personnel attended these trainings. So far in October, during the fall break, the department also hosted a three-day conference to help equip school leaders, educators, and support staff, with school safety efforts.

The goal was to provide strategic guidance on preventing, identifying, mitigating, and responding to various school safety concerns. National School Safety experts from the School Safety Advocacy Council presented on topics including school safety and emergency management lessons learned from past school emergencies, student mental health, verbal de-escalation strategies, social media threats, extracurricular and athletic event management.

Close to 950 DOE leaders and staff attended the conference. We have plans and programs in place and we continuously monitor and adapt to evolving conditions. The Department's Safety and Security Branch is responsible for the security of DOE campuses and offices, as well as schools and student safety.

Current measures in place include emergency plans at the Department's three levels; State offices, complex areas, and schools. We also work to mitigate the security challenges associated with our open campus schools here in Hawaii by performing vulnerability assessments. We also provide active threat response training to schools and complex areas. We'll go into detail for each of these areas in the next slides.

The Emergency Operation Plan at the state level provides a comprehensive overview of Emergency Management systems and guidelines for various hazards and threats. To coordinate small-scale emergencies affecting the Department's operations and large-scale emergencies affecting the state. Examples of guidelines related to hazards and threats include for example active shooter threats, bomb threats, hurricane, tsunamis, and Volcanic Smog or Vog, The Department's emergency plan addresses roles and responsibilities of the department and its staff during these emergencies. It also includes guidelines around prevention, mitigation, planning, response, and recovery.

At the complex area level, which are geographic regions with groups of schools, emergency operation plans are known as Continuity of Operation Plans or COOPs. COOPs are specific to each complex area. These plans may vary in each complex area and may have high and may have higher risk for different emergencies. COOPs may, for example, include plans for floods, volcano eruptions and brush fires.

And at the school level, we have emergency action plans. These site-specific plans with associated emergency drills, that schools must perform for the following types of emergencies;

for earthquakes, for evacuations, which include fire and bomb threat, drills, lockdowns, which are performed when there are physical threats to students and staff on or near the campus.

Schools are required to perform lockdown drills annually and are encouraged to do them more frequently or at least one per semester, shelter in place drills, and tsunami drills for schools in the tsunami inundation zones. These school plans cover incidents at the school level such as handling of school closures, responding to concerned parents, and accountability of students and faculty during emergencies.

All schools are required to have plans that are updated annually and submitted to the Safety, Security and Emergency Preparedness Branch. On-site reviews are completed along with an assessment for hazard, a Hazmat disposal **every three years. [Is this tracked to ensure all schools submit them annually?]**

We know that the vast majority of our campuses here in Hawaii are designed to be open. To mitigate these security challenges, the department conducts vulnerability assessments. These assessments help identify weaknesses on school campuses and provide recommendations to mitigate. Those risk areas of weakness may include, for example; supervision during student transition periods such as, pickup and drop-off and recess.

Leveraging Information technology resources to enhance security on campus, controlling entry and exit points, securing the perimeter around facilities, adding additional signage in high traffic areas. The assessments also include what is known as a **red team intruder drill** to review the vigilance and situational awareness of school staff and students. **[Is there documentation regarding the assessments? For every school? Available to the public?]**

This exercise emphasizes the protocol of “if you see something, say something.”

Vulnerability assessments are a tool that the department began doing in **2017**. On average 30 to 35 assessments are completed each school year. To date 116 vulnerability assessments have been completed and 17 are scheduled. They were temporarily suspended due to the 2021 school year due to the pandemic. **[We are back in school now. What happened to 2022? If the state has approximately 287 schools, why aren't they all done in one year. How frequently are they conducted per school, the schedule?]**

The following school year **[2022]** assessment started back up but were limited because of full school closures with students and staff on campus and they're needed to complete these assessments. **[Doesn't make sense]**

Health and safety protocols during COVID19 include social distancing and room capacity limits.

Also show these efforts but were scheduled. As we were scheduled as many as possible this year, and into the next year.

The department also oversees Active Shooter Threat Response Training for schools. Schools currently have to request this specialty training but we're looking to change that.

We'll go more into detail in the next slides when we talk more about the next steps. So far 80 schools have gone through active shooter threat response training, and more are being scheduled. The training teaches faculty how to respond to active shooter incidents, lockdowns, and social media threats. Our training is provided by consultants, The Cyber Security and Infrastructure Security Agency, a subsidiary under the U.S Department of Homeland Security or the DOE Safety Security and Emergency Preparedness Branch. Training can be completed in a few hours or over a couple of days and includes presentations along with practical exercises.

Because safety is a top priority, we know we can always improve looking ahead as we continue to monitor National Trends and best practices. Some of our identified next steps include continued refinement of our threat Assessment program and updating our emergency plans at the state and complex area level which are last revised in **2019**.

Additional steps include expansion or vulnerability assessments as a landscape continues to evolve. We want to be sure that our schools feel supported and are equipped to handle any emergency. We also want to proactively engage with our school communities. Again, school safety is a collective effort. We need everyone to be vigilant and committed to keeping kids safe.

Next transitioning to our COVID updates it's been encouraging to see our schools return to a more normalized school year as COVID restrictions have eased. But we still remain cautious and mindful of best practices around curbing the spread of germs and illness. All of our schools follow the Department's health and safety guidelines for COVID 19. It provides mitigation strategies that are designed to be layered and flexible to help slow the spread of COVID and maintain safe School environments and operations. This guidance is based on DOHs and the CDC's guidance for schools.

Federal funds from the Department of Health and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund or ESSER are being utilized to maintain the expansion of the Hawaii keiki program to provide school-based health services and distribute COVID self-tests. Hawaii Keiki is a partnership with the University of Hawaii Manoa School of Nursing. Currently each of our 15 complex areas has an advanced practice registered nurse or APRN and a registered nurse at each complex as well as a school health aide at every school. Additionally using ESSER funds we've been able to add 174 Hawaii keiki school health support staff to help respond to and prevent COVID-19 on campus.

Hawaii keiki registered nurses allowing at least one RN per complex area. Hawaii Keiki Personnel have been critical to supporting schools by providing and conducting diagnostic tests, record keeping, hosting information sessions about COVID vaccines, and other mitigation strategies. Contingency plans for the medically fragile to return to in-person learning, improving access to Virtual Health Services for students at schools Statewide, and assisting schools with preventing communicable diseases. Well Community testing sites have been consolidated. The department still has COVID-19 testing programs. Hawaii Keiki nurses are

available to administer the Binax Now point of care COVID-19 tests which are obtained by the department at no cost from the federal government.

24:28

The department is also distributing COVID-19 self-tests for students and staff in partnership with the Department of Health and the CDC self-test kits are available to students and staff who are not feeling well, have been exposed to COVID-19, recently traveled, who are planning to attend a high-risk activity. The department also continues to strengthen and increase our partnerships with federally qualified Health Centers to address the impacts of COVID and improve access to health services at schools. We have active cooperative agreements with Hana Health on Maui, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, Waikiki Health, and West Hawaii Community Health Center to provide health services at schools. Additional Cooperative Agreements are currently being developed.

Schools must still report all COVID-19 cases through the Department of Health Online portal. A summary of COVID-19 cases is published on the DOE's website every Wednesday.

The department collaborates with DOH to monitor COVID cases for potential clusters or outbreaks. A potential outbreak is defined as, any time a school's daily absentee rate exceeds 10 percent for the entire school, 20 percent of one grade or classroom for COVID, or any illness. If or when this happens, in consultation with the Department of Health, a school might implement mitigation strategies, such as; universal or targeted indoor masking, COVID testing, moving activities, classes, or meals outdoors, avoiding crowds, and stopping high risk activities or screening participants for events.

Thank you for the opportunity to update the House Committee on Education.

[End of Superintendent's presentation]

[SGT. Brandon Phillip's Presentation is AWESOME!!]

Also, with us today I would like to introduce Sergeant Brandon Phillips of the Maui police Department who oversees the School Resource Officers at our Maui secondary schools.

We appreciate your ongoing support and look forward to continuing our work together to keep our students and schools safe.

Thank you. Well good afternoon, Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Martin, other representatives, and guests in the room today.

I'll just speak briefly about our program on Maui and some of the specific things that we do in Maui County working with our DOE counterparts as it relates to active shooter preparation.

So just to give you guys a little overview of our program in Maui County. Currently we have eight SROs total in Maui County assigned to various schools. They are assigned to high schools.

We have 12 authorized positions. The unfilled positions are mainly at our intermediate schools. That's mainly due to staffing shortage.

As you all know, with Maui County as well as other departments around the state our SRO program began in 1999. It was established with Federal grant funding. Currently it is fully funded by MPD. It's not subsidized by DOE or any other entity. In total Maui County has 33 Public Schools.

All our SROs are NASRA or the National Association of School Resource Officer trained. They have basic and advanced courses, and all our SROs adhere to what we call the Triad Model. The Triad model basically, there's three hats that our SROs wear on campus. They're a law enforcement officer obviously first and foremost. All our officers are regular officers that serve various years in patrolling. Perhaps other units. They're specially selected and trained. The second hat that they wear on campus is as an educator. Oftentimes they go into classrooms and provide presentations on various topics as it relates to law enforcement, anti-bullying, anti-harassment, anti-drug, and types of presentations. And the third hat that they wear on campus is as an informal counselor or mentor. Another positive adult role model that the kids can go up to and go to them with their problems. Much as they would for any other teacher or counselor.

Our resource officers in Maui County work closely with their school staff to identify potential threats to the school and address them before violence happens. So, we look at it as two different ways to respond to active threats. We want to be able to prevent it and then respond accordingly. So, our SROs being on campus is already one step of having a prevention in there. Another method that we've been working with over the past few years is through threat assessments. As Superintendent Hayashi mentioned, threat assessments are one of the biggest ways that we can prevent a tragedy from happening before it occurs.

According to the 2019 U.S Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center report titled, "Protecting America's Schools," analysis of targeted school violence among other things. They recommended a multi-disciplinary threat assessment team in conjunction with the appropriate policies, tools, and training as the best practice for preventing future tragedies.

With that in mind, we've taken that to heart in Maui County. We've been working closely with our DOE counterparts to build a more robust threat assessment model. And our SROs and even our juvenile investigators, who are our other officers in our juvenile division, work closely with schools. So, whenever there's an incident that triggers a threat assessment, our officers will go to the school. Work with the school team, share knowledge, share information, so that way we can make the best decision as to what to do with this juvenile. You know whether it not only just has to do with you know legal proceedings or consequences that way. But just what's best for them may be a mental health treatment. Is it looking closely with counseling, is it getting into other programs referring them to other services. So, we feel that's a big key to our prevention efforts.

Along with prevention we have worked hard over the past few years on active shooter response. With that in mind we have been doing a presentation called the Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events or CRASE. This program is from the ALERRT or Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Program out of Texas State University.

In 2013 FBI named ALERRT as a national standard for active shooter response. With that in mind we selected the CRASE program as the model that we can share with our schools and their school staff. Most courses from ALERRT are law enforcement officer focused however the CRASE or Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events course, was designed and built for law enforcement agencies to provide strategies, guidance, and a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event.

Topics include the prevalence of active shooter events, civilian response options, medical issues, and considerations for conducting drills. It is also listed in the **2019** Hawaii DOE Emergency Operations plan as a recommended threat response system.

[It is 2023, how often is this reviewed and updated?]

Hence why we selected that particular program to share with our schools. So, when we present this information to our schools we present it just to the staff, none of the kids are involved. It's usually during professional development days when the staff is already going to be on campus. We've put that offer out to the schools over the past few years. All our SROs are trained and certified to present this information to the schools. And many schools have taken us up on this opportunity. **[How Many?]** And we'll also assist schools with conducting drills or even exercises if they choose to.

But at a bare minimum we hope to at least have all the schools go through the actual presentation itself. Something else we do, focused on DOE Leadership is, Stop the Bleeding training which has been put on by our Maui District Office. Currently all the Maui district schools have been given Stop the Bleeding kits including tourniquets, and other blood clotting agents to stop emergency bleeding. So that's another thing that we felt was good. In the past few years that we've been able to accomplish with our DOE partners in Maui.

The second large program that we've rolled out over the past few years is something called The Standard Response Protocol and Standard Reunification Method. This is from the I Love You Guys Foundation. The I Love You Guys Foundation offers no cost crisis response and post-crisis reunification programs. The two that I mentioned, the Standard Response Protocol and Standard Reunification Method are their large programs. These programs are Created through research-based best practices of school administrators, psychologists, Public Safety experts, families, and First Responders. The I Love You Guys Foundation was founded in 2006 by Ellen and John Michael Keys following the Platte Canyon shooting in Colorado which resulted in their daughter Emily Keys being killed. The last communication that Emily had with her parents that day were text messages saying I love you guys. Hence the name of the organization. I first heard about The I Love You Guys Foundation in 2019 while attending the National School Safety

Conference which was presented by the National Association of School Resource Officers. Several Maui District employees were also in attendance with me from the DOE. I remember attending the briefing from Mr. Keys during that conference and looking over and seeing a district educational specialist and basically my go-to person at the DOE to get things done. Looking at her and going we absolutely need this in Maui. The Standard Response Protocol basically is five different protocols that are action-based, flexible, and easy to learn. What we notice when we are in our schools in Maui County was that each school had different terminology. They have lockdowns, we're all familiar with that. But sometimes they would go into a soft lockdown or a modified lockdown or a shelter in place or a soft shelter in place or a modified shelter in place. From school to school there was no real continuity between the different schools, as far as what that meant, what kind of actions the students were doing, and the staff was doing. It was kind of situation dependent with the standard response protocol. The five protocols eliminate this and create a common Lexicon vocabulary between all the schools and the First Responders that serve these schools.

So, let's break it down easily. We as police officers can go to any school with this program and know that okay when the school says we're in a secure protocol we know exactly what that means, what they should be doing, versus having to learn what particular things is this school doing for this incident, because they're in a modified lockdown or a modified shelter in place.

This is already in use in our schools in Maui County. It's being phased in more and more each day and this project has been ongoing for the past two years of shifting gears to the other program. The I Love You Guys Foundation is a standard reunification method and provides a proven method for schools to plan, practice, and achieve successful reunifications post-crisis. It utilizes the incident command system which helps us First Responders because that's what most of our protocols are based on. It brings DOE Personnel on board with Emergency Management officials who also utilize the incident command system. By having this practice improving template for unification, schools can hopefully not exacerbate what will already be a chaotic and anxiety-filled scene. An orderly reunification will diffuse the emotion that tends to build at a site like this. And just to give you guys some more background about the I Love You Guys Foundation, their programs are utilized over 30,000 schools, agencies, and organizations in the United States, Canada, and 11 other countries. A widespread adoption for their programs has occurred in Colorado, Texas, New York, Florida, Nebraska, Oregon, Washington, and California. Recently this school year we've worked with our private schools such as Seabury Hall and Cardin Academy. They have implemented these programs as well. It's my hope that if we can get most of the schools in Maui County, public and private alike, on the same page then that shared vocabulary will pay off. Not if, but when, an incident occurs at one of our schools. That pretty much concludes my presentation. If you guys have any other questions, I do have some other information to share if you guys would like.

Thank you thank you sergeant okay members are there any questions. Any questions.

COMMITTEE BEGINS ASKING QUESTIONS.

Okay I have a couple questions, first for Charter Schools

Committee Question: As you mentioned, you play a slightly different role than that of the traditional DOE schools. There's a lot of individualism within the charter schools, that's rightfully so, that is a benefit to our schools as it relates to learning. However, when it comes to student safety perhaps there should be a little bit more uniformity. You indicated that regarding active shooter training that that is optional for your Charter Schools. Is that accurate to say?

Answer: So, in our contractual relationship, in the contract there is a clause that says they are responsible for all state, all applicable statutes, regulations, laws, etc. So, if it's in that, in statute then, yes, our schools follow it. That actual active shooter term **is not in our contract**, so I think that answers your question.

[I think this is a problem and the contract needs to be reviewed and revised to align with the DOE]

Committee Question: What is your assessment as to whether or not your schools are prepared for a variety of safety issues? I think of some of your campuses which do excellent work, they are literally in situations, their learning is superb. And so I'm thinking about even things like hurricane, what is a protocol to get your kids to safety, transportation and otherwise, to shelter in the case of a hurricane?

I think about potential active shooter, where actually there are no barriers for kids to hide, so what do the principals or teachers do in those particular situations? If you have a feel for what your level of preparedness is? Do you have a feel?

Answer: want to be careful not to speak for all of our schools, as they are an independent agency. However, in my observations, having visited schools, and attended governing board meetings, they all do make emergency preparedness plans. They review them regularly. I can't tell you how regularly, but they do review them. I've been to schools that do have evacuation plans. They practice their evacuation model for a tsunami. I can't speak to active shooter specifically, but I do believe a number of our schools did attend the training sponsored by the DOE in October. I can't give you specifics, let me put it at that but I do know that there are schools. They are aware that they are responsible for the safety of their students, and staff, and everybody on campus.

Committee question: They do have emergency preparedness plans and when you authorize and reauthorize schools you ensure that they have these plans in place. Is that a part of your checkoff list?

Answer: I believe it is, yes, I believe it is. We remind them of the 19 Training Day using the same vendors actually since COVID. That hasn't probably happened as quickly as we would

like. They are aware of it. I will say that at the time that Charter Schools started, active shooter was not something that was ever anticipated or envisioned. I think to be very Frank our Charter Schools probably aren't as prepared as say the department is or is trying to be.

Committee Question: So that is something policy-wise that I think the state needs to you to know. They're all public schools and we've all dealt with sort of the funding model that charter schools are funded by. They have to make it work based on the per pupil amount. So, I am going to speak up, as a former principal, I do make sure all of our schools know that there's something that there are plans in place. So, I have those conversations. I can't say that it's formally in our contract, but I do make sure our schools are aware. Having been a principal and so yes.

Committee Question: And so, you touch base with all your schools to make sure they have these plans in place?

Answer: I do check basically. Okay, so yes, when I have my conversations with them.

Committee Question: Are you saying then that you only do training for requirements that are built into statute in HRS? We as an authorizer, I mean not that you're doing training, but that you only require your school's personnel, the charter school personnel, to be engaged in training that is required under statute.

Answer: There is a clause in our contract that requires schools to follow statutory and legal obligations.

Committee Question: Yes, so any statute they are required to follow. So, if it's not written in a statute then they're not required to follow.

Answer: A per year contract unless it's written in our, unless there's another piece written in the contract that specifically states that. Might I think I'm answering that right in other words, we, in the contractual agreement, right, we don't specifically state active shooter in the contract. But there is a clause that says they are responsible for following all Hawaii statutes, Federal requirements etc. So, by default, if it's not written in the statute they're not contractually obligated, technically.

Committee Question: Simple question. Since we're talking about safety today, about the volcano and volcano preparedness because that impacts my district very much. I want to know who specifically made the decision to keep schools open in the Konawana-Honanau Complex? The day that we found out, at 11 o'clock at night, that the volcano was coming directly towards the school and didn't know exactly where it was going to come. I want to know who kept the schools open. I had calls from parents, I had parents who I met in shelters who had their children with them. I was in the school office when I had parents that came in and yelled at the principals and school staff about their children being in their cars. I felt that panic in my district and I am honestly shocked that the schools were open. Just because we didn't know exactly where it was going to happen, where the volcano was going to end, and it could have cut off a

huge chunk of parents from being able to reach their children. So, I want to know how that decision was made and I want to know what's your plan to make sure that something like that doesn't happen again. Because the reality is it could.

[This isn't the first time the volcano has been an issue. DOE should already have a plan in place]

Superintendent: During that situation the DOE was definitely in contact with Hawaii civil defense and HIEMA. Through our discussions with them and evaluating the process throughout that instance, our complex area superintendents were on Hawaii Island interacting with those agencies. Through that interaction and those recommendations. CASs did contact our office and so the ultimate decision in keeping the schools open would rest with me. In collaboration with like houses on Hawaii island that were closest to the situation, and they were in contact with civil defense and HIEMA.

Committee Question: Just want to know if you folks are going to have a plan in the future if something does happen like this because parents are scared. I mean you have schools and families who had no idea whether or not to take their kids to school. Whether or not they wanted to keep their kids at home. I think having a plan that's laid out in the future, because we just dealt with this again in another area. So, the volcano is very active and I just want to be able to tell my community that they don't have to fear this. I want to be able to have confidence in the department and that that decision is being made with consideration from community members that that decision at the end of the day doesn't end up with you here in Oahu.

Superintendent: We do definitely interact and communicate with the experts in the field on Hawaii island and through our connection with them and through discussions with the area superintendent, and Hawaii Island leadership, DOE leadership, all of that is assessed. The decision to keep schools open, in my communication with our CASs, that's updated regularly. That's based on that discussion and those evaluations with the experts, the decisions were made.

Committee Question: When decisions are made, you then have to find a way to be able to communicate that well to parents because they're not always going to answer an email. I mean this is the same thing that happens when we talk about school buses. Because this is the same district along with the West Coast here in Oahu that doesn't have access to school because they don't have enough school buses. So, this is the same problem. If you have a parent who can barely get their kid to school and then on top of that, you have a volcano that then cuts off the road and you don't have school buses. Definitely those decisions are, those situations that you have alluded to were considered when we were discussing with our area superintendents on Hawaii Island.

Superintendent: I do want to ask though if either UHERO or Mr. Tanaka have anything else to add that I may have inadvertently missed in relation to your question.

Tanaka: It is a dynamic discussion because once we get the signal from the Observatory and the HIEMA then that discussion is already started. It may not be super active but the discussion has already started. We have, from the previous eruption, we have a person on Hawaii island that is in our safety security department actively working with HIEMA. And say what's the situation, what is your prediction, and the probabilities of this thing going, and where are we going to be. So, we have had the discussion prior to taking these steps. We go back to superintendent and say okay here's what we know now. The bus is a classic example. You're exactly right but the thing we also have to realize is that drivers have families also. That's the challenge. So, we work with HIEMA, they work with civil defense, they work with National Guard. Say can you deploy assets to our buses, to the bus companies, to move people and that already is in the formative stages. Before we get to that point, a road's going to be cut off, things of that nature. So, it's a pretty dynamic discussion. We do have a person on the island that is active and my guy, Max Mendoza calls me at 11 o'clock at night saying Randy this is what's happening, where do we go.

I said let me get a hold of Keith, let me get a hold of Kurt, so it's a collaborative decision. We really rely on HIEMA to give us that information. So, that's kind of our processing.

Superintendent: Representative, what you're asking for is that dynamic discussion is being had at whatever time and discussions, probabilities, and forecasts are made. Are you asking that the department share that decision-making process with.

Committee Question: I would love if you folks would be able to share that this county and then schools are safe. So, people expect their state legislator to have an answer and the reality is that in that moment I didn't. Because it seems like we didn't have a plan. And I wasn't aware of whatever your plan was. If something like that does happen, for instance, there are schools that have in the states that have snow days. I don't know if we need a volcano day but there should be a trigger in place. In the reality of something like this happening again because it will.

Tanaka?: Okay because obviously that's projection and we'd have to make that statement. Right, it's not formal, it's a prediction and based on that prediction, this is where we think we're going to go right now. And then the next update will be in whatever time frame. I think that's what you're asking us to do for your community.

Committee Question: Yes, we should be.

Tanaka??: I agree with you. You should be on our communication chain because you also represent the constituency. You're going to get the calls. So, let's work out that internal procedure. What you know we don't want is to cause a panic either. So, the robust nature of that information needs to be tempered to some degree. And say, okay, this is where we are as far as we know. Representative, I think if we can get together with you and talk this through.

Committee Question: I think what's important though, as both Mr. Otaguro and Tanaka shared, that due to the dynamic nature of the discussion, we may be going down one road and based

on events that are occurring on Hawaii Island, that changes all of a sudden. I think what's important I want to be really cognizant of and aware of that everyone's aware of, is that it's important for us to ensure that the community gets the most updated responses. I do have concerns though that the communication is the correct information that's being shared. And that if there is a change that also needs to be shared very quickly. And sometimes there are situations where changes happen within minutes. And you know if we're sharing information with someone and that's being shared with community and then it changes all of a sudden, the information that committee members and parents are basing their decisions on may be outdated very quickly. So that would be that would be my concern.

I agree with you, but the reality is that and what we saw with the volcano is that if we don't have an official channel to communicate and no matter how quickly that changes, community members will make something up or someone else in the community that has social media power will make up whatever they decide and that's even more dangerous.

This is the reason for this information briefing to air out all these things to make sure that we are all prepared in all these different facets.

Vice chair: I was very interested in the collaborations you have with the health centers providing services on campus, and I know that on the Waianae Coast they were doing dental work and stuff like that. I'm wondering about Waimanalo Health Center in my district, I know they've done vaccinations at the schools in the community is, but they weren't on your list. Is there not a program with them?

Superintendent: I just want to be sure that we're answering the question appropriately. We do have Assistant Superintendent Annie Kalama and Jennifer Ryan here. Would one of you ladies like to.

DOE response: That particular site is under development right now. So, it's one of the ones that we're working on right now and collaboration. As the dental program expands at West Coast Health center or is that going to be part of it? Do you know Jennifer Ryan has more specifics to share.

Jennifer: I'm the administrator of the schoolhouse section and I've been in communications with the health center, as well as, the principal, at least at Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate school and they're exploring this collaboration to deliver the services that are available from the health center at the school. Then the idea is that the school could identify which needs are most relevant to their community. So, it is ongoing, and I would say it's actually pretty close. We use a cooperative agreement structure to facilitate those relationships. Then that can be in place for many years and can be amended, if they decide. So, for example if maybe they do not have the capacity to provide dental health services at this time, they can add that in future years.

Committee Question: About emergency preparedness, so I have a question for Deputy Superintendent Otaguro and Assistant Superintendent Tanaka. About our Emergency Shelters many of which are located on our public-school campuses, and I was wondering, and you might not have this information top of mind but I'm wondering over the past, let's say two to three years, how much money have we invested in improving those facilities for our schools and our communities?

Tanaka Response: Not a whole lot, is the straightforward answer and standards have changed based upon building permits and things of that nature, a lot of our schools especially on neighbor islands are not hardened enough. The new standards require us to harden some of these facilities. So, the process we use is a two-step one is called a HIFIT which is DOE's evaluation and FAM, which is DOE's actual assessment of the buildings.

So, we have been on this journey for the last year and a half. Two years assessing all these facilities and I'll give you an example. On Lanai, the gym, typically gyms are shelter situations not only because of their size but some of them are substantially stronger. Not all because there's a number of wooden structures in the older communities. The gyms that would not withstand those levels of stress. But we have been doing these evaluations. There are some facilities that have already been selected. Max and his team, work with each of the counties and they work with selecting these facilities. They now may not be hardened as well as we'd like them to be, but we need to have shelters in these communities. Once we pass the emergency, we determine the condition of those buildings and if it could hold.

Committee Question: So, is there a list that's available to the public of your prioritization and your progress on that priority list. Department of Emergency Management, we provide that list to them, but we can get that for you if you wish. But that's not publicly available, that's something a citizen would have to request. It's not online anywhere.

[Why isn't the prioritization publicly available? Why isn't this online?]

Committee Question: This is just an open discussion, and we want to make sure that everyone is on the right wavelength of making sure that our kids are safe in all these different facets.

First in your presentation you spoke of these assessments, and you indicated that you have not had all of your schools conduct these vulnerability assessments. Do you have an indication as to when you're going to get through all those schools to make sure all of our kids are safe and there's action plans in place?

DOE Response: We are conducting vulnerability assessments and in terms of projecting out when all schools will be completed. Our target is in **three years [Unacceptable]**, we'll have all the schools assessed. There is a priority list. Some are more vulnerable depending on their location, in more economically challenged communities, we have greater incidences of issues. It depends on where the concentration of our unfortunately homeless folks is. The example I'll use is Kaimuki High School right next to it is a park. The county and the state do a great job of

trying to help them out but there's just the situation. So, it makes Kaimuki high school more susceptible. So, we select those first. The other method is the school requests for an assessment and Max and his team go out and do that assessment. What is critical to understand is that we need the school in operation. So, we can assess what that would look like in case of an emergency. Where could those breaches happen? So, they said it could be a two- or three-day research evaluation. So, in about three years we think we'll get them all.

Committee Question? Is there going to be a cost and additional cost to that.

Tanaka: Right now, Max and his team do most of them. They know what to look for. It's not a fresh team. We have had discussions with the new state agency that you guys passed and moved through. **[School Facility Authority]** So, we have had preliminary discussions with how they can help us in terms of standardization on some things that they may know. But Max works with the Fusion Center and everybody in that realm of security. I can't tell you how much the cost will be, but we can get that to you.

Committee Question: Are using ESSR funds?

DOE Response: Sure, we are leveraging our federal funds to help support us through this upcoming year. We may definitely be coming to the legislature for additional funding in the second year of the biennial. I also wanted to stress too that all of our schools, complex area, State, and all of our schools do have plans in place should any kind of emergency occur. They're regularly practiced in drills to ensure the safety of our students. So, our schools are safe for our students to be at.

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Committee Question: Okay, thank you for that reinsurance. I do want to ask some follow-up questions about the type of preparedness and the type of active training drills that you do. There's a different orientation between Maui and the rest of the counties.

Response: I think there's a close collaboration between the police department and our public schools which is organized differently from the other counties. One is the communication structures for a heaven forbid, if there is in fact a active shooter situation on one of the campuses.

Committee Question: The officer spoke about the importance of uniformity even in terminology and how if there's a variance in terminology that could lead to confusion which could lead to other things. So, what is the communication structures that are set up on the other counties as it relates to a potential active shooter situation?

DOE Response: I'm Max Mendoza. I'm the Safety Security and Emergency Preparedness Branch Director. In regards to the communication process, we do have established written protocols when it comes to emergency notifications. If something at the school level if an incident occurs at the school our protocols, call for the principal to immediately notify the CAS, as well as,

dialing 9-1-1. Once the complex area superintendent is notified, he or she then notifies the Deputy of the Communications Branch, as well as my office. That's the school level. Going on up and from there, what my Branch does is, I notify the Hawaii State Fusion Center in the Hawaii Office of Homeland Security because they do have immediate access to the FBI to U.S Secret Service. We do involve the federal agency's particularly if it's terrorist type or it's cross state or you know from the mainland in that sort of thing. So, the FBI may become involved depending on what the situation is. If I am notified, if my branch is notified from the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency or the FBI or even one of the County police departments then I would notify Assistant Superintendent Tanaka, Deputy Otaguro. From there ordinarily what has occurred in the past is the Deputy would notify the Complex Area Superintendent. We would have phone calls and a lot of other coordination; you know steps being done at that time.

Committee Question: It's a hard question to answer but nowhere in that response that you say notified the police department and so to me that would be one of the first places that you identify.

DOE Response: Yes sir I did say 9-1-1.

Committee Question: And so you notify 9-1-1, the principal at that time, right away. That's in your emergency action plan. How does the principal communicate with the teachers and other staff on campus at that point?

DOE Response: The communications capabilities on the campuses are ordinarily intercom, public address, radios, bullhorn, and those sort of things. They would declare the appropriate emergency action drill, whether it's a lockdown, evacuation, or a shelter in place. But it's ordinarily through the intercom, again public address those are the most common communication capabilities that we have at our campuses. We're also exploring other things such as Panic buttons and things but that's down the road. Again, we're looking into that and also, we would use runners if we needed to cover the gaps. But primarily the items that I indicated is what we present what we presently have.

Committee Question: What is the code for active shooter?

DOE Response: For an active shooter right now it would be a lockdown. A lot of it also would depend on the situation, whether you know what Sergeant was indicating. We do the run, hide, there's also the Run, Hide, Fight active shooter system that we have. A lot of it depends on the situation. Whether the students or the teachers would either do one or the other, Run, Hide is the lockdown aspect of it and all. But the thing that we're required to do in accordance with the National Incident Management System in ICS, is to use plain language if it's a lockdown, if it's an evacuation, earthquake: they have to abide by that and just call it a lockdown and all.

Committee Question: What is the fight aspect? Would you say run, hide, fight, run, hide, fight? Is the fight aspect a decision where if the individual, the perpetrator is for whatever reason about to get through that door, the fight part is the teacher would either get scissors or some weapon a letter opener to take on the perpetrator?

DOE Response: But those are the kind of decisions that you know that we look at. And the training aspect of it that we do, so I say run, high, fight because that's what FEMA and that's what I was trained in the military when I was a security forces officer. And again, the fight piece of that whole thing, is those are the three options, run, hide, and fight. And the fight pieces dismantle. So just to clarify that's not terminology that the Department of Education uses okay.

Superintendent Response: I think your question alluded to the common language that's being used between Maui police department and the SROs and the Department of Education schools on Maui. And definitely one of the things we will be doing is learning from what Maui is doing and the good things that they have there. And then connecting up with the respective Hawaii respective Island County and police chiefs to ensure that we have that common language that you're talking about.

Committee Question: You referenced that your schools on an annual basis, you said practice active shooter drills. Did I hear that correctly? On a regular basis to practice the drills that are required of them, which include lockdown, evacuation, and those drills?

DOE Response: The schools do practice active shooter drills, I believe that all of our schools are doing that on the schools that that I know do. But I just want to be sure of everyone.

Committee Question: Okay they do practice the active shooter drills and that's what you're referring to as Lockdown. Which is part of a lockdown process.

Committee Question: Have we ever had a shooter situation in Hawaii in our state at a school on his school campus?

DOE Response: Not that I know of.

Committee Question: Can you repeat that please?

DOE Response: Sure, for the edification there was a situation in 2013 when a firearm was brought onto campus however, no it was not discharged.

Representative Matayoshi: I've got a question. But actually, for my school to back in 2008 and not a shooting, I think another, we had a report that was a student bringing a gun on the campus too. And we get a lockdown. So, it certainly does happen. My question is more for social media. It seems a lot of the shootings and incidents, even fights on campus, to be fair, are advertised beforehand on social media. Now I know it's a lot for someone to sort through, but I also know that the kids, the students have a pulse on their classmates' postings for the most part.

What kind of measures are being taken to give students or encourage them to report legitimate, suspected threats being made by other students to faculty members or whatnot? And what steps are being used to head those out before they become an incident?

Superintendent Response: Definitely there are processes in place at respective schools. We do definitely encourage as I shared in the presentation for our students to share any kind of information that they have related to any kind of violent situations that they might, that they would be aware of to report it to their counselors, the teachers, the school administrators related to social media. We you know students do do that. Also, should that happen we do have resources that we've engaged as Mr. Mendoza has shared through our agreements and our working relationships with the County police departments as well as other federal agencies that have helped us in the past. So, I think what's really also important is that we do have processes in place, proactive processes in place leveraging our Hawaii multi-tier system of supports that should teachers or counselors identify different situations where students may be exhibiting certain kinds of behaviors the supports for that student can be escalated and we can provide wraparound services for that student. Which would include possibly bring, probably bring in parents and other kinds of supports for that student so that we can address proactively any kind of situation before it becomes a situation.

Committee Question: Is there a standard anything within the schools? It seems like schools are kind of left to their own devices on how to implement some kind of reporting process or anything any kind of system like that? Is there a Statewide kind of a system or is there a Statewide effort being made to harness the information on social media to try to head off these incidents or is it just kind of school by school?

DOE Response: Sort of. The short answer to your question is yes. In our Emergency Operations Plan we treat social media threats as an active threat and when a social media threat is detected there are protocols in place to make the required notifications. Again, going back to the principal at the school level, the principal, we, they would notify take a snapshot of the social media threat, send it up to the CAS, my office, the Communications Branch. In turn I would notify the Office of Information Technology Services, the OITS. They would do their forensics on the social media threat to try and determine who sent the threat and at the same time we share it with the corresponding County Police Department like the HPD Maui PD Etc because they do have the jurisdiction and the subpoena powers, the arrest authority to really look at whoever the subject is and do the questioning and the investigation. So, the short answer is yes.

Committee Question: I don't want to take up too much time. I just meant some kind of reporting system to really encourage the kids to get this information. Because they know way more about what's happening on the ground than we do as teachers in the classroom. So, I just want to encourage the DOE to set some kind of policy to make it comfortable, anonymous

maybe even to get these kids to be your information sources so we can head off some of these incidences.

DOE Response: Last year the DOE introduced a bill regarding this specific issue on how that process occurs. And I think we're going to introduce that bill again. It was killed last year I think it was misguided and it came off as being discriminatory too. But we'll do a better job in the terminology of the bill. But that's interesting. Well, it goes to how we can manage the threat asset that comes through social media. So, you know it's a challenge.

Superintendent Response: I'm gonna add that we do also, the department also has a bullying app that students can report too. It's they can download that to their iPhone and that information is the students can load that in into that app and the application and that is monitored. So, if we need to follow up with students, we're able to do that too.

Representative Peruso: I actually have a question for the Maui SRO representative. There is a lot of controversy about the effectiveness of active shooter drills. I know that you know. It seems like this is a model that the complex or the district is interested in adopting as a Statewide District interested in moving in that direction. And before we move full sale in that direction, I wanted to ask you what measures have you kind of put in place or what kinds of practices are you adopting to make sure that such drills don't needlessly traumatize students and faculty. Because I think a lot of the evidence over the past decade or so shows that there has been not only a lack of evidence about effectiveness but also on the other hand evidence of damage. So, can you speak to that?

Seargent Response: So, with our drills in Maui County with that a Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events training that we put on, there's kind of three options that we put out to all the schools. What I do with the CASs is, we have a regular monthly meeting with the CASs. And what we tell them is that I basically, we came up with three different options. One is just the presentation itself. It's PowerPoint. It has, you know, evidence, it has case studies about Virginia Tech, some other highly noticeable active shooter events and I say that's one option. If your staff is just comfortable with that let's do that. I think education you know can win the day at times. The second option I tell them is like we could do that, and we can do drills. So, they would drill doing, Avoid, Deny, and Defend or Run, Hide, Fight. They're basically synonymous with different programs but they mean the same thing in essence. So, the staff would practice.

If there was an assailant right here, what would you do? Would you lock down in the room with them? No, you would probably run away, or you know hide somewhere else. So, we can do drills with them and walk throughs. And then the third and the biggest option which some schools elect to do, and some don't, is we'll do a full-on exercise after we do the presentation and the drills. And then we can bring in officers as role players bad guys and then we'll have responding officers as good guys. And then we might bring in blank firing guns and stuff like that. We always give the staff, and we make sure that the principal puts us out there to them

too, that if you want to opt out of it, opt out of it. At this point at least you've done the presentation, at least you've done the drills. Same thing with the lockdown drill and evacuation drill, if we don't drill it at least walk through it, how are we going to know how to do it when the actual incident occurs. So, those are some of the steps we've taken to make sure that we're not traumatizing any of the staff members. As far as students, we have never done it with students. We have no intention of doing it with students.

I do think that there should be a conversation with students. Especially high school students who are able to handle a little bit more information. I think conversations should occur about what to do if there was an active shooter. And I'd like to kind of point out, to me, you know my opinion, there's a difference between a lock down drill and active shooter training. I would advocate highly for more active shooter training for the staff because I have kids that go to public schools. I want my kid's teachers, my kid's principals to know what to do for themselves and for the students. Because especially with Mom, my son's there, he's in elementary school I've had that conversation with him, age-appropriate of course about what to do. You know we live close enough thankfully where I'm just telling them, there's something bad is happening, you know it's bad, run home. He knows how to get home; he knows how to do a little pin pad on my door and get inside and get safe. And then go tell the neighbor that he's home and they can get a hold of me. So, I think there needs to be some differentiation between active shooter drills and lockdown drills. And maybe some increase in it in the active shooter training. I would advocate for that.

Seargent continues: If I could maybe piggyback on Representative Mataoshi's question a little bit and expand on some information I might have relevant to that. So, on Maui with the schools that we have SROs. We did a program, and we still have it. It's had glitches. Right now, because if we use Google and we're at the whims of Google, but we have something called Texas Tip that was brought back from one of our SROs, I want to say six or seven years ago. Basically, we get a generic number from Google Voice that number is the number that we make posters, put in the schools that the SROs, at any student, any teacher, anybody can text a tip to that number. And that text message gets forwarded to the SRO's work phone as well as the principal's phone, vice principal's phones and then as a team they can figure out, okay is this a school issue that we needed to pay someone's vaping and whatever, bathroom?

Okay, the school should go check it out first or is it a hey someone's got a gun in their backpack? That's something the SRO can address right away. So, it's a really rudimentary way of doing it but we've had that program for several years at Maui. And I say we have some problems with Google because at one point, Google shut down the text message/forwarding function of their free system. It's back on right now. And it's only at schools that we have SROs in because they're able to answer that text message. But to kind of piggyback on that, I would advocate other states including Colorado and Wisconsin have statewide anonymous reporting systems.

We've had some discussions with the DOE, had a virtual meeting a few months back with them about modifying the Speak Now app which is meant for bullying to see if we can turn that into something more useful for any kind of threats too. But it seems like that platform might not be the best platform to build that off of. But if I could advocate for something that maybe you all were able to help out with, that would be something, a Statewide Anonymous Reporting System where parents, teachers, kids, especially because like you said, kids do know what's going on. Thankfully we have a tech guy in our juvenile division that's awesome with social media. So, when we get sent a picture and it has the screen name or the handle of something, we're able to kind of find out who's posting this relatively quickly.

Committee Question: There is a question of frequency. It's a question of how the training is conducted that is all very important. We're running long on time but because Sergeant Phillips here if I could just ask you a couple of finalizing questions. Just broadly speaking heaven forbid if there's an active shooter situation, officer, is either on site, on campus, or is called to a particular campus, be it Maui or any other campus, what is the general protocol, the standard of practice, is that single officer to engage in a conflict to neutralize an active shooter? Does an officer wait for backup, what is the typical protocol that happens in that type of situation?

Seargent Response: So, the general standard of practice in law enforcement these days is we don't wait if there's active shooting going on, then we're going to go directly to that threat we're not going to wait for backup necessarily, I say that speaking mainly for Maui, I don't want to speak on behalf of the other departments, but that is what we're trained to do. You know on the tactics side, not to get into too much of that here, but for officers, the main tactics we use here too in those kinds of situations, is the ALERRT program. We go through small team tactics of two to four officers. But we're going to go directly to that. So, if the SRO is on campus, they're going straight to whatever is going on and many times it's not even an active shooter thing. It's a fight breaking out. Half the time, we are the first ones there to break up a fight or something like that. With our program we try to make sure they are well trained as we can have them not only going to NAZRO courses which the national governing body for SRO training, but we also want to send them to tactical training as much as we can. That includes sending them to a solo officer, a rapid response, and deployment training. That's from other courses and that's something that we build. That we want to be able to put them through. So, definitely and for our SROs the good thing is all of them have the master key to the school on them. So, it doesn't matter if it's a blocked door or not, we should be able to get in that door. Unless it's something's iffy with that door, there's a dead bolt inside. And for the schools that we don't have SROs at, in Maui County at least, for all the public schools we have master keys. For all the other schools, so they're co-located, I think we're trying to cover all of our bases as best we can with those situations.

Committee Question: On average how long does it take for an officer to get to a school if 9-1-1 is called and there's a emergency situation including active shooter?

Seargent Response: On average I would say it's going to be one to three minutes or something like that. It all depends on where officers are located at the time. I think the national average is somewhere around there one to three but again with SROs on campus they're right there. I can safely say that all of the officers in Maui if there's something going on at a school like that we're all going to be there.

Representative Peruso: About security guards, which are the rest of the counties equivalent to what Maui's doing in a sense. I wanted to ask about staffing and adequacy of staffing with respect to the security guards. What does that look like with the school attendants?

DOE Response: Our school security attendants are very different.

Rep. Peruso: I know. But, I'm just saying if that's the best we have like the rest of the counties. I'm always doing something that the rest of the counties are not doing. And I think the public doesn't really understand. They're asking why Honolulu Police Department isn't. The public is testifying because Honolulu Police Department is not doing that same kind of work with the DOE in Honolulu County.

DOE Response: Yes, we don't have SROs.

Rep. Peruso: Right so my question is for the rest of the counties; at our schools we have security guards I'm asking about the staffing for of those security guards. What are we?

DOE Response: I believe we do have SROs in Hawaii County and in Kauai County.

Rep Peruso: Oh okay that's good to know. Honolulu County we don't have SROs in all of our schools. We do have school security attendants.

A question about the school security staffing because we're getting reports that oftentimes the entire school will have no security guards in attendance.

DOE Response: We are having difficulty filling school security attendant positions at some schools. What we have been doing is, we've been going out and recruiting for SSOs also. Our personnel office is re-evaluating the specifications for security attendants. This came from a request from school principals. So, that we're able to create a tiered level for school security attendants. That they would be able to move up levels with additional training and support. We are looking we are implementing that hopefully very soon.

Chair closing: This has been an important conversation amongst everything that the department has to do. I just want to make sure that we keep safety in mind.

I thank the department for your efforts. I thank the Maui police department for being here and for your technical assistance. Thank you all and this hearing is adjourned.

