

SB-2071

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 10:26:54 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Testifying for Hawaii Young Republicans	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

On behalf of Hawaii Young Republicans, we support this bill. Increasing the resources and support for students to help build social and emotional resiliency is crucial. We believe this bill does just that. We urge the committee to support!



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

Date: 01/31/2024
Time: 03:00 PM
Location: CR 229 & Videoconference
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2071 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to enhance the Department's mobile platforms that provide student mental health and social-emotional health support. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2071.

The Department appreciates and supports efforts to sustain centralized data systems used to proactively identify trends, provide interventions, support and services, and track the longitudinal progress of students with academic, behavioral, social-emotional, and mental health needs.

Single-entry Point Social Emotional, Behavioral, and Academic Management System

An integrated data platform, such as the Student Success Dashboard from Panorama Education, provides schools with support for Hawaii's Multi-Tiered System of Support. This approach includes Social Emotional Learning surveys, which enable students to share their perceptions on social-emotional learning, safety, climate, and classroom experience. Combined with attendance, behavior, and academic data, educators are able to proactively identify and provide appropriate student interventions and support to address the whole child. Schools can also track student progress over time, both within a school year and throughout a student's educational career.

Mental Health and Well-being Platform

A platform such as TrustCircle provides students 24/7 access to well-being activities,

check-ins, and community helplines, expanding the Department's ability to connect students with vital mental health resources beyond the school campus and school day. Using adaptive technology, such a platform helps schools identify at-risk students and take proactive action to promote health and wellness. Unlike other mental health solutions focused on crisis intervention, using real-time data, provided by students, fosters prevention and early intervention.

These systems are critical in order to quickly identify and respond to students who require targeted or intensive support. Without them, access to timely learning and mental health interventions may be jeopardized, especially for at-risk youth who may not outwardly exhibit signs of distress. These systems are necessary to ensure effective implementation of Act 271 (2019) and in alignment with the purpose of Act 209 (2022). The Department appreciates the funding provided in this bill as it is one of the priorities in the Department's Board-approved budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2071.

Opportunity Youth Action Hawai‘i

January 31, 2024

Senate Committee on Education

Hearing Time: 3:00 PM

Location: State Capitol Conference Room 229

Re: SB2071, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Aloha e Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Opportunity Youth Action Hawai‘i hui, we are writing in **strong support** of SB2071, relating to the Department of Education. This bill Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to enhance the Department's mobile platforms that provide student mental health and social-emotional health support. It also declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded.

It is vital to acknowledge that many students suffer silently from trauma and would benefit from early identification and application of mental health services. Creating more avenues for effective and efficient mental health services in schools will positively reflect on student performance and alleviate external stresses students suffer from on a daily basis.

Studies show that persistent mental health issues in youth often endure into adulthood. By addressing mental health struggles as an adolescent, we can ensure that students are building the proper coping mechanisms early in life for their use in the future. Providing increased access to an anonymous method of reporting helps to mitigate ongoing stigma or pressure students may feel and encourages in-depth disclosure of issues so they can be managed properly.

Opportunity Youth Action Hawai‘i is a collaboration of organizations and individuals committed to reducing the harmful effects of a punitive incarceration system for youth; promoting equity in the justice system; and improving and increasing resources to address adolescent and young adult mental health needs. We seek to improve the continuity of programs and services for youth and young adults transitioning from minor to adult status; eliminate youth homelessness and housing market discrimination against young adults; and promote and fund more holistic and culturally informed approaches among public/private agencies serving youth.

Please support SB2071.

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SB-2071

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:53:50 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brad Kusunoki	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani and members of the Education Committee,

My name is Brad Kusunoki, current Student Services Coordinator and former school counselor at Alvah Scott Elementary, and I am writing in support of this measure.

As school counselor, I had the opportunity to use the Trust Circle Mobile Platform at our school and have found it to be an extremely useful tool in supporting the mental health and overall well-being of the students at my school. Students only need to be given a few minutes each day to complete a short, four question survey about how they are feeling, and with the realtime results, I am able easily identify students who need additional supports in a timely manner. This data can be used by school counselors and all educators to remove potential barriers to student learning. Trustcircle gives students an additional method to voice their feelings and gives us educators a chance to let them know they are heard.

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

LATE



HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAII SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Item: **SB2071 - Relating to the Department of Education**
Position: **Support**
Hearing: **January 31, 2024, 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 229**
Submitter: **Osa Tui, Jr. – President, Hawai'i State Teachers Association**

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association **supports** SB2071 which appropriates funds to the Department of Education to enhance the department's mobile platforms that provide student mental health and social-emotional health support.

We have seen post-COVID and also post-Maui wildfires (for those who have had to experience that traumatic event and the devastating after-effects), the need for student mental health resources is needed more now than it has been for a very long time. Access to enhanced mental health and well-being supports can enable earlier identification and intervention for students experiencing mental health issues and can create a positive ripple effect on the overall school environment and student outcomes.

However, while digital devices may have some effect, nothing can beat the one-to-one support that school counselors and other school personnel can provide for students in need. Anything we can do to increase those vital mental health personnel in our schools will go a long way towards helping students be successful in school and in their future.

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** SB2071.

LATE

SB-2071

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 6:04:00 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Melody Young	Testifying for CARES	Support	In Person

Comments:

CARES tesifies in strong support.