

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: 02/15/2023
Time: 09:30 AM
Location: 329 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Committee: House Health &
Homelessness

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0603, HD1 RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds to hire school-based youth mental health specialists for department of education schools. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) provides comments on HB 0603, HD1.

Through the School-Based Behavioral Health (SBBH) program, Behavioral Health Specialists offer preventative and intensive mental health services that include, but are not limited to, developing mental health literacy, intensive individual counseling sessions; crisis response for harm to self or others; and trauma response and related services offered through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504. These services are in place to support the mental health needs of all students.

Additional mental health staff would support efforts to meet the needs of students in Hawaii experiencing trauma, grief, family separation, depression, and other crises. The Department respectfully suggests supplementing current efforts to broaden the scope of SBBH programming and initiatives in our rural communities.

Should the measure move forward, the Department respectfully requests the following revisions to enable funding and program alignment with the Department's established Behavioral Health Specialist position:

Page 2, Line 6 funds to hire school-based ~~youth-mental~~ behavioral health specialists for the State's public schools.

Page 2, Line 12 year 2024-2025 to hire school-based ~~youth-mental~~ behavioral health specialists for department of education schools.

Specifically, to bolster the SBBH program's capacity to address increasing mental health demands in the state's rural locations, an appropriation of \$860,958 per year would fund 14 additional BHS positions distributed as follows: Hawaii District (6); Kauai District (2); Hana-Lahainaluna-Lanai-Molokai Complex (2); Nanakuli-Waianae Complex (2); and Baldwin-Kekaulike-Kulanihako'i-Maui (2).

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 0603, HD1.



HAWAI`I YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Jefferson Gourley, Secretary

Judith F. Clark, Executive
Director

Network Membership

Bay Clinic
Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawai`i
Big Island Substance Abuse
Council
Bobby Benson Center
Child and Family Service
Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawai`i
Collins Consulting, LLC
Domestic Violence Action Center
EPIC `Ohana, Inc.
Family Programs Hawai`i
Family Support Hawai`i
Friends of the Children's Justice
Center of Maui
Get Ready Hawai`i
Hale Kipa, Inc.
Hale `Opio Kaua`i, Inc.
Hawai`i Children's Action
Network
Hawai`i Health & Harm
Reduction Center
Ho`ola Na Pua
Ho`okele Coalition of Kaua`i
Ka Hale Pomaika`i
Kahi Mohala
Kokua Kalihi Valley
Kaua`i Planning and Action
Alliance
Maui Youth and Family Services
Na Pu`uwai Molokai Native
Hawaiian Health Care
Systems
P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.
Parents and Children Together
PHOCUSED
PFLAG – Kona, Big Island
Planned Parenthood of the
Great Northwest, Hawaii
Alaska, Kentucky, Indiana
Residential Youth Services
& Empowerment (RYSE)
Salvation Army Family
Intervention Services
Sex Abuse Treatment Center
Susannah Wesley Community
Center
The Catalyst Group

February 13, 2023

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
And members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 603 HD 1 RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 603 HD 1 Related to Mental Health.

In recent years, our children and youth have experienced trauma related to the COVID pandemic and other problems. Virtual learning was not a success. Families have been stressed emotionally and economically.

TeenLink Hawaii, a web-based, statewide information and support resource for adolescents reported 29,560 website visits between April and September 2022. Mental health and suicide were among the five most popular topics.

HYSN conducts evaluation for the AmeriCorps Program in the Northern Mariana Islands, including review of reflection journals by the Members, who are high school seniors.

One Member wrote, *"There's just so many things going on with school and some things outside of school that made me feel so overwhelmed."*

Another shared what helped. *"From time to time I would also talk to some people about my mental health and I am really glad that I have people to talk about it while feeling comfortable."*

This is why we need mental health workers in our schools.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

HB-603-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 12:35:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/15/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 8 2023

To: Justin H. Woodson, chair

Lisa Martin, vice chair

Members of the House Committee on Education

From: Zoe FitzGerald

Subject: Support of HB603 HD1 Relating to Mental Health

Aloha everyone! My name is Zoe FitzGerald and I am a sophomore at Kalaheo High School. I testify in support of House Bill 603 relating to Mental Health. I believe it is crucial to provide children with accessibility to clinical psychology and mental health support.

Psychologists have the power to positively influence a child's life. Both necessary for children struggling with their mental health, as well as providing comfort and reassurance to students with no mental health concerns. Therapy can be very healing and beneficial for children, whether making a huge impact on a child's life or just providing a safe place and person for a child to talk to. According to the CDC, 1 in 6 children aged 2-8 years has a mental, behavioral, or developmental disorder.

Psychology and mental health centers are growing increasingly more important every year. Proper treatment and care given to children who are struggling with their mental health can make all the difference in the world and can change a child's life for the better. Thank you for your consideration and I encourage you to vote yes to HB603 HD1.

Sincerely, Zoe Fitzgerald

HB-603-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 8:48:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/15/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Sandon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Date: Feb 14, 2023

To: Chairperson Della Au Belatti

Vice Chairperson Jenna Takenouchi

Members of the HLT Committee

From: Taylor Sandon

Subject: Support of House Bill 603, Relating to HEALTH CARE

Aloha. My name is Taylor Sandon. I attend Kalaheo High School in Kailua as a Freshman. I would like to testify showing approval of House Bill 603. I strongly believe that this House bill would benefit Hawaii's Health and overall Hawaii's keiki.

From 2005-2013 there was an extremely high rate of students or children with thoughts of committing suicide and killing themselves. With House Bill 603 we can ensure that we are doing our best to keep the health and safety of our keiki at bay.

Allowing this bill to pass lets students and our keiki have the opportunities they need to reach out for help. At least giving our keiki an open door to go to can help them to understand and know that there are people there for them.

Thank you for your time and deliberation, I ask for all your support to pass House Bill 603.

Taylor Sandon

HB-603-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 9:15:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/15/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andraya Duldulao	School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Date: Tuesday 14th, 2022

To: Scott K. Saiki Speaker of the House and members of the House Committee

From: Andraya Duldulao

Subject: Support of HB603, Regarding Mental Health

Aloha Everyone! My name is Andraya Duldulao and I am a junior (11th grader) at Kalaheo High School this year. And I feel very passionate about HB603, and I would like to ask for your support.

With mental health being one of the House’s major priorities for a long time now, we can most definitely see that if we go back to when it started. We can see that mental health is being affected by everything in society today. Looking at the number one out of every twenty-five people have mental health issues. With this information present we can see that mental health issues and how we address them is one of the biggest priorities.

With increasing the education of how to prevent as well as help the current mental health issues we will help Hawaii's safety by giving students, teachers, ect. greater education on how to live and work through different mental challenges. This is how we keep our ohana safe and protected when faced with different challenges in life.

I thank you for your time and your thoughts, and I truly hope that you will support HB603, which is related to the prevention of mental health issues.

HB-603-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 9:31:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/15/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Avahry McGuirk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. Hi my name is Avahry McGuirk and I am a freshman at Kalaheo High School. While an active member in Student Council I was researching and found the bill HB603. I fully support this bill and the need to allow mental health services in the State's schools.

According to the bill HB603, it states there are high rates of suicide based on people's skin color. Between the years 2005 and 2013, up to twenty percent of children in high school had thoughts of killing themselves. When improving this bill this limits the stakes of people wanting to kill themselves. In a survey conducted by Active Minds, 20% of students have said their mental health has worsened. When allowing mental health services in schools, this will hopefully decrease the percentage of students whose mental health has worsened.

Mental health services improve access to care, and allow treatment for mental health issues. With this in mind they are able to reduce the risk of stress, and substance abuse. This can help allow many children to be able to feel safe and involved.

According to the Stanford School of Medicine, "Having a steady mindset increases student academics." While allowing mental health services into schools, many children's academics would get better and allow these children to be on path for a bright future.

Passing this bill will not only help students and kids. It allows them to feel a part of something they can cherish and help nourish themselves so they do not make a decision which can impact everyone involved in their lives. Thank you for reading my testimony, and I hope you pass this bill I fully support.

HB-603-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 9:58:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/15/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom a Kanaka Maoli.

I'm writing in SUPPORT of HB603.

Mental health is important now more then ever.

Support HB603.

me ke aloha 'āina,
Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili

HB-603-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 3:08:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/15/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael EKM Olderr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Covid, shutdown and a bleak future has taken its toll on our children. Their mental health are in a rapid decline, and they often times cant get treatment, or dont how. Now more then ever do our Keiki need to be protected from not only outside dangers but themselves. I support this bill.

HB-603-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 10:38:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/15/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arlan Redoble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha honorable Chair, Vice-Chair and other committee members,

My name is Arlan Redoble and I show full support for House bill 603. I'm a current Junior from Farrington High School from the Honolulu school District and I'm also the Co-Curricular Concerns Committee Secretary in the Hawai'i State Student Council. As a high school student I see firsthand how important mental health really is for students. When I was at the secondary students I heard the voices of all of my fellow students from the Hawaii public school system. We had to debate on bills and choose which bill we felt were so urgent and important for our current student life. Out of the 9 bills introduced in our conference this along with two others were the ones voted most important, and urgent. This speaks volumes. The student leaders of our state have used their student voice to show how important getting this bill passed is to them. Mental health is not just a problem in Hawaii, it is an epidemic in the country especially after the pandemic which we now know as COVID 19 which has drastically affected the lives of students. When not given the necessary help they need, students can start developing unhealthy coping habits. Having these resources will influence everything we do. Our mental health affects us and everyone around us. It can affect your physical, and emotional well-being. It can also distract us in class, cause us to lose focus, or even end up spiraling into many other disorders like anxiety, depression, etc. in the bill itself it states "The legislature finds that Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and other people of color have disproportionately high rates of suicide. Suicide rates and suicide attempts are also disproportionately high among the State's youth." With our diverse population with many minorities this statistic makes it clear that the need for these resources are growing dramatically and that this bill will help address it. Having allocated money to have these resources and officials on campus is crucial to a thriving and successful student environment on campus. So with this testimony I urge you as a student to please think of the mental health of current students and all the future generations of students in the Hawaii public schools system that'll be affected by the passing of this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Arlan Redoble

Student from Farrington High School

HB-603-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 3:43:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/15/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Love	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Use telehealth services for child psychiatry as needed. Then refer child/parent to local child mental health provider

Thank you

Mrs Ruth Love