



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

Date: 02/07/2023

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 0658 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Allows students who experienced educational disruption to graduate high school through enrollment in an accepted alternative education program and participation in certain activities approved by the department of education.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) offers comments on HB 658. The bill strives to provide differentiated opportunities for students in vulnerable populations to successfully complete high school despite educational disruption and barriers caused by unstable housing or other similar circumstances. The Department appreciates the Legislature's support in exploring pathways to graduation for students who experience educational disruption.

Prior to any proposed statutory amendments to Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Department requests a working group be convened for the purposes of analyzing data associated with students who are experiencing educational disruption, identifying and exploring existing pathways for students on non-traditional pathways toward graduation, soliciting input and feedback of relevant subject-matter experts and assessing the capacity within and outside the Department. Finally, the outcomes and proposals generated by this working group should be provided to the Hawaii State Board of Education, a critical stakeholder in this conversation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 0658.

HB-658

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 6:46:39 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn LW Shirota	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha , My name is Dawn Shirota and I have been working in the Hawaii Department of Education for over 25 years and currently am a Student Services Coordinator at Paia School. Prior to the pandemic our Intermediate and High School students on the island of Maui had limited resources of alternative programs to support them getting a DOE diploma. Since the pandemic , we saw so many more students fall through the cracks of our system as we were not prepared . We need to look for options for our keikis education. We need to connect our students to opportunities that interest them. Alternative programs are a must or looking at alternatives educational models to earn a high school diploma.. The time is now , please support this bill.