

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: 01/30/2023

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 0106 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

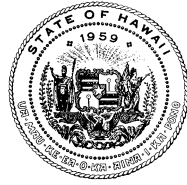
Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the Department of Health to require the Department of Education to report coronavirus disease 2019 case counts and other related information in a manner most appropriate to public health and safety, as determined by the Department of Health.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 0106 which requests changing from a weekly Department report on school coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases to reporting case counts and related information in a manner most appropriate to public health and safety, as determined by the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH).

Given the prevalence of the COVID-19 vaccine and the mitigation strategies that have proven effective, the weekly COVID-19 reporting requirement is an administrative burden on schools that is yielding minimal benefits. The DOH still has a criteria for reporting a potential outbreak of COVID-19 similar to what is done for flu-like illnesses, with a protocol that existed many years prior to the recent epidemic. The Department has a long history of collaboration with the DOH on reporting and responding to potential outbreaks of infectious illness at schools and is committed to continuing this collaboration on any and all protocols necessary to ensure public health and safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 106
RELATING TO EDUCATION**

SENATOR MICHELLE N. KIDANI, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Hearing Date: 1/30/2023

Room Number: Conference Room 229 &
Videoconference

1 **Department Testimony:** Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of
2 Senate Bill 106 that authorizes the Department of Health (DOH) to require the Department of
3 Education (DOE) to report coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) related information. The DOH
4 supports this bill as an appropriate and effective way of monitoring COVID-19 cases in Hawaii
5 schools.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

7 **Offered Amendments:** We offer the amendment of adding a sunset date of when DOH enacts
8 Hawaii Administration Rules that would specify COVID-19 and related respiratory disease
9 reporting requirements.



SB106
RELATING TO EDUCATION
Senate Committee on Education

January 30, 2023

3:00 PM

Room 229

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend to the Board of Trustees a position of **SUPPORT** for **SB106**, which would authorize the Department of Health to require the Department of Education to report Coronavirus disease case counts and other related information in a manner most appropriate to public health and safety, as determined by the Department of Health.

OHA works to improve the wellbeing of our Native Hawaiian beneficiaries, who may be experiencing or at risk of experiencing disparate COVID-19 impacts and believes that this bill will help to inform COVID-19 response and recovery efforts that can best ensure the safety of Native Hawaiian and other students, as well as their families and school staff. Accordingly, this measure would continue to provide the information needed to protect the community from transmission of the Coronavirus.

Although improvements have been made over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic here in Hawai‘i, with regard to the timeliness and granularity of reported data, significant uncertainties still exist. Indeed, with new COVID-19 variants present and arriving in Hawai‘i, and with ongoing uncertainties regarding the effectiveness of current vaccines in preventing COVID-19 transmission, consistent, timely, and accurate data remains just as critical as it has been throughout this pandemic. This measure will help to provide accurate data necessary to ensure the success of our COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. The Department of Health is the most appropriate agency to determine what information is needed and when to provide it in order to ensure the health and safety of our keiki and Department of Education Staff.

OHA appreciates the opportunity to support this measure and respectfully asks that the Committee **PASS** SB106. Mahalo nui loa.

SB-106

Submitted on: 1/27/2023 8:17:03 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/30/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Corona means Cold in case you people still have not figure this out yet. This was all Fake to begin with and all the evedince is comeing out now. All who were involved will be charge with Crimes against Humanity!!!

SB-106

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 12:53:18 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/30/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Suggested change:

The DOH **will continue to** require the DOE to report COVID case counts and related information **weekly and post on the DOE website and continue to use the same format.**

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