



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO  
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**Date:** 03/23/2026

**Time:** 01:11 PM

**Location:** 325 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** EDU

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB2293, HD2, RELATING TO THE HARM TO STUDENTS REGISTRY.

**Purpose of Bill:** Clarifies the scope of the Department of Education's harm to students registry by excluding K-12 students and by providing that contractors and volunteers are included only if their roles involves interaction with students. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2293, HD 2, which clarifies the scope of the Department's Harm to Students Registry (Registry) by providing that contractors and volunteers are included only if their roles involve close contact with students, and by excluding K-12 students.

Act 156, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024, mandated the establishment of a Registry to prevent individuals who have harmed students from being employed or volunteering in roles that provide access to students. While the intent of this Registry is critical to student safety, the current statutory language applies broadly to all contractors and volunteers, regardless of whether their roles involve any interaction with students. From an implementation perspective, this broad scope has created practical challenges in administering the registry requirements efficiently while maintaining the Department's primary focus on protecting students from harm.

The Department supports this bill as a practical refinement of the Registry, maintaining strong student protections while improving administrative efficiency. By focusing Registry requirements on contractors and volunteers whose roles involve close contact with students, the Department can more effectively allocate resources where student safety concerns are most relevant. Additionally, exempting K-12 students recognizes that student employees are themselves under the institution's care and supervision.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2293, HD 2.