



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

Date: 02/05/2026
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Committee: EDN

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB2621, RELATING TO STUDENT MISCONDUCT.

Purpose of Bill: Requires public schools to report to the Department of Education any incident involving physical violence. Requires the Department of Education to collect and maintain data on incidents involving physical violence at public schools and make such data publicly available. Requires annual reports to the Legislature.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on HB2621. While the Department shares the Legislature's commitment to school safety and transparency, we believe the bill's objectives can be achieved through existing statutory and administrative frameworks.

Specifically, the Department recommends utilizing the Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) Chapter 19 classifications, such as offender, victim, participant, and witness, rather than adopting the new terms proposed in HB2621, because the current regulatory framework provides the precision required to distinguish between student roles during an investigation.

The reporting requirements in §302A-B, including the five-school-day deadline for reporting physical violence incidents, are already required and enforced under HAR Chapter 19 §8-19-19(c). Additionally, the data elements listed in subsections (b)(1) through (b)(5) are collected and captured in the Department's electronic student information system. Regarding the reporting of intervention services, the Department is open to exploring the refinement of its existing behavioral information system to capture individual interventions that align with physical violence incidents.

The Department is amenable to expanding its current annual report to include the summation of data collected as follows: (1) the total number of reported physical violence incidents statewide; (2) a breakdown of incidents by school and complex area; (3) the roles of students involved based on existing terms; (4) the disciplinary actions imposed, including the proportion of in-school and out-of-school suspensions; (5) information on repeat incidents; and (6) a summary of prevention and intervention efforts implemented by the Department.

The Department remains committed to the highest standards of transparency and will continue to make disciplinary data publicly available in accordance with all applicable state and federal student privacy laws.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.