



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

Date: 03/20/2026

Time: 01:00 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: EDU

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB1559, HD2, RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Prohibits a student from using a telecommunication device on school grounds during the instructional day, with certain exceptions. Requires a confiscated telecommunication device to be released only to the student's parent or legal guardian, who has three months to retrieve the device before it is subject to forfeiture. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

Department's Position:

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) agrees with the Legislature on the value of creating focused, safe, and effective learning environments as outlined in HB 1559, HD2, and respectfully offers comments and concerns on this bill.

The Department appreciates that the HD2 draft amends the measure to require immediate confiscation only when a student violates the section *more than once* within the same school year. While this is a helpful adjustment, the Department maintains that a statutory mandate is unnecessary and conflicting, given recent action taken by the Board of Education (Board).

On February 12, 2026, the Board adopted a new statewide policy establishing consistent expectations for student cell phone use in public schools. This policy, which takes effect beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, already addresses the intent of this measure by establishing minimum requirements:

- **Elementary and Middle/Intermediate Schools:** Cell phone use is prohibited during school hours.
- **High Schools:** Cell phone use is prohibited during instructional time, with schools retaining discretion regarding use during non-instructional times such as before and after school, lunch, and recess.

HB 1559, HD2 continues to define the "instructional day" to include lunch, recess, and transitions between classes for all grade levels. Enacting this in statute removes the customization, if needed, granted to high schools under the new Board policy to make it more restrictive, and the Board policy is intentionally designed to help older students learn the self-regulation required in post-secondary education and the workforce.

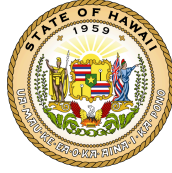
The Department maintains significant operational concerns regarding the prescriptive

confiscation protocols in Section 2 of the bill. Mandating that schools store devices for up to three months before forfeiture turns schools into long-term storage facilities. Additionally, the HD2 draft introduces new language requiring that schools store devices in a secure location that is "not accessible to students" and "reasonably protected from theft or damage" in order to be shielded from liability. This imposes a significant administrative burden and liability risk on school staff. The Board's policy mandates "progressive consequences," which provides a more educational and manageable approach to discipline than the strict storage and forfeiture model proposed in this measure. Furthermore, with the exception of perhaps two high schools, cell phone usage is currently allowed during lunch and non-classroom time. Enforcing a "no cell phone use" during these currently allowable times, especially at larger high schools, would likely create a tremendous burden on administrators and teachers that would take away their efforts from attending to other safety matters.

The Department is currently developing implementation guidelines to operationalize the Board's policy for the upcoming school year. We respectfully request that the Legislature allow this Board-governed process to proceed rather than enacting a duplicative statute.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



ROY M. TAKUMI
CHAIRPERSON

**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION
PAPA HO'ONA'AUAO**
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Senate Committee on Education
Friday, March 20, 2026
1:00 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229

Measure: House Bill 1559 HD2, Relating to Education

Purpose of Measure:

Prohibits a student from using a telecommunication device on school grounds during the instructional day, with certain exceptions. Requires a confiscated telecommunication device to be released only to the student's legal parent or guardian, who has three months to retrieve the device before it is subject to forfeiture. Effective 7/1/3000.

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education (Board) appreciates the Legislature's concern regarding cellphone use in our schools, and respectfully offers comments that House Bill 1559 HD2 is unnecessary.

The Board has been keenly interested in this subject and has been proactively working to consider the best approach to policy, gathering input from stakeholders and the community, including through the Department's extensive surveys of school communities, meeting with Department of Education school-level personnel and others to better understand policy efforts in this area, and studying various approaches within and outside of the Department and the state.

As a result of this work, and after considering further input from the community at the Board's February 12th general business meeting, including through the Board's student representative and via public testimony, the Board has adopted [Board Policy 301-11](#) regarding student cell phone use in school. At the elementary and middle/intermediate

level, this policy prohibits the use of cell phones by students in school bell-to-bell. At the high school level, the policy prohibits the use of cell phones by students in school during instructional time while allowing high schools to exercise discretion regarding the use of cell phones outside of instructional time. It also permits schools to establish rules and regulations around cell phone use that are stricter than the policy's minimum requirements, in order to ensure that principals can respond to their local school context. As such, the Board strongly believes this legislation is unnecessary.

Research demonstrates that while there are real and valid concerns around the use of cell phones by students, a scaffolded approach is an effective means of ensuring both students' well-being and preparedness for a digital society. Board Policy 301-11 reflects this type of scaffolded approach, grounded in students' developmental readiness and maturity and aligns with current Board policy on technology use and instruction, which includes preparing students with "the ability to use a variety of technologies effectively and ethically." A complete ban would inhibit opportunity in this area.

The Board's policy is intended to balance the benefits to student learning, engagement, and preparedness for college, career, and community with the challenges posed by unregulated use, which can lead to learning disruption and impact student well-being.

In setting minimum requirements and possible exceptions to those requirements, the Board aims to provide the Department and schools with the flexibility necessary to respond to each local school context and students' developmental readiness, while also acknowledging parents' concerns around their students' safety.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 • Fax: (808) 839-7106 • Web: www.hsta.org

Osa Tui, Jr.
President

Logan Okita
Vice President

Cheney Kaku
Secretary-Treasurer

Andrea Eshelman
Executive Director

TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAI'I SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Item: HB 1559, HD2 – Relating to Education

Position: Support

Hearing: Friday, March 20, 2026, 1:00 pm, Room 229

Submitter: Osa Tui, Jr., President - Hawai'i State Teachers Association

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association **supports** H.B. 1559 H.D. 2, which establishes a uniform, statewide policy restricting student use of telecommunication devices during the instructional day.

We are fully aware of the Board of Education's recently enacted statewide policy regarding student cell phone use, and we appreciate the ongoing efforts to minimize classroom distractions. However, as these new rules are implemented, it is critical that we incorporate explicit liability protections for our educators who are tasked with enforcing them. This bill bridges that gap by establishing clear statutory guidelines regarding the confiscation of telecommunication devices.

We support and appreciate the language in this measure that explicitly protects educators from liability. Specifically, the bill dictates that no teacher shall be liable for the loss, damage, or destruction of a confiscated telecommunication device. Teachers are in classrooms to educate, and they should not be forced to assume financial or legal responsibility for expensive personal electronics that must be confiscated to maintain a focused learning environment. Incorporating this specific liability protection is a necessary step to support our teachers as they work to improve academic outcomes for students throughout Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this measure.



COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, March 20, 2026

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

CONFERENCE ROOM: 229 & Videoconference

BILL: HB 1559, HD2, RELATING TO EDUCATION.

TESTIFIER: Hawaii Department of Education Principals Advisory Council (HIPAC)

POSITION: COMMENTS / OPPOSE STATUTORY MANDATE

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Department of Education Principals Advisory Council (HIPAC) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on **HB 1559, HD2**. While we share the Legislature's commitment to maintaining a safe and effective learning environment by reducing digital distractions, we strongly advocate for managing this issue through **Board of Education (BOE) policy** rather than a statutory mandate.

Public Accountability and Operational Guidelines

In response to legislative and public interest regarding how the BOE ensures accountability, we offer the following:

- **Established Regulatory Framework:** The BOE has already initiated a formal process to develop and implement specific guidelines regulating student cell phone use. These guidelines are designed to align with Hawaii Content and Performance Standards while reflecting students' developmental readiness and maturity.
- **Oversight and Accountability:** BOE policy requires the Department to periodically review these guidelines and adjust them based on feedback from students, staff, and the community. All BOE meetings are regularly scheduled and open to the public both in-person and online, providing a transparent forum for continuous oversight and direct public input on the policy's effectiveness.
- **Operational Fidelity:** The BOE policy acknowledges that a "one-size-fits-all" law can be counterproductive. While HB 1559, HD2 mandates a total ban during the "instructional day" (including lunch and recess), the BOE policy allows for school discretion at the high school level for non-instructional periods. This gives principals the necessary flexibility to manage logistical realities that a rigid law might overlook.

Sustainability and Administrative Burden

- **Local Context:** The BOE's approach provides schools with the flexibility to respond to their local context and establishes clear, progressive consequences for violations rather than a singular state mandate.

- Confiscation Logistics: HB 1559, HD2 requires schools to store confiscated devices for up to three months. This creates a significant, long-term clerical burden and turns school offices into high-value storage facilities.

Conclusion The Hawai'i Principals Advisory Council (HiPAC) serves as the vital link between the Department's state leadership and the school administrators who lead our campuses every day. By utilizing tri-level collaborative problem-solving, the council ensures that statewide policy is grounded in the practical realities of school operations and student success. Composed of principals appointed to represent all 15 complex areas, HiPAC provides a unified voice of frontline expertise to drive systemic improvement across our islands. We urge the Committee to allow the recently passed BOE policy and its accompanying Department guidelines to be fully implemented and evaluated before codifying these restrictions into state law.

Mahalo for your leadership and for considering the voices of Hawaii's school principals.

Respectfully,

The Hawaii Department of Education Principals Advisory Council (HIPAC)

Mavis Tasaka, Principal, Dole Middle School, representing Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani
Sean Wong, Principal, Roosevelt High School, representing Kaimuki-McKinley-Roosevelt
Michael Jose, Principal, Aiea Intermediate School, representing Aiea-Moanalua-Radford
Kendrick Kakazu, Principal, Maj. S. Wheeler ES, representing Leilehua-Mililani-Waialua
Bryan Rankie, Principal, Ho'okele ES, representing Campbell-Kapolei
Garrett Arakawa, Principal, Momilani ES, representing Pearl City-Waipahu
Rebecca K. Gebreyesus, Principal, Leihōkū ES representing Nanakuli-Waianae
Danny Garcia, Principal, He'eia ES, representing Castle-Kahuku
Allyson Doherty, Principal, Kailua ES, representing Kailua-Kalaheo
Kimberly Castillo, Principal, Chiefess Kapiolani ES, representing Hilo-Waiakea
Kim Williamson, Principal, Pāhoa High & Inter, representing Kau-Keeau-Pahoa
Janice Blaber, Kealakehe Inter, representing Honokaa-Kealakehe-Kohala-Konawaena
Gary Kanamori, Pukalani ES, representing Baldwin-Kekaulike-Kulanihakoi-Maui
Richard Carosso, Lahainaluna HS, representing Hana-Lahainaluna-Lanai-Molokai
Joseph Hicks, Kekaha ES, representing Kapaa-Kauai-Waimea

To: Senator Kim, Chair
Senator Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education
Re: Strong Opposition
Hearing: 03-19-2026, 1:00 PM

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mia Nishiguchi, and I am a senior at Kalani High School. I am writing to submit testimony in **strong opposition of HB1559**.

Earlier this year, the **Hawai'i State Board of Education already passed a statewide cell phone policy** to help strengthen classroom engagement, reduce distractions, and foster in-person interaction. I respectfully urge the committee to oppose this bill, as it has already been addressed. As a student with busy working parents, I also have concerns about my school taking possession of my electronic devices after 3 months, especially for students facing hardships or guardians during unprecedented events.

High school students juggle complex schedules, after-school jobs, extracurricular activities, family responsibilities, and transportation coordination. Phones are often essential for communicating with parents, employers, coaches, and bus services. For many students, especially those who rely on public transportation or care for younger siblings, access during breaks is not a luxury but a necessity in our ever-changing, technologically advanced world. Additionally, high schoolers are preparing for college, careers, and civic life, where responsible use of technology is expected rather than avoided.

A policy with strict limits for all public school students would be unnecessary given the new Board policy. I strongly urge you to **oppose HB1559**, which would provide flexibility for locally committed and globally competitive students and ensure the responsible use of technology for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Mia Nishiguchi

Kalani High School

HB-1559-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 2:08:38 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/20/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the HB 1559, HD 2 version with the added amendments posted in the HSCR 1140-26 Report.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1559, HD 2.

To: Justin Woodson, Chair
Trish La Chica, Vice Chair
Members of the House Education Committee
Re: Strong Opposition to HB1559 HD2
Hearing: 03-20-2026, 1:00 PM

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Lotus Yasuda, and I am a senior at Waipahu High School. I am writing in **strong opposition** to **HB1559 HD2**. While I agree with the aspect of providing a restriction to improve student engagement and focus, I respectfully urge the committee to consider a more flexible and developmentally appropriate approach for schools. In high schools, it is important to allow students to use devices during the instructional day, such as lunch, recess, passing periods, and study halls.

During lunch and recess periods, I utilize my telecommunication devices, specifically my computer and cell phone, to complete homework assignments and scholarship applications. It would be a great inconvenience to request teacher and administrator permission during each lunch period. As high school students juggle complex schedules, phones are often essential for communicating with parents, employers, coaches, and bus services. As we, students, prepare for life after high school—college, careers, military, and exploration—we must be “Effective and Ethical User[s] of Technology.” Most colleges, if not all, will not babysit students about using their phones or other devices during instructional time, so why should high schools?

While I understand the need to restrict the use of telecommunication devices on school grounds due to their distractive tendencies, I do not believe this bill would encourage the growth of high school students’ independence as they transition to their lives after high school. Instead, this may push students to skip class periods or leave on “bathroom breaks” to check a text message or scroll on their devices. This leads to more hiding rather than learning.

Finally, the Hawai‘i State Department of Education has already developed a policy to address this issue and personalize it for elementary, middle, and high schools. Shouldn’t the HIDOE and legislature be working collaboratively and trust one another to do what is best for our Hawai‘i public school students?

Once again, I strongly urge you to **oppose** HB1559 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Lotus Yasuda
12th Grade
Waipahu High School

HB-1559-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 7:38:50 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/20/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelby Fukushima	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Education Senate Committee,

My name is Taylor Wong and I am in strong opposition for HB1559 which prohibits and confiscates student telecommunication devices on school grounds during the instructional day. This bill is too restrictive as it takes away student’s personal devices- devices that students and their parents paid for. In the bill it defines that: “ "Telecommunication device" means any electronic device capable of connecting to the Internet or a cellular network and transmitting or receiving communications, including but not limited to cellular phones, smart phones, smart watches, tablets, and other similar devices."” This means even student laptops and ipads that can be used for studying. This not only prevents students from being able to efficiently get school-work done, it leaves the schools with the responsibility to provide these electronic resources to complete classwork. Personal devices allow students to get work done at their own convenience, something devices provided by the schools cannot.

In addition, this bill is unfair for students without parents or parents who are unable to retrieve their child’s device after 3 months of confiscation. Although phone usage has been an issue, it shouldn’t be resorted to all devices. Personally, I heavily rely on using my personal laptop AND my phone to get all school work done and communicate with my parents. On school laptops it limits me to using only my school account. This means I am unable to log into my UH and personal accounts to do work for my online and dual credit classes. As a student who juggles multiple extracurriculars, sports, and dual course classes, it is vital for me to be able to use my personal devices. If this bill were to take place, this would mean less time for students like myself to be able to efficiently do work outside of their k12 accounts.

Our future is important, and taking away a vital resource is not a solution. I believe that lawmakers have the power to support our Hawaii youth by not taking away something that’ll help them learn. I urge you to take into consideration the downsides of this bill.

Mahalo for your time!

Shelby Fukushima

HB-1559-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:15:30 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/20/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arabella Cruz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Arabella, a current high school sophomore in Honolulu. I strongly oppose this bill because telecommunication devices are essential for student success. It can be common for teacher to not have enough computers to accommodate all of their students. As a result, teachers may encourage their students to bring their own telecommunication devices such as computers and iPads. Personally, I bring my own devices to school because I can take notes, watch videos, log in to my UH account, and do extra studying when I am done with my work (even if I'm inside a classroom that has no computers). My own devices allow me to be more productive. Additionally, my devices accommodate to my needs because I have been developing hand pain, and my devices allow me to study and work comfortably. Students may have these needs, too.

Telecommunication devices are also expensive, taking it away and possibly keeping it would be detrimental to our students, especially if they come from low income backgrounds.

Mahalo for your time and consideration regarding this matter,

Arabella

HB-1559-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:25:47 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/20/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Chen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sherry Chen, a 9th grade student from Kalani High School here in Oahu. I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1559. While I understand the intended purpose of this bill I believe that it is way too extreme and would actually make it harder for students like me to succeed in school.

The way this bill defines "telecommunication devices" is a big problem. It not only just covers phones but also tablets and laptops. In my classes, we are constantly using technology for classwork and research. Most of the assignments are online. Sometimes, the school computers are slow, or they block many specific research sites and digital tools I need to finish my projects. Being able to use my own device means I can work faster and more effectively. At my school, school computers are extremely limited—often only provided in specific classes and to be used during class time in the classroom. This is why many of my teachers often encourage students to bring their own devices. If the state takes this solution away, the school becomes responsible for providing every single student with high-quality devices, which may become a really big burden on their budget.

I also have several personal concerns about how this bill would work starting with communication and safety. Like many of my friends, I play sports and do extracurricular activities after school. I need my phone to coordinate with my parents about rides and schedule changes. Taking these devices away during the day makes it much harder for us to stay in touch with our families.

I also considered the fairness of the consequences. The rule about parents having to wait three months to pick up a confiscated device is really unfair. Some parents work multiple jobs or don't have easy transportation to get to the school office. Forcing a family to go without an expensive device they paid for is a huge punishment for something as small as checking a text.

I also believe the bill is restricting our ability to learn independence. High school is supposed to teach us how to be responsible. Instead of just banning everything, we should be learning how to use technology the right way.

Our generation is going to be the one solving big problems for Hawai'i's future. We need a quality of education in order to make our futures happen. Taking away our most important learning tools isn't the answer to keeping us focused.

I urge the committee to vote against HB1559 and look for better ways to manage distractions without taking away our right to learn effectively.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1559-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:27:06 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/20/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Conner Birdsall	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a high school student, I see the censorship that this bill has, and strongly urge you all to also not support this bill. Do we not learn from our mistakes or is it my generation that needs to spell it out. F.A.C.I.S.M.

ALSO UNRELATED BUT IMPORTANT

PLEASE PASS A BILL BANNING ICE

No more ICE

No more AIPAC

No more funding genocide!

March 20, 2026

**Testimony in Opposition to HB1559
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee,

My name is Luke Nohea Gee, and I am an 11th grader from Kealakehe High School. I am writing in opposition to bill HB1559, which would establish a uniform statewide policy restricting student use of telecommunication devices during the instructional day in public schools. I currently cannot support HB1559 in its current form.

There is no question that cell phones are a major distraction in classrooms. Many students use their phones during class instead of paying attention and learning from the instructor. As a student, I can say that many of my classmates and I are guilty of this.

However, as written, HB1559 is overly restrictive in its implementation. The definition of "instructional day" includes lunch, recess, and transitions, which removes flexibility for schools to manage device use outside of class time. Schools should be allowed discretion to regulate device use during non-instructional time in ways that reflect their campus culture and needs.

Additionally, the bill's confiscation-specific policy creates unintentional hardships for families and students. For working families without flexible schedules or reliable transportation, and for students without a responsible guardian, this creates hardships for both students and administrators.

I respectfully recommend the following amendments to align with the [Board of Education's Proposed Cellphone Policy Draft](#). I would also like to point out that since the Board of Education and Department of Education have recognized and drafted a policy for regulating cell phone usage, this bill is not necessary

- Allows schools to exercise discretion in the use of telecommunication devices outside instructional time, including but not limited to lunch, recess, and before- or after-school hours.
- Allows schools to exercise discretion for the use of telecommunication devices as learning tools.
- Release a confiscated device to its original owner if the parent/guardian has not retrieved it within 30 days.

Without proper amendments, I cannot support this bill. HB1559 can protect education and keep students focused in classes while remaining practical and realistic with its implementation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB1559.

Luke Gee

HB-1559-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 10:11:50 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/20/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Education Senate Committee,

My name is Taylor Wong and I am in strong opposition for HB1559 which prohibits and confiscates student telecommunication devices on school grounds during the instructional day. This bill is too restrictive as it takes away student’s personal devices- devices that students and their parents paid for. In the bill it defines that: “ "Telecommunication device" means any electronic device capable of connecting to the Internet or a cellular network and transmitting or receiving communications, including but not limited to cellular phones, smart phones, smart watches, tablets, and other similar devices.”” This means even student laptops and ipads that can be used for studying. This not only prevents students from being able to efficiently get school-work done, it leaves the schools with the responsibility to provide these electronic resources to complete classwork. Personal devices allow students to get work done at their own convenience, something devices provided by the schools cannot.

In addition, this bill is unfair for students without parents or parents who are unable to retrieve their child’s device after three months of confiscation. Although phone usage has been an issue, it shouldn’t be resorted to all devices. Personally, I heavily rely on using my personal laptop AND my phone to get all school work done and communicate with my parents. On school laptops it limits me to using only my school account. This means I am unable to log into my UH and personal accounts to do work for my online and dual credit classes. As a student who juggles multiple extracurriculars, sports, and dual course classes, it is vital for me to be able to use my personal devices. If this bill were to take place, this would mean less time for students like myself to be able to efficiently do work outside of their k12 accounts.

Our future is important, and taking away a vital resource is not a solution. I believe that lawmakers have the power to support our Hawaii youth by not taking away something that'll help them learn. I urge you to take into consideration the downsides of this bill.

Mahalo for your time!

Taylor Wong

HB-1559-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 12:27:26 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/20/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Tom	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose the implementation of a telecommunications ban in school classrooms.

Access to telecommunication devices are simply not a means of distraction during educational and instructional periods. It is a safety risk. In a situation, such as a fire, a natural disaster, or even a school shooting, how are students expected to contact their loved ones? This has been a pressing issue, especially with several states, such as Texas, who have realized that this ban has affected student communication to their loved ones. With the state implementing this bill, they are effectively restricting student safety and communication.

In the case of a disaster, the state will be responsible for the students who will die because they couldn't contact someone to save them.