



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

Date: 02/10/2026

Time: 02:15 PM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: EDN

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB2293, HD1, RELATING TO THE HARM TO STUDENTS REGISTRY.

Purpose of Bill: Clarifies the scope of the Department of Education's harm-to-students registry by providing that contractors and volunteers are included only if their roles involves interaction with students, and by excluding K-12 students. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2293, HD 1, which clarifies the scope of the Department's Harm to Students 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 Harm to Students 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 Harm to Students 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 1.



TO: Representative David Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Deanna D'Olier, Executive Director
Hawaii Association of Independent Schools

RE: **HB 2293 HD1 – Relating to the Harm to Students Registry– In Support**

DATE: Tuesday, February 24, 2026; 2:00 p.m.
Conference room 325 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents more than 100 private educational institutions across the state, I am writing to express our strong support for HB 2293 HD1.

The HD1 amendments made an important clarification to ensure the registry remains focused on its purpose of protecting students, while avoiding unnecessary complexity for schools and the Hawaii Department of Education. The bill appropriately limits inclusion of contractors and volunteers to those whose roles involve interaction with, or close proximity to, students.

This is a practical refinement: many contractors may have limited or no student contact, and applying registry requirements to individuals without meaningful access to students creates administrative burden without improving safety. The bill also excludes individuals enrolled as K–12 students, who are minors, at the time of employment.

The bill maintains due process and investigative requirements while clarifying the scope of who is covered. For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support HB 2293 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.