



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

**Date:** 02/24/2026

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 325 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** JHA

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB2621, HD1, 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. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on HB2621, HD1. While the Department shares the Legislature's commitment to school safety and transparency, this bill is unnecessary, as the Department already collects the data outlined in the bill. To promote transparency, the Department provides an annual report on school discipline and the use of restraint. The School Status and Improvement Report (SSIR) is also available online and reports the number of students suspended and the number of Class A and B (most serious) offenses. These reports give parents, families, and the community a clear view of how discipline is managed across all schools and of the number of serious offenses at each school.

Additionally, the Department uses the Hawaii Administrative Rule (HAR) Chapter 19 classifications, including offender, victim, participant, and witness. These regulatory definitions provide the distinction 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 refining its existing behavioral information system to capture individual interventions aligned with physical violence incidents.

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.

**HB-2621-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2026 7:53:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. At the last meeting the one and only testimony from the DOE did not address this:

The public should have access to this information and it should not be hidden. We aren't interested in names or other protected information.

Reports submitted pursuant to this section shall be made publicly available on the department's website; provided that such information shall not include personally identifiable student information and shall comply with all applicable state and federal student privacy laws