



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

**Date:** 02/06/2026

**Time:** 01:00 PM

**Location:** CR 229 & Videoconference

**Committee:** EDU

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB2181, RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Increases required public school instructional hours beginning in the 2027-2028 school year.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on Senate Bill (SB) 2181.

The Department appreciates the Legislature's commitment to enhancing student achievement by exploring an increase in instructional hours. While we share the goal of maximizing learning opportunities for Hawaii's students the Department respectfully offers the following comments and cautions regarding the implementation of SB 2181.

An increase to instructional hours may have implications for existing collective bargaining agreements, as there may be potential changes to the workday, which are mandatory subjects of collective bargaining under Chapter 89, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The bell schedule for each school is determined at the school level via a collaborative process led by the school administration, which involves all active bargaining unit members at the school. A compliant bell schedule must meet criteria set forth in Chapter 302A-251, HRS, and the Hawaii State Teachers Association Bargaining Unit 5 collective bargaining agreement. These authorities establish parameters for the teacher work day, instructional time, lunch periods, teacher preparation time, and other required categories, including meetings.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 2181.



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## TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAI'I SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**Item: SB 2181 – Relating to Education**

**Position: Oppose**

**Hearing: Friday, February 6, 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 (HSTA) must respectfully **oppose** S.B. 2181. While we support high-quality education for our keiki, this measure fails to address the underlying crisis of teacher retention and school stability.

Increasing instructional hours to 1,200 hours annually asks our educators to perform even more work while they are already severely overworked and underpaid. We cannot support a mandate that adds to the professional burden without first fixing systemic compensation issues.

As heard in recent education hearings, teachers are increasingly being asked to perform non-instructional duties in the classroom. Piling on additional hours will only exacerbate the burnout that is driving our current significant teacher shortage, which threatens the quality of education across the state.

The data is clear: according to the HDOE Teacher Compensation Report, the starkest result came in relation to cost of living, where nearly 94% of teachers reported dissatisfaction with their salary. Asking these same educators to do more for less is simply not sustainable and will drive more talent away from the profession.

We must first prioritize pay, compensation, and improved working conditions to stabilize our workforce. Until the state addresses the fact that our teachers are among the lowest-paid in the nation when adjusted for cost of living, we must oppose this increase.

For these reasons, HSTA respectfully requests that this committee hold S.B. 2181.

Mahalo.

**SB-2181**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 2:55:39 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/6/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Megan Blazak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

As a constituent of Senate District 1, I strongly support this measure.

**SB-2181**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 10:34:51 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/6/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Corinne Solomon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2181.

This is a bandaid solution to a complex problem that won't be solved by increasing the number of school days. Also please keep in mind that studies from the American Pediatricians organization show that starting school later is linked to better outcomes.

Before passing this bill I suggest trying a pilot program in a few schools to start at 9 am and see if the students have better outcomes. That would be more impactful than tacking on extra school days.

**SB-2181**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 12:03:09 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/6/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry Support

Including days because too much SOH holidays and breaks. Including Saturday classes.

GOOD LUCK WITH HSTA

2181 SB RELATING TO EDUCATION.