



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

**Date:** 04/16/2026  
**Time:** 02:05 PM  
**Location:** 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE  
**Committee:** EDN

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SCR196, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A PROPOSAL FOR A TIERED, COORDINATED, AND STANDARDIZED BELL SCHEDULE FRAMEWORK FOR DEPARTMENT SCHOOLS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requesting The Department Of Education To Develop A Proposal For A Tiered, Coordinated, And Standardized Bell Schedule Framework For Department Schools.

#### **Department's Position:**

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the intent of SCR 196, SD 1, which seeks to support predictability through a standardized bell schedule. However, the Department respectfully opposes this measure and offers the following testimony for your consideration.

#### **The Complexity of Bell Schedule Design**

Bell schedules are designed through a collaborative, site-based process that treats time as a critical resource to maximize student outcomes. Designing these schedules involves a delicate balance of academic goals, operational constraints, community impacts, and regulatory compliance.

#### **Statutory and Collective Bargaining Compliance**

A compliant bell schedule must adhere to rigorous statutory and collective bargaining criteria. These provisions establish strict parameters for the teacher workday, including:

- Mandatory instructional minutes;
- Duty-free lunch periods;
- Preparation time and professional collaboration; and
- Scheduled faculty and departmental meetings.

Under current collective bargaining agreements, schools must reach a consensus to adopt a schedule. Mandating a statewide framework may bypass this essential collaborative process and risk significant contractual conflicts.

#### **Alignment with Academic and Financial Planning**

Each school's bell schedule is a direct reflection of its **Academic Plan** and **Financial Plan**, which dictate resource allocation and instructional goals for the year. Schools must retain the

autonomy to design schedules that meet their unique circumstances, including:

- **Student Access:** Expanding opportunities for elective courses and specialized career pathways.
- **Facility Constraints:** Managing limited cafeteria capacity and staggered use of shared spaces.
- **Collaboration:** Creating dedicated time for teacher planning and data-driven instruction.
- **Community Impacts:** Mitigating local commuter traffic and coordinating with regional transportation needs.

#### **Existing Guardrails and Proactive Measures**

The Department believes that current regulations under the Hawai'i Revised Statutes and the Hawai'i State Teachers Association (HSTA) contract provide sufficient guardrails to ensure both academic performance and functional operations.

Furthermore, the Department already provides comprehensive tools to assist schools in maintaining compliance. We are also currently convening a stakeholder group to review model bell schedules required by collective bargaining agreements. This group is specifically tasked with considering the coordination of schedules by region, which addresses the intent of this resolution without the risks associated with a statewide mandate.

#### **Non-Instructional Waivers**

When appropriate, complexes do coordinate and align their non-instructional waiver days. Operational and resource restrictions sometimes prevent alignment, such as trainers for professional development may have limited availability.

#### **Conclusion**

The Department remains committed to improving operational efficiencies and supporting our students and families. However, we believe these improvements are best achieved through regional coordination rather than a statewide mandate that restricts school-level flexibility.

For the reasons stated above, the Department respectfully opposes this resolution. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**SCR-196-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 2:25:48 PM

Testimony for EDN on 4/16/2026 2:05:00 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 w/comment TO INCLUDE LONGER INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS.

196 SCR REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A PROPOSAL FOR A TIERED, COORDINATED, AND STANDARDIZED BELL SCHEDULE FRAMEWORK FOR DEPARTMENT SCHOOLS.