



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

Date: 04/06/2026
Time: 01:00 PM
Location: CR 229 & Videoconference
Committee: EDU

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

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

Purpose of Bill: Requesting The Department Of Education To Develop A Standardized Bell Schedule Framework For Department Schools.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education respectfully provides comments on SCR 196.

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, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and the Hawaii State Teachers Association Bargaining Unit 5 collective bargaining agreement. These establish parameters for the teacher work day, instructional time, lunch periods, teacher preparation time, and other required categories, including meetings.

Every year, each school's administration submits an academic plan and a fiscal plan which sets forth the academic goals and resource allocation for the school year. The bell schedule further provides flexibility for school administration to tailor their individual academic goals with the allocation of time as a resource to achieve those goals. Standardized schedules for every school across the department's 258 schools would create a one-size fits all framework that would hinder each school's unique academic, demographic, geographic, and operational nuances that provide school level administration and staff greater flexibility for increased student achievement within their distinctive communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SCR 196.