

Bruce Naguwa
Principal
Kapolei Middle School

General Board Meeting
August 18, 2015
130 p.m.

School Discipline Policy

Board Chair Mizumoto and Members of the Board:

Thank you very much for affording me the opportunity to provide input into the proposed changes to the Hawaii Board of Education Policy 101.7, School Climate and Discipline.

As principal of Kapolei Middle School, I take the safety and welfare of my students and staff members very seriously. When students enter my school, they should be free from harassment, bullying and other forms of student misconduct. I am an advocate for students, and believe that a positive school climate is essential for student success.

Proposed changes to BOE Policy 101.7 will create another layer of requirements in order to keep my campus safe and secure. The policy states that, "Schools should remove students from the classroom as a disciplinary consequence only as a last resort and only for appropriate serious infractions." The need to include such language misrepresents what we do at the school level on a daily basis. As a school administrator, we never remove students without proper cause. Based on a recent newspaper article, school level administrators are doing a fantastic job limiting the use of suspensions on our campuses. The article highlights the fact that nationwide, school systems suspend students at a rate of 11%, while in Hawaii, school administrators suspend at a rate of 5%.

Before adopting changes to BOE Policy 101.7, please seek input from the field. Not a small group of administrators, but a large sample size of "school level" administrators. I'm sure the vast majority of school level administrators will find the proposed changes cumbersome and unnecessary based on current Chapter 19 requirements.

I believe in positive student supports, however, please do not limit our options in maintaining a safe and secure learning environment for our students. Adding another layer of bureaucratic requirements will not enhance the quality of our schools. Our students and staff members deserve to attend a safe school, and it is my responsibility to enhance the learning environment for our students.

Thank you very much for your support and the opportunity to provide input.



THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

May 5, 2015

State of Hawaii
Board of Education
Student Achievement Commission

RE: Proposed Policy 101.7

To Whom It May Concern:

For more than thirty years, the Annie E. Casey Foundation has worked in jurisdictions throughout the United States to strengthen juvenile justice systems so that youth have better odds of making successful transitions to adulthood and communities are safer. Through that work, we have learned that keeping kids with their families and in school are among the most important influences we can rely upon to achieve those goals.

For the past two decades, juvenile courts and detention centers have been increasingly and inappropriately relied upon as responses to (often minor) misbehavior on school campuses. So-called “zero tolerance” policies have resulted in high rates of suspension and formal referrals to courts. These policies, however well-intentioned when first conceived, have led to serious unintended consequences. Suspension has proven to be a slippery slope to complete disconnection with education, leaving thousands of youth without the academic tools necessary to flourish in our society. Delinquency records have handicapped youth in their efforts to find employment. And the trauma of confinement and the stigma of incarceration have undermined the self-esteem of many of our already vulnerable children.

Our Foundation has worked with system officials in more than 300 jurisdictions, many of whom have had to wrestle with the question of how to best address misbehavior in schools. The lessons from those sites are clear: schools are better venues for altering behavior and teaching new lessons than criminal courts; “zero tolerance” policies are too inflexible to improve school climates; and, the best ways to enhance safety and the learning environment is through positive behavioral supports, conflict resolution skills and strengthened connections between staff, students and law enforcement officers deployed to solve problems rather than put youth in custody.

The proposed new policy would create opportunities to re-consider how schools respond to student misconduct while lessening the chances that hasty, one-size-fits-all rules result in unnecessary disruptions of education. All the research on delinquency indicates that positive school connections and academic achievement are among the strongest influences on positive adolescent development. Hence, any new policy that inhibits suspensions and promotes positive in-school citizenship should contribute to better youth outcomes and improved educational environments. We have seen these interconnections play out in numerous sites nationally and we hope that Hawaii will join the growing list of places that modify their approach to student misbehavior.

Sincerely,



Nathaniel R. Balis, Director
Juvenile Justice Strategy Group



THE W. HAYWOOD BURNS INSTITUTE

For Juvenile Justice Fairness and Equity

475 14th St. • Suite 800 • Oakland, CA 94612

Tel (415) 321-4100 • Fax (415) 321-4140 • www.burnsinstitute.org

May 4, 2015

State of Hawaii
Board of Education
Student Achievement Commission
RE: Board of Education Proposed Policy 101.7

To Whom It May Concern:

The W. Haywood Burns Institute (BI) works to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in youth serving systems throughout the United States. In that regard, we have worked in over 100 jurisdictions and experienced first-hand how important the relationship between school climate and discipline is to entry and penetration into the youth justice system.

Despite efforts in recent years to reform disciplinary policy and practice in U.S. public schools, the number of students issued out-of-school suspensions continues to be extremely high, resulting in thousands of students missing school every day (Losen, et al, 2015). Simultaneously, disparities in suspension rates continue to worsen, indicating that students in some groups are missing school more often and disproportionately. These disparities are also true of referrals to law enforcement and school-based arrests nationwide (Krezmien, Leone, Zablocki, & Wells, 2010; US Department of Education, 2014).

New knowledge on school discipline shows that even a single suspension or a single referral to the youth court system increases the odds of low achievement and school dropout (Kirk & Sampson, 2013). Effective school discipline is important in building school climates that are both safe and productive. This makes intervention to improve disciplinary conflicts and suspensions all the more important for school systems to address.

An article in the January 15th, 2015 issue of *USA Today* reported that studies have conflicted on the efficacy of school resource officers in crime reduction in schools, however, the research is clear that SRO's do not improve school climate unless they see their mission as larger than custody, control and surveillance.

The BI supports Board of Education Policy 101.7 provisions which seek to ensure that SRO's roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and that all opportunities for all alternatives to referrals to the youth justice system are explored prior to referral.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

James Bell


Executive Director, W. Haywood Burns Institute

August 17, 2015 • EMAILED TO: boe_hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us

Attention:
Mr. Bob Smith
Attorney at Law
Smith Law Offices
Kapaa, Hawaii 96746

Board of Education Meeting
8/18/2015
1:30 p.m.

Agenda Item VII B

I write to support policy 101.7 regarding school climate and discipline policy changes to our public and charter schools in Hawai'i. Too many times children are suspended from school for minor infractions that remove them from the only positive structure and social interaction in their day. Suspending an at risk child for over ten days just puts that child at more risk.

Please, let suspensions be the solution of last resort, not the first. Throwing a child out of school confirms to that child that he or she is not worth the school's time. Is that the message the Board of Education wishes to send to our children?

Mahalo and thank you for your time and consideration,

Regards,



Carol Bain
PO Box 662320
Lihue, HI 96766
Email: cdlbain@kauai.net



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
707 Richards Street, Suite 525
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

August 17, 2015

TO: The Honorable Lance Mizumoto
Chairperson
Board of Education, State of Hawaii

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director

Agenda item: New Board Policy 101.7 – School Climate and Discipline

Meeting: Tuesday, August 18, 2015, 1:30 p.m.
Queen Liliuokalani Building
1390 Miller Street, Room 404

PURPOSE: The purpose of New Board Policy 101.7 – School Climate and Discipline is for schools to strive to keep students in school and engaged in learning to the greatest extent possible, and to only remove students from the classroom as a disciplinary consequence of the last resort and only for appropriately serious infractions. Furthermore, the policy requires schools to provide clear definitions of the roles and responsibilities of school-based law enforcement officers should they opt to use such officers.

OFFICE'S POSITION: The Office of Youth Services (OYS) supports the intent of New Board Policy 101.7 – School Climate and Discipline.

As the State of Hawaii's juvenile justice agency, OYS knows firsthand education's role in delinquency prevention. Forty years of nationwide research has clearly shown that failure in school is a key criminogenic need or, in other words, a risk factor that is directly related to delinquent behavior. A common denominator for the overwhelming majority of the youth committed to the care and custody of the State of Hawaii at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF) is failure in school. It is not uncommon for a 16 or 17 year old youth to come to HYCF with only one or two high school credits on his/her record.

Furthermore, by delineating the role of school-based law enforcement officers, inappropriate student referrals to the justice system may be avoided. Nationwide, the “school to prison pipeline” is a concept that is based in factual data. Juvenile justice professionals across the country have been acutely aware for years of the impact school suspensions and the criminalization of student misbehavior have had on state juvenile justice systems and continue to advocate that community and school based interventions should be exhausted before any court involvement.

While the OYS recognizes that schools must balance the long-term best interests of the student against overall campus safety concerns, OYS supports any and all of the BOE’s efforts to keep youth in school and engaged in learning to the greatest extent possible in order for youth to have the greatest opportunities possible to achieve academic success.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

HALE 'ŌPIO KAUA'I, inc.
2959 Umi Street
Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii 96766

Phone: 808.245.2873

Fax: 808.245.6957

facsimile transmittal

To: Board of Education, State of Hawai'i **Fax:** 808.586-3433

From: Esther Solomon, Teen Court Manager **Date:** 8/17/2015

Re: School Climate & Discipline Policy **Pages:** 7 total
101.7

Meeting 8/18/2015, Time: 1:30 p.m.,
Agenda Item: VII. B.

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

Notes:

Please accept this petition in support of Policy 101.7: School Climate and Discipline. Many people on Kaua'i are concerned that suspending children from school rather than developing robust mediation programs in our schools that teach skills and address problems results in worsening outcomes. Please, do not tell our young citizens they are unworthy of an education.

Sincerely,

Esther Solomon

The information contained in this facsimile is intended only for the personal and confidential use of the designated recipient's names above. This information may be privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure. If the reader is not the intended recipient or an agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this document in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and destroy the original.

PETITION TO SUPPORT POLICY 101.7 SCHOOL CLIMATE AND DISCIPLINE

Schools shall identify school climate goals that complement the school's academic goals. School climate goals and action plans developed by each school community will identify practices that serve to create an environment where all members are respected, welcomed, supported and feel safe in school: socially, emotionally, intellectually and physically. A critical component of a strong and positive climate is a school-wide discipline policy that honors the civil rights of our students, sets high expectations for behavior and provides clear, developmentally appropriate, and proportional consequences for misbehavior.

In view of the essential link between instructional time and academic achievement, schools shall strive to keep students in school and engaged in learning to the greatest extent possible. Schools should remove students from the classroom as a disciplinary consequence only as a last resort and only for appropriately serious infractions. Students who are removed from class shall be provided with meaningful academic instruction and behavioral supports. The administrator with discretion and authority to effect an off-campus suspension shall in every case, prior to such suspension and in addition to other factors required to be considered by law, balance the long-term best interests of the student against overall campus safety concerns. Such determination shall be documented in writing.

Should schools opt to use school-based law enforcement officers, schools shall provide clear definitions of the officers' roles and responsibilities on campus and document those expectations in a written agreement designed to avoid inappropriate student referrals to the justice system, violation of civil rights laws, and information exchanges that may violate student privacy rights. The role of the officer shall be primarily focused on safety and reducing inappropriate student referrals to law enforcement. Such officers shall not be involved in routine disciplinary matters. The Department shall provide training to such officers necessary and relevant to the SRO's role on campus, including adolescent brain development and school-wide discipline policies. We support all statements and policy guidelines as listed above and encourage the Board of Education to support POLICY 101.7 SCHOOL CLIMATE AND DISCIPLINE.

Date	Signature	Print Name	Address	City	Zip	Phone and/or email address
7/17/15		Lahea Salazar	P.O. Box 832	Kidogo Hi		(808) 652-4928 / keuakea@hawaii.gov
7/17/15		Et Dri	4608 Poinelana St	Hahaione		635-5360
7/17/15		Nicole Lowan	5605 Hanua Rd	Kapaa	96746	808 313 0530
7/17/15		Treym Aless	1736 Kauhaha Place	Kapaa	96746	808 635 8680

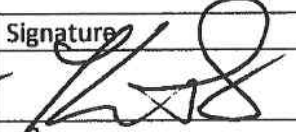


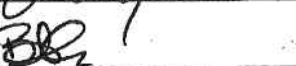
hawaii.gov
-gov

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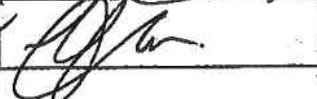
Date	Signature	Print Name	Address	City	Zip	Phone and/or email address
7/17/15		Kerith Edwards	2090 Hana Lima St #Y206 Lihue HI 96766			808-990-6063
7/17/15		Brook O'hearn	981 Main St Halapee, HI			808.353.1483
7/18/15		Keira Hoovy	6155 A HOUORO KAPAA, HI 96746			808-634-4636
7/18/15		Pamela Kiki	P.O. Box 2000 KAPA, HI 96746			808-640-7574

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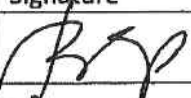

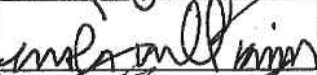
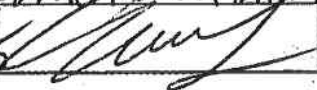
Date	Signature	Print Name	Address	City	Zip	Phone and/or email address
7/17/15		Logan Roche	P.O. Box 3802	Lihue, HI	96766	706-506-1860
7/19/15		Kira Seabury	P.O. Box 764	Wainane HI	96796	8087823704
2-18-15		Debra McFadden	P.O. Box 631	Kapa		949-212-3002
7-18-15		Maria Encinas	P.O. Box 1662299	Lihue,	96766	808634-7386

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Date	Signature	Print Name	Address	City	Zip	Phone and/or email address
7/20/15		Laverne Bishop	DoBR 42	Lawai	96765	808 332 9612
7/20/15		Lori B. Deyarmond	6162 Alapeki Rd	Kapaa	96746	808 346-0334
7/22/15		Enoh Williams	4856 Pepeeani Lp	Princeville	96722	808-652-1039
7/22/15		Emma LADENHECKER	381 Kahalelele Rd,	Kapaa	96746	(808) 264-8267

PETITION TO SUPPORT POLICY 101.7 SCHOOL CLIMATE AND DISCIPLINE

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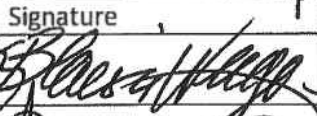

Date	Signature	Print Name	Address	City	Zip	Phone and/or email address
2/17/15	<i>Kathleen Ho</i>	Kathleen Ho	PO Box 171	Lanai	HI 96765	332-5695
2/17/15	<i>Rhonda Liu</i>	Rhonda Liu	5939 Ahakea St	Kapaa	HI 96746	651-9613
2/18/15	<i>Rebecca Eve Solomon</i>	Rebecca Eve Solomon	6514 Kalama Rd	Kapaa	96746	822-1603

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Date	Signature	Print Name	Address	City	Zip	Phone and/or email address
7/22/15		BLAINE WETZEL	PO BOX 70	Kapa	96742	337-2203 494-1079
7/22/15		Danielle Reed	P.O. Box 284	Kapa	96742	603-312-2806

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BOARD POLICY 101.7 TO THE HAWAII BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tai-An Miao
1508 Iao Lane
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

Hawai'i BOE General Business Meeting
Tuesday, August 18, 2015 at 1:30pm
Queen Lili'uokalani Building
1390 Miller Street, Room 404
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Agenda item VII.B., Board Action on Student Achievement Committee recommendation concerning new Board Policy 101.7, School Climate and Discipline

Aloha Board of Education,

I am submitting testimony in support of the Student Achievement Committee recommendations concerning new Board Policy 101.7, School Climate and Discipline. I am grateful to the stakeholder group that has reviewed the policy and formed recommendations and so proud of our Board for its consideration of this policy, which aligns with the national focus on the promotion of positive school climate as a protective factor for student success. I am also heartened by the policy's focus on requiring greater accountability from school administrators for the use of disciplinary action.

I am directly connected to this issue in multiple ways. I am a mother of two multi-racial/multi-ethnic children, an active community member in the Farrington Complex, and a juvenile justice researcher and advocate for reform. In my voluntary role as a member of the Governor-appointed Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council, I serve as Committee Chair for Cultural and Ethnic Diversity and I have just returned from representing Hawaii in the annual conference of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice in Washington, D.C. Multiple workshops in this national gathering were devoted to the development of a continuum of educational supports for youth who show greater risk of behavioral problems. I have personally spoken with school and justice agency partners working to "dismantle the school-to-prison-pipeline" from jurisdictions ranging from Sedgwick County, Kansas to Santa Cruz County, California and I look forward to seeing this work advanced and strengthened in Hawai'i. From a professional standpoint, I have recently reviewed data that reflect a disproportionate number of arrests corresponding to out-of-school suspensions for Chapter 19 offenses in the Wai'anae-Nanakuli Complex Area. The need to move swiftly to understand and address any policies or practices that may contribute to disparate outcomes based on race, ethnicity, economic opportunity, or geography is tantamount to the integrity and effectiveness of our education system. The federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has recently adopted a developmental approach to juvenile justice and encourages educational partners to also observe these hallmarks, which include "accountability without criminalization, alternatives to justice system involvement, a genuine commitment to fairness, and sensitivity to disparate treatment."¹ Mahalo for the Board's leadership in bringing this issue to the forefront and addressing it through pro-active policy that provides greater guidance to schools on how to enhance school climate and implement school discipline in a manner that is consistent, just and transparent.

I am fully sympathetic of the challenges that confront our school administrators and teachers as they strive to cultivate a climate of supportive learning while responding to disciplinary needs on campus. I am grateful for

¹ NAP – National Academies Press, *Reforming Juvenile Justice: A Developmental Approach*, 2013.

http://www.nap.edu/download.php?record_id=14685#

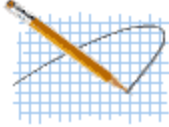
NAP – National Academies Press, *Implementing Juvenile Justice Reform: The Federal Role*, 2014.

<http://www.nap.edu/catalog/18753/implementing-juvenile-justice-reform-the-federal-role>

the dedication and passion of our school administration and staff as they grapple with these issues in complex areas that face significant historical, economic, and social disadvantages. I firmly believe the implementation of a school climate and discipline policy will become a tool to help the schools of Hawai'i realize their goals for greater accountability and transparency in the equitable treatment of all of our students regardless of geography, gender, economic advantage, or ethnic background. The school climate and discipline policy is a valuable tool in the toolbox of our educators in order to help support all of our students in achieving a bright future. .

Please accept my strongest support for the recommendations of the Student Achievement Committee regarding new BOE policy 101.7, School Climate and Discipline. Mahalo for your consideration of this timely and significant policy decision

Aloha,
Tai-An Miao



Jane Sezak <jsezak@hotmail.com>

08/17/2015 11:59 AM

To "boe_hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us"

<boe_hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us>

cc

Subject Agenda Item VII B 8/18/2015 1:30 PM

Jane Sezak
6377F Kalama Rd.
Kapaa, Hi. 96746

Board of Education Meeting
8/18/2015
1:30 p.m.
Agenda Item VII B

I fully support policy 101.7 school climate and discipline policy changes to public and charter schools in Hawai'i.

Suspension from school is counterproductive and actually destructive. Students get overwhelmingly behind and fall into a downward spiral, making it impossible to catch up and this furthers their lack of self-esteem and leads to even more acting out and disciplinary problems. A change in policy is long overdue. Please support these policy changes...

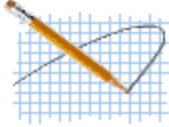
Mahalo

Jane Sezak

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deborah duda <deborahduda@yahoo.com>

08/17/2015 12:49 PM

To "boe_hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us"

<boe_hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us>

cc

Subject Testimony for 8-8-15 Board of Education meeting - Changes to discipline policy at schools, Agenda Item VIIB

1 attachment



BOE 101.7.docx

Board of Education Meeting 8/18/2015, 1:30 PM

Testimony for changes to school climate and discipline policy at our public and charter schools. A copy of Policy 101.7 is attached.

I write to support policy 101.7 regarding school climate and discipline policy changes to our public and charter schools in Hawai'i. Too many times children are suspended from school for minor infractions that remove them from the only positive structure and social interaction in their day.

Suspending an at risk child for over ten days just puts that child at more risk. Please, let suspensions be the solution of last resort, not the first. Throwing a child out of school confirms to that child that he or she is not worth the school's time. Is that the message the Board of Education wishes to send to our children?

Why is Kauai principal with very large numbers of complaints from teacher and parents still teaching at a Kauai middle school. Bearocracy over student welfare?????????

Sincerely,

Deborah Duda

DOE teacher for 5 years. Retired because the principal took the joy out of teaching and learning.

ShareTheCare Coordinator, Kaua'i

PO Box 1218

Kalaheo, Kauai

HI 96741

808-332-7668

808-651-5395

<http://deborahduda.net>

Author: *Lighten Up, Seven Ways to Kick the Suffering Habit* and *Coming Home, a Practical and Compassionate Guide to Caring for a Dying Loved One*

"Be kind whenever possible.
It is always possible."

841 Bishop St., Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

Hawaii Board of Education
General Business Meeting
Lance Mizumoto, Chair
Brian De Lima, Vice Chair

August 18, 2015

Dear Chair Mizumoto, Vice Chair De Lima and Members:

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

This testimony is submitted in support for proposed policy 101.7 on School Climate and Discipline. The proposed policy gives guidance to schools to help promote a positive versus punitive environment. HE'E strongly supports the concept of keeping students in school as opposed to suspensions. In particular, we like the language "Schools should remove students from the classroom as a disciplinary consequence only as a last resort and only for appropriately serious infractions. Students who are removed from class shall be provided with meaningful academic instruction and behavioral supports." The Coalition has also been concerned about the number of suspensions being skewed towards the Pacific Islander population, and that once a student is suspended they are greater risk of falling behind, dropping out and potentially entering the criminal justice system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

HE'E Member List

Academy 21

After-School All-Stars Hawaii

Alliance for Place Based Learning

*Castle Complex Community Council

*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS

Coalition for Children with Special Needs

*Faith Action for Community Equity

Fresh Leadership LLC

Girl Scouts Hawaii

*Good Beginnings Alliance

Harold K.L. Castle Foundation

*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice

Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars

*Hawai'i Charter School Network

*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition

*Hawaii State PTSA

Hawai'i State Student Council

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

Hawai'i P-20

Hawai'i 3Rs

Head Start Collaboration Office

It's All About Kids

*INPEACE

Joint Venture Education Forum

Junior Achievement of Hawaii

*Kaho'omiki

Kamehameha Schools

Kanu Hawai'i

*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council

Keiki to Career Kaua'i

Kupu A'e

*Leaders for the Next Generation

Learning First

McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds

Our Public School

*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning

*Parents and Children Together

*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i

Punahou School PUEO Program

Teach for America

The Learning Coalition

US PACOM

University of Hawai'i College of Education

YMCA of Honolulu

Voting Members () Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition. List as of January 2015*



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
In Support of Agenda Item VII.B (New Board Policy 101.7, School Climate and Discipline)
Board of Education General Business Meeting
Scheduled for Hearing Tuesday, August 18, 2015, 1:30 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support** of Agenda Item VI.J, Board Action on Student Achievement Committee recommendations concerning new Board Policy 101.7, School Climate and Discipline. Hawai'i Appleseed firmly believes that schools should prioritize the creation of positive school environments where all students feel safe, welcome, and ready to learn, and that suspension should only be used as a last resort.

Adopting this policy would be an important statement from the Board of Education that all students should be in school and have access to education. The proposed policy is in line with a growing movement around the country to limit the use of suspensions, including the elimination of suspensions for "order" offenses such as disruptive behavior. This policy makes it clear that educators should seriously consider the appropriateness of school exclusion, and that it only be used for serious infractions.

By including this policy, the BOE will encourage the Department of Education and schools to prioritize constructive solutions that will help keep kids in school. The consequences of school exclusion are supported by extensive research. Out of school suspensions undermine the efforts made by the DOE and individual schools to reduce absenteeism and increase graduation rates. Instead, emphasis on a positive school climate is critical. Research has shown that school discipline practices impact the overall school environment—students attending schools with lower use of suspensions perform better on academic tests and have better opinions of their principals. Conversely, students who are suspended are also more likely to drop out of school and face an increased likelihood of involvement in the criminal justice system. The proposed policy also helps to address this involvement in the juvenile justice system by setting guidelines regarding the use of school resource officers.

School exclusion can also worsen the achievement gaps between economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and ethnic groups. National research indicates that these groups of students face a significantly higher risk of suspension. While our ethnic composition is different, Hawai'i does not appear to be immune to this trend; information presented to the Board by the Department of Education indicates similar patterns here for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students. Addressing disproportionate rates of school discipline is essential to ensure equal access to education.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on this item to help ensure all students have genuine access to educational opportunity. We strongly urge the Board to adopt the proposed policy regarding school climate and discipline.

Keith Hayashi
Principal
Waipahu High School

General Business Meeting
August 18, 2015, 1:30 PM

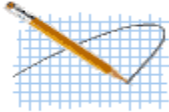
Item 7B: Board Action on Student Achievement Committee recommendations concerning new Board Policy 101.7, School Climate and Discipline

Aloha Chairperson Mizumoto and Members of the Board:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony. At the Board of Education's General Business Meeting on June 16, 2015, I provided testimony on the recommendation concerning new Board Policy 101.7, School Climate and Discipline. I asked that the Board defer action on the proposed policy in order to gather feedback from school principals.

I am here today in support of the Department of Education's request that the Board refer this policy back to the Student Achievement Committee for an in-depth briefing on the principals' feedback.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.



Lisa Ellen Smith <debrannan@gmail.com>

08/18/2015 06:38 AM

To boe_hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us
cc
Subject BOE Policy 101.7

TO: BOE Student Achievement Committee
FROM: Lisa Ellen Smith
DATE: August 18, 2015
SUBJECT: Committee Action on Committee recommendation concerning New Board Policy 101.7,
School Climate and Discipline

I am writing today to support the new board policy 101.7, schools primary purpose is to educate, to create an environment that supports the students in obtaining essential skills in a safe and positive place. Suspension of students for minor offense such as truancy does not lend itself to educating students.

Please support limiting suspensions and help our island's children in reaching their goals.

--

Lisa Ellen Smith

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August 18, 2015

Board of Education Office (via boe_hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us)
P.O. Box 2360
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Board of Education Meeting
8/18/2015, 1:30pm
Agenda Item VII B

Dear Sir/Madam:

I give my full support Policy 101.7 regarding school climate and discipline policy changes to our public and charter schools in Hawai'i. I specifically offer this support and recommendation regarding the use of school-based law enforcement officers. In addition to the guidelines for officers, I recommend that the Board provide a set of guidelines on how the students should conduct themselves around the officers and the proper conduct when a student is stopped by a school-based officer. I believe the guidelines would be very helpful in the understanding of what behavior is expected from the students and officers.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Emma Lazo Ladendecker, JD
Hale'opio Kauai, Inc.
Teen Court Volunteer

First Court, Inc.
Private Trial Court Director – West Coast

August 18, 2015

Board of Education Office (via boe_hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us)
P.O. Box 2360
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Board of Education Meeting
8/18/2015, 1:30pm
Agenda Item VII B

Dear Sir/Madam:

I give my full support Policy 101.7 regarding school climate and discipline policy changes to our public and charter schools in Hawai'i. This policy offers to cure the unintended and dysfunctional result of a current practice.

Currently, Hawaii schools use suspensions for minor infractions. As a result, the kids are removed from one of the positive structures and social interactions in their day. Suspending an at-risk child for over ten days may act to place that child more at risk. School suspension could make a child feel isolated. It also can make the child feel as though he or she is unworthy of the school's time. I know that is not the intent of the Board. Suspensions should be the solution of last resort, not the first.

I hope you also will support Policy 101.7 – it's the right thing to do for our kids.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Emma Lazo Ladendecker, JD
Hale'opio Kauai, Inc.
Teen Court Volunteer

First Court, Inc.
Private Trial Court Director – West Coast