

BILL052(22)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 441

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Oct 5, 2022 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 7

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Mahealani Sims-Tulba	Email: mahealanisimstulba@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 06:30 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am in support of Bill 52 for many reasons. I have firsthand experienced bullying as a child, and I know the effects it can have in the present and the future for children. I am the founder and CEO of a non-profit anti-bullying foundation, B.R.A.V.E. The name "B.R.A.V.E" is an acronym that stands for "Be Respectful and Value Everyone." Having been a victim of bullying myself, I have been working hard in my community to bring awareness to the bullying epidemic while sharing the importance of acceptance, mental health, diversity, and youth empowerment.</p> <p>B.R.A.V.E. works closely with schools, teachers, and students, and our local communities to encourage the prevention of all forms of bullying. With several different subjects like bullying awareness, achievable goal setting, correct decision making, and drug and alcohol abuse awareness, B.R.A.V.E. connects to students of all grade levels, parents, teachers, and families. We also advocate for mental health awareness and suicide prevention, encouraging youth with healthy coping mechanisms for mental health issues including anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts.</p>		
Name: Richard Berengue	Email: dinoberengue@yahoo.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 09:55 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I support this bill. I have been bullied when I was in school. I stopped being bullied after I got in shape and took self-defense classes. I stood up to the bullies and helped my fellow classmates that were getting bullied. Not many kids can overcome bullying as I did. I wish there were programs and a safe place while going through that experience. That would have helped me out a lot. I am 31 years old and being bullied still affects me today.</p>		
Name: Sarah Beppu	Email: sarah.beppu@gmail.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 5, 2022 @ 07:03 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I wholeheartedly support Bill 52 as it relates to the protection of our keiki in the form of bullying prevention. If we don't do something now to curtail bullying, the future ramifications on society will be much more costly.</p> <p>For the person being bullied it can lead to negative emotional and psychological effects, decreased academic achievement, health issues and even suicide. Even one preventable death is too many. The cost associated with treating the adverse outcomes of something preventable is something our already struggling healthcare and mental health system is trying to work with as well.</p> <p>As a society we must help be a voice for this vulnerable population. I know, because I grew up as individual who was bullied and who didn't feel I had a voice. I am the parent of a child who has been bullied and have witnessed firsthand how broken this system is. I have cried tears watching an 8 year old state he didn't want to live because he didn't feel this torment by bullies at school would end. I have cried alongside parents who have lost children who took their own lives because they didn't see a way out.</p> <p>WE have a chance to fix this and change the course of so many lives and voices that have gone unheard for too long. I ask you today to be the change makers and support Bill 52.</p>		
Name: Davie-ann Momilani Thomas	Email: momilani_thomas@yahoo.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 5, 2022 @ 07:43 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha and Good morning,</p>		

I was born and raised on this island. I was a victim to bullying in our schools (Catholic school, Kamehameha Exploration summer camp and our public schools). In the 1980s till early 1990s I was kind , respectful and caring. I was raised with love and to trust. I had both physical harm and verbal threats done to me at the above schools in 1980s and early 90s. That low self esteem and fear of socializing followed me (just brief) into adulthood. In the early 1990s, Counseling did not help. I was diagnosed with depression as a teen in early 90s. As my self image and esteem was very hurt and low. That carried on brief in young adulthood in 1990s. The love and support of ohana helped me bounce back.

When I became a mother later on life, I daily reminded my 2 sons how to treat other kids or teens. To be brave to report any bullying behavior. Our youngest teen son whom attends a local public high school was bullied last school year. I'm thankful of the school admins fast handling to create with our teen son, a safety & security plan for our son. All schools should have this. Including security.

You see when we lived 7 years on Japan military bases 2005 to 2012 , their Dept of defense schools were zero tolerance bullying on campus. The faculty at recess or cafeteria monitors were trained how to handle bullying . The bully was handled ASAP with parents involved . The victim with parents were handled properly as well. The same happened to both our sons when we were stationed at San Diego at their public schools as well = zero bullying tolerance. However, O'ahu, has the worse bullying ever. I sure do blame it on adults at home not mentoring the kids since an early age or into teen (as my parents have and as I have to my sons daily how to be respectful and

how to be good always). All schools (private, Catholic and public) elementary to high school needs to wake up and be aware of any sign of racism, racial profiling, hurtful words, threats, low self esteem damage. Our Hawaii needs to hire persons watching off campus and on campus on city and state lands to ensure no threats and mobbing or fights happen. Time to change Hawaii! This been going on for decades!! Mahalo Augie T and to your daughter.

Name: Pamela Silva	Email: silvahoku@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 5, 2022 @ 08:31 AM

Testimony:

I support Bill 52, as bullying has such a negative impact on people and society. I've experienced bullying as a child, being teased and called names because I wore glasses. I've witnessed others being bullied and seeing the emotional, psychological and/or physical pain they experienced has inspired me become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and to provide therapy for those dealing with the negative impact of bullying, as well as other mental health issues. My children have experienced bullying and I believe it is necessary and critical for legislation to be implemented to protect all keiki! My family have coped with our hurt by helping others, as we participate in community service events with B.R.A.V.E. Thank you for supporting Bill 52 and protecting the children and youth of Hawaii!

Name: Aolani Silva	Email: aolanihi@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 5, 2022 @ 08:38 AM

Testimony:

I am in support of Bill 52. Growing up was challenging - as a child, I've experienced numerous incidents of being bullied by children and adults. Most of it was in the form of hurtful gossip and false accusations. One of the most traumatic experiences happened in middle school when someone spread a false rumor about me and then had an "anonymous" call made to crime stoppers about me. Although this was especially painful, it has taught me that some people will never care or want to understand me and their jealousy can lead to frivolous attacks, in an attempt to smear my name and reputation. Instead, it has motivated me to write my original song, "Tides" and continue to share more of my music! I've also pursued my goals to make a positive impact in my community by volunteering with B.R.A.V.E. and being honored to win the crown for Miss Teen American Scholar! I hope future bullying can be prevented and those targeted can get support and help! Mahalo Nui Loa for protecting Hawaii's keiki and our state's future through Bill 52!

Name: Keikilani Ho	Email: keikilaniho@aol.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 5, 2022 @ 09:37 AM

Testimony:

My name is Keikilani Ho, and I was a victim of bullying from age 5 all the way until high school. My children had suffered physical bullying and nothing was ever done. My niece was just recently struck in her face from another teenager, and there was no resolution, and the teen that attacked my niece was protected. There needs to be strict laws in place that protect our children from bullying. Bullying also leads to other serious issues such as suicide. Every two days, one person dies of suicide here in Hawaii. Please protect our children. I support councilman, Augie Tulba's effort to prevent bullying of youth on city property.