



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

July 6, 2021

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President and Members of the Senate
Thirty First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

I am transmitting herewith SB811 HD1 CD1, without my approval and with the statement of objections relating to the measure.

SB811 HD1 CD1

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION.

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 6, 2021

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO SENATE BILL NO. 811

Honorable Members
Thirty-First Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 811, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to the Department of Education."

The purpose of this bill is to require the Department of Education (DOE) to publish a weekly report on the DOE's website identifying schools that have reported positive COVID-19 cases.

This bill is objectionable because the DOE and the Department of Health have already established protocols to report cases, notify contacts, and prevent transmission in schools. This bill may also increase the potential for individuals to be identified, harassed, or discriminated against if weekly reporting is required. As written, this bill possesses a high potential for privacy violations, particularly in smaller communities. An increase in bullying, harassment or social isolation can have negative impacts on a student's educational outcomes. Instances of bullying and harassment are likely under reported, as students may be hesitant to make official complaints to school administrators. This bill could significantly increase the potential for harassment at a time when students should be allowed to focus on getting back to in person learning and their own academic achievement. Additionally, reporting of positive cases may lead to disruption and anxiety among members of the school community, hindering the ability of school administrators to conduct normal school business.

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For the foregoing reasons, I am returning Senate Bill No. 811 without my approval.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Y. Ige", with a stylized flourish at the end.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor of Hawai'i