



HASP Capitol Hill Day November 17th 2011

Capitol Hill Day involves travelling to the state capitol and meeting with legislators and other key governmental officials who are involved with education policy-making. If the state capitol is off island, you may want to consider visiting key members in their local offices.

All contact information can be found at;

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/site1/info/vstreet/voterinformation.asp>

Benefits of a HASP Capitol Hill Day: Increase visibility of the profession and the association in Hawaii, promote greater understanding of school-based psychological services, and improve policy outcomes for students, just to name a few.

No specific skills or training is required in order to participate in such an activity, however you may want to engage in some preparatory discussions to focus what you plan to say. See related materials on communicating with congress and being an effective advocate attached.

If you are willing to take the challenge of advocating for our school psychology and the mental health of Hawaii's children:

Join other HASP members who will be participating On November 17th 2011

1. To set up appointments, an introductory letter or e-mail can be sent to the legislators' office (numbers/addresses available at the state website.)
<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/site1/info/vstreet/voterinformation.asp> Next a follow-up telephone call should be made to set/confirm the specific date/time. In the letter, briefly discuss who you represent (school psychologists), what you are concerned about (e.g., what is a school psychologist, how do we help children schools and families, how mental health effects student outcomes, licensure of school psychologists) - no more than three issues, and when you are available to meet.
2. Prepare brief written statements about the issues of concern to leave with the legislators at the meetings. You may also use the materials attached to this email. Positions should reflect concern for the needs of children and schools rather than focusing on "guild" issues.
3. After the meetings, follow-up with a thank-you note that reiterates your position on the issues. Again, you may use the **NASP Advocacy Action Center** "Write To Your State Legislators!" option.
4. Remember, the legislators will view you as the "expert" on the education and school mental health issues that you will be discussing with them. They do not expect you to be the expert in the legislative process.

**HASP Social November 17, 2011 5:00pm @ Murphy's
(2 Merchant Street)**

After our day at the state capitol, HASP will be hosting a gathering to celebrate *School Psychology Awareness Week*. Please join us to share how your meetings went, how you promoted *School Psychology Awareness Week* and what we can do to improve as an organization.