

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD**  
650 IWILEI ROAD, SUITE 268  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

January 28, 2019

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION**

**PERSON TESTIFYING:** Lynn Hammonds, for the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019

**TIME:** 2:00 pm

**LOCATION:** State Capitol Conference Room 309

**TITLE OF BILL:** HB 615 RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

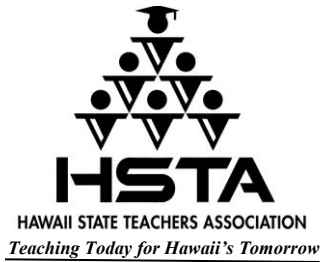
**PURPOSE OF BILL:**

Amends the Board of Education membership by inviting the exclusive representative for bargaining unit (5) (teachers and other personnel of the Department of Education) to appoint a nonvoting public school teacher representative to the Board.

Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Perruso and Hashem, and Members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) supports HB 615, to amend the Board of Education membership by adding a nonvoting public school teacher, appointed by bargaining unit 5. The HTSB would also ask the Committee to consider allowing the teacher member to become a full voting member in the future, if allowable by law.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER AND HIGHER EDUCATION

RE: HB 615 - RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports HB 615**, relating to the Board of Education.

Teacher voice matters. Too often, educational governance decisions are made without the input of the Hawai'i's hardworking teachers, who are responsible for crafting our children's future. Yet, teachers are expected to carry out these decisions, each day, without fail and without being paid the professional salaries earned by their mainland peers.

Already, the Board of Education has nonvoting members representing the military community and the student community. Both members—currently Col. Peter Santa Ana from as the board's military liaison as well as David Texeria, a senior from Kauai High School, as the board's student representative—provide valuable insight into the experience of their constituencies with the public school system. Teachers, too, should be heard on matters ranging from curriculum development to testing to school funding. Policymakers often talk about improving learning conditions at the “classroom level.” No one is better equipped to discuss those conditions than the teachers who are tasked with managing the classroom experience.

To empower teacher voice in educational leadership, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



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## COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION

Tuesday, January, 29, 2019, 2:00 pm, Conference Room 300  
HB 615, RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

### TESTIMONY

Janet Mason, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Hashem, Vice-Chair Perruso and Committee Members:

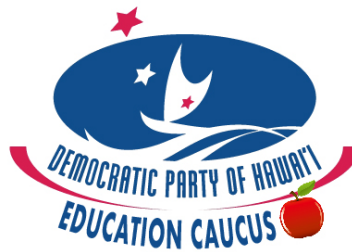
**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly opposes HB 615 that would amend the Board of Education membership by inviting the exclusive representative for bargaining unit 5 (teachers and other personnel of the Department of Education) to appoint a nonvoting public-school teacher representative to the Board.**

This measure would create an inherent conflict of interest between the Board of Education and the (HSTA), since the Board oversees labor negotiations with bargaining unit 5. Unfortunately, this conflict would exist even if the bargaining unit member were a nonvoting (but perhaps influential) member.

Another potential conflict concerns setting teacher standards. The Hawaii Teachers Standards Board (HTSB) was formed through the enactment of HRS 302A-801 in 2001 to provide impartial advice to the Department of Education and the Board of Education for decision-making on the critically important process of creating high standards to produce top-drawer public-school teachers within the Department of Education. A bargaining unit appointee to the Board of Education should not take part in such standard-setting.

Further, we believe it would take an amendment to Article X, Section 2 of our Constitution to make the change proposed in this measure. Why would voters endorse having the HSTA appoint someone to the Board? The voters of Hawaii passed a Constitutional amendment in 2010, allowing the Governor to appoint members of the Board of Education with the advice and consent of the senate.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



## HOUSE BILL 615, RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

JANUARY 29, 2019 · HOUSE EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. JUSTIN WOODSON

**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports HB 615, which amends the Board of Education membership by inviting the exclusive representative for bargaining unit (5) (teachers and other personnel of the Department of Education) to appoint a nonvoting public school teacher representative to the Board.

Empowered teachers are excellent educators. Yet, too often, teachers are omitted from educational policymaking. When teachers' voices are silenced, the views of the hardworking educators charged with shaping our children's minds and leading Hawai'i's classrooms are absent from discussions about how policy decisions impact classroom learning.

Already, the BOE hosts a military liaison and a student representative, both of whom are nonvoting members who wield considerable influence in board debates. They are critical thinkers, quick to question departmental initiatives that undermine student achievement and steadfast in their support of better schools. Likewise, teachers should have the opportunity to have a representative articulate their views on, for example, student assessment or school funding, since they are ultimately responsible for directly implementing the board's decisions and know best what's needed to strengthen their classroom experiences and inspire their children to succeed.

**HB-615**

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 5:14:44 AM

Testimony for LHE on 1/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Debbie Anderson	member of the DPH Education Caucus	Support	No

## Comments:

The currently appointed Board of Education includes a nonvoting representative of the military and students, but no voice yet representing the 13,700 teachers of Hawaii. The system and its communities would benefit from the addition of the voice of a nonvoting public school educator to contribute nuances from the perspective of a classroom teacher.

**HB-615**

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 5:24:18 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Golojuch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support amending the Board of Education membership by inviting the exclusive representative for bargaining unit (5) (teachers and other personnel of the Department of Education) to appoint a nonvoting public school teacher representative to the Board.

Mike Golojuch, Sr.

Member of Education Caucus, Democratic Party of Hawaii

**HB-615**

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 2:00:26 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-615**

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 1:50:33 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shane Albritton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**LATE**

**HB-615**

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 9:15:01 PM  
Testimony for LHE on 1/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments: