

LATE TESTIMONY

Date of Hearing: April 24, 2009

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.C.R. No. 149, S.D. 1 (SSCR 1103), Modify Public High School Graduation Requirements by Requiring Fifty Hours of Community Service

Purpose: Requests the Board of Education to require fifty hours of community service from all students as part of the Department of Education's civic responsibility requirement.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) does not support S.C.R. No. 149, S.D. 1 (SSCR 1103). This bill is not necessary since the Department is already working on a plan to have students do 50 hours of volunteer community service prior to graduation. The tentative plan includes: 1) Designing and disseminating a presentation to principals and teachers that emphasizes the need to foster service as having an intrinsic value in students; 2) Explore opportunities for students to earn volunteer service hours through the implementation of the Personal Transition Plan; 3) Devising a method to document each student's volunteer service hours per year, possibly using a form similar to the one used for community service ACCN XLH2001; 4) Recognizing students publicly who provided over 100 hours of cumulative volunteer service with a

Superintendent's Service Certificate or a Governor's Service Certificate for those students who provide over 200 hours of volunteer service; and/or 5) Recording in their report cards the number of service hours provided.