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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION**

**RE: HB 2177 -- PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO REPEAL ARTICLE X,
SECTIONS 2 AND 3, AND TO AMEND ARTICLE XVI, SECTION 4, OF
THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION.**

February 1, 2010

**WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association opposes this bill for a constitutional amendment to abolish the Board of Education.

From the earliest days of our republic, American leaders recognized the central role public education plays in educating the whole people and creating a shared American culture and cohesive society. School boards are uniquely American institutions that have made public schools responsible to the needs of the communities. It represents a continuing commitment to local citizen control and decision making in education.

The Hawaii State Board of Education has the following roles: (1) to set education policies for the public school system, adopt student performance standards and the means to assess them, and monitor school success in order to enable all public school students to acquire the knowledge, skills, respect for learning and attributes necessary for life-long learning and productive and responsible citizenship, and (2) to set policies and standards for the public library system and monitor progress toward their attainment in order to enable the public libraries to provide all people with the products and services necessary for literacy and life-long learning.

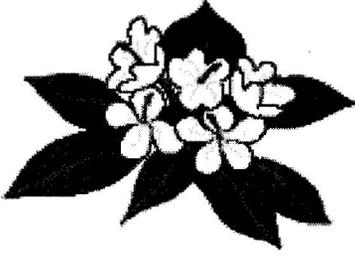
Who will fulfill these roles if there is no BOE? Do we want to put the policy making responsibilities in the hands of one person—the superintendent or the governor? Perhaps the legislature will replace the board and put into law every education decision regarding policies, rules, guidelines, procedures. What about the periods where the legislature is not in session. Can education wait until the legislature convenes?

If the responsibility is placed in the superintendent's office, where is the check and balance?

If there is no need for a state board, how about the school boards—the school community council and the charter school boards.

The arguments of having a school board outweigh those of not having a school board. We therefore, urge this committee to preserve the voice of the community in education matters by not passing this bill out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council
919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101
Honolulu, HI 96814
Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129
email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov

February 1, 2010

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Chair*
Mr. Steve Laracuente, *Vice
Chair*

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta
Ms. Sue Brown
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman
Ms. Annette Cooper
Ms. Phyllis DeKok
Ms. Mary Ellis
Ms. Debra Farmer
Ms. Gabriele Finn
Ms. Martha Guinan
Mr. Henry Hashimoto
Mr. John Hinkle
Dr. Martin Hirsch
Ms. Tami Ho
Ms. Barbara Ioli
Ms. Shanelle Lum
Ms. Rachel Matsunobu
Ms. Kristy Nishimura
Ms. Connie Perry
Ms. Barbara Pretty
Ms. Kau'i Rezendes
Dr. Patricia Sheehey
Mr. August Suehiro
Ms. Judy Tonda
Ms. Cari White
Ms. Jasmine Williams
Mr. Duane Yee
Mr. Shawn Yoshimoto

Jan Tateishi, Staff
Susan Rocco, Staff

Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair
House Committee on Education
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2177 – PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO REPEAL
ARTICLE X, SECTIONS 2 AND 3, AND TO AMEND ARTICLE
XVI, SECTION 4, OF THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION

Dear Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State
Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
(IDEA), **opposes** HB 2177 which proposes to abolish the elected Board
of Education.

SEAC believes that having a Board of Education whose members are
elected in a nonpartisan manner by qualified voters provides a needed
check and balance to unilateral decisions by the Governor regarding
public education.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this issue.
Should you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them.

Sincerely,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair

berg1-Matthew

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2010 10:37 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: richalbano@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2177 on 2/1/2010 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 2/1/2010 2:00:00 PM HB2177

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Richard Albano
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: richalbano@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2010

Comments:

The Board of Education(BOE) seems to be a passive body of elected officials that's one of many appendages of the Department of Education(DOE). The lackluster, uninspiring, unprogressive, and unproductive DOE is a farce and those responsible, mainly the citizens of Hawaii through it's representation in the legislature, need to take steps to redirect the DOE from it's tenuoss course. Through HB2177 & HB2178, the BOE would be abolished thus streamlining the chain of command in DOE decision making. in the hope of not diluting our message of excellence in the classroom, HB2177 & HB2178 will place a single figure to whom we, the people, can focus our concerns and expectations to. Expediency is necessary and I encourage the passing of HB2177 & HB2178 to begin the transformation of the DOE to a system that Hawaii can be proud of. Thank you for your consideration.

berg1-Matthew

From: Alison [alisonhashimoto@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 4:05 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: Rep. Lynn Finnegan; Carrie Kealoha
Subject: Re: HB2177 & HB2178

Alison Inamine
Parent of a kindergarten student
Attn: House Education Committee
Monday, February 1, 2010, 2:00pm
HB 2177 & HB2178

The Board of Education, the Legislature, and the Governor have FAILED to secure the future of children here in Hawaii by allowing the quality of their education to be compromised by Furlough Fridays. The public education system needs to be accountable for teaching children. Education must be a priority, regardless of any financial crisis. WASTE AND FOOLISHNESS NEEDS TO END NOW!

During the course of this craziness called Furlough Fridays there has been too much finger pointing and blaming with no resolution for helping our students get back to the classroom. There are many things that need to be adjusted to create a public education system that prioritizes students' needs first. Parents of Hawaii's kids care about having our expectations met and our concerns addressed. It seems that the only way to do this is to ensure that we know who is responsible for what happens in the public education system.

I ask that HB2177 and HB2178 be passed to mark a new beginning of a school system where citizens are confident that their voices will be heard. Let the transformation begin!

To: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, Rep. Takumi, Chair & Rep. Berg,
Vice Chair

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE,
REGULAR SESSION OF 2010

Testimony for: HB1988, HB1989, HB 2177, HB 2178, HB 2376, HB
2377, HB 2424, HB 2428

DATE: Monday, February 1, 2010

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 309, State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania St.

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Berg, and members of the Education
Committee,

Support HB 2177 and HB 2178

Hawaii's schools are failing and it isn't due to lack of funding or oversight. It is due to the lack of accountability and too much overhead. When many are responsible such as the Board of Education and/or the Legislature, then no one is responsible. The Board of Education (BOE) is unneeded bureaucracy. Eliminate BOE. Let our tax dollars, time and efforts go directly to hard working, dedicated teachers. I strongly recommend the Governor appoint the Superintendent of the Department of Education. Only then can Hawaii citizens hold the Governor responsible for what transpires in the Department of Education.

Oppose HB 1998, HB 2376, HB 1989, HB 2377, HB 2424, HB 2428

These Bills needlessly retain the Board of Education, and put the Senate, or the Board of Education Advisory Council with the Legislature between the Governor and the appointment process and increase or reapportion membership in the BOE. Eliminate the BOE. Allow the Governor to appoint the Superintendent.

Two Bills are not being considered today that relate closely to these scheduled Bills. Please consider giving **HB 2552** (could replace HBs 1989, 2178, 2377, 2428) and **HB 2553** (could replace HBs 2177, 2376, 2424) hearings as alternative solutions.

Sincerely,

Mary Smart
Mililani, HI