



**HAWAII STATE
STUDENT COUNCIL**

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February 23, 2010

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Committee on Finance
Senate of Hawaii
415 South Beretania Street

HB 2376 + 2377

To Chair Oshiro and Esteemed members of Finance Committee:

Aloha, I am Kelly Maeshiro, current student member of the state Board of Education (BOE). I understand that today you will be voting on bills that would create an appointed Board of Education. With that, I'd like to ask that the language for the Board of Education student member be incorporated into the bill as it was when it was passed by the Education Committee.

If over twenty years of accumulated support from students, the Department, the Board, and even legislators doesn't speak for itself, let it suffice to say that voting rights for the Board student member is of immeasurable meaning to the students. I am sure you've have, over the years, heard every argument for and against voting rights, but it will always wind down to this: sure, our students don't know *more* than adult Board members, but they certainly know *different*. The Board student member supplements the Board's aerial perspective of the system with a worm's eye view. I hope and I trust you will make the right decision and honor what our *keiki* really have to offer.

Very truly yours,

Kelly Maeshiro, Student Member 2009-2010
Board of Education

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