

SB2084

Date of Hearing: Monday, February 8, 2010

Committee: Senate Committee on Education and
Housing

Person Testifying: Garrett Toguchi, Chairperson, Board of Education

Title of Bill: S.B. No. 2084, Proposing an Amendment to Article X, Section 2, of the
Hawaii Constitution, to Allow the Student Member of the Board of
Education to Vote

Purpose of Bill: Proposes an amendment to Article X, Section 2, of the Hawaii State
Constitution to allow the Board of Education (Board) student member to
vote on all matters.

Board's Position: Chairperson Sakamoto, Vice Chairperson Kidani, and members of the
Senate Committee on Education and Housing, thank you for the
opportunity to comment on S.B. No. 2084.

The Board prefers the language in S.B. No. 2350, which proposes an
amendment to the Hawaii State Constitution to allow the Board student
member to vote on all matters except for finance and personnel issues.

At a Board special meeting on January 30, 2010, the Board affirmed its
position to support allowing the Board student member to vote on
matters before the Board, except for budgetary and personnel matters.

The Board welcomes and appreciates the perspectives and insight of the
Board student member in representing the views of students to the

Board. At board meetings, the Board student member shares the educational needs of students, conveys student concerns, and participates in Board member discussions.

As an elected board, we recognize that citizen input in government is critical for sound decision-making. The Board student member's input and perspective, like other educational stakeholders, is essential in developing sound educational policies and decision making. We believe the Board student member enhances the Board's understanding and knowledge of current school issues. The student voice is an important and necessary factor in educational policymaking.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.