



**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION**
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

House Committee on Finance

Tuesday, April 5, 2022
1:30 p.m.
Via Videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308

Senate Bill 2824, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1, Relating to the Board of Education

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education ("Board") respectfully provides **comments** on SB 2824 SD 1 HD 1, which would amend the minimum qualifications for Board members.

The Board takes no position on legislation relating to the Board's membership, as the Board believes it is most appropriate for the Legislature and Governor to decide such matters. The Board will endeavor to provide the Legislature with any relevant information relating to Board membership matters to enable the Legislature to make informed decisions.

The Board is unclear how this measure would affect the Board's membership. The Board has the diversified experience that this measure seeks, and arguably, so has every version of the appointed Board. To be clear, we are not asserting that this or any other version of the Board has had the collective knowledge, experience, and expertise in every single field in this measure's inexhaustive list, and that is not what this measure seeks either. This measure seeks a diversified Board with knowledge, experience, and expertise "in as many of the [listed] fields as possible," and we are arguing that every version of the Board, including the current one, has met this qualification.

It is important to keep in mind that the Governor may need to consider other competencies needed for the Board, such as, for example, expertise in Hawaiian immersion education. After considering the potentially many other necessary competencies needed for the Board, filling the Board with the collective knowledge, experience, and expertise in only a few of this measure's listed fields indeed may be all

that is “possible,” as this measure would require. Therefore, it is difficult to see how this measure will have any practical effect.

Additionally, the Board currently receives services and training from the National Association of State Boards of Education through a private grant, and if this is to be a statutory requirement as contemplated by this measure, we then respectfully request a recurring general fund appropriation to fund training and meet the new requirement.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "William N. Arakaki". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W'.

Bill Arakaki

Chairperson, Board of Education 2022 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee



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David Miyashiro
Executive Director

April 5, 2022

Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee,

HawaiiKidsCAN strongly supports SB2824 SD1 HD1, which amends the minimum qualifications for board of education members.

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a local nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawaii has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, has a transformational impact on our children and our state. We strongly believe that all students should have access to excellent educational opportunities, regardless of family income levels and circumstances.

In terms of generational sustainability, it is clear the status quo won't cut it. Hawaii continues to be a place that is losing population, and research shows that a significant number of young and educated former residents have now found other states their home.¹ Addressing and fundamentally changing this trajectory will require cross-sector strategies that look at how we are equipping our young people to live, play, and work in Hawaii.

To that end, we have seen some exciting developments in our schools, including the growth of career readiness programs. However, as educational opportunities and schools continue to become more innovative and sophisticated, policy leaders at the Hawaii Board of Education will increasingly need to understand and foresee how the K-12, higher education, and workforce sectors intersect, and how technology and entrepreneurial skills will play a larger role into the future. To that end, SB2824 SD1

¹ <https://www.civilbeat.org/2022/01/hawaiis-population-drain-outpaces-most-states-again/#:~:text=From%20July%202020%20to%20July,from%20the%20U.S.%20Census%20Bureau.&text=This%20means%20about%2014%2C500%20people,Hawaii%20has%20lost%2030%2C000%20residents.>

HD1 will highlight the kinds of diverse experiences the BOE will need to successfully tackle these issues.

Respectfully, the current board does not have – and prior boards likely never have had – the diversified experience that this measure seeks. While this says nothing negative about the current members, who should be applauded for their service, stronger guidance is critical for ensuring that current and future governors view appointments more strategically. We believe such diversity will help the BOE consider education both as it has been delivered in the past, but also what shape it will take in the future. The more our education system can break down silos and further innovation, the better positioned our kids will be to thrive and remain in Hawaii.

We believe the Senate confirmation process is sufficiently rigorous to assess the specific qualifications of nominees and whether they meet the guidance proposed by SB2824 SD1 HD1. The confirmation process is also an opportunity for legislators to review the overall composition of the board and determine if nominees will enable to board to reach the diversity intended by SB2824 SD1 HD1.

Let's put a stake in the ground this session to change the trajectory of our state, and fully leverage the diverse perspectives and backgrounds in our community to chart a new and better course for local education.

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro
Founding Executive Director
HawaiiKidsCAN



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 1:30 P.M.
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference**

RE: SB 2824 SD1 HD1 Relating to the Board of Education

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 2824 SD1 HD1, which Amends the minimum qualifications for board of education members.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Through strategic and deliberate collaboration, the Chamber is investing in K-12 career and technical education, and synergy with business community, resulting in new industry partner connections, sector-driven workforce development solutions, increased certification attainment and high-quality work-based learning (WBL) experiences.

As schools expand their career readiness programs and partnerships with employers, the board will need to have a sophisticated understanding of policy related to these areas.

As the policy-making body for our public school system, the Hawaii Board of Education must have a diverse representation of members that can help to tackle these complex issues. SB2824 SD1 HD1 will make sure the Board of Education is equipped to push education to be bolder and more responsive to student needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2824-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 8:04:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica Yamauchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother of two children in our public schools, I am writing again in strong support of this bill.

Erica Yamauchi, Kaimukī/Wilhelmina Rise

SB-2824-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 5:24:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teri L Skillman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB2824 SD1 HD1.

As an Arts Educator, I SUPPORT the effort to diversify the backgrounds, generation representation, expertise, and perspectives on the board of education. I am especially concerned that there is no Board member who represents the Creative Sector, also known as the ARTS. This is also reflected in the fact that the Arts as a subject is not adequately supported on in the DOE on all K-12 campuses. Liberal arts is also under threat at the University of Hawai'i.

As stated in the proposed Bill,

"Diversify the experiences of board members to include knowledge, experience, and proven expertise in education, workforce development, critical industries to the State, emerging fields, energy, advanced manufacturing, health care, business, technology, entrepreneurship, real estate finance, or organization management."

This diversity MUST also include the ARTS which is missing in the above paragraph. The Creative Eco-system begins with arts education in early childhood [EOEL] through university liberal arts programs to employment in the creative economy. The Creative Eco-system begins with the Arts Education pipeline that ensures students have access to the arts as a First Amendment right. Not every student is wired for STEM! Arts Education, just like STEM subjects, is needed for a well-rounded education that will ensure jobs in the Creative Economy.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector contributed **\$2.6 billion** to Hawaii's economy in 2020, representing 3.1% of the state's GDP, 17,941 jobs, and total compensation of \$1.4 billion. Hawaii arts and culture value added decreased by 19% between 2019 and 2020 due to the pandemic. In addition, arts & culture employment decreased by 24%, dropping from 23,773 to 17,941. According to the UHERO Data Portal, the arts & entertainment was the hardest hit sector and has still NOT recovered (<https://data.uhero.hawaii.edu/#/series?sa=false&id=148070>).

The BOE needs a member who represents the Arts sector/Creative Eco-system because it is a pipeline to employment in the State of Hawai'i. Using a strategic Board Composition Matrix would help immensely and the expertise area needs to include an accomplished and recognized Arts Leader on the Board.

Mahalo nui,

Teri Skillman

Apelila 5, 2022

Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Aloha Pūmehana

e Lunaho‘omalū Luke, Hope Lunaho‘omalū Yamashita, a me nā Lālā o ke Komite,

‘O Phoenix Maimiti Valentine ko‘u inoa. Ua hānai ‘ia au ma ka moku o Wai‘anae, kahi kaulana no kamakani Kaiāulu. He haumāna au. Kāko‘o au ia **SB2824 SD1 HD1**.

My name is Phoenix Maimiti Valentine. I was raised in the district of Wai‘anae, a place famous for warm scented winds called Kaiāulu. I am a student. I support **SB2824 SD1 HD1**.

“Ola Wai‘anae i ka makani Kaiāulu.”

Wai‘anae is made comfortable by the Kaiāulu breeze.

‘Ōlelo No‘eau #2495 (Pukui 1983)

Wind signifies change. For the residents in Wai‘anae, the Kaiāulu breeze is warm and sweet, pleasant and gentle. Meaning change could be comfortable and more suitable for kama‘āina.

With comfort there is less stress. When an individual is at peace they are at their creative peak. Let’s move into the future with bold, new outlooks that encourage our potential.

SB2824 SD1 HD1 would bring diversity to the Hawaii Board of Education, our policy making body for the public school system. It’s fitting in Hawai‘i because our state represents so many different cultures. Having a sophisticated and strategic approach toward education incorporating more holistic values would benefit learners and honor our kupuna. Please vote in favor of this bill.

Mahalo nūnui,

Phoenix Maimiti Valentine