



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

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Friday, February 25, 2022
9:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference

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

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education ("Board") respectfully provides **comments** on SB 2824 SD 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. The Board also 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, 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 cursive script that reads "William N. Arakaki".

Bill Arakaki
Chairperson, Board of Education 2022 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee



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David Miyashiro
Executive Director

February 25, 2022

Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee,

HawaiiKidsCAN strongly supports SB2824 SD1, 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 will

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.>

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.

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