




The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

MEMORANDUM

TO: High School Principals, Headmasters, Social Studies and English Department Chairpersons, and Student Activities Coordinators

FROM: Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Education 

DATE: February 1, 2012

RE: Invitation to High School Students to 1) Testify on Legislative Bills Referred to the Senate Committee, and 2) Receive Public Access Room Training

What: 1) Special Hearing of the Senate Committee on Education, and
2) Public Access Room Training

Date: **Friday, March 16, 2012**

Time: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Public Access Training (optional)
11:30 a.m. Introductions in the Senate
12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch (on your own)
1:15 p.m. Senate Education Committee (Room 225)

High school students are cordially invited to become actively involved in the legislative process by testifying on legislative bills that will be heard in the Senate Education Committee on **Friday, March 16, 2012** beginning at 1:15 p.m. in Conference Room 225. Students are also invited to participate in a short training session conducted by the Public Access Room which will be held from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. in Room 224. The purpose of the Public Access Room (a division of the Legislative Reference Bureau) and its services is to make the Legislature more accessible to Hawaii's citizens. Its website is <http://hawaii.gov/lrb/par>

Participating students will also be introduced from the Senate Gallery.

Attached are suggestions on how to select and track a Bill of interest to the student, and write and submit testimony. Additional information will be sent to participating students.

If your students want to participate in the special Senate Education Hearing, please complete the attached form and fax it to Senator Tokuda's office at (fax) 587-7220 by **Monday, March 5, 2012**. Schools are asked to complete the appropriate parent permission forms for student travel. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Allen Awaya or Joanne Swearingen at 587-7215. Dr. Awaya's email is tokuda1@capitol.hawaii.gov

We appreciate your support in encouraging your students to become part of the legislative process by expressing their viewpoints as citizens and future voters.

Attachments

c: Kathy Matayoshi, Superintendent
Roger McKeague, Executive Director, Charter School Administrative Office
Robert Witt, Executive Director, Hawaii Association of Independent Schools

Selecting a Bill for Testimony

Students submitting the attached participation form will be sent, via email, a list of House Bills that are still alive and have a chance to “cross over” to the Senate on March 8, 2012. House Bills that successfully cross over to the Senate will probably be among the ones being heard at the Senate Education Committee hearing on Friday, March 16.

Tracking a Bill

Once the student has selected a Bill of interest from the list sent via email:

1. Go to the Hawaii State Legislature’s website: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>
2. On the right hand side of the web page, click on “House.”
3. On the left hand side under “Bill status/Measure status,” type in the Bill title, e.g., “hb2007” with no spaces or periods.
4. Print out a copy of the **most recent** version of the Bill.

Writing Testimony

1. Read the Bill carefully, do some research and select a stance: Support or Oppose the Bill.
2. Write testimony that explains the reasons for your position. You should support your position with research.
3. **Limit the testimony to one page or less.** Concise, clearly stated positions will have a bigger impact on the Senators than long, repetitious testimony. Students from the same school testifying on the same Bill should have different reasons for supporting or opposing the Bill. **Bring a copy of the written testimony with you.**

Sample Testimony Template

House Bill (HB) Number _____

Title:

Good afternoon, Senators. My name is _____ and I am a _____

_____ (freshman/sophomore/junior/senior) at _____

High School. I am testifying on HB No. _____, _____ (Title of Bill) _____. I am

strongly opposed to this Bill (OR I support this Bill) for the following reasons...

Submitting Testimony

24 hours PRIOR to the hearing: By Thursday, March 15, 2012, submit testimony before 1:15 p.m. in one of the following ways:

By Email: Testimony may be emailed if less than 5 pages in length, to the Committee at EDUTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov . Please indicate the measure, date and time of the hearing. Email sent to individual offices or any other Senate office will not be accepted.

By Web: Testimony may be submitted online if less than 10MB in size, at <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov> Click on the "Submit Testimony" icon in the center of the page. Type in the Bill number (for example, "hb2007") and hit "submit." Confirm that this is the correct hearing by clicking on "View Notice." If correct, follow the directions under "Enter Information" and upload your testimony file.

If you require special assistance or auxiliary aids or services to participate in the public hearing process (i.e., sign or foreign language interpreter or wheelchair accessibility), please contact the committee clerk 24 hours prior to the hearing so arrangements can be made.

To Get the Final Hearing Notice for March 16, 2012

1. Go to the Hawaii State Legislature's website: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>
2. On the left side under "Hearings by Date," enter the date in mm/dd/yy format: "03/16/12" and hit "Go."
3. Under "Hearing Notices" below "Committee," scroll down to "EDU."
4. On the right side, click on "See It" to get the Senate Education Committee hearing notice.

The Senate Education Committee is on Twitter and can be followed at https://twitter.com/HI_Senate_EDU. Real time information and updates on scheduled committee hearings are provided for your convenience.

Special Senate Education Hearing for High School Students
Friday, March 16, 2012
Senate Conference Room 225
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii

Please type or print legibly.

Student's Name _____ Phone No. _____

Student's email _____

School _____

Check one: Public school _____ Public charter school _____
Private/Independent school _____

Teacher's Name _____ Subject _____

Teacher's Phone Number _____

Teacher's Email _____

_____ I am interested in testifying on a Bill at the State Legislature on Friday, March 16, 2012.
(A list of Bills that are still "alive" after the cross-over on March 8 will be sent to students and teachers via email.)

_____ I would also like to attend the Public Access Room training session from 10 – 11 a.m.
(The count is needed to get a room large enough to accommodate all interested students.)

Please fax to 587-7220 by Monday, March 5, 2012.