



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

MEDIA ADVISORY
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Listening Session with BOE Member to be Held

WAIMEA, HAWAII -- The Waimea Community Association will hold its monthly town meeting on **Thursday, December 1, 2011 at Parker School Theatre, beginning at 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

The highlight of the town meeting will be a listening session with the Big Island's State Board of Education (BOE) member, Brian DeLima. DeLima is among nine members who were appointed by the governor to the newly formed BOE earlier this year.

This "listening session" format is designed to help BOE members get acquainted with their respective communities and to receive feedback on issues concerning constituents.

Senator Malama Solomon urge residents to attend.

"While I have worked closely with Mr. DeLima for many years, especially in recent months to share constituents' thoughts, hopes and concerns, there is nothing quite like discussing issues face-to-face with the families, educators, administrators and employers who depend on, live with, or provide public education services every day," said Senator Solomon, who represents District 1, encompassing Waimea, Hāmākua, South Hilo, Keaukaha and Hilo.

"Mr. DeLima brings a wealth of public policy experience to this position. Public education is the largest budget item for our state, and the size of the budget is only dwarfed by the complexity of a system that should be "the door of opportunity" for future generations.

Too often, our public education system falls short, and I hope this meeting will be an opportunity to share ideas about innovative strategies to improve academic and fiscal accountability at all levels.”

Act 5, which was signed into law by the governor on March 14, 2011, gives the governor the authority to appoint nine members, which would consist of: one member from the county of Hawaii, one member from the county of Maui, one member from the county of Kauai, 3 members from the city and county of Honolulu, and three at-large-members; provided that the governor select an at-large member as the chairperson.

Voters in the 2010 General Election approved a constitutional amendment calling for an appointed, rather than elected, Board of Education.

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