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David Miyashiro
Executive Director

January 31, 2022

Committee on Education
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee,

HawaiiKidsCAN strongly supports SB2824, 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 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. 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

SB-2824

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 12:42:31 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Erica Yamauchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm writing today in support of this bill as a mother of two children in the public school system.

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. This bill will make sure the BOE doesn't just keep up with innovation in our schools, but can push them to think bigger and bolder.

Erica Yamauchi, Kaimiki/Wilhelmina Rise

SB-2824

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 2:48:53 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lynn Otaguro	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

January 30, 2022

Testimony commenting on SB 2824, Relating to the Board of Education

Honorable Chair Kidani and members of the Committee on Education:

As we look to address the make-up of our Board of Education (BOE), we should be guided by our overall mission and goals for our public education system and what we see as the purpose for our schools.

While I agree that our education system should address the needs of our students in terms of acquiring the skills to work and make a living, and that new ideas can be valuable, I also would caution that our schools should not be primarily governed by the immediate needs of business or those unfamiliar with the learning needs of our students.

As we have seen in the past two years, the ability to understand the context of history and science, and to read, analyze, and weigh information to make sense of the world is critical, not just for us as individuals, but as a working democracy and community. Our schools should provide all students with the background and understanding and analytical skills that allow them to fully participate and engage in their communities. In any field or future endeavor, these abilities are valuable; they also are what we should be giving to our students so they may be richer in their lives. Innovation that enhances these abilities and opportunities is good but it needs to be evaluated within this context.

As you look at the membership of our BOE, please consider the importance of the fundamental needs and purposes of education to ensure that the board is constituted to address them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lynn Otaguro

Oahu, Hawaii

SB-2824

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 6:53:27 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
chelsea pang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- Hawaii is a state that continues to lose population, and many of our talented young people are leaving the state for better opportunities.
- More than ever, we need to have a sophisticated and strategic approach to education that takes a holistic approach to how we set our kids up for success. That means breaking down silos and looking across sectors like K-12, higher education, and the workforce to find creative solutions that puts our kids one step ahead versus one step behind.
- 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. This bill will make sure the BOE doesn't just keep up with innovation in our schools, but can push them to think bigger and bolder.

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