

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

JUNE 18, 2001

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO SENATE BILL NO. 670

Honorable Members
Twenty-First Legislature
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 670, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to the Hawaii State Student Council."

The purpose of this bill is to formally establish the Hawaii State Student Council in the Hawaii Revised Statutes. The bill provides for a council composed of twenty-three student representatives and the student member of the Board of Education, which will convene an annual student conference from grades 7 through 12 to discuss education and youth issues, and to prepare a report for the Governor, the Legislature, and the Board of Education. The bill also authorizes the council to establish its policies and procedures, select the student member of the Board of Education, and invite student representatives from the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools to participate in the annual student conference.

This bill is objectionable because it is not necessary to statutorily establish the council. Furthermore, increasing the membership of the council will add an unnecessary expenditure when the council, in its current form, has been successfully performing its functions without specific statutory authority. The Hawaii State Student Council has been operating since 1970 without statutory authority as a student organization under the purview of the Board of Education. In its current form seven students, one from each school district representing grades 7 through 12, meet once a month with a student adviser. The present Hawaii State Student Council already assists with planning the annual student conference, pursuant to chapter 317,

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Hawaii Revised Statutes, and with the selection of the Board of Education student member, as prescribed in the bill.

This bill increases the number of Hawaii State Student Council members to twenty-four students, which will require additional funds to finance the travel and other expenses for the expanded membership. Additionally, a staff member is presently assigned to the Hawaii State Student Council, concurrently with other student activities responsibilities. Enactment of this bill may require the Department of Education to assign a position solely to assist the larger Hawaii State Student Council, and to staff the conference planning committee.

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning Senate Bill No. 670 without my approval.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Benjamin J. Cayetano". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO
Governor of Hawaii