

Date of Hearing: March 14, 2008

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: HCR 32 / HR 32 Encouraging Department of Education schools to utilize the services of Volunteer Hawaii to increase community awareness, support, and involvement

Purpose: Same as title

Department's Position: The Department of Education does not support these resolutions. While Volunteer Hawaii could add public schools to its list, potential volunteers currently choose from a range of diverse options on its website that currently includes 200+ nonprofit agencies. The Department currently has a pilot project with 4 schools to evaluate the potential of a commercially available web-based volunteer management software that has had success in working with school districts.

At **helphawaiischools.com** schools are able to do everything that the Volunteer Hawaii site can do and more. Behind the website is a coordination-management tool that gives each school control of their own data and the ability to customize formats according to what they need or prefer. Functions include scheduling and emailing registered volunteers in their database, printing labels for mailouts, doing customized or

routine email “blasts,” electronic sign in, criminal background checks, sharing of volunteer records among schools, and more. Monetary donations on the Volunteer Hawaii site are solicited solely for AUW and not for any participating agencies. In contrast, the helphawaiischools site allows for donations to be directed to school(s). In view of businesses increasingly wanting to support education and workforce development, our public schools would benefit more from having a site dedicated to education and efficient use by schools.



HCR 32 Encouraging Department of Education Schools to
Utilize the Services of Volunteer Hawai'i to Increase
Community Awareness, Support, and Involvement
House Committee on Education

Date: March 14, 2008

Time: 2:00pm

Room: 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) supports this resolution. Volunteer Hawai'i provides a critical service to our community and is a valuable resource to our public schools. The special skills and interests of the volunteers on this virtual website provides a resource to schools that cannot be bought with funds - time, energy, and aloha. The virtual website also becomes an efficient and cost-effective tool for our educators who are already strapped with other concerns but who try daily to resource and enrich the lives of their students through guest speakers and community volunteers who are invited in to conduct activities for our keiki. In our Hawaiian culture, we have a term for a person who helps without being asked and knows how to put others before themselves. It is *kanaka makua*. While this is not the term for "volunteer" it surely describes those who are willing to contribute to the educational advancement of our young people. In doing so, we engender *kanaka makua* in our youth.