



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

Monday, February 7, 2011, 2:00 PM
State Capitol Room 309

Testimony of
Honorable Neil Abercrombie
Governor, State of Hawaii

To the House Education Committee
Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Della Au Bellati, Vice Chair

SB8 SD1 Relating to Education

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Bellati, and members of the Committee:

Once again, I commend the committee's swift action to establish implementing procedures for appointing the Board of Education. We need the new appointed board in place to take action on important and time sensitive matters.

In November 2010, Hawaii's people voted decisively to change from an elected to an appointed board of education. Fifty-seven percent (57%) of voters marked "yes" for the "Board of Education (to) be changed to a board *appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate*, as provided by law." The voters stated clearly their desire for a clear line of accountability between the Governor and the educational system's governance and outcomes.

The Governor should be able to select from the entire community for quality candidates and to balance the composition of the Board of Education for effective governance of public education. The Senate confirmation process provides opportunity for public input. I believe that this process will result in a Board of Education that is representative of the people and will steward public education wisely.

I applaud you for your leadership in moving this issue forward expeditiously. Thank you for your leadership on this matter, and I look forward to thoughtful and timely resolution of the issues identified in Senate Bill 8 Draft 1.

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 10:16 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: sterlingw@oha.org
Subject: Testimony for SB8 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM
Attachments: SB8 SD1 BOE members.pdf

Testimony for EDN 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM SB8

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Organization: Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Address: 711 Kapiolani Blvd Ste 500 Honolulu Hi 96813
Phone: 594-1834
E-mail: sterlingw@oha.org
Submitted on: 2/5/2011

Comments:



SB8 SD1
RELATING TO EDUCATION
House Committee on Education

February 7, 2011

2:00 p.m.

Room 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** SB8 SD1, which would require the members of the Board of Education (BOE) to be nominated and, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appointed by the governor.

We ask that the bill be amended to require that three of the six at-large BOE members be individuals that represent the interests of the Native Hawaiian community. This would ensure that BOE membership proportionately reflects the percentage of the Department of Education student population that is Native Hawaiian. (Native Hawaiians represent approximately 30 percent of the public school student population in Hawai'i.)

Statistics show that Native Hawaiian students have higher – if not the highest – levels of incidence in the public school system for truancy, drop-out and placement in special education. At the same time, Native Hawaiians are also underrepresented in gifted and talented programs, elite academies and Advanced Placement. Proportionate Native Hawaiian representation on the BOE will help improve the performance of Native Hawaiian students.

Moreover, Native Hawaiian representation would help ensure that the state fulfills its constitutional mandate to provide a Hawaiian education program.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to amend SB8 SD1, taking our comments into consideration, and then PASS the measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

PO BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HI 96804

OFFICE OF THE STUDENT MEMBER

February 7, 2011

**TESTIMONY TO THE STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**State Capitol
415 S Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI. 96819**

Aloha Chair Takumi and Members of the House Committee on Education:

My name is Mark Dannog, the current elected student member of the Hawaii State Board of Education. I was elected by approximately 50,000 public secondary school students to be the official voice of over 171,000 public school students in the state.

When I was sworn into office more than six months ago, I became part of something greater than myself and dedicated to a greater purpose. That, is public service through representing the students. I dedicated myself to the work of improving education and welfare for my peers and constituents.

In a few months, the students may no longer be able to choose who should represent them, or, more unfortunately, may lose a voice on the Board. It is critical for the ultimate success of education, that the students be able to participate in discussion and collaborate on how to improve the educational system. More significantly, it is an obligation for us to impact and shape the future of Hawai'i; our future.

Therefore, on behalf of the over 171,000 public school students of Hawai'i, who may one day perform operations, hold CEO positions, or occupy the very seats you now sit in, I ask you and trust that you will support and pass S.B. No. 8, S. D. 1, which grants the student member of the Board of Education voting rights, which the students have demanded for over two decades. We are the future and now is our time.

Mahalo and best wishes,

Mark Dannog, Student Member
Board of Education



HAWAII STATE STUDENT COUNCIL

475 22ND AVENUE, RM.211
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

February 3, 2011

To: Legislators at the Capitol

From: Angelica Waisam Lao

Subject: Student Representative on the Appointed Board of Education With Voting Rights

Aloha! My name is Angelica Wai Sam Lao, and I am a junior at Moanalua High School. I am in full support of keeping a student representative with voting rights on the appointed Board of Education (BOE). I am asking you to support this position as well. Frequently people say: "the youth are the future of tomorrow." To prepare us effectively, give us a student representative on the appointed BOE with voting rights. The student BOE representative experiences the education system provided and thus first hand understands the needs and concerns of the students.

The student BOE representative is also a member of the Hawaii State Student Council (HSSC), which is networked to every school district council and their respective schools. This communication network assists the student BOE representative to communicate with the students of all school districts and get their feedback and input.

For the past 22 years the student BOE representative has fulfills all the same responsibilities as the other BOE representatives but without voting rights. States such as California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Vermont all support the student BOE member by granting them partial or full voting rights.

The student population is 15% of Hawaii's population; give us a voice on the education system that directly impacts our future and us. Please vote yes to have a student representative on the appointed BOE with voting rights. Thank you.

Angelica Waisam Lao
Moanalua High School/HSSC Central District Representative

To: Senate Education Committee

From: Isaac Hein, Hawaii State Student Council Windward District Rep.

Subject: Support of SB 8

Hello my name is Isaac Hein and I am currently the Chair of the Political Action Committee on the Hawaii State Student Council .I strongly support of the Board of Education Student Member position and to have voting rights under the new appointed board bill and I would respectfully ask for your support. As of the recent election results the elected BOE has been changed to an appointed BOE. This correction to the constitution has crossed out the BOE Student Member Completely. So we need to keep this position that we have had for the last 33 years old.

The Student BOE Member has existed since 1977. Hawaii State Student Council along with the support of Secondary Student Conference has been striving for the Voting rights for the last 22 years. The number one reason that the legislative has said that there is legal issues, but in the 90's the Attorney General of Hawaii stated that the student member would have the same coverage as the adult members would. Also with the new appointed board the accountability of the student and the rest of the board would be put on the governor. With voting rights for all appointed boards members is a good idea. Due to that all members reperstent there part of Hawaii including the student member who represents the entire the student population. So please Support this SB 8

Thank You

From

Isaac Hein

HSSC Windward Rep

PAC Chair

EDNtestimony

From: Kevin Hirata [kevhirata@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 11:38 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Support for Senate Bill 8 and BOE Student Member with Voting Rights

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Kevin Hirata, and I am currently a senior at Kaiser High School and the vice president of the Honolulu District Student Council. On behalf of my school and the district council, I would like to express support for Senate Bill 8. We believe that it is crucial for students to have representation on the Board of Education because students are ultimately the group that is most affected by BOE decisions. Having a voting student member on the board would ensure that students have a voice in decisions regarding their education.

There are over 170,000 students in Hawaii's public schools. Ignoring the opinions of such a large group would contradict the democratic traditions of our state and country. It is clear that Hawaii students support voting rights for the BOE student member. For the past twenty years, student representatives in the annual Secondary Student Conference have consistently voted in favor of this. The BOE student representative would be directly accountable to his or her constituents and would be the only direct link between students and state education authorities.

Numerous states, including Massachusetts and California, grant voting rights to their BOE student members. There is ample reason for this trend. Student members have first-hand experience with regard to the impacts of BOE decisions on student education. By living through the effects of BOE policies, the student member would be able to give valuable assessments regarding the viability of board regulations and to what extent policies are actually implemented in Hawaii's public schools. A student member would thus bring experience and knowledge that other board members would not necessarily be able to provide. The State of Hawaii would be wise to recognize the value of student representation by assuring students at least one seat on the Board of Education and granting voting rights to the student member.

While we support the state electorate's decision to transition from an elected to an appointed Board of Education, this decision should not mean that students will lose their voice in education policy making. Maintaining the position of the BOE student member and giving voting rights to the student representative will contribute to the success of educational policy for years to come. Thank you for your time, and I sincerely hope that you will support Senate Bill 8.

Kind regards,

Kevin Hirata

Vice President

Honolulu District Student Council

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Education
Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
February 7, 2011
S.B. 8 S.B.1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the concept of this measure that allows the governor to appoint the members of the board of education with the advice and consent of the senate. As written, the Governor will be accountable for public education in our state.

The electorate amended our state constitution to allow for an appointed Board of Education. As a result, we believe the legislature should make every effort to approve enabling language that establishes a process that will expedite the appointment of a new board of education on or before this legislative session adjourns.

S.D. 1 provides the student member with the right to vote on all issues except personnel related matters. We find this modification to be more acceptable although our membership is not solidified on this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Leiomalama Desha
Executive Assistant

EDNtestimony

From: Willie Cadena [cccleg@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 3:23 PM
To: Rep. Roy Takumi; EDNtestimony
Cc: tom Smith; Ivalee Sinclair; Jessica Wong-Sumida
Subject: SB8 SD1 Testimony

February 3, 2011

The Honorable Roy Takumi, Chair
The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair
House Education Committee

Representative Takumi, representative Belatti, Members of the Committee

RE: SB8, SD1

The 17 Community Children's Councils (CCCs) of Hawaii support the passage of SB 8.

CCCs are community based bodies comprised of parents, professionals in both public and private agencies and other interested persons. CCCs are in rural and urban communities organized around the Complexes in the Department of Education. Membership is voluntary and advisory in nature. CCCs are concerned with specialized services provided to Hawaii's students.

We support the establishment of a Selection Committee as part of the process to appoint members of the Board of Education. Our reasons are:

1. The role and responsibilities of the Selection Committee provide for greater transparency.
2. There is less possibility for political influence in the appointment process.
3. The Governor already has extensive control over the Department of Education.
4. The Governor may not hold education as a high priority.

We respectfully request your consideration of an amendment to the bill. Parents of children in our public schools have first hand information essential to the Board of Education. Community members provide a diverse viewpoint and can generate a broader base of support for our schools.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Community Children's Council Office (CCCO) @ 586-5363 or email us at the address above.

Thank you for considering our testimony

Tom Smith. Co-Chair

Jessica Wong-Sumida, CoChair

(Original signatures are on file with the CCCO).



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair

SB 8, SD 1
Relating to Education

Chair Takumi and Members of this Committee.

My name is Max Sword, here on behalf of Outrigger Hotels Hawaii, in support of this bill.

Outrigger Hotels is committed to the betterment of education here in Hawaii. With an educated workforce, we get a stronger workforce.

Outrigger, especially thru the participation of its Chairman Dr. Richard Kelley and its President and CEO, Mr. David Carey, has been part of the previous effort in trying to correct the course of the ship known as the Department of Education.

We participated in the effort of Hawaii's Children First to support an appointed Board of Education (BOE), because we believe that an appointed board will be responsible for the success or failure of the DOE. They will be accountable.

SB 8 makes the Governor the appointing authority of the BOE, as well as sets the geographic representation for the board. We support that direction.

We have one suggestion for your consideration, that there be a requirement that at least a minimum of two or three BOE members from the at-large category, have a background in running a large organization, whether it be a for-profit or non-profit entity. The DOE is a large organization, which takes up over one fourth of the State budget and, therefore, needs the expertise of those who have had relative leadership experience in this area.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Senate Bill 8

December 2, 2010

To: Legislators
From: Devon Tenney
Subject: Support of Senate Bill 8

Hello, my name is Devon Tenney and I am currently a junior at Aiea High School. I support SB8 concerning "the appointed Board of Education should include a student member selected by a state-wide election conducted by the Hawaii State Student Council. The Board of Education member should also have voting rights with the exception of issues concerning personnel." I believe that it is important for a governing body, such as the BOE, to be influenced by the people it governs.

The BOE student member is our voice in that body that governs so much our lives as students. We need to keep the BOE student member because otherwise the Board will be making decisions without the input of those most affected by their decisions. This resolution, brought up in the Secondary Student Conference of 2010, stands to keep the student member as a member of the BOE and to allow them voting rights on non-personal issues, so that the representative of the students can have actual power in the decision-making process. This to me, seems only just, as this body makes decisions that affects us and we, through our representative student member, should have power to affect the passing or failing of politics that impact this large portion of our lives.

Thank you for your time and I hope that you will support SB8.

To: Legislators
From: Erika Edwards
Subject: Support of SB8

Hello. My name is Erika Edwards, and I am currently a senior at Mililani High School in the central district of Oahu. I am a strong supporter in SSC resolution 67, which is concerning that, "In the appointed board of education (BOE) there be included a student member selected by a statewide election conducted by the Hawaii State Student Council (HSSC). The BOE student member is to have voting rights with the exception of voting on personnel issues.". I would like to ask for your support. Due to the recent election and the decision of having an appointed board, the student BOE member position has been removed. With no student on the BOE there will no longer be a voice of the students while making these decisions.

For there past 27 years there has been a student sitting on the Hawaii State BOE and to take that privilege away from us would be taking away the voice of 182,000 students. The reason that they have had the student BOE member in the past was so that we all could be heard. I feel that at certain times a student will understand the needs of another student than an adult would. The only direct connection from the BOE to the students is the Student Board Member.

It is thought that such a job is not fit for a student to hold, however by looking at the credentials of the past student board member they have accomplished many things that make them qualified. The HSSC has taken on the responsibility of sort through the prospects and making sure that they are capable of holding such a position. The student board member has all the responsibilities of an adult board member so why not give them the sane right? Many think that it is a ludacris idea, but this is not unheard of. In states such as California, Vermont, and Maryland allow their student member to posses voting rights. Please help us restore our position on the BOE and allow us to vote along with it. Not only will this help students now but it will help the board determine what is in the best interest of Hawaii's keiki.

Thank you so much for your time and effort, I hope that you will support SSC resolution 67.

To: Legislators
From: Jamie Fujino
Subject: Support of Senate Bill 8

Aloha, my name is Jamie Fujino. I am currently a sophomore at Aiea High School on Oahu and a 2010 Secondary Student Conference delegate. I strongly support SB8 concerning, "the appointed Board of Education (BOE) should include a student member selected by a statewide election conducted by the Hawaii State Student Council (HSSC). The Board of Education Student Member should also, have voting rights with the exception of issues concerning personnel," and I would like to ask for your support. As it stands with the new appointed BOE, there is no student member. Before we had an appointed BOE there was a student member but with he/she did not have voting rights. The BOE's student member represents concerns of approximately 182,000 students from 250 primary and secondary schools throughout Hawaii. The students are the ones who are

affected by the BOE's decisions, so I think we should have a voice in the decisions and to do this, we need to have a BOE student member with full voting rights.

For the last 22 years, students have been trying to get voting rights for the BOE student member; the BOE student member has the same responsibilities, work, and requirements as the adult members, so there is no legitimate reason for him/her not to have voting rights.

Please help us support SB8, allowing the student member of the BOE to vote. This will improve student participation in education and government.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I truly hope that you will support SB8.

To: Legislators
From: Jazmin Fong
Subject: Senate Bill 8

Hello, my name is Jazmin Fong, and I am currently a junior, here on Oahu. I strongly believe in SB8, and I would like to ask for your support. As it stands currently, the BOE student member are involved in all activities and assumes the same responsibilities as all the other members, except the right to vote. The student member has been voicing the concerns of 182,000 students from 250 public schools. The BOE student member is the voice of the students, whom are the most directly affected by the BOE's decisions, so they should have a say, a vote, in the decisions made.

The Board of Education student member has the same responsibilities as his/her fellow adult board members, but not the same right. For the last years of the Secondary Student Conference, participants voted overwhelmingly to support giving the BOE student member voting rights on the Board of Education. Please help and support SB8. Allow the student member on the BOE who has the same responsibilities, to have the same rights.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I truly hope that you will support SB8.

To: Legislators
From: Justine Bolosan
Subject: Support of Senate Bill 8

Hello, my name is Justine Bolosan, an 11th grader at Aiea High School and a Hawaii State Student Council Representative from the Central District. I am in strong support of SB8 concerning that "in the appointed Board of Education (BOE) there be included a student member selected by a statewide election conducted by the Hawaii State Student Council (HSSC). The BOE student member is to have voting rights with the exception of voting on personnel issues."

Being that as it has been recently revised, the Hawaii State Constitution allows for the governor to appoint all BOE members with senate consent, there is no guarantee there will be student representation. As the results have shown from the Secondary Student Conference of 2010, ¾ of the total delegates voted in favor of an appointed Student BOE member with voting rights. Thus, revealing the great deal of importance of student representation on the BOE through student selection, no matter the process. Students should be allowed to select who speaks on our behalf. Much less, have no one else but a student to speak on our behalf.

I also understand that issues may rise with having a single member of the board to be chosen by those they represent. As the resolution has stated, it proposes that the member be "selected" and not possibly done solely through a voting process.

In a bigger picture, the existence of a BOE student member has been around for more than 30 years. Those who have held the position have upheld their duties, representing the students of Hawaii wonderfully. I feel that it is vital to maintain this representation and selection. Students should most definitely have a say, through voice and vote, on education. After all, what demographic is more directly or greatly affected?

Thank you for taking the time to consider this resolution, and it is my hope that you will share your support of SB8 as well.

To: Legislators
From: Ra'iatea Lohe

Subject: Support of SB8, requesting a Board of Education student member and allowing them to have voting rights.

Hello! My name is Ra'iatea Lohe and I am a sophomore at Kaiser High School in Hawaii Kai. I support SB8 and humbly ask for your support also. I was currently informed that there will no longer be a Board of Education student member and I was perplexed. With the 182,000 students throughout Hawaii's primary and secondary schools, I believe it is vital for us to choose and elect a student member for the Board of Education. If a student is qualified and is a hard working and responsible individual I believe they will respectfully represent Hawaii's students in front of the Board of Education.

This member should have voting rights because they are filling the same responsibilities as the adult board members. Why don't they have the rights? They are the voice of Hawaii's students and should be allowed to have voting rights.

In conclusion, I hope I have gained your support for this resolution. Thank you for your time and consideration.

To: Legislators

From: Joyce Arnaldo

Subject: Support of Resolution 67, Voting Rights for the Board of Education Member

Hello, my name is Joyce Arnaldo, and I am currently a junior and the student body corresponding secretary of Saint Francis School. I am strongly in favor of Resolution 67, and I would like to ask for your support. The current Board of Education (BOE) student member takes part in all community meetings and public hearings monthly, but yet has no vote in the final conclusion. For the past twenty-two years, the Hawaii State Student Council (HSSC), the Secondary Student Conference (SSC), and other students across Hawaii have been fighting for student member voting rights.

The Board of Education Student Member has existed since 1973. Since then, the student member has been voicing the concerns of approximately 182, 000 students throughout the State of Hawaii. The students that will be represented elect this BOE student member because students feel that he/she is highly capable of being an advocate for them. As an advocate, this student member has a great ability of understanding the issues that come before the board. This student member is just as capable as the adults when discussing the well being of students' education.

The student member along with the adults of the Board of Education shares the same responsibilities. They both put in the same effort and the same time. What makes the BOE student member especially valuable to this board is the student's personal understanding and relation to all the students across Hawaii. It is this student member and the students in Hawaii that are being affected by the decisions of the BOE. Therefore, I believe that the student member should have a right to vote to represent the thoughts and concerns of the students. If this resolution were taken into consideration, this would allow student participation in education, government, and the step towards making their own future a success.

I sincerely thank you for your time and I hope that you will take SB8 into consideration.

February 1, 2011

To: Representative Roy Takumi
And House Education Committee Members

From: Jared Agtunong
Maui High School, Grade 10
Kahului, Hawai'i

Subject: Support for Senate Bill No.8

Aloha! My name is Jared Agtunong; and I am currently a Sophomore at Maui High School as well as being a part of Maui High's Student Council. I stand strongly in Support of Senate Bill No.8 by having an appointed Board of Education (BOE) as well as a student member on the BOE with voting rights. The student BOE member is the sole representative of over 180,000 students in over 250 public schools but has no voting rights on the matters that solely affect them.

For 22 years the BOE student member has had the same responsibilities and duties as other BOE members. The BOE makes decisions that affects all Hawai'i public school students, the BOE student member is our voice but as it stands does not take part in those decisions being made. I believe that we as students should have that representation for the decisions that affect us, the student BOE member is our voice and therefore should have a vote in those decisions.

States such as California, Vermont, Maryland, and the District of Columbia all grant partial or full voting rights to their student member. By granting partial or full voting rights to the BOE student member Hawaii's students will now have that voice and link with the BOE and the decisions that they make that affect them.

I thank you for your time and consideration, and I truly hope that you will support Senate Bill No.8

January 18, 2011

To: Representative Roy Takumi
And Members of the House Education Committee

From: Hannah Carnes
Kalaheo High School, Grade 9
Kailua, Hawaii

Subject: Support of SB8, Appointed BOE with Student Member

Aloha! My name is Hannah Carnes, and I am currently a freshman at Kalaheo High School, here on Oahu. I fully support SB8, and I would like to ask for your support as well.

The Student Member of the Board of Education represents the voice of the students of approximately 250 schools, and so the BOE Student Member should get all the opportunities available to express the opinions of our student population. If the BOE Student Member doesn't get a true vote in what happens state - wide regarding our schools, what is the point of even having a Student Member?

The point of having a Student Member of the Board of Education is to have the voice of the students be heard. If he/she can't help to make the decisions that affect us, and speak for us, what else can the Student Member do? The Student Member represents the voice of students throughout Hawaii and what we want to see happen in our schools. The Student Member shares all the same responsibilities as other Board members, such as formulating education policies. If the Student Member has no choice in the matter, what need do we have for a student member.

For years, members of student councils state - wide have been pushing for the Student Member of the BOE to be granted full voting rights. In one of the most recent Kids Voting Elections, 80% of the students who voted said they wanted the Student Member to have full voting rights. Right now, students don't really feel like they have a say in what happens, but granting the Student Member voting rights would probably change that. If they see that the student representing them at such a high level can make a difference and be heard, then why can't it be the same for them? Students might actually care about trying to make a difference in their schools if they saw that it is actually possible, and that students can make a huge impact.

I would just like to say thank you for your time, and I hope that you will at least consider my testimony in favor of SB8.

December 02, 2010

To: Representative Roy Takumi

And members of the House Education Committee

From: Peter Cheng

Subject: Support of Senate Bill 8

Aloha! My name is Peter Cheng, and I am currently a senior at Roosevelt High School in Roosevelt. I strongly believe in SB8, and I would like to ask for your support. The student member has been voicing the concerns of approximately 182,000 students from 250 primary and secondary school. Students are usually the ones affected by decisions passed by the BOE, so they should have a vote.

Students of Hawaii have been pursuing Student Member voting rights since 1988 through the Hawaii State Student Council and Secondary Student Council. Being the BOE student member is definitely not an easy job and certainly not a job for all students, but the Hawaii State Student Council takes pride in its vigorous process of selecting a well-qualified, capable, responsible student.

Voting rights on the Board of Education is very important. Every person deserves the right to be heard. We are the future of Hawaii and we can't be heard with no vote. Allowing the student member on the BOE to vote will increase and improve student participation in education and government. Please support this bill by granting voting rights to future BOE student members.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I truly hope that you will support Senate Bill 8.

February 1, 2011

To: Representative Roy Takumi
and Members of the House Education Committee

From: Wren Fukada

Subject: Support of SB8, Appointed Board of Education with Student Member

Hello, my name is Wren Fukada and I am currently attending Kalaheo High School as a junior, here on the windward side of the island. I strongly support SB8 and I am asking for the same support from you.

With this bill not only will the student's voice be heard, there will be a force behind the voice. The students of 284 public schools of Hawaii are the ones that are mostly affected by the voting of the board. There voice is the one student BOE board member, silencing the board member or giving them no power to vote is like taking the voice away from the students of Hawaii.

The job of the student board member is to make sure that every student in Hawaii has a voice and their opinion or concerns are heard. Self-representation is a democratic ideal- a government for the, and by the people, which in this case are the students. Hawaii's public school students represent 15% of the state's population yet their voice is in jeopardy. For the past four years the majority of adult BOE members support the student BOE member having a partial voting right. If the majority already supports it, then why haven't we moved on the fact? The decision making should be kept closet to those of it, who are mainly effected by the decision. Not only do policies passed by BOE often disregard or may differ with the opinion of students, a student board member can also provide insight to the other BOE members who have questions or concerns.

Thank you for your time and I hope that you will support SB8 and also take action.

December 30, 2010

To: Representative Roy Takumi
Members of the House Education Committee

From: Rona Lee Gallardo

Subject: Support of Resolution SB8

Aloha, my name is Rona Lee Gallardo and I am currently a junior at Farrington High School in Honolulu. I firmly support Senate Bill 8 and I would like to ask you to advocate for this resolution also.

The BOE's student member is a committed, hardworking student who participates in the same activities as the other members and holds the same responsibilities as the adults. As it was recently voted on to appoint the Board of Education, the student member position is at risk of being taken away. Being that the student member represents the students of over 250 public schools across the state, it would be very unfortunate for the voice of the students to be lost.

During the 2010 Secondary Student Conference, delegates from public and independent schools throughout Hawaii came together in support of this resolution, showing that students care about the decisions that can potentially impact our education. The Hawaii State Student Council is proposing to hold an election for the BOE student member to allow the public school students to choose the right student. The position of the Board of Education student member is definitely not one for the average student. Upholding all of the duties and expectations of the BOE is something that should be placed upon an outstanding young adult and the decision should be left to the public school students. It is also very important for the student member to be allowed the right to vote. It may not be enough to have one student trying to persuade the other members to choose what he knows is best for us students. Without voting rights, the fate of our education is only in the hands of the other Board of Education members.

Allowing the Hawaii State Student Council members to hold a state-wide election for the student member would increase the level of interest in the youth of Hawaii's public schools in politics and education. Also, by giving the Hawaii State Board of Education student member voting rights, students across the state will have a bridge of communication to the adults of the BOE and leaders of Hawaii. In America, several other states have given their student members the right to vote. If we wish to better our education, passing Senate Bill 8 would be a stepping stone to great accomplishments.

Mahalo for your time and consideration, and I hope that you will support Senate Bill 8.

February 2, 2011

To: Representative Roy Takumi
And Members of the House Education Committee

From: Vallie Rodriquez
Kailua, Hawaii

Subject: Support of SB8, Including a Student Member on the BOE who is
able to have Voting Rights

Aloha! My name is Vallie Rodriquez, and I am currently a senior at Kalaheo High School on Oahu. I strongly believe in SB8, and I would like to ask for your support.

The Student Board Member is the one who is in school and knows how the voting of the BOE actually effects as students. He/she can speak up for the rest of the students. It is only fait that the student voices be heard too.

The Student Board member must attend all of the community meetings and attend public hearings monthly and he/she has the same responsibilities as the other board members. If he/she has the same responsibilities as the adult members he/she should have equal rights and should be able to be on the board and be able to vote.

Eighty percent of the 2008 Kids Voting Elections have reported in favor of granting voting rights to the BOE Student Member. If that large percent is in favor along with other committees than I know that this is very important and as a student I also agree strongly.

Mahalo for your time and I hope you consider my testimony in support of SB8.

Date: February 4, 2011

To: Representative Roy Takumi

And Members of the House Education Committee

From: Emily Theoret

Subject: Support of SB 8

Hello, my name is Emily Theoret, and I am currently a junior at Kalaheo High School, here on Oahu. I strongly support SB 8, and I would like to ask for your support.

As it stands, the student member takes part in all activities and assumes all responsibilities as all other members, except the right to vote. The BOE's student member represents over 180,000 of Hawaii's students in over 250 public schools. The students are the most affected by the BOE's decisions and should have a voice in those decisions and the only way they can do that is through the vote of the BOE student member.

Voting rights on the State Board of Education's are not unheard of, and states like California, Vermont, Maryland and the District of Columbia all granted full or partial voting rights to their student member. Hawaii has always been at the forefront in supporting student activities. For the last 20 years the Secondary Student Conference participants voted overwhelmingly to support a resolution giving the BOE student member voting rights on the Board of Education.

A self-representation is a democratic ideal- a government for of, and by the people, which in this case are the students. Hawaii public school students represent 15% of the state's population yet have no vote. Please help reach this democratic ideal by supporting SB8.

Allowing the student member on the BOE to vote will increase and improve student participation in education and government. An appointed voting student member is the best representation for the students of Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I truly hope that you will support Senate Bill 8.

January 20, 2011

To: Representative Roy Takumi
Members of the House Education Committee

From: Kayla Avega
Kalaheo High School, Grade 11

Subject: Support of SB8, Appointed Board of Education with Student Member

Hi, my name is Kayla Avega; I'm currently a junior of Kalaheo High School and I'm a member of the student council (ASK). I really believe in this bill and ask for your support. With a student board member, they are able to let student's opinions and concerns to be heard and resolved. I believe that Student Board Member should also have the same voting rights as the BOE members.

I strongly believe that a student board member has the same qualities and responsibilities as a regular BOE member, to keep our schools with high standards, that'll bring success. A student board member knows what goes on in their schools that need to be fixed and also knows what goes on every day, which leads them to speak for the students of their school and get the help that is needed. With the Student Board Members this helps let the student's voices to be heard. Though the BOE makes decisions to make our school's successful, they don't use the concerns of the students.

Student Board Members should have the right to vote with the BOE members to make decisions for our schools because I believe they have the potential and the knowledge of what a BOE member already has. From the year of 2003 to 2006 it had increased from 96 percent to 97 percent of voters believe that Student Board Members should be allowed to vote with BOE members when making decisions for the education of our students because as a Student Board Member they know the system with working with BOE members and what needs to be done. Overall, I can say that I would like to strongly ask for your support of this resolution due to the fact that Student Board Members can take the challenge of making sure that every school can get their voices heard and problems get resolved.

Thank you so much for your time and I hope that you'll take action and support SB8.

February 7, 2011

To: Rep. Roy Takumi
House Education Committee

From: Peyton Walker
Kailua, Hawaii

Subject: Support of Senate bill 8, implementing a student on the BOE with voting rights

Aloha, my name is Peyton Walker I am currently a sophomore at Kalaheo High School and a member of the Associated Students of Kalaheo. I am in full Support of SB8 and asking for your support as well. Having a student member on the board would help give students a voice in what happens in their schools.

Having a student member on the BOE with voting rights will help students get what they want in schools. Since the members of the board don't know what happens in schools like the students do it would make sense to have a student member. This student would be able to say what would work and what wouldn't, based upon personal experience.

States such as California already have a student member on their BOE. Massachusetts not only has a student member, but is enhancing the student's communication with the other board members.

Having a BOE student member with voting rights would create a link between the schools and the BOE allowing students to have a voice once again. I hope that you will show your support towards SB8. Thank you.

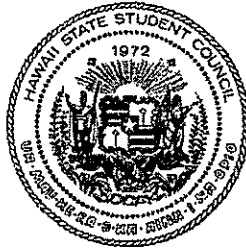
EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 3:12 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: spitoy808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB8 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM SB8

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shea Pitoy
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: spitoy808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

Comments:



HAWAII STATE STUDENT COUNCIL

475 22ND AVENUE, RM. 211
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

February 4, 2011

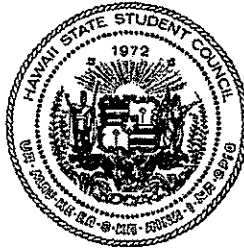
To: Senator Jill Tokuda
Members of the Senate Education Committee

From: Anela Nishimoto
Waiakea High School Student Government Association Representative

Subject: Support of Senate Bill No. 8

Aloha! My name is Anela Nishimoto; I am a senior at Waiakea High School as well as a member of the Waiakea High School Student Government Association and Senior Class Council. I am in full support of having a Student Representative on the Appointed Board of Education with voting rights. The Board of Education Student Member is the sole representative of 15% of Hawaii's population, but has no voting rights on the matters that directly affect him or her. The opinions of the students are often disregarded in the policies passed by the Board of Education. The Board of Education Student Representative is the only member of the BOE who spends every day in Hawaii's schools; therefore, they know what the students experience, need, and want. Their vote should count. States such as California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Vermont all support a Student Representative on their respective Board of Education by granting them partial or full voting rights. For 23 years the BOE Student Representative has had the same responsibilities as other BOE members, so they should be granted voting rights on the decisions that directly affect themselves and their peers.

In granting the Board of Education Student Member voting rights, the decisions of the BOE can have a direct link between the schools and the Board of Education. I thank you for your time. I trust you will show your support for Senate Bill No. 8.



HAWAII STATE STUDENT COUNCIL

475 22ND AVENUE, RM. 211
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

February 4, 2011

To: Senator Jill Tokuda
Members of the Senate Education Committee

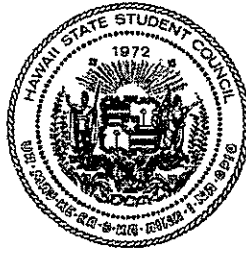
From: Crystal Leopoldino
Hilo High School Student Association Vice President

Subject: Support of Senate Bill No. 8

My name is Crystal Leopoldino, and I am currently a junior at Hilo High School in Hilo. I strongly agree with and believe in Senate Bill No. 8. In the recent elections, majority of the state were in favor of the Governor of the State of Hawaii to appoint a student BOE member. However, wouldn't we be understood more by someone that the students have voted for? This person is supposed to represent us, the students. Therefore, the HSSC should be able to make the decision on who gets recommended to serve us, the students.

A BOE Student Members' responsibility is to be the voice of the students. Currently, they are allowed to give suggestions for change, but they're not allowed to vote upon those suggestions. Every person deserves the right to be heard. We are always told that we are the future of Hawaii; we can't be heard if we have no vote. The main decisions made are for our education. Being a fellow student, the BOE Student Member understands the views of the students, and how the school systems are affecting us. With all do respect, how would the other BOE members understand the students currently going to school if they're not currently in school themselves?

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I truly hope that you will support Senate Bill No. 8.



HAWAII STATE STUDENT COUNCIL

475 22ND AVENUE, RM. 211
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

February 4, 2011

To: Senator Jill Tokuda
Members of the Senate Education Committee

From: Jiajia Li
2010 Hawaii Secondary Student Conference Delegate

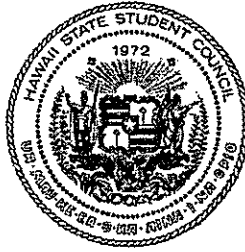
Subject: Support of Senate Bill No. 8

Hello, my name is Jiajia Li, and I am currently a junior at Hilo High School. I support Senate Bill No. 8 and I would like to ask for your support. As it stands, the student member on the Board of Education currently has the responsibilities of a board member except the right to vote. The student member on the Board of Education represents over 170,000 of Hawaii's students, in over 250 primary and secondary schools. Students are directly affected by decisions made by the Board of Education. Therefore, they should be allowed one vote in the decision-making.

For the last 20 or more years, students from various prominent active student organizations have vigorously supported this issue, including students from the Secondary Student Conference, the Student Leadership Workshop, Kids Voting Elections, according to surveys conducted by the Hawaii State Student Council. Already other states, including California, the District of Colombia, Maryland, and Vermont have granted their Board of Education students voting rights.

Giving students a self-representation on the Board of Education promotes an ideal democratic system - a government for, of, and by the people. Allowing the Hawaii State Student Council to select a student member to serve and vote on the Board of Education will give Hawaii's students a voice in choices that have an impact on themselves. Please help reach this democratic ideal by supporting Senate Bill No. 8.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I truly hope that you will support Senate Bill No. 8.



HAWAII STATE STUDENT COUNCIL

475 22ND AVENUE, RM. 211
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

February 4, 2011

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chairperson
Members of the Senate Education Committee

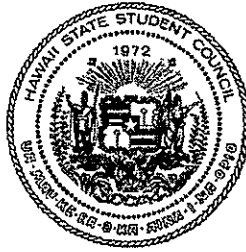
From: Esther Yoon
Waiakea High School Student Government Association Treasurer

Subject: Support of Senate Bill No. 8

Aloha! My name is Esther Yoon; I am a senior at Waiakea High School. I am in full support of Senate Bill No. 8, and I would like you to show your support as well. The Board of Education Student Member is the sole representation of 15% of Hawaii's population but has no voting rights on the matters that directly affect the students. With the vote of the Board of Education Student Member, the opinions of the students, which are often disregarded, can be implemented in the Board of Education policies. Therefore, the voice of the students can be heard.

The Board of Education Student Member is the only member of the BOE who spends every day in the state's schools. Therefore, they know what the students want and their vote should count. Other states such as California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Vermont all support a Board of Education Student Member by granting them partial or full voting rights. The Student Representative is expected to uphold all of the same responsibilities as an adult-BOE Member; the only difference is they are not allowed to vote. The Student Members goes through the most rigorous selection process of any other BOE Member, holds the same responsibilities, and keeps up with school tasks. Therefore, they should be granted voting rights on the decisions that directly affect themselves and their peers.

In granting the Board of Education Student Member voting rights in the decisions of the Board of Education the direct link between the schools and the Board of Education will finally have a voice. I thank you for your time. I trust you will show your support for Senate Bill No. 8.



HAWAII STATE STUDENT COUNCIL

475 22ND AVENUE, RM. 211
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

February 4, 2011

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chairperson
Members of the Senate Education Committee

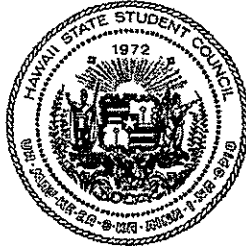
From: Keagan Sakai-Kawada
Hawaii State Student Council Representative

Subject: Support of Senate Bill No. 8

Aloha! My name is Keagan Sakai-Kawada; I am a sophomore at Waiakea High School. I am in full support of Senate Bill No. 8, and I would like you to show your support as well. The Board of Education Student Member is the sole representation of 15% of Hawaii's population but has no voting rights on the matters that directly affect the students. With the vote of the Board of Education Student Member, the opinions of the students, which are often disregarded, can be implemented in the Board of Education policies. Therefore, the voice of the students can be heard.

The Board of Education Student Member is the only member of the BOE who spends every day in the state's schools. Therefore, they know what the students want and their vote should count. Other states such as California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Vermont all support a Board of Education Student Member by granting them partial or full voting rights. The Student Representative is expected to uphold all of the same responsibilities as an adult-BOE Member; the only difference is they are not allowed to vote. The Student Members goes through the most rigorous selection process of any other BOE Member, holds the same responsibilities, and keeps up with school tasks. Therefore, they should be granted voting rights on the decisions that directly affect themselves and their peers.

In granting the Board of Education Student Member voting rights in the decisions of the Board of Education the direct link between the schools and the Board of Education will finally have a voice. I thank you for your time. I trust you will show your support for Senate Bill No. 8.



HAWAII STATE STUDENT COUNCIL

475 22ND AVENUE, RM. 211
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

February 4, 2011

To: Senator Jill Tokuda
Members of the Senate Education Committee

From: Liann Yamashita
2010 Hawaii Secondary Student Conference Delegate

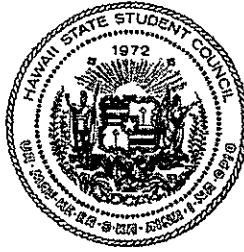
Subject: Support of Senate Bill No. 8

Hello, my name is Liann Yamashita and I am currently a junior at Waiakea High School on the Big Island. I am strongly in support of Senate Bill No. 8 and would like to ask for your support. As it stands, the BOE student member assumes all responsibilities and duties of other Board members with the exemption of a spot in the voting process. The BOE student member represents the voices of 180,000 Hawaii public school students; approximately 15% of the state's population. In order for the BOE to make fully informed decisions for the state's schools, it must listen to the opinions presented by those affected most by them.

When I attended this year's Secondary Student Conference, I was shocked by the some of the comments against this resolution. The handful of delegates who opposed the adoption of Resolution 67 suggested that Hawaii's students weren't ready to handle the responsibility of a voting position. However, Hawaii has been known to strongly support student rights and activities. The abundance of programs such as the Hawaii State Student Council and the Secondary Student Conference give students opportunities to be proactive in their community and make a difference in the state's education system. I believe that if students can be at the beginnings of change, formulating ideas for improvement and creating resolutions, we should also have the capacity and right to enact it.

Students have been fighting for a voting BOE member for over 20 years. The HSSC, with its thorough selection process, would be precise in appointing a student capable of taking on the responsibilities that a voting position entails. Also, giving a student with the power to vote isn't treacherous, uncharted territory. States such as California, Vermont, Maryland, and the District of Columbia all have granted full voting rights to their student members.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I sincerely hope that you will support Senate Bill No. 8.



HAWAII STATE STUDENT COUNCIL

475 22ND AVENUE, RM. 211
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

February 4, 2011

To: Senator Jill Tokuda
Members of the Senate Education Committee

From: Megan Kurohara
2010 Hawaii Secondary Student Conference Delegate

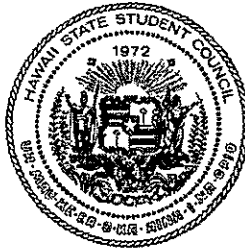
Subject: Support of Senate Bill No. 8

Hello, my name is Megan Kurohara and I am currently a senior at Hilo High School on the Big Island. I am strongly in support of Senate Bill No. 8 and would like to ask for your support. As it stands, the BOE student member assumes all responsibilities and duties of other Board members with the exemption of a spot in the voting process. The BOE student member represents the voices of 180,000 Hawaii public school students; approximately 15% of the state's population. In order for the BOE to make fully informed decisions for the state's schools, it must listen to the opinions presented by those affected most by them.

When I attended this year's Secondary Student Conference, I was shocked by the some of the comments against this resolution. The handful of delegates who opposed the adoption of Resolution 67 suggested that Hawaii's students weren't ready to handle the responsibility of a voting position. However, Hawaii has been known to strongly support student rights and activities. The abundance of programs such as the Hawaii State Student Council and the Secondary Student Conference give students opportunities to be proactive in their community and make a difference in the state's education system. I believe that if students can be at the beginnings of change, formulating ideas for improvement and creating resolutions, we should also have the capacity and right to enact it.

Students have been fighting for a voting BOE member for over 20 years. The HSSC, with its thorough selection process, would be precise in appointing a student capable of taking on the responsibilities that a voting position entails. Also, giving a student with the power to vote isn't treacherous, uncharted territory. States such as California, Vermont, Maryland, and the District of Columbia all have granted full voting rights to their student members.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I sincerely hope that you will support Senate Bill No. 8.



HAWAII STATE STUDENT COUNCIL

475 22ND AVENUE, RM. 211
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

February 4, 2011

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chairperson
Members of the Senate Education Committee

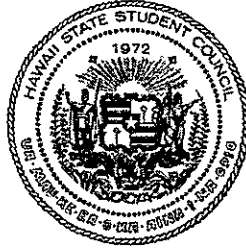
From: Nixon Jack
Waiakea High School Student Government Association President

Subject: Support of Senate Bill No. 8

Aloha! My name is Nixon Jack; I am a senior at Waiakea High School. I am in full support of Senate Bill No. 8, and I would like you to show your support as well. The Board of Education Student Member is the sole representation of 15% of Hawaii's population but has no voting rights on the matters that directly affect the students. With the vote of the Board of Education Student Member, the opinions of the students, which are often disregarded, can be implemented in the Board of Education policies. Therefore, the voice of the students can be heard.

The Board of Education Student Member is the only member of the BOE who spends every day in the state's schools. Therefore, they know what the students want and their vote should count. Other states such as California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Vermont all support a Board of Education Student Member by granting them partial or full voting rights. The Student Representative is expected to uphold all of the same responsibilities as an adult-BOE Member; the only difference is they are not allowed to vote. The Student Members goes through the most rigorous selection process of any other BOE Member, holds the same responsibilities, and keeps up with school tasks. Therefore, they should be granted voting rights on the decisions that directly affect themselves and their peers.

In granting the Board of Education Student Member voting rights in the decisions of the Board of Education the direct link between the schools and the Board of Education will finally have a voice. I thank you for your time. I trust you will show your support for Senate Bill No. 8.



HAWAII STATE STUDENT COUNCIL

475 22ND AVENUE, RM. 211
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

February 4, 2011

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chairperson
Members of the Senate Education Committee

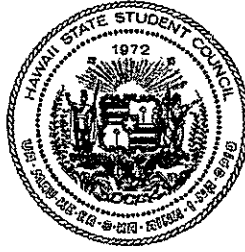
From: Samantha Maesato
Waiakea High School Student Government Association Representative

Subject: Support of Senate Bill No. 8

Aloha! My name is Samantha Maesato; I am a senior at Waiakea High School. I am in full support of Senate Bill No. 8, and I would like you to show your support as well. The Board of Education Student Member is the sole representation of 15% of Hawaii's population but has no voting rights on the matters that directly affect the students. With the vote of the Board of Education Student Member, the opinions of the students, which are often disregarded, can be implemented in the Board of Education policies. Therefore, the voice of the students can be heard.

The Board of Education Student Member is the only member of the BOE who spends every day in the state's schools. Therefore, they know what the students want and their vote should count. Other states such as California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Vermont all support a Board of Education Student Member by granting them partial or full voting rights. The Student Representative is expected to uphold all of the same responsibilities as an adult-BOE Member; the only difference is they are not allowed to vote. The Student Members goes through the most rigorous selection process of any other BOE Member, holds the same responsibilities, and keeps up with school tasks. Therefore, they should be granted voting rights on the decisions that directly affect themselves and their peers.

In granting the Board of Education Student Member voting rights in the decisions of the Board of Education the direct link between the schools and the Board of Education will finally have a voice. I thank you for your time. I trust you will show your support for Senate Bill No. 8.



HAWAII STATE STUDENT COUNCIL

475 22ND AVENUE, RM. 211
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

February 4, 2011

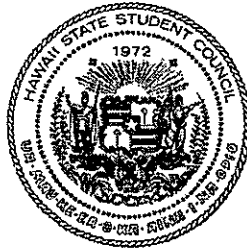
To: Senator Jill Tokuda
Members of the Senate Education Committee

From: Kara Paulachak
Waiakea High School Student Government Association Representative
Junior Class Council Member

Subject: Support of Senate Bill No. 8

Aloha! My name is Kara Paulachak; I am a junior at Waiakea High School as well as a member of the Waiakea High School Student Government Association and Junior Class Council. I am in full support of having a Student Representative on the Appointed Board of Education with voting rights. The Board of Education Student Member is the sole representative of 15% of Hawaii's population, but has no voting rights on the matters that directly affect him or her. The opinions of the students are often disregarded in the policies passed by the Board of Education. The Board of Education Student Representative is the only member of the BOE who spends every day in Hawaii's schools; therefore, they know what the students experience, need, and want. Their vote should count. States such as California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Vermont all support a Student Representative on their respective Board of Education by granting them partial or full voting rights. For 23 years the BOE Student Representative has had the same responsibilities as other BOE members, so they should be granted voting rights on the decisions that directly affect themselves and their peers.

In granting the Board of Education Student Member voting rights, the decisions of the BOE can have a direct link between the schools and the Board of Education. I thank you for your time. I trust you will show your support for Senate Bill No. 8.



HAWAII STATE STUDENT COUNCIL

475 22ND AVENUE, RM. 211
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

February 4, 2011

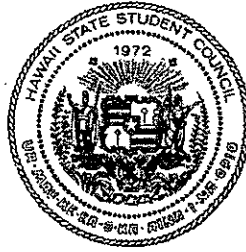
To: Senator Jill Tokuda
Members of the Senate Education Committee

From: Tristan Yoshida
Waiakea High School Student Government Association Representative

Subject: Support of Senate Bill No. 8

Aloha! My name is Tristan Yoshida; I am a senior at Waiakea High School as well as a member of the Waiakea High School Student Government Association and Senior Class Council. I am in full support of having a Student Representative on the Appointed Board of Education with voting rights. The Board of Education Student Member is the sole representative of 15% of Hawaii's population, but has no voting rights on the matters that directly affect him or her. The opinions of the students are often disregarded in the policies passed by the Board of Education. The Board of Education Student Representative is the only member of the BOE who spends every day in Hawaii's schools; therefore, they know what the students experience, need, and want. Their vote should count. States such as California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Vermont all support a Student Representative on their respective Board of Education by granting them partial or full voting rights. For 23 years the BOE Student Representative has had the same responsibilities as other BOE members, so they should be granted voting rights on the decisions that directly affect themselves and their peers.

In granting the Board of Education Student Member voting rights, the decisions of the BOE can have a direct link between the schools and the Board of Education. I thank you for your time. I trust you will show your support for Senate Bill No. 8.



HAWAII STATE STUDENT COUNCIL

475 22ND AVENUE, RM. 211
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

February 4, 2011

To: Senator Jill Tokuda
Members of the Senate Education Committee

From: Alison Nakata
Waiakea High School Student Government Association Representative
Junior Class Council Member

Subject: Support of Senate Bill No. 8

Aloha! My name is Alison Nakata; I am a junior at Waiakea High School as well as a member of the Waiakea High School Student Government Association and Junior Class Council. I am in full support of having a Student Representative on the Appointed Board of Education with voting rights. The Board of Education Student Member is the sole representative of 15% of Hawaii's population, but has no voting rights on the matters that directly affect him or her. The opinions of the students are often disregarded in the policies passed by the Board of Education. The Board of Education Student Representative is the only member of the BOE who spends every day in Hawaii's schools; therefore, they know what the students experience, need, and want. Their vote should count. States such as California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Vermont all support a Student Representative on their respective Board of Education by granting them partial or full voting rights. For 23 years the BOE Student Representative has had the same responsibilities as other BOE members, so they should be granted voting rights on the decisions that directly affect themselves and their peers.

In granting the Board of Education Student Member voting rights, the decisions of the BOE can have a direct link between the schools and the Board of Education. I thank you for your time. I trust you will show your support for Senate Bill No. 8.

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 8:10 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: surferg@aloha.net
Subject: Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM HB159

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cleon M. Bailey
Organization: Individual
Address: 62-2495 Haleola Place Kaumuela, Hawaii
Phone: (808) 880-1532
E-mail: surferg@aloha.net
Submitted on: 2/6/2011

Comments:

Dear Hawaii State Legislature,
I ask you to please contemplate the mechanism of implementing this bill: HB159 and the benefits it will provide for the future citizens of this unique state by bolstering the state's charter school facilities funding. I am asking for your help in bringing this bill to fruition.

Yours Truly, Cleon M. Bailey (Big Island resident)

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 8:20 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: marikaybart@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM HB159

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marikay Bart
Organization: Individual
Address: 75-798 A hiona St. Holualoa, HI
Phone: 8083312506
E-mail: marikaybart@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2011

Comments:

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 8:21 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: bart-man@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM HB159

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Bart
Organization: Individual
Address: 75-798 A Hiona St. Holualoa, HI
Phone: 8089608251
E-mail: bart-man@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2011

Comments:

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 9:58 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: kari@halaulokahi.com
Subject: Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM HB159

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kari Kalima
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: kari@halaulokahi.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2011

Comments:

As public schools of choice, students, staff and families of charter schools ask for your support of HB159 for fair and adequate facility funding.

Mahalo,
Kari Kalima
Parent, Staff and Founder
Halau Lokahi PCS

OPPOSE SB8, SD1 (SSCR3)

Establishes implementing legislation for the appointment of board of education members.

February 4, 2011

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Belatti, and Members of the House Committee on Education,

I oppose SB8, SD1 as the defining legislation for appointment of members of the Board of Education for several reasons:

1) Until a 2006 referendum, the UH Board of Regents had a system of direct appointment with confirmation by the Senate. SB8 imposes this pre-referendum UH BOR direct appointment method of selection for the new Board of Education. The voting public overwhelmingly felt that this process resulted in cronyism and politics. Voters insisted on installing a selection process (via nominating council) to balance direct gubernatorial appointment & Senate confirmation. If we know that the old UH BOR direct appointment method failed, how can this be supported for the BOE today?

2) The public want a better board with greater gubernatorial accountability *for its selection*. Transparency about *how* the decision will be made will go far in gaining the trust of the public who have just delegated their authority to choose board members to those they felt might make better decisions. Without a nominating committee to vet candidates, nor any indication of process/ or search criteria/ or experience matrix, a governor cannot be held accountable for her choices.

3) Clearly the public wants and deserves the best BOE that can be assembled. The BOE will comprise of members with varied and high levels of expertise and experience. They will make decisions that are in the best interests of Hawaii and Hawaii's children. In the decision-making many voices will be heard including those of the children in the system. However, I question the wisdom of including a voting student member in the BOE. If we are raising our expectations of a good board, experience matters. A highly selective process for a small board with greater expertise (not always necessarily in the field of education) will increase the chances for a better board.

4) To improve alignment between the governor's office and the BOE, the governor should choose a board chair that best represents the vision of the governor. A chair that must be internally selected politicizes the board which only serves to distract members from their fiduciary duty.

We have an opportunity to craft a new process for BOE selection – potentially one which will work even BETTER than the current UH BOR process. We must balance the need for a process that results in a well-composed, experienced, accountable BOE (including privacy for nominees), with that for transparency and gubernatorial accountability in the selection process. We must strive for a selection method that provides us with the highest probability of getting the best members over the longest period of time. This is watching out for the best interests of our public school system and the children it serves. SB8 does not pass this test.

Sincerely,
Deborah Berger
2932 Makalei Place
Honolulu, HI 96815

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 4:02 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: shaglund@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB8 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM SB8

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Sue Haglund
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: shaglund@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2011

Comments:

I stand in OPPOSITION to SB 8 SD 1. Accountability does not fall under one branch of government. Accountability is everyone's responsibility in the state of Hawaii.

The idea that a school board direct appointment by the governor and the advise and consent of the Senate holds limits of fair process and qualifications. And leaves the door open for politicizing education and cronyism.

Education and Qualification to serve as a potential board member are the issues at hand. But how can this be achieved by direct appointments by Governor and advise and consent of Senate?

It doesn't get accomplished. Remember our lovely UH Board of Regents prior to 2006? how were they appointed? by advisory council selection process or governor-direct appointment? Governor direct appointment. And what happened? Cronyism is what occurred. Prior to 2006 Board of Regents was a direct appointment by governor and advise and consent by Senate. Did this commit any fair accountability process? Did the public hold the governor accountable to the public university's higher education standards? Did the governor admit to any accountability to Board of Regents appointments? None it was all politicized.

Education is not a gamble or a risk to bet on. It is the foundation of the major function in our society. Without qualified members with the interest in improving the quality of education in Hawaii's public schools then our students in the public schools don't advance and progress because our state has made a mockery and political game to the educational system.

There are three important factors in my opinion that need to be set in place since our November elections' approval for a governor-appointed Board Of Education.

1-first and foremost: Clear Long-Term Process An adequate system of a selection process needs to be set in place when we have a governor-appointed BOE. A selection advisory council set-up similar to the judicial selection commission is a viable necessity.

SB 8 SD 1 is an inadequate bill and does not fulfill this mechanism.

Instead SB 8 SD 1 eliminates public participation: the Senate confirmation process is not a public participation process. It is not a fair process where public input and civic participation can take place through a non-partisan non political selection commission.

2-Procedure

first and foremost a step-by-step description of an internal structure and composition of proper procedural rules need to be provided.

3-Lastly: Accountability and Public Input Accountability does not fall under one branch of government. Accountability is the entire state of Hawaii. By passing SB 8 SD 1 then as a state we are accountable in further destruction of the educational system. This direct appointment process hold no one accountable. Governor can blame the advise and consent Senate process, the public and DOE can blame the legislative and executive branches. But no one is pointing fingers at themselves. This is not an accountability bill--this is a bill that shifts blames under the guise of this is what the people want. I can tell you not all the people want this because most of them did not vote.

You want public input and accountability. Then go out to your communities go door to door like any other election campaign do it year round stay in touch with the public. And ask them for input. But educate and inform them of their choices. Because at the end of the day when the people are presented with a concept only one alternative has been presented and eliminated the rest.

As an alumni of a Hawaii public high school, I want the BEST selection and choice that will improve in the long term the quality of education, not a closed limited systemic process.

My recommendations:

Public awareness, transparency and accountability should be taken into consideration. When i state transparency and accountability I am referring to a fairness process. Be Fair on who are selected, be Fair in the mechanics and structural components of process and be Fair and Accountable in making sure that all matters regarding process and procedure remains non-partisan in all matters not only on paper, but IN PRACTICE and IN-SPIRIT.

Therefore I highly recommend and urge the committee NOT to pass SB 8 SD 1. Thank You.

IN OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 8 TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Committee on Education

Date: January 24, 2011 Time: 1:00 p.m.

Having been involved in efforts to improve the existing Board of Education and more recently in the successful campaign to alter the state constitution to allow for the appointment of the Board of Education I object to the bill as written on a number of grounds.

Much of my concern stems from the basic fact that the bill suggests no criteria against which the public or the Senate can assess whether a nominee is most qualified for the job or at a minimum how that nominee fits into a broader vision of what a “highly qualified” Board of Education looks like.

I have heard the argument used that “direct appointment is what the voters voted for – not a process.” Over the past year we commissioned extensive public polling and focus group work on the appointment process itself. The results of this research were clear yet twofold. Voters did care very deeply about public education, enough to cede their right to elect the BOE in the hope of improvement. They were also predominantly happy to let the Governor select the BOE directly and with great discretion. Nonetheless voters remained deeply concerned about potential future abuse of the appointment process and their inability to remedy that abuse. Fear of cronyism led the vast majority of those surveyed to favor some form of check and balance to minimize the potential “politicization” of public education that most saw as the biggest risk of an appointed BOE. This all fits with a very recent People’s Pulse poll in which I have been told 57% of those polled WANTED some form of appointment process. It is simply not the case that “the voters didn’t want a process,” what the voters wanted was BOTH a better BOE AND a process which increased the odds that it would remain better into the future.

I have also heard the argument that “the current Regents process doesn’t work well enough for the BOE” but is it not the case that when the Regents operated under a directly appointed system similar to that which is being proposed the process was dominated by BOTH cronyism AND party politics? Was it not that process that was rejected handily via ballot initiative in 2006? It is difficult to understand why the Senate would offer

up a solution for the BOE so similar to one that was so recently abused and ultimately overturned by the voters. If the current Regents process is “broken” then by all means it should be fixed – but why are we the voters limited to the “false” choice between two processes whose imperfections have already been so clearly exposed?

I believe that the public itself has both a right and an obligation to perform a “watchdog” role on the policies that impact Hawaii’s public schools. They demonstrated over the last 18 months that they are willing and able to advocate successfully on issues ranging from teacher furloughs to instructional hours. The lack of transparency created by the Senate bill as proposed makes it extremely difficult for the public to successfully perform its function as watchdog. I would also go so far as to suggest that without any objective understanding of what a future Governor defines to be a suitable BOE candidate or a “highly qualified” Board, the Senate itself cannot possibly perform this watchdog function on the public’s behalf.

In addition to the above I have several more minor issues with the Senate bill:

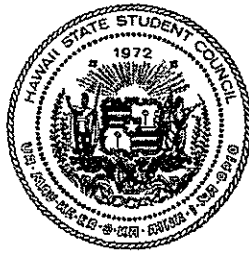
1) Like many of you, I sit on a number of boards. I have found that the optimal size of any board tends to be the minimum number of people required to represent the views and skill sets necessary for that board to carry out its fiduciary responsibilities. I would suggest that the smaller the BOE is the better. It is important to remember that the role of each Board of Education member is to serve as a trustee of the entire system – members do not represent specific constituencies. The key to a good board of trustees is to have diverse views but a singular focus.

2) Since any voting student member would naturally need to be recused on matters impacting such vital issues as collective bargaining and the selection of a Superintendent, a BOE with an odd number of voting adults could reach an impasse on all of those key issues. I believe the Senate should consider an even numbered Board of Education if one of those members is to be a voting student.

3) The self-selection of a Chair immediately polarizes the Board of Education. The popularity contest that follows every election (as members vie to be elected Chair themselves or trade their vote in favor of prized committees) serves no purpose. The Board of Education is a policy board – I suggest that the Chair should be appointed directly by the Governor (with Senate confirmation) and should serve at his or her pleasure. Most of you know how divisive an elected Chair has been on the BOE in recent years – it would be a mistake to continue this practice.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Bill Reeves



HAWAII STATE STUDENT COUNCIL

475 22ND AVENUE, RM. 211
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

February 4, 2011

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chairperson
Members of the Senate Education Committee

From: Cayley Yamashita
Hilo High School Student Association President

Subject: Support of Senate Bill No. 8

Aloha! My name is Cayley Yamashita; I am a senior at Hilo High School. I am in full support of Senate Bill No. 8, and I would like you to show your support as well. The Board of Education Student Member is the sole representation of 15% of Hawaii's population but has no voting rights on the matters that directly affect the students. With the vote of the Board of Education Student Member, the opinions of the students, which are often disregarded, can be implemented in the Board of Education policies. Therefore, the voice of the students can be heard.

The Board of Education Student Member is the only member of the BOE who spends every day in the state's schools. Therefore, they know what the students want and their vote should count. Other states such as California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Vermont all support a Board of Education Student Member by granting them partial or full voting rights. The Student Representative is expected to uphold all of the same responsibilities as an adult-BOE Member; the only difference is they are not allowed to vote. The Student Members goes through the most rigorous selection process of any other BOE Member, holds the same responsibilities, and keeps up with school tasks. Therefore, they should be granted voting rights on the decisions that directly affect themselves and their peers.

In granting the Board of Education Student Member voting rights in the decisions of the Board of Education the direct link between the schools and the Board of Education will finally have a voice. I thank you for your time. I trust you will show your support for Senate Bill No. 8.