

SCR113 / SR64

Measure Title: REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO TELEVISION OR MAKE AVAILABLE ONLINE ITS MEETINGS.

Report Title: Board of Education; Televised or Online Meetings

Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: EDU, WAM

Introducer(s): HARIMOTO, ESPERO, GREEN, Baker, Chun Oakland, Gabbard, Galuteria, Inouye, Kahele, Kidani, Kim, Nishihara, Riviere, Ruderman, Shimabukuro, Slom, L. Thielen, Tokuda, Wakai

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
3/13/2015	S	Offered.
3/23/2015	S	Referred to EDU, WAM.
3/23/2015	S	The committee(s) on EDU has scheduled a public hearing on 03-30-15 1:15PM in conference room 229.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Wil Okabe
President

Joan Kamila Lewis
Vice President

Colleen Pasco
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2015

RE SCR 113 / SR 64

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports SCR113 / SR 64** requesting the “Board of Education to televise or make available online its meetings.

The HSTA believes that an active, working relationship with the Board of Education will help HSTA members to function effectively to protect our rights and interests and help advocate for better policies that affect public education.

HSTA appreciates the Legislatures’ recognition of the difficulty of attending, participating or viewing these important meetings due to the time of day in which they are held. This request would not only make it possible for our teachers to view the proceedings on non-school time it would also make it possible to bring the meetings into the classroom as classrooms are technologically upgraded.

HSTA **supports SCR113 / SR64**



49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813
www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7448 | voters@lwvhawaii.com

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Monday, March 30, 2015, 1:15 p.m., Room 229

TESTIMONY
HCR 113, REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO TELEVISION OR MAKE AVAILABLE
ONLINE ITS MEETINGS.

Janet Mason, Legislative Co-Chair, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Kidani, Vice-Chair Harimoto, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HCR 113. The measure asks the Board of Education to televise its meetings or make them available over the internet.

We support the public's right and interest concerning the administration, policy setting and budget making for our statewide public school and library systems. We acknowledge the leadership already shown by members of this Committee in improving access to participation in education policy making.

At the present time, the public is permitted to testify at full Board of Education meetings, but the location of these meetings rotates regularly so that meetings are directly available to different communities throughout the State. Having the meetings broadcast could interest in Board decision making and effectively make the meetings available statewide.

Frankly we hope in the not-too-distant future citizen participation may include online testimony before the Board, since there is such a large constituency of citizens throughout the State who use library and school services. Any Department of Education facilities already available for internal web conferencing could surely be adapted for the Board's occasional use for full Board of Education meetings.

We expect it would take some time for the public to adjust to any new opportunity to participate, so we hope this would be publicized appropriately by the Department of Education.

We urge you to pass this resolution. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Janet Mason

From: Douglas Meller <douglasmeller@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 1:06 PM
To: Janet Mason
Subject: Re: SCR113

I will let you write testimony. I think it's usually a waste of time to broadcast any meeting (including legislative hearings), but it makes sense for videotaped BOE meetings to be available on-demand over the internet.

On Thu, Mar 26, 2015 at 12:56 PM, Janet Mason <janetmason@hawaiiantel.net> wrote:

We have a position which could support this don't you think? I'm willing to write testimony if you can't. Let me know.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Susan Dursin <sudydursin@gmail.com>
Date: March 26, 2015 at 12:33:46 PM HST
To: Janet Mason <janetmason@hawaiiantel.net>
Subject: SCR113

Hi Janet -

Does LWV have any position on SCR113, which is to be heard on Monday? It's the one requesting the Board of Education of televise their meetings or make them available online. I have written and submitted testimony for myself, but I just wondered whether it was something that had come to the attention of LWV.

Sue

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR113 on Mar 30, 2015 13:15PM*
Date: Monday, March 23, 2015 6:11:02 PM

SCR113

Submitted on: 3/23/2015

Testimony for EDU on Mar 30, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senate Committee on Education

Monday, March 30, 2015

1:15 p.m.

Conference Room 229

SCR 113 Requesting the Board of Education to televise or make available online its meetings

Testimony from Susan Dursin, representing herself

Chair Senator Kidani, Vice Chair Senator Harimoto and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support this resolution. As a Big Island resident, I find it difficult to follow matters before the Board of Education and the subsequent decision making. Attending meetings is almost impossible as most meetings take place on Oahu. Even when they are scheduled for this island, they are almost always held in Hilo – a three-hour trip one way. Frustrating! Reading the minutes is an after-the-fact exercise and doesn't show the discussion. All in all, I feel seriously distanced from this important group that sets so much policy for our schools.

Increasingly, the public is cut off from the Board of Education. Now that board members are appointed instead of elected, there is even less attention on the board – who they are and what they are doing. For most members of the public, including those with children or grandchildren and even, I suspect for teachers and other school employees, the Board of Education is a faceless, nameless entity operating pretty much in the shadows.

Education remains one of the highest responsibilities of Hawaii's state government. However, we are the only state in the union where a state board of education operates by itself without the leavening of local boards. We are a state where distances and transportation create serious impediments to civic monitoring and participation.

SCR 113 seeks to remedy this situation by allowing citizens across the state to see their school board in action. Televising or making meetings available online has any number of positive outcomes.

Those who watch have a broad base of knowledge and experience. Others may have specialized insight. They may understand that a proposed rule will affect their area or a certain group of students differently than it affects the wider student population. The input of these people is invaluable. Finally, when you provide access and transparency, you encourage understanding and a feeling of ownership. That feeling is necessary to the successful operation of any public agency.

I urge you to support SCR 113.

Susan Dursin

Captain Cook, HI