



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/14/2023

Time: 02:15 PM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0830 RELATING TO THE HAWAII SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the Department of Education to meet with Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind stakeholders and members of the Hawaii deaf community regarding the development of a plan to transition the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind to a conversion charter school. Requires a report to the Legislature.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on HB 830 for the Committee's consideration.

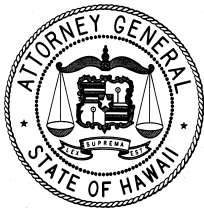
HB 830 requires the Department to submit a letter of intent to an authorizer to convert the Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind (HSDB) to a charter school, assist with the establishment of an applicant governing board for the charter school, and develop a detailed implementation plan to transition the HSDB to a conversion charter school.

Section 302D-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), defines the requirements and procedures to establish a start-up or conversion charter school. Requiring the Department to submit a letter of intent to an authorizer, assist with the establishment of an applicant governing board, and develop a detailed implementation plan is inconsistent with Section 302D, HRS.

If the school community is interested in pursuing charter school status, they may follow the procedures and requirements as outlined in Section 302D-13, HRS.

The Department will continue to engage community stakeholders and the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind in improving support and services for our students who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 830.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 830, RELATING TO THE HAWAII SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

DATE: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 **TIME:** 2:15 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 309

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Anne T. Horiuchi, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) provides the following comments.

The bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to meet with Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind (HSDB) stakeholders and members of the Hawaii deaf community regarding the development of a plan to transition the HSDB to a conversion charter school. The bill also requires that the DOE submit a report to the Legislature regarding the transition plan.

Section 302D-13(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes, states that "[a]ny community, department school, school community council, group of teachers, group of teachers and administrators, or nonprofit organization may establish an applicant governing board and develop a charter application[.]" The decision and actions needed to convert into a charter school are school-based or community-based decisions, and are not within the DOE's jurisdiction.

To implement the intent of the bill, we recommend the following revisions to substitute the HSDB for the DOE as the lead entity to orchestrate the plans to transition the HSBD to a conversion charter school:

(1) Replace section 1 with the following:

By August 1, 2023, the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind shall meet with alum, student, and parent representatives of the Hawaii School

for the Deaf and Blind, and other members of the Hawaii deaf community about progress toward a plan to convert the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind to a charter school and to discuss alternatives, including an immersion school structure.

(2) Revise section 2 on page 1, lines 8-11 to state:

By October 1, 2023, the [~~department of education,~~] Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind, in consultation with alum, student, and parent representatives of the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind and other members of the Hawaii deaf community, shall:

(3) Revise section 3 on page 2 at line 17 to replace "department of education" with "Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind".

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 14, 2023

H.B. 830 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO wishes to provide comments on H.B. 830, which requires the department of education to meet with Hawaii School for Deaf and Blind stakeholders and members of the Hawaii deaf community regarding the development of a plan to transition the Hawaii School for Deaf and Blind to a conversion charter school. Requires a report to the Legislature.

As the exclusive representative of the school administrators, classified and support staff of all of Hawaii's public charter schools, we have witnessed firsthand some of the problems that come with a semi-autonomous school setting. Employees have sought our representation on several matters, including grievances that may have been avoided if the employer was the department of education and not an independent governing board.

We do not see a benefit for the members of the Hawaii deaf community if the school is converted to a charter school. The public charter school system has seen some success in Hawaii but has also been plagued with challenges. The mistakes made in the past should not be repeated as the victims of those errors are the very individuals we should be helping: the children, our workers, and the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 830.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director