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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII  
RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds Hawaii is the only state  
2 in the nation where a single department of education and a  
3 single statewide board run all public schools in the state. All  
4 other states have school systems broken down into districts  
5 within the state, each with their own separate board of  
6 education. Hawaii's centralized school board and school system  
7 is unlike any other state.

8           The legislature finds that a centralized school system  
9 comes with several drawbacks. For example, every public school,  
10 regardless of the differences between them, are required to  
11 follow the same set of state regulations and guidelines as it  
12 relates to education. This system also leaves little room for  
13 flexibility in introducing new teaching approaches, or in trying  
14 new instructional programming.

15           The legislature finds that entrusting the governance of  
16 public schools to citizens elected by their respective



1 communities to oversee their school districts is imperative to a  
2 well-functioning school system in the state. With this system in  
3 place, elected board members can address the unique education-  
4 related needs of their respective districts for better tailored  
5 improvements in public education.

6 The purpose of this Act is to amend the Constitution of the  
7 State of Hawaii to provide for multiple, local school board that  
8 are populated with elected board members, in place of the  
9 current Board of Education.

10 SECTION 2. Article X, section 2, of the Hawaii  
11 Constitution is amended to read as follows:

12 **"BOARD OF EDUCATION**

13 **Section 2.** There shall be [a] five [board] boards of  
14 education[~~-. The governor shall nominate and, by and with the~~  
15 ~~advice and consent of the senate, appoint the members of the~~  
16 ~~board of education, as provided by law.]~~ composed of members who  
17 shall be elected in a nonpartisan manner by qualified voters, as  
18 provided by law. One board shall cover the entire state, and be  
19 composed of members who reside anywhere within the state. The  
20 four other boards shall each cover one county area. Each county  
21 school board district shall be divided into departmental school



1 districts, as may be provided by law. There shall be at least  
2 one member residing in each departmental school district for the  
3 county-specific boards of education."

4 SECTION 3. Article XVIII, section 12, of the Hawaii  
5 Constitution is amended to read as follows:

6 **"BOARD OF EDUCATION TRANSITION**

7 **Section 12** There shall be a period of transition from the  
8 [~~elected~~] appointed to the [~~appointed~~] elected [~~board~~] boards of  
9 education, as provided by law."

10 SECTION 3. The question to be printed on the ballot shall  
11 be as follows:

12 "Shall the Board of Education be changed from a board  
13 appointed by the governor to one statewide board and four  
14 countywide boards elected by the qualified voters of the  
15 State, as provided by law?"

16 SECTION 4. Constitutional material to be repealed is  
17 bracketed and stricken. New constitutional material is  
18 underscored.

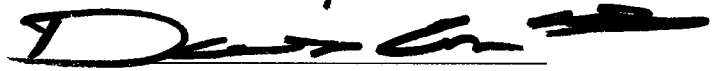
19 SECTION 5. This amendment shall take effect upon  
20 compliance with article XVII, section 3, of the Constitution of



H.B. NO. 630

- 1 the State of Hawaii; provided that, subject to ratification,
- 2 section 4 shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 20 2023



# H.B. NO. 630

**Report Title:**

Constitutional Amendment; Public Education; Elected Local School Boards

**Description:**

Proposes a constitutional amendment that would: (1) establish local school boards throughout the State to be elected from at least 7 school districts as provided by law; and (2) create an educational standards and accountability commission.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

