

**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION**
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

House Committee on Education

Tuesday, February 7, 2023
2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309

**House Bill 630, Proposing Amendments to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii
Relating to Public Education**

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education ("Board") respectfully provides **comments** on HB 630, which would propose 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 Board takes no position on legislation relating to the Board's membership, as the Board believes it is most appropriate for the Legislature and Governor to decide such matters. The Board will endeavor to provide the Legislature with any relevant information relating to Board membership matters to enable the Legislature to make informed decisions.

In 2010, the Legislature passed HB 2376, which proposed an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to change the Board from one elected by voters to one appointed by the Governor. The conference committee report on the final form of HB 2376 explained that the purpose of the bill was to "improve the accountability of Hawaii's public education system[.]" The public voted in favor of the proposed amendment that same year. Media reporting at the time linked anger over "Furlough Fridays," which some at the time claimed "could have been prevented if the [B]oard had been more directly answerable to the governor."¹

¹ Katherine Poythress, "Elected Board Of Education Gets Permanent Furlough," *Honolulu Civil Beat*, October 28, 2010, <https://www.civilbeat.org/2010/10/6034-elected-board-of-education-gets-permanent-furlough/> (accessed February 3, 2023).

HB 630 illustrates that there may be some misconceptions about what the Board and the state level of the Department of Education (“Department”) do. For example, neither the Board nor the Department’s state-level offices mandate “teaching approaches” to schools. The type of flexibility over “instructional programming” this bill seeks to achieve already exists in the current system. Further, the 15 complex areas create an even more localized structure for tailoring education to communities than four county-based districts would, and citizens interested in improving their local school can participate on its school community council (“SCC”), as state law requires an SCC for every single Department school.

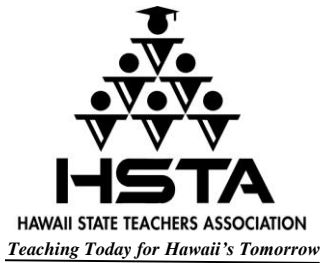
Splitting the State’s unitary statewide school district into multiple county-based school districts would undoubtedly have a number of unintended operational effects, such as needing to change the funding streams and mechanisms for public education (which could include requiring counties to pay for public education like in nearly every other state), but Board defers to the Department on operational and implementation matters related to this issue.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William N. Arakaki".

Sincerely,

Bill Arakaki
Chairperson, Board of Education 2023 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HB 630 – PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF
THE STATE OF HAWAII RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **opposes HB 630**. This bill proposes a constitutional amendment that would establish local school boards throughout the State to be elected from at least 7 school districts as provided by law. It would also create an education standards and accountability commission.

This proposed constitutional amendment would add unneeded layers of bureaucracy to our educational system that would make it much more administratively top-heavy. Adding regional school boards and creating an educational standards and accountability commission runs contrary to plan objectives to streamline administrative systems with the Board of Education and the Department of Education.

The public school system in Hawai'i today accounts for a significant percentage of the state budget annually, as we are the only state in the nation that does not use property taxes to help fund our public schools. Thus, this proposed constitutional amendment would either add to that figure, or further stretch resources in the Department already competing with itself for financial resources to provide to our schools and our classrooms. We should be looking to increase the funding down to the school level and our classrooms, not making it more challenging by creating additional levels of bureaucracy.

Creating multiple districts with their own Boards would complicate that collective bargaining and further stretch resources.

While there may be issues that need addressing to improve public education in Hawai'i, we feel strongly that this proposed constitutional amendment would not address any of them, but instead complicate them further.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **oppose** this bill.

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 11:54:21 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Bartlett	Moms For Liberty Honolulu County	Support	In Person

Comments:

To: Education Committee

From: Cynthia Bartlett, Moms For Liberty Honolulu County

With an elected school board the distribution of power is restored between the school board, the Governor's office and the legislature.

With an appointed school board the office of the Governor now has twice the power. It absorbed the power that an elected school board once had. Now there are two parts power of the Governor to the legislature's one part power. It does not work and it never will.

Hawaii's highly centralized education system has concentrated enormous power in the hands of a relative few and they are determined to keep it. Equity in education and social justice for our schools lies in allowing our counties to have their separate and elected school boards.

To face this issue in the digital age we need only to look at data and money flow. Our student's academic proficiency has fallen year after year after year with more money coming year after year after year.

With a centralized unelected school board there is nothing to stop this slide and spending increase. It becomes harder to detail financial accountability and audit the money trail. The parents and citizens are stakeholders but remain marginalized and cut out without having a vote to choose from candidates who step forward to run for school board.

Members of the school board sit on Oahu, Despite visits to outer islands and even appointing a few outer island members, there is no chance for the local public to vote on board members who uphold ideas and excellence in education in their community. Hawaii can still uphold state standards and have local elected school boards.

Centralized education is easier for outside contractors to influence only a few decision makers who decide what all our children are exposed to. Our education system has taken a sweeping worldview 180 degree turn post covid. We have gender identity saying biology is not real and teachers, school counselors and students being trained to look at all lessons and curriculum through a lens of gender, race and oppression. Even a simple math word question needs to morph into a classroom discussion of oppression. Since when did the number 1 issue in

education become feelings and skin color? What happened to deeper thinking and real education?

Since the unions influence the Governor by being a major supporter of his campaign we need to look at the union as stakeholders. The NEA teachers union has a heavy influence on our HSTA which sends delegates to its annual conference. This year the president of the NEA cited Angela Davis as a role model teachers should follow for change. A woman jailed for bombing and other crimes. Is this the change we want in Hawaii? Teachers by the thousands were clapping at that speech. And this has been brought back to Hawaii and implemented in our centralized system without checks in balances.

Parents did not have a say in this new worldview. switch. They did not ask for soft competencies in the new transformative Social Emotional Learning. They did not ask for surveys asking their children how they feel and putting them into tier1, tier 2 and tier 3 mental health categories and keeping data on them. Who in our centralized system gave the OK to paying for all this? Now the BOE is saying their new mission and vision statement must be aligned with the global Education 2030 Agenda making our students global citizens.

This is what happens in centralized education. As Walter Heen once said, “Educational centralization is a mountain that defies Sisyphus.”

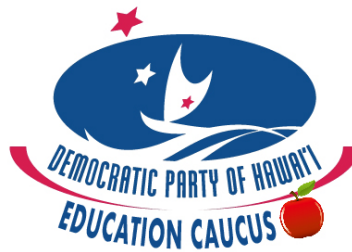
We need an elected school board in this digital age where candidates can clearly state why they are running and what they intend to do to get our proficiency turned around and develop confidence and resilience through skill building. Not constantly talking about gender and race and if kids feel sad. Common sense tells us that our children deserve so much more than that.

Why is so much in the existing system based on the concerns of the adults rather than the needs of the children? Elected school boards divided into districts will make the system student-centered rather than system-centered.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Bartlett

Moms For Liberty Honolulu County



HOUSE BILL 630, PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 7, 2023 · HOUSE EDUCATION
COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. JUSTIN H. WOODSON

POSITION: Strong opposition.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **opposes** HB 630, which proposes amendments to the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i relating to public education.

Equity is a hallmark of Hawai'i's education system. While imperfect, our state's commitment to equity in our learning system is evidenced by the weighted student formula, which distributes operational funding to public schools in manner that accounts for student need.

Moreover, Hawai'i is the only statewide school system in the nation. As such, it is funded by general funds, rather than by property taxes, unlike other school districts. Being a statewide school system heightens the need to emphasize educational equity through a state-level board of education that can guarantee fiscal balance for each complex area.

Establishing local school boards would create additional bureaucracy would undermine our state's commitment to educational equity by decentralizing school governance. **Hawai'i already incorporates local governance at the school level through school-community councils, which include administrators, teachers, students, and parents.**

Adding layers of bureaucracy to our islands' educational governance will not make our school system more efficient. Instead, it will create additional hurdles for schools to overcome in implementing federal and state policy initiatives. Furthermore, local school boards will likely lack the ability to manage and process departmental budgets in a manner that guarantees that every school within its purview receives its fair share of education revenue and support.

Let's call a spade a spade. This measure isn't being sponsored to empower schools with the capacity to respond to genuine academic concerns more effectively, like our state's chronic teacher shortage or learning loss mitigation. On the contrary, **this is an effort to insert an anti-intellectual and often fundamentalist agenda into our schools under the guise of "parental choice."** **Please do not be fooled.**

If enacted, this amendment would allow anti-vaxxers to challenge vaccine policies that keep our students safe and mandate curricula that run afoul of basic science, such as ideologically driven sexual health curricula. It could even precipitate attempts to undermine the legacy of Title IX by permitting conservative local school boards to adopt policies that discriminate against LGBTQ students. It would almost certainly lead to the type of "don't say gay" policies and unfounded hysteria about critical race theory that are wreaking havoc on mainland schools.

We strongly oppose this bill and the fearmongering on which it is based.

Kris Coffield · Chairperson, DPH Education Caucus · (808) 679-7454 · kriscoffield@gmail.com

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 12:45:19 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary cordery	Aloha Freedom Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Speaking for the Aloha Freedom Coalition and it's thousands of supporters and members we strongly support this bill.

it is absolutely impairitive that the decisions regarding education must allow parents and individual communities to determine the curriculum implemented in the classroom.

thank you,

Gary Cordery

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:49:32 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Fujiwara	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I support bill SB630. Each county has their own unique culture and the board should be open to hearing from and caring for each individual not only Honolulu/city public.

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 12:08:20 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james wallace	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I fully support HB630.WE need the Power back to the people.Our government has failed our keiki's Big Time.I dont Trust our corrupt government anymore.Our Children is now in the swamps and has been dumbed down as planned.

LATE

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 11:23:55 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adriel Lam	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Local communities work best with local decisions made at the local level. Education is the future of our local communities and best directed, developed, and led by locally elected leaders.

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:00:41 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sabrina Sumner	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I, Sabrina Sumner, citizen of the State of Hawai'i in the United States of America, support HB 630. Every county is different and each island should have their OWN BOE. Bring the power back to the people of Hawai'i, especially to parents who wants what is best for their children, instead of unknown officials making decisions who know nothing to barely knowing certain variables of children needs. More importantly, using forced agenda onto children and parents are unaware of unknown officials being chosen, knowing the background or credentials of the group or individuals, to give curriculums onto children. Transparency is very much needed in full circle to parents [especially] being involved, mentors, teachers, and children.

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:59:43 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LAURA NAKANELUA	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Attn: Chair Woodson of the House Committee on Education

Subject: HB 630 Relating to Public Education

February 7, 2023

Aloha Representative Woodson,

My name is Laura Nakanelua and I am writing you as a concerned citizen and parent, to express my strong support for HB630.

I appreciate that this bill proposes to break the current *appointed* State Board of Education into several local *elected* school boards across the state, transforming it into a truly representative body. It is time that local parents and citizens of Hawai'i have input into our keiki's education.

Turning these school boards into elected positions will allow the community to choose who they want to represent their respective districts. How impactful would it be if elected individuals serving on the School Boards could effectively address the unique education-related needs of their respective districts? Wouldn't you agree that this would allow for a more tailored approach to addressing improvements in our public education?

I also believe it's timely that this bill would create an educational standards and accountability commission to oversee the school boards.

Without accountability, it is impossible to know whether the current boards are truly serving the best interest of the families and children across the Aloha State. For far too long Hawai'i schools have been in the bottom tier of the nation across many metrics. We can do better by our kids.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my support of this important piece of legislation. I hope you will vote in favor of passage. I believe this has the potential to lift the standard of education for our keiki for years to come.

Respectfully,

Laura Nakanelua

D50, Kailua

Lauranakanelua@gmail.com

(808) 561-2325

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:57:30 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ramon Maui Quizon	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Please accept this written testimony in support of HB630 proposing 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. I strongly urge support of HB630.

Maui Quizon

Mililani Mauka

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 1:45:58 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill.

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 2:22:20 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl Burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT. I support that we would put this proposal before the people of these islands to (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. Though we know that this would not solve all the issues, the current DOE is inefficient in its' current systemic state. My question would be about the accountability and standards commission. With the current ebb and flow of political opinions, it would be good to see that these boards and commissions were somehow appointed/determined by the community as can. My other question: if it is determined by the voters to follow this path, would the current DOE be dissolved or be considered an O`ahu district?

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:50:40 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill. The power should be with the people. Government has too much power and has overstepped their boundaries for too long. School boards should be elected by the people.

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:53:23 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Stuebben	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB630! Bring the power back to the people and allow for representation to be county specific.

Yes to HB630.

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:21:50 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pancho Sullivan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

The Hawaii State Constitution is very clear.

Article I

Bill Of Rights

POLITICAL POWER

Section 1. All political power of this State is inherent in the people and the responsibility for the exercise thereof rests with the people. All government is founded on this authority.

We the people reserve the right to decide matters such as who we want as BOE and reserve the right to do so in each county to serve the interest of each individual county as the people see fit.

Nominating people or persons for these positions at the behest of elected officials so as to serve their political, financial and ideological interest is a direct infringement against our rights.

With aloha,

Pancho Sullivan

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:24:17 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Caiazzo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

HB630 I fully support. This is a solution to an ongoing problem I hear often from outer islands. I have traveled and been a parent/child advocate. I myself having to go down to the Department of Education to testify in person at Board of Education meetings, to represent parents who may not physically be able to attend. We all know every county is different and having a centralized education system has far more negatives than positives. The BOE is predominately in Honolulu, and even has financial costs for them to travel to outer islands. Every county is different and each island should have their own BOE. We the people want the power back and have real accountability by elected if the BOE, for that is how we have accountability. Mahalo.

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:21:10 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jr Tupai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the House Committee on Education for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB630. Establishing local school boards throughout the State to be elected from several school districts is what our communities and keiki need. This legislation will increase community involvement in the lives of Hawaii's posterity and give the ability to direct the trajectory of education in the hands of these respective islands. Again, mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB630.

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:30:22 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Dieperink	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I highly **SUPPORT HB 630**

It's imperative for our democracy to have ELECTED school boards for each county, and not a single school board appointed by the governor. The way it works now makes the school board "yes" men for the governor, as evidenced by what happened during the "pandemic". We need local elected school boards to better address issues and challenges.

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:58:55 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tania victorine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We absolutely need to have locally ELECTED school boards and an accountability commission.

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:48:35 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Monten Tsalapatani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am a mother on Maui with two kids, one has Down syndrome. In the last few years it has been frustrating to navigate the DOE system to try to help my child not fall so far behind. It took several months to finally CONNECT with someone on the DOE who said they could help (my daughter was not able to hear well through the masks and especially during speech therapy time. She had so many hundreds of hours of therapy on her iep but she could not progress with her pronunciation because she could not see what her tongue lips and face was supposed to do with each sound) We finally were able to be told that the speech therapist would be given a clear mask to help with this problem. I waited several months and that never happened. I connected with her speech therapist and she said she never was contacted by Oahu's DOE and thus, a whole year of missed speech therapy opportunities really harmed her for life! I was told by our school principal that everything has to go through the DOE but then when we try to go through the DOE it just was too much bureaucracy and too far away to be accountable to help us meet our needs. This legislation is vital to helping stop the leak of the kids through the cracks so there could be accountability and faster processing times! Please approve HB630. It is the best for our keiki!!

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 1:00:01 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emerson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let parents raise their keiki and not the government. Theres a lot of hidden things that go down that parents dont know about and its a parents right to know

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 1:04:22 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Manahel Al-hozail	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this.

TESTIMONY

PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

HB 630 RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION

Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 1:00 pm
State Capitol Conference Room 309 and via Videoconference

Submitted in **STRONG SUPPORT** by Mrs. Jamie Detwiler, President, Hawaii Federation of Republican Women.

Honorable Chairs EDN, JHA, FIN, and the House Republican Caucus

I strongly **SUPPORT** HB 630, **RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION** for the following reasons:

A school board's authority is exercised through the collective decisions of the entire board acting as a governing body. The law should not convey any power or authority upon individual school board directors acting on their own merely by virtue of their office.

HB630 provides an open process for registered voters in all statewide Counties to elect board members rather than board members selected by a government official.

School boards are subject to accountability and transparency which requires school boards to deliberate and make their decisions at meetings that are open to the public and advertised in advance. School boards must allow citizens a reasonable opportunity to speak to the board about the matters the board is deciding.

Elected School Boards at the county level must work with all stakeholders (students, parents, educators, and administrators) to establish and maintain communication and support policy development to promote a well-rounded education.

Please vote **YES** for HB630.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:16:36 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Kahiapo	Growing Pono Schools	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for considering HB630 that proposes a constitutional amendment to establish local school boards and create an educational standards and accountability commission. I strongly support this which is obviously a move toward providing the very best education for Hawai'i's keiki. Having been in the field of education for over 30 years, I have witnessed the decline in educational standards and hope you will lend your ear to the many testimonies and be open to change. Mahalo!

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:15:36 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alisa Hamasaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am supporting HB630 as I feel it is necessary for our state of Hawaii to establish local school boards throughout the state as well as creating educational standards and accountability commission. As a teacher, I see the definite need to get more voice and people to help with policies and oversee the Hawaii public schools. I don't understand how we have one DOE for the whole state of Hawaii, when other states have one or more for each city. This bill will help create more options and minds to assess the problem and find solutions. Hawaii DOE needs more help and HB630 will be one step in that direction if it is approved.

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:49:29 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gregory Misakian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB630

Submitted for EDN Committee Hearing on 2/7/23 at 2:00 PM

I Strongly Support HB630.

Gregory Misakian

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:27:32 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret Nakoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly Support!

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:16:25 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Edghill	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please give parents the power to choose Board representatives.

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:19:35 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Schayden Gorai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:16:59 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamakani de dely	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:00:16 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Woodson and Vice Chair Marten,

I strongly support HB 630.

The DOE and BOE have become bloated bureaucracies that have failed our keiki.

Our schools are deteriorating, our classrooms are too hot and over crowded, teachers are under paid and have to purchase classroom supplies they should already have.

We keep pumping more and more tax dollars into a department that has no accountability nor is fiscally responsible.

Just like Federalism, decisions should be made as local as possible, especially when it comes to the education of our keiki.

Mahalo

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:11:36 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine C. Morales	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a bill we fully support. This is a solution to an ongoing problem with having the BOE. The things that we do in rural Big Island should not be dictated by Oahu's needs. Every county is different and each island should have their own BOE. Also bringing the power back to the people to elect these officials instead of selecting these members.

With Aloha,

Katherine C. Morales

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:25:36 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Smart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I most strongly support HB630. The state-wide construct of the Board of Education isn't working. Our schools are failing to educate our keiki. Test scores and level of proficiency in the basics (reading, writing, and arithmetic) are mostly below average. It is time to go back to county affiliated school boards that can better meet the needs of the local communities. Let the people decide through a proposed constitutional amendment placed on an upcoming election ballot.

Please pass HB630. Vote Yes!

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:24:52 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C. Vierra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If you've ever had a child in the public school system and had to deal with the BOE, you know how important this bill is. I strongly support HB630.

Mahalo

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:14:10 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandi Bright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:04:00 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aimee Fung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support!! We should be able to select our own school board for our district.

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:41:05 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james pirtle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support parents being able to select their school boards and educators.

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:11:53 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB630. Our keiki are best represented by their parents and the public at large, not by appointees selected primarily for their political connections. For the sake of the children and the future of the state of Hawaii, the school board should be broken up into regional representatives who are directly elected by the resident voters of the designated area.

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:35:59 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keikilani Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

School boards should be elected by parents of school children, not appointed. There also should not be ONE board governing the entire state. Each district has different needs, and the only people who would know better are the people in that district. One board having complete control is not helpful for our children, and we have one of the most disappointing student test scores in the country. That should say enough. We need to meet our childrens needs and one governing board has proven to be a failure. We need boards in each district, and they need to be elected by the people, not appointed by government officials.

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:49:17 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Elento	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the Committee on Education,

I do not believe School Community Councils are operated in a way intended nor effective in representing the needs and thoughts of residents and other stakeholders to make change happen. I believe this is due in part that we have an educational bureaucracy where district leaders must comply with state leaders.

We are a one-level educational state system; all districts should be leaders,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB630.

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 1:35:43 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jaerick medeiros-garcia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB630 , the way it's set up now is not what the public wants or needs.

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 1:57:39 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry Murakami	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB630. In order to ensure the best quality education for our children we need our education system to be run as locally as possible.

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 5:34:47 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dalene McCormick	West Hawaii GOP	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill.

LATE

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:51:51 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennie Y Wolfe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB 630. Even though I am a parent of adult children, I feel strongly that the Board of Education must become an elected body. For too long, the board has been appointed by the Governor. Not all board of Education members see eye to eye with what the parents want for their children's education. Parents should have a choice as to who they think will represent the best in education and provide teachers with skills to educate in the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic and not indoctrination. Too many schools on the mainland of late are trying to teach CRT and Trans gender to children as young as age 5. Parental rights have been striped in some schools on the mainland. The board of education has called on the Justice dept to have parents designated as domestic terrorist. This cannot hapopen in Hawaii. As a concerned citizen, I am writing this testomony in favor of a board elected by the people.

Thank you for your time and consideration

LATE

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 9:20:06 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna P. Van Osdol	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is an excellent bill which I support!

Thank you.

LATE

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 9:24:45 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Kama-Kimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Should have been done years ago. Strongly Support!

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 9:32:54 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chloe S	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in support of this bill as I believe that it will insure that Hawai'i's school children have better educational opportunities.

LATE

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 10:02:16 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan KukaMalia Broussard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Board of Review for This Great State of Hawaii.

My name is Susan KukaMalia Broussard and I support Bill 630.

I work part-time for DOE Hawaii. I am for the most part identify as Female, mother Widow (twice) of 6 adult children 4 Step-Adult Children and 11 Grandchildren; with Conservative values, just like Prince Kuhio. I am always helping to teach our keiki in our school system and in Scouting BSA at Aloha Council. All our keiki should speak Hawaiian and not be afraid to use it. It is important we embrace our fundamental rights of Aloha, specifically our mother tongue of Hawaiian. This Bill 630 protects and perpetuates truth and righteousness. We are Diverse and come from all walks of life. We effect the world we live in. Garbage in, Garbage out. Good stuff in, good stuff out.

I support this bill to protect our keiki from insensitive educational programming and replacing it with our Hawaiian deep rooted cultural values. No where in this world is like Hawaii. We need to be proud of who we are and where we come from. We were born to be Diverse, we covet our Equity of Aloha, and we include all to our shores. I am in support of Bill 630 proposed by Lauren Chappe Marsumoto and Diamond Garcia.

This is a bill to protect all and not some.

Mahalo Nui,

Susan KukaMalia Broussard

LATE

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 10:19:17 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan-Nicholas: Luther	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Having just on centralized system is not ideal nor fair to other counties in the State of Hawaii. As of the rest of the nation the Board of Education is broken down into counties, giving the ability for all to voice the thoughts and share their needs.

Hawaii having just one centralized Board of Education is not beneficial to our uniqueness of being on island chain and communities divided the ocean, leaves many taxpaying citizens without the capability to voice their opinions and requirements of the education system in-person as the rest of the nation.

Therefore, I strongly support HB630 for making amendments to the State of Hawaii Constitution, in-regards to the public education system. This desperately needed revision will also provided the accountabliltiy to the communities wants and needs, as each area is unique in its area and its community ideologies.

LATE

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 1:02:08 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin J. Cole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the Election of School Board members. This Democracy at its finest.

LATE

HB-630

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 1:31:26 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna Hudson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB630 to establish local school boards to be elected and create educational standards and accountability commission.