

JAN 18 2023

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. Section 302A-1106.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
2 is amended to read as follows:

3           "§302A-1106.5 Board of education; community [meetings-]  
4 forums. [~~The board shall hold not less than one community~~  
5 ~~meeting annually in each county in] In addition to [their] its  
6 regular meetings, the board shall hold not less than six  
7 community forums annually to discuss and receive input from the  
8 community on public education and public library issues[-];  
9 provided that the board shall hold at least one community forum  
10 in each county. The board chairperson shall designate less than  
11 a quorum of board members to attend [the] each community  
12 [meetings-] forum and shall appoint one designated member as  
13 chair of the community forum. These community [meetings] forums  
14 shall not be held for the purpose of formulating educational  
15 policy. The community [meetings] forums shall be [~~exempt from~~  
16 ~~sections 92-2.5, 92-7, 92-9, and 92-41;~~ provided that the board  
17 shall give written public notice of each community meeting. The~~



1 ~~meeting notice shall indicate the date, time, and place of the~~  
2 ~~meeting, and shall be filed in the office of the lieutenant~~  
3 ~~governor and in the board's office for public inspection six~~  
4 ~~calendar days before the meeting. The notice shall also be~~  
5 ~~posted at the site of the meeting.] a permitted interaction~~  
6 under section 92-2.5; provided that:

- 7       (1) The board shall give a written public notice that  
8           indicates the date, time, and place of each community  
9           forum; provided further that the notice shall be  
10          subject to the same posting and filing requirements of  
11          board meeting notices, pursuant to section 92-7(b);
- 12       (2) Community forums shall be open to the public and all  
13          persons shall be permitted to attend; provided further  
14          that, upon order of the chair of the community forum,  
15          the removal of any person or persons who wilfully  
16          disrupts a community forum to prevent and compromise  
17          the conduct of the community forum shall not be  
18          prohibited;
- 19       (3) The board shall afford all interested persons an  
20          opportunity to submit data, views, or arguments, in



1           writing or in person, on any public education or  
2           public library issues at each community forum;  
3           (4) No commitment relating to a vote on a matter is made  
4           or sought at any community forum; and  
5           (5) At the next duly noticed meeting of the board, the  
6           board members shall report their attendance and the  
7           matters presented and discussed at the community  
8           forum."

9           SECTION 2. At any public meeting properly noticed pursuant  
10          to chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the board of education  
11          shall include an open forum at the end of its meeting agenda to  
12          afford all interested persons an opportunity to present oral  
13          testimony on any matter not on the agenda; provided that the  
14          testimony is related to matters over which the board of  
15          education has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory  
16          power.

17          SECTION 3. The board of education shall submit a report of  
18          its efforts to amend its policies to include an open forum at  
19          the end of its meeting agenda to afford all interested persons  
20          an opportunity to present oral testimony on any matter not on




# S.B. NO. 156

1 the agenda, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
2 to the convening of the regular session of 2024.

3 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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INTRODUCED BY: 



# S.B. NO. 156

**Report Title:**

Board of Education; Community Forums; Public Meetings; Oral Testimony

**Description:**

Requires the Board of Education to hold not less than six community forums annually, with at least one community forum in each county. Requires the Board to include an open forum for public comments on non-agenda items. Requires a report to the Legislature on implementing open forums.

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

