

Aloha, my name is Eric Pomaika'i Gee, and I am a junior at Kealakehe High School. I am submitting testimony in support of SB156. One of the biggest problems hitting Hawaii education today is the lack of voice from all six state counties. As a student on a neighboring island and also someone who attends a Title I school, I have seen the lack of representation that my community has had on BOE discussions and decisions. With SB156, there will be more opportunities for all communities to have a voice alongside the BOE. Also, this bill will give our marginalized communities a chance to have their voice and opinions heard. I have seen extreme frustration from people that feel like they aren't able to discuss issues in their community at a state level. By implementing this bill, we can collaborate statewide and implement change that will support students' lives in the entire state. We need an immediate response to this problem to make sure that we have statewide progression. Therefore, we need to pass SB156, because the best way to work towards a solution is by working together as a statewide ohana. Mahalo for allowing me to testify!

SB-156

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 12:24:16 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

In Support of SB156 with county forums and open agenda discussion. The BOE policy already reads there are to be six meetings per year. For consideration there are two problems

1) How many forums are going to be on Oahu due to greater population -- this was not clear. We held open forums after the schools opened with no follow up from the BOE or from the Superintendent.

2) Requires a report to the Legislature on implementing open forums. There should be a mechanism added for the public to see the report and comment on it before it is turned into the legislator.

SB-156

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 11:05:07 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan-Nicholas: Luther	Individual	Support	In Person

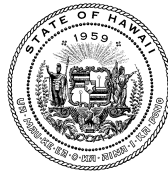
Comments:

I strongly support SB156 that is in-regard to Board of Education to hold a minimum of 6 community meeting forums annually, with at least one community forum in each county; as well as requiring a forum that is open for public comments that are not on any agenda items. This bill also for a Legislature report being implemented on open forums.

Hawaii needs to have 6 community forums that are at times in the evening for creating the capability for parents and guardians to attend.

Open agenda would allow the Board to understand the community's required wants and intent for the public education system.

Lastly, the Board has developed a "Legislative Committee" that advocates on what the legislative intents; a larger voice for the parental intents and what they are advocating for can be established with the public reports to the legislature.



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

Senate Committee on Education

Monday, February 6, 2023
3:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229

Senate Bill 816, Relating to Computer Science Education

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education (“Board”) respectfully provides **comments** on SB 816, which would, among other things, allow students to complete computer science courses as a substitute for science credits at the high school level to count towards graduation requirements and would require a computer science course credit as a graduation requirement at the high school level beginning with the 2030-2031 school year.

The Board generally opposes proposed legislation that diminishes the Board’s power to formulate statewide educational policy as envisioned and established by Article X, Section 3, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

To this end, the Board has **strong concerns** with the intent and language of this bill. This measure would essentially alter the Board’s graduation requirements it set through Board Policy 102-15. Setting graduation requirements should be the role of the Board, and we believe the Legislature should leave the responsibility of determining educational requirements to the Board as a foundational part of statewide educational policy.

If the Legislature believes computer science education is a high priority, an appropriate alternative to the current language of this measure could be to require the Board and the Department of Education to analyze the need, impact, and feasibility of making computer science a graduation requirement and, based on this analysis, require the Board to determine whether such a change to the graduation requirements would be in the best interests of students and the public. The House Committee on Education was

receptive to this suggestion and subsequently amended HB 503, the companion to SB 816, accordingly. We ask that this committee give the same consideration.

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

OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

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To: Senate Committee on Education

From: Cheryl Kakazu Park, Director

Date: February 8, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Re: Testimony on S.B. No. 156
Relating to the Board of Education

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill, which would require the Board of Education (BOE) to hold no less than six community forums annually, with at least one forum in each county; to include an open forum for public comments on non-agenda items at BOE meetings; and to report on the open forum to the legislature. The Office of Information Practices (OIP) offers **comments in support** of this bill that would improve an existing community forums provision.

In addition to increasing the number of community forums to be held annually, this bill would amend an existing provision making exceptions to the Sunshine Law for the BOE's community forums by (1) limiting the number of BOE members in attendance to less than a quorum, and (2) fixing several technical issues with the existing language by making BOE members' attendance a permitted interaction under the Sunshine Law rather than a meeting exempted from various Sunshine Law requirements. The permitted interaction would cover attendance at a community forum by BOE members so long as the BOE posts notice of the date, time, and place of each forum, the forums are open to the public and allow members

of the public to offer their views on matters within the BOE's authority, no commitment to vote is made or sought at the forum, and the members' attendance at the form is reported at the next BOE meeting.

The proposed permitted interaction provides clear standards for how BOE members can hold community forums consistent with the Sunshine Law, and it does not present the potential conflicts with or confusion over the Sunshine Law's requirements that the existing language does. Thus, while OIP takes no position on the issue of whether the BOE should be required to hold community forums or how frequently, **OIP believes the proposed amendment creating a permitted interaction for holding a community forum is an improvement over the existing language.**

Thank you for considering OIP's testimony.

SB-156

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:59:10 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alec Marentic	Testifying for Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists supports the intent of this legislation.

SB-156

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:32:42 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

SB156 I fully support. The board of education has failed at the public meetings. The entire time using covid to not have a single community meeting. This caused much discourse and disconnect with the teachers, parents, and students. The communication has been deeply severed. There must be law that they must uphold, as it was three years till I finally got sponsored for the first public meeting for the community. Mr. Voss became Chair, and was willing to sponsor me, the topic communication. The communication is still suffering and the trust is still broken. This bill will help mend that. The meeting was so focused on the topic yet so many wanted to share, speak and communicate after being silenced for so long. I strongly encourage there is enough time for public discussion, and non agenda items.

Mahalo.

SB-156

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:35:15 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I highly **SUPPORT SB156**

It is important that the members of the Board of Education are informed by members of the community. These forums would be an excellent venue for them to hear from the public and learn what's important to constituents.

SB-156

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:02:32 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Transparency and open communication is vital for parents and schools.

SB-156

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:22:04 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill, we need transparency and accountability especially in our DOE where it affects are children. They need to be voted on by the parents and community not the government.

SB-156

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 9:38:14 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill! I believe that parents deserve to know exactly what the Board of Education is doing. And the BOE needs to know that they will be beholden to the will of parents.