





The Senate


STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

MEMORANDUM

TO: High School Principals, Headmasters, Social Studies and English Department
Chairpersons, and Student Activities Coordinators

FROM: Jill N. Tokuda, Chair 
Senate Committee on Education

Mike Gabbard, Chair 
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Josh D. Green, M.D., Chair 
Senate Committee on Health

DATE: February 11, 2011

RE: Invitation to High School Students to 1) Testify on Legislative Bills Referred to the
Senate Committees on Education, Energy and Environment, and Health, and 2)
Receive Public Access Room Training

What: 1) Special Joint Hearing of the Senate Committees on Education, Energy
and Environment, and Health, and
2) Public Access Room Training

Date: **Friday, March 18, 2011**

Time: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Public Access Training (optional)
11:30 a.m. Introductions in the Senate
12:00 noon Introductions in the House
1:15 p.m. Senate Education, Energy and Environment, and
Health Committees (Room 225)

High school students are cordially invited to become actively involved in the legislative process by testifying on legislative Bills that will be heard by a joint hearing of the Senate Education, Energy and Environment, and Health Committees on **Friday, March 18, 2011** beginning at 1:15 p.m. in Conference Room 225. Students are also welcome to participate in a short training conducted by the Public Access Room which will be held from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. in Room 401. The purpose of the Public Access Room (a division of the Legislative Reference Bureau) and its services is to make the Legislature more accessible to Hawaii's citizens. Its website is <http://hawaii.gov/lrb/par>

Participating students will also be introduced from the Senate Gallery and House Gallery.

Attached are suggestions on how to select and track a Bill of interest to the student, and write and submit testimony. Additional information will be sent to participating students.

If your students want to participate in the Special Joint Hearing, please complete the attached form and fax it to Senator Tokuda's office at (fax) 587-7220 by **Friday, March 4, 2011**. Schools are asked to complete the appropriate parent permission forms for student travel. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Allen Awaya or Joanne Swearingen at 587-7215. Dr. Awaya's email is tokuda1@capitol.hawaii.gov

We appreciate your support in encouraging your students to become part of the legislative process by expressing their viewpoints as citizens and future voters.

Attachments

- c: Kathy Matayoshi, Superintendent
Executive Director, Charter School Administrative Office
Robert Witt, Executive Director, Hawaii Association of Independent Schools

Selecting a Bill for Testimony

Students submitting the attached participation form will be sent **via email** a list of House Bills that are still alive and have a chance to “cross over” to the Senate on March 10. House Bills that successfully cross over to the Senate will be more likely among the ones being heard at the Joint Senate hearing on Friday, March 19.

Tracking a Bill

Once the student has selected a Bill of interest from the list sent via email:

1. Go to the Hawaii State Legislature’s website: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>
2. Scroll to “2011 Regular Session Bill and Resolution Status, Text and Committee Reports.”
3. Follow the directions and type in the Senate or House Bill number. To see the full Bill and its current information, check “Show Status,” “Show Text,” “Show Committee Reports,” and “Show Testimony.” **Make sure the Bill is still “alive”** and has been referred to at least one of the following Senate committees (Education, Energy and Environment, and/or Health).

Writing Testimony

1. Read the Bill carefully, do some research and select a stance: Support or Oppose the Bill.
2. Write testimony that explains the reasons for your position. You should support your position with research.
3. **Limit the testimony to one page or less.** Concise, clearly stated positions will have a bigger impact on the Senators than long, repetitious testimony. Students from the same school testifying on the same Bill should have different reasons for supporting or opposing the Bill. **Bring a copy of the written testimony with you.**

Sample Testimony Template

Senate Bill (SB) Number _____

Title:

Good afternoon, Senators. My name is _____ and I am a _____

_____ (freshman/sophomore/junior/senior) at _____

High School. I am testifying on SB No. _____, _____ (Title of Bill) _____ . I am

strongly opposed to this Bill (OR I support this Bill) for the following reasons.....

Submitting Testimony

On the day PRIOR to the hearing, Thursday, March 17, 2011, submit testimony by 4:00 p.m. in one of the following ways:

By Email: Testimony may be emailed if less than 5 pages in length, to the Committee at EDUTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov . Please indicate the measure, date and time of the hearing. Email sent to individual offices or any other Senate office will not be accepted.

By Web: Testimony may be submitted online if less than 4MB in size, at <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony>.

By fax: Testimony may be faxed if less than 5 pages in length, to the Senate Sergeant-At-Arms Office at 586-6659 or 1-800-586-6659 (toll free for neighbor islands), **at least 24 hours prior** to the hearing. When faxing, please indicate to which committee the testimony is being submitted and the date and time of the hearing. (Joint Senate Education, Energy and Environment, and Health Committees; March 18, 2011, 1:15 p.m.)

If you require special assistance or auxiliary aids or services to participate in the public hearing process (i.e., sign or foreign language interpreter or wheelchair accessibility), please contact the committee clerk 24 hours prior to the hearing so arrangements can be made.

To Get the Final Hearing Notice for March 18, 2011

1. Go to the Hawaii State Legislature's website: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>
2. Click on "Bill Status & Documents " (on the right hand side of the page).
3. Scroll down to "2011 Regular Session Hearing Notices" and click the appropriate box: "Get current hearing notices" or "Get today's hearing notices."

The Senate Education Committee is now on Twitter and can be followed at https://twitter.com/HI_Senate_EDU. Real time information and updates on scheduled committee hearings are provided for your convenience.

Special Senate Joint Hearing for High School Students
Friday, March 18, 2011
Senate Conference Room 225
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii

Please type or print legibly.

Student's Name _____ **Phone No.** _____

Student's email _____

School _____

Check one: **Public school** _____ **Public charter school** _____
 Private/Independent school _____

Teacher's Name _____ **Subject** _____

Teacher's Phone Number _____

Teacher's Email _____

_____ **I am interested in testifying on a Bill at the State Legislature on Friday, March 18, 2011.**
(A list of Bills that are still "alive" after the cross-over on March 10 will be sent to students and teachers via email.)

_____ **I would also like to attend the Public Access Room training session from 10 – 11 a.m.**
(The count is needed to get a room large enough to accommodate all interested students.)

Please fax to 587-7220 by **Friday, March 4, 2011.**