

January 29, 2008

To: The Honorable Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair
The Honorable Representative Lyla B. Berg, Ph.D., Vice Chair
Committee on Education

From: Ms. Annette Stefaniak, Teacher
Mauka Lani Elementary (currently on maternity leave)

Subject: House Bill 2547 - Relating to Education

I submit testimony in strong support of House Bill 2547 - Relating to Education.

The time has come to give teachers the choice of where and how they need to spend their allotted funds for classroom supplies. It is our responsibility as the State of Hawaii to prepare each child to succeed in today's society and work force, and being technology proficient and innovative are important in achieving this goal. The debit card program for public school teachers will enhance education:

Creative curriculum. Every child is unique and has different learning skills and needs. One size doesn't fit all. Debit cards liberate teachers to be free in their way of reaching children. Elements of innovation are a must in a classroom.

Flexibility. Debit cards give teachers the freedom to go to different providers of supplies, rather than the restricted options of vendors that appear on the supply list. At times certain vendors do not have the needed supplies or they are less expensive elsewhere. A debt card would ensure that teachers could get the needed supplies in a timely manner. Teachers come across situations in which they have limited tools and not all events can be foreseen. Flexibility in curriculum is essential.

Enhanced Transparency. Debit cards provide a current way for principals, administration and taxpayers to track and ensure teachers' spending. Debit cards would also eliminate the need for teachers to spend their time filling out detailed forms for classroom orders so they can focus more on the curriculum and the students.

Relationships. Debit cards encourage a relationship between businesses in a school's community and the school. As members of an Island State, relationships help us succeed and contribute to the success of a community as a whole. When we reach out to the "Mom and Pop" stores within a community, they will be more inclined to support and get involved with the school in the future. Community relationships will strengthen with a debit card program, as well as boost morale and serve as an appealing tool to recruit teachers.

I appreciate this opportunity to testify and I ask for your favorable consideration of this measure.




LATE TESTIMONY

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

January 30, 2008

To: The Honorable Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair
The Honorable Representative Lyla B. Berg, Ph.D., Vice Chair
Committee on Education

From: Representative Corinne W.L. Ching 

Subject: House Bill 2547 - Relating to Education

I submit testimony in **strong support** of House Bill 2547 - Relating to Education.

The time has come to give teachers the choice of where and how they need to spend their allotted funds for classroom supplies. It is our responsibility as the State of Hawaii to prepare each child to succeed in today's society and work force, and being technology proficient and innovative are important in achieving this goal. The debit card program for public school teachers will enhance education:

- **Creative curriculum.** Every child is unique and has different learning skills and needs. One size doesn't fit all. Debit cards liberate teachers to be free in their way of reaching children. Elements of innovation are a must in a classroom.
- **Flexibility.** Debit cards give teachers the freedom to go to different providers of supplies, rather than the restricted options of vendors that appear on the supply list. Teachers come across situations in which they have limited tools and not all events can be foreseen. Flexibility in curriculum is essential.
- **Enhanced Transparency.** Debit cards provide a current way for principals, administration and taxpayers to track and ensure teachers' spending.
- **Relationships.** Debit cards encourage a relationship between businesses in a school's community and the school. As members of an Island State, relationships help us succeed and contribute to the success of a community as a whole. When we reach out to the "Mom and Pop" stores within a community, they will be more inclined to support and get involved with the school in the future. Community relationships will strengthen with a debit card program, as well as boost morale and serve as an appealing tool to recruit teachers.

I appreciate this opportunity to testify and I ask for your favorable consideration of this measure. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and thank you for your time.