

Date of Hearing: Friday, February 1, 2008

Committee: House Committee on Education

Board: Education

Person Testifying: Donna Ikeda, Chairperson, Board of Education

Title of Bill: H.B. No. 3219, Relating to Education

Purpose of Bill: Increases the compensation of Board of Education (Board) members from \$100 to \$200 per day for each day's actual attendance at meetings. Allows Board members to receive personal expenses at rates specified by the Board while attending meetings or while on official business as authorized by the Board Chairperson. Establishes a protocol allowance to cover expenses incurred in the course of a Board member's duties and responsibilities.

Board's Position: Chairperson Takumi, Vice Chairperson Berg, and members of the House Committee on Education, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. No. 3219.

Over the years, the responsibilities of the Board of Education and its individual members have grown and broadened. As the statewide policy-making board over the public school system, the Board's primary responsibilities are formulating statewide educational policy, adopting student performance standards and assessment models, and monitoring school success. The Board's oversight and

policy-making responsibilities also extend to the Hawaii State Public Library System.

In addition, the Board is an “appeals board” for charter school applicants whose applications have been denied by the Charter School Review Panel (Panel), or for charter schools whose charters have been revoked or whose amendments to a Detailed Implementation Plan have been denied by the Panel.

The Board appoints the Superintendent of Education, State Librarian, and members of the Panel. The appointment of qualified individuals to lead these agencies is a primary Board responsibility.

Board members sit on a multitude of boards, commissions, and advisory committees, such as the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, Hawaii P-20 Initiative, Joint Venture Education Forum, University of Hawaii College of Education Advisory Council, and Charter School Review Panel. Board members attend community meetings and public hearings, and serve on national boards for which they receive no compensation except for travel-related expenses.

In addition to these commitments, Board members attend general business meetings and committee meetings monthly. Members are compensated for only these types of meetings at a rate of \$100 per day for their attendance at these meetings. This compensation does not extend to other Board commitments, such as the boards, commissions, and advisory committees Board members are members of, nor does compensation extend to national board meetings, ad hoc committee meetings, community meetings, and public hearings that Board members attend.

Over the years, greater responsibility has been delegated to the Board. The Board is required to adopt on an annual basis, a weighted student formula for the allocation of moneys to public schools. The Board also approves the statewide school calendar, graduation requirements, and the DOE budget and HSPLS budget, among other things.

The multitude of education and library issues involving the Board require focus and dedication to address issues, such as the federal No Child Left Behind Act requirements; retention and recruitment of teachers and librarians; adequate funding for public education; repair and maintenance of public schools and libraries; adequacy of funds

for public education, and student performance.

The issues before the Board, the decisions the Board must make, and the responsibilities of providing direction and leadership to support student achievement and a quality public education and public library system, merit greater compensation to Board members for their work and time.

Lastly, we believe that greater compensation for Board members will encourage and attract more individuals to run for office. This will give voters greater choice in the election of individuals to serve as members of the statewide Board of Education. Greater choice will encourage greater public engagement in education issues and in government.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. No. 3219.

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA
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STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 3219

February 1, 2008

RELATING TO EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3219 increases the compensation of the Board of Education members from \$100 to \$200 for each day's actual attendance at meetings, and provides protocol allowances for Board members. The bill contains an unspecified general fund appropriation.

We do not support this bill. This bill creates an undesirable precedent for other Executive Branch boards and commissions.

If the intent of the Legislature is to provide adequate compensation commensurate with the scope and responsibilities of the Board, a review of the current compensation rate for Board members (including actual time spent at each meeting) should be undertaken.