

Date of Hearing: Friday, February 8, 2008

Committee: Senate Committee on Education

Board: Education

Person Testifying: Donna Ikeda, Chairperson, Board of Education

Title of Bill: S.B. No. 2681, 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 Sakamoto, Vice Chairperson Tokuda, and members of the Senate Committee on Education, thank you for this opportunity to testify in **support** of S.B. No. 2681.

As the statewide policy-making board over the public school system, the scope and level of responsibilities of the Board of Education and its individual members have grown significantly. The Board's primary responsibilities include 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.

The Board also serves as 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applications have been denied by the Charter School Review Panel (Panel), or for charter schools whose charters have been revoked or whose Detailed Implementation Plan amendments have been denied by the Panel.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 operations is a primary Board responsibility.

The Board is required to adopt on an annual basis, a weighted student formula for the allocation of moneys to public schools, and approves the statewide school calendar, graduation requirements, and the DOE budget and HSPLS budget.

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 also attend Board 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, of which two are generally held monthly, as well as committee meetings monthly. Members are currently compensated for only general business and standing committee meetings, and any special meetings, which average about two a year, at a rate of \$100 per day for each Board member's attendance at these meetings.

This compensation does not extend to other Board commitments, such as the boards, commissions, and advisory committee 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. The Board's compensation rate of \$100 per authorized meeting has not changed or increased since 1989.

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, thereby giving voters greater choice in the election of individuals to serve as members of the statewide Board of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of S.B. No. 2681.