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Testimony of Linda L. Smith
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Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
on
SENATE BILL No. 2751

Wednesday, January 30, 2008
1:15 P.M.

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill 2751.

The Administration supports the provisions contained in Senate Bill 2751 with the following exceptions:

Section 302B-1 – Definition of "Local school board"

The Administration has concerns with requiring a local school board to comply with Board of Education policies and directives made in its capacity as the State Education Agency. We would like clarification as to which Board policies and directives charter schools would need to comply with; is there a differentiation between Board policies that have been adopted as the SEA versus the Local Education Agency, or would all Board policies be included in this compliance requirement?

Section 302B-3(e) – Termination of panel member by the Board for cause

The Administration opposes this proposed change.

Section 302B-3.5 – Appeals process, Board member recused

The Administration prefers that the Board seat on the Charter School Review Panel be replaced with a member who has expertise in financing or accounting.

Section 302B-14 – Additional Board oversight

The Administration strongly opposes these proposed changes. We believe this runs contrary to the movement toward empowering the Charter School Review Panel and Charter School Administrative Office; the authority granted to the Board under these proposed changes should be given to the Panel.

We support the other provisions in the measure and commend the Chair for incorporating the recommendations of the Proviso 193 work group into this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.