

Date of Hearing: March 17, 2008

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: SCR 114, creating a working group to re-engineer the Department of Education's Office of Human Resources.

Purpose: To create a working group to re-engineer the Department of Education's Office of Human Resources.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) does not support the creation of a working group to re-engineer the DOE as proposed in SCR 114. The Department has engaged the services of Accuity LLP to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the Office of Human Resources (OHR) which began in 2007. Three (3) of the nine (9) components of the assessment have been completed. The DOE will work with the Board of Education in implementing the recommendations of the assessment. Target date for the completion of the comprehensive assessment is August 2008. In place of the working group, the Department welcomes the creation of an advisory group to work with OHR on the implementation of the recommendations.



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Hawaii Government Employees Association
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

The Twenty-Fourth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Education
Testimony by
HGEA/AFSCME Local 152
March 17, 2008

SCR 114 –CREATING A WORKING GROUP TO RE-ENGINEER THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION’S OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, HGEA/AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the intent of this concurrent resolution with the following recommended amendments:

1. Page 1, line 28 – an effective date e.g., July 1, 2008 should be inserted to assure the department establishes the work group in a timely fashion.
2. Page 2, line 3 – insert the “exclusive representatives of affected employees” after “business. The sentence would read: business, exclusive representatives of affected employees as well as Department of Education human resources...”
3. Page 2, line 9 delete “assess and evaluate the impact of the pilot project”.

As a reminder, the exclusive representatives were included as members of the Act 51 Interagency Work Group and in view of the intent of this concurrent resolution it certainly seems reasonable to include us as members on this work group.

We acknowledges the department’s recent decision to engage Accuity LLP, Certified Public Accountants to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of Office of Human Resources functions and compliance with federal, state, and local government laws following the de-linking from the DHRD and the transfer of administrative responsibility of a large number of employees as a result of Act 51. Their assessment is based on nine overarching goals and as a result is being conducted in nine parts. The work group should also consider the assessment completed by Accuity LLP.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Leiomalama E. Desha
Executive Assistant