

Date of Hearing: April 14, 2008

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: SCR 114, SD1 (SSCR3214), Creating a working group to re-engineer the department of education's office of human resources.

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

Department's Position: The Department of Education supports the amended language of SCR 114, SD1 (SSCR3214) which replaces a working group with an advisory group to assist the Office of Human Resources implement recommendations of the comprehensive assessment conducted by Accuity, LLP

**Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education and the
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Conference Room 329**

April 14, 2008

2:00 pm

**SCR 114, SD1 Creating an Advisory Group to Re-engineer the Department of
Education's Office of Human Resources**

Chair Takumi, Chair Sonson and Members of the Committees:

My name is Kathryn Matayoshi, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Business Roundtable. I am testifying in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 114, SD1.

The Roundtable has focused on improving the public education system for many years. Progress has been made, and we want to acknowledge the work of the legislature in supporting many of the reforms that have been meeting with success.

One of the areas of opportunity for reform is in human resources. The legislature recognized that the DOE needed flexibility to meet the needs of its schools which were in many ways unique from other state departments. Thus in Act 51, it provided for transfer of the human resource functions to the DOE.

The department has taken the significant step of obtaining an independent evaluation of its human resource functions by Accuity LLP. We understand that the assessment nearing completion is a comprehensive, thoughtful review that will include a number of concrete recommendations for reform. The advisory group proposed by this resolution can provide important input and perspective from outside the department, and can be an important support as the DOE proceeds with implementation of those recommendations. The advisory group can also help the DOE keep its focus on the objectives and progress made.

The Roundtable remains committed to supporting and improving public education in Hawaii, and supports having an advisory group to assist the DOE in this important effort. Making the human resource functions more efficient and responsive to the needs of our will positively impact student achievement, and improve public education in our state.

In summary, the Hawaii Business Roundtable supports passage of SCR 114, SD1. Thank you for your consideration.