



HAWAI'I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER
Informing the Education Community

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education

April 14, 2008, 2:00 pm, Room 329

by
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SCR 118 SD1

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Berg, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Educational Policy Center (HEPC) welcomes the opportunity to provide data for decision making as called for in the SCR 118 SD1. Should the Concurrent Resolution pass, HEPC will stand ready to conduct the research and provide the information to the Legislature as requested.

HEPC is also prepared to collaborate on other aspects of SCR 118 SD1 should we be called upon to do so.

Thank you for accepting our input on this issue.

**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 118, SD1 Requesting Status Reports On Current Utilization Of Funds And
Plans To Clearly Demonstrate How Funding Is Being Targeted To
Improve Student Achievement As Well As A Comparison Of Hawaii's
Utilization To Other States**

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 118, 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.

In the financial arena, the Roundtable has continued to support transparency in the financial reporting as one of the important aspects of accountability. Improving the financial reports will increase the public's confidence that funds provided by the State are being used wisely and well. Sound financial reporting will also assist in evaluating any reforms that are undertaken, as the DOE, policy makers, stakeholders and the community at large will be able to measure progress in streamlining and the cost impacts of programs in a way that will support good decision making.

As such, the Roundtable believes that the financial reporting and accounting areas are high priorities. We remain committed to supporting and improving public education in Hawaii, and believes transparency and accountability for funds is one of the critical infrastructure areas that would benefit the overall system of public education in our state.

In summary, the Hawaii Business Roundtable supports passage of SCR 118, SD1. Thank you for your consideration.