

LATE TESTIMONY

Date of Hearing: Monday, April 14, 2008

Committee: House Committees on Education,
and Labor & Public Employment

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Board: Education

Person Testifying: Donna R. Ikeda, Chairperson, Board of Education

Title of Resolution: S.C.R. No. 72, S.D. 1, Requesting That the Department of Education Conduct a Feasibility Study to Examine Various Impacts of a Longer School Day and Increasing the Number of Days in the School Year on Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve Students

Purpose of Resolution: Requests the Department of Education (Department) to conduct a feasibility study to: (1) determine whether an extension of the school day, designed to provide increased academic and sociocultural opportunities for students in kindergarten through grade 12, is an affordable and sound investment for the State; and (2) examine the benefits and detriments involved in increasing the number of days of instruction in the current school year by 10 days, 20 days, and any other number of days as deemed appropriate.

Board's Position: Chairpersons Takumi and Sonson, Vice Chairpersons Berg and Nakasone, and members of the House Committees on Education, and Labor & Public Employment, thank you for this opportunity to provide written comments in support of S.C.R. No. 72, S.D. 1.

Increased academic rigor, greater high school graduation requirements, the increased focus on testing and accountability, and efforts to raise student performance support a feasibility study to look into the effectiveness of extending the school day and increasing the number of days of instruction in the current school year.

The Board is open to opportunities that will enable academic acceleration, academic remediation, and academic exploration to students. The Board recognizes that any undertaking to extend the school day or school year for instruction will also require study into the effectiveness of extra time on classroom instruction, student learning, and incorporation of instructional best practices, and be subject to collective bargaining.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of this measure.