

SB566

Date: 02/23/2009

Committee: Senate Education and Housing

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title of Bill: SB 0566 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Purpose of Bill: Requires the board of education to hold a public hearing when new geographic school attendance areas are created or it decides that school redistricting is required.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) understands the intent of S.B. 566, however, already has a policy in place that addresses the same intent.

The Board of Education Policy #4150, "School Attendance Areas Policy" requires the Department to establish procedures for the establishment or alteration of school attendance area boundaries. The procedures provide parents and the community advance information on any proposal to establish or alter a school attendance boundary and an opportunity to comment on the proposal before a decision is made. A new or modified school attendance boundary is implemented only after the opportunity to comment has been provided to affected role groups (such as parents, students, teachers, school staff, school administrators, and community groups).

We feel that this proposed legislation is not necessary as there is a Board of Education policy already in place and the Department of Education follows that policy.