

Date of Hearing: Monday, March 16, 2009

Committee: House Committee on Education

Board: Education

Person Testifying: Garrett Toguchi, Chairperson, Board of Education

Title of Bill: S.B. No. 799, Proposing an Amendment to Article X, Section 2, of the Hawaii Constitution, to Clarify the Selection of the Student Member of the Board of Education

Purpose of Bill: Proposes a constitutional amendment to clarify the selection of the Board of Education Student Member. Specifically, S.B. No. 799: (1) Proposes an amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to provide that one member of the Board of Education shall be a public high school student selected as provided by law; and (2) Would place the following question on the ballot before voters: *"Shall the Constitution of the State of Hawaii be amended to require the student member of the board of education to be a voting member who is selected as provided by law?"*

Board's Position: Chairperson Takumi, Vice Chairperson Berg, and members of the House Committee on Education, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. No. 799.

As Board of Education (Board) members, we appreciate the valuable perspective and insight of the Student Board Member in sharing the day-to-day educational needs, experiences, and concerns of students in our meeting discussions. We feel that this input and perspective is critical in

the development and implementation of sound educational policies and decision making. We believe the Student Board Member enhances the Board's understanding and knowledge of current school issues. The "student voice" is an important and necessary factor in educational policymaking.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. No. 799.