

LATE TESTIMONY

AUTISM SOCIETY OF HAWAI'I
P.O. BOX 2995
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96802
808 228-0122

THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
SCR 150, SD 1
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

April 24, 2009

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

My name is Naomi Grossman, and I am the president of the Autism Society of Hawai'i. The Autism Society of Hawai'i is an affiliate chapter of the Autism Society of America. Its members are composed of families who deal with living with the effects of autism and the professionals and paraprofessionals who serve them.

SCR 150, SD 1 urges the Superintendent of Education to establish and facilitate a special education private school task force to advise the Department of Education (DOE) on policies or procedures for oversight and monitoring of private school or facility placements. The resolution also lists agencies from which representatives are to be selected for the task force. The Autism Society of Hawaii supports HCR 150, SD 1 as we believe the DOE may benefit from such a task force.

However, it is noted that HCR 150, SD 1 names the DOE as the agency which would establish and facilitate the task force. We respectfully suggest that an agency independent of the DOE would be the more appropriate organization to take on the work of establishing and facilitating the task force. Hawaii Disability Rights Center or a similar entity with the legal background and knowledge of the IDEA may be such an organization.

In addition, it appears the majority of individuals on the task force are from the DOE and other state or quasi-state agencies. This limited group of individuals is not representative of others who have a legitimate interest in the DOE's oversight and monitoring of private school or facility placements and who are stakeholders in the matter.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that the Committee expand the task force to include the following members:

A representative from the Autism Society of Hawai'i who will be able to address issues related to children with autism as well as other disabilities;

A representative from a for-profit special school in Hawai'i that provides educational and related services to children which is not a member of HAIS, as not all of the private schools are members of HAIS. These private schools are faced with unique issues which can be brought to the task force;

A representative from a private day treatment facility in Hawai'i that provides educational and related services to children;

A representative from a hospital with an educational component;

The executive director of the Hawai'i Disability Rights Center or his designee, as the Hawaii Disability Rights Center has had a great deal of interaction with both the DOE and private schools in the area of special education; and

A parent with a child who has special needs and was placed in a private school or facility, day treatment facility or hospital.

The additional representatives will bring balance to and greatly assist the task force in fulfilling the mandates of SCR 150, SD 1. We urge this Committee to adopt our recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

/SIGNATURE on file/

Naomi Grossman
Autism Society of Hawai'i, vice president

LATE TESTIMONY

berg1-Ana Maria

From: Naomi Grossman [naomigr@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2009 11:12 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Fwd: Kristie Greens letter

Please accept testimony from Kristie Green for submittal to the House Committee on Education Chair Takumi and Vice Chair Berg at the 2 pm hearing in Conference Room 329.

Aloha and Best Wishes,
--Naomi Grossman
228-0122

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kristie Green** <kristiegreen@hotmail.com>
Date: Fri, Apr 24, 2009 at 11:01 AM
Subject: Kristie Greens letter
To: naomigr@gmail.com

Kristie Green
78-1778 Mohihi st.
Waianae HI
96792

THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
SCR 150
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

April 24, 2009

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

My name is Kristie Green, and I am a parent of 2 children with High Functioning Autism who deserves to access options and alternatives to educational success when they have unique learning styles. My oldest son has never had a chance to successfully go to school because of lack of resources and knowlege in the school setting.

SCR 150 urges the Superintendent of Education to establish and facilitate a special education private school task force to advise the Department of Education (DOE) on policies or procedures for oversight and monitoring of private school or facility placements. The resolution also lists agencies from which representatives are to be selected for the task force. I support HCR 150 as I believe the DOE may benefit from such a task force.

However, it is noted that HCR 150 names the DOE as the agency which would establish and facilitate the task force. I respectfully suggest that an agency independent of the DOE would be the more appropriate organization to take on the work of establishing and facilitating the task force. Hawaii Disability Rights Center or a similar entity with the legal background and knowledge of the IDEA may be such an organization.

In addition, it appears the majority of individuals on the task force are from the DOE and other state or quasi-state agencies. This limited group of individuals is not representative of others who have a legitimate interest in the DOE's oversight and monitoring of private school or facility placements and who are stakeholders in the matter.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that the Committee expand the task force to include the following members:

A representative from the Autism Society of Hawai'i who will be able to address issues related to children with autism

as well as other disabilities;

A representative from a for-profit special school in Hawaii that provides educational and related services to children which is not a member of HAIS, as not all of the private schools are members of HAIS. These private schools are faced with unique issues which can be brought to the task force;

A representative from a private day treatment facility in Hawaii that provides educational and related services to children;

A representative from a hospital with an educational component;

The executive director of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center or his designee, as the Hawaii Disability Rights Center has had a great deal of interaction with both the DOE and private schools in the area of special education; and

A parent with a child who has special needs and was placed in a private school or facility, day treatment facility or hospital.

The additional representatives will bring balance to and greatly assist the task force in fulfilling the mandates of SCR 150. We urge this Committee to adopt our recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

Kristie Green

Rediscover Hotmail®: Now available on your iPhone or BlackBerry [Check it out.](#)

LATE TESTIMONY

Kristen Hays
819 Aalapapa Drive
Kailua, HI 96734

THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
SCR 150
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

April 24, 2009

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

My name is Kristen Hays, and I am administrative assistant at a school for children with disabilities. These children and particularly their parents deserve to access options and alternatives to educational success when they have unique learning styles.

SCR 150 urges the Superintendent of Education to establish and facilitate a special education private school task force to advise the Department of Education (DOE) on policies or procedures for oversight and monitoring of private school or facility placements. The resolution also lists agencies from which representatives are to be selected for the task force. I support HCR 150 as I believe the DOE may benefit from such a task force.

However, it is noted that HCR 150 names the DOE as the agency which would establish and facilitate the task force. I respectfully suggest that an agency independent of the DOE would be the more appropriate organization to take on the work of establishing and facilitating the task force. Hawaii Disability Rights Center or a similar entity with the legal background and knowledge of the IDEA may be such an organization.

In addition, it appears the majority of individuals on the task force are from the DOE and other state or quasi-state agencies. This limited group of individuals is not representative of others who have a legitimate interest in the DOE's oversight and monitoring of private school or facility placements and who are stakeholders in the matter.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that the Committee expand the task force to include the following members:

A representative from the Autism Society of Hawai'i who will be able to address issues related to children with autism as well as other disabilities;

A representative from a for-profit special school in Hawaii that provides educational and related services to children which is not a member of HAIS, as not all of the private

schools are members of HAIS. These private schools are faced with unique issues which can be brought to the task force;

A representative from a private day treatment facility in Hawaii that provides educational and related services to children;

A representative from a hospital with an educational component;

The executive director of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center or his designee, as the Hawaii Disability Rights Center has had a great deal of interaction with both the DOE and private schools in the area of special education; and

A parent with a child who has special needs and was placed in a private school or facility, day treatment facility or hospital.

The additional representatives will bring balance to and greatly assist the task force in fulfilling the mandates of SCR 150. We urge this Committee to adopt our recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

Kristen Hays

LATE TESTIMONY

Vanessa Andriotti
44-302 Olin Street #3
Kaneohe, HI 96744

THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
SCR 150
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

April 24, 2009

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

My name is Vanessa Andriotti, and I am a legal liaison for a private school for children with special needs. These children deserve an individualized education that specifically address their academic, behavioral, and cognitive needs. Additionally, services such as Speech and Occupational therapy should be available as well.

SCR 150 urges the Superintendent of Education to establish and facilitate a special education private school task force to advise the Department of Education (DOE) on policies or procedures for oversight and monitoring of private school or facility placements. The resolution also lists agencies from which representatives are to be selected for the task force. I support HCR 150 as I believe the DOE may benefit from such a task force.

However, it is noted that HCR 150 names the DOE as the agency, which would establish and facilitate the task force. I respectfully suggest that an agency independent of the DOE would be the more appropriate organization to take on the work of establishing and facilitating the task force. Hawaii Disability Rights Center or a similar entity with the legal background and knowledge of the IDEA may be such an organization.

In addition, it appears the majority of individuals on the task force are from the DOE and other state or quasi-state agencies. This limited group of individuals is not representative of others who have a legitimate interest in the DOE's oversight and monitoring of private school or facility placements and who are stakeholders in the matter.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that the Committee expand the task force to include the following members:

A representative from the Autism Society of Hawai'i who will be able to address issues related to children with autism as well as other disabilities;

A representative from a for-profit special school in Hawaii that provides educational and related services to children which is not a member of HAIS, as not all of the private

schools are members of HAIS. These private schools are faced with unique issues which can be brought to the task force;

A representative from a private day treatment facility in Hawaii that provides educational and related services to children;

A representative from a hospital with an educational component;

The executive director of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center or his designee, as the Hawaii Disability Rights Center has had a great deal of interaction with both the DOE and private schools in the area of special education; and

A parent with a child who has special needs and was placed in a private school or facility, day treatment facility or hospital.

The additional representatives will bring balance to and greatly assist the task force in fulfilling the mandates of SCR 150. We urge this Committee to adopt our recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Andriotti

LATE TESTIMONY

Kalma K. Wong
46-220 Alaloa Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744
flute866@gmail.com

April 24, 2009

The House Committee on Education
SCR 150
Testimony in Support (with Amendments)

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Berg and Members of the House Committee on Education:

My name is Kalma Wong, and I am a parent of two children with autism who deserve to have access to educational alternatives that address their unique learning styles.

SCR 150 urges the Superintendent of Education to establish and facilitate a special education private school task force to advise the Department of Education (DOE) on policies or procedures for oversight and monitoring of private school or facility placements. The resolution also lists agencies from which representatives are to be selected for the task force. I support the intent of HCR 150 as I believe the DOE may benefit from such a task force.

However, HCR 150 names the DOE as the agency which would establish and facilitate the task force. An agency independent of the DOE would be the more appropriate organization to take on the work of establishing and facilitating the task force. Hawaii Disability Rights Center or a similar entity with the legal background and knowledge of IDEA may be such an organization.

In addition, it appears the majority of individuals on the task force are from the DOE and other state or quasi-state agencies. This limited group of individuals is not representative of others who have a legitimate interest in the DOE's oversight and monitoring of private school or facility placements and who are stakeholders in the matter. I respectfully ask that the Committee expand the task force to include the following members:

A representative from the Autism Society of Hawai'i who will be able to address issues related to children with autism as well as other disabilities;

A representative from a for-profit special school in Hawaii that provides educational and related services to children which is not a member of HAIS, as not all of the private schools are members of HAIS. These private schools are faced with unique issues which can be brought to the task force's attention;

A representative from a private day treatment facility in Hawaii that provides educational and related services to children;

A representative from a hospital with an educational component;

The executive director of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center or his designee, as the Hawaii Disability Rights Center has had a great deal of interaction with both the DOE and private schools in the area of special education; and

A parent with a child with special needs who was placed in a private school or facility, day treatment facility or hospital.

The additional representatives will bring balance to the task force and aid in the fulfillment of the mandates outlined in SCR 150. I urge you to adopt these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Kalma K. Wong
Hawaii Chapter Advocacy Chair, Autism Speaks

LATE TESTIMONY

Nadia Drews
581 Kamoku Street #2308
Honolulu, HI 96822

THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
SCR 150
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

April 24, 2009

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

My name is Nadia Drews, and I am working with autistic children.

SCR 150 urges the Superintendent of Education to establish and facilitate a special education private school task force to advise the Department of Education (DOE) on policies or procedures for oversight and monitoring of private school or facility placements. The resolution also lists agencies from which representatives are to be selected for the task force. I support HCR 150 as I believe the DOE may benefit from such a task force.

However, it is noted that HCR 150 names the DOE as the agency which would establish and facilitate the task force. I respectfully suggest that an agency independent of the DOE would be the more appropriate organization to take on the work of establishing and facilitating the task force. Hawaii Disability Rights Center or a similar entity with the legal background and knowledge of the IDEA may be such an organization.

In addition, it appears the majority of individuals on the task force are from the DOE and other state or quasi-state agencies. This limited group of individuals is not representative of others who have a legitimate interest in the DOE's oversight and monitoring of private school or facility placements and who are stakeholders in the matter.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that the Committee expand the task force to include the following members:

A representative from the Autism Society of Hawai'i who will be able to address issues related to children with autism as well as other disabilities;

A representative from a for-profit special school in Hawaii that provides educational and related services to children which is not a member of HAIS, as not all of the private schools are members of HAIS. These private schools are faced with unique issues which can be brought to the task force;

A representative from a private day treatment facility in Hawaii that provides educational and related services to children;

A representative from a hospital with an educational component;

The executive director of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center or his designee, as the Hawaii Disability Rights Center has had a great deal of interaction with both the DOE and private schools in the area of special education; and

A parent with a child who has special needs and was placed in a private school or facility, day treatment facility or hospital.

The additional representatives will bring balance to and greatly assist the task force in fulfilling the mandates of SCR 150. We urge this Committee to adopt our recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

Nadia Drews

LATE TESTIMONY

berg1-Ana Maria

From: Naomi Grossman [naomigr@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2009 11:29 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: SCR 150, SD 1 042409 2 PM CONF RM 329 Re: NATE DUDOIT Testimony

Please accept testimony from Nate Dudoit for submittal to the House Committee on Education Chair Takumi and Vice Chair Berg at the 2 pm hearing in Conference Room 329.

Aloha and Best Wishes,
--Naomi Grossman
228-0122

Nate Dudoit

1506 Piikoi Street

Honolulu, Hi.96821

THE HOUSE

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

SCR 150

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

April 24, 2009

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

My name is Nate Dudoit, and I am a skills trainer, of a child with Autism who deserves to access options and alternatives to educational success when they have unique learning styles.

SCR 150 urges the Superintendent of Education to establish and facilitate a special education private school task force to advise the Department of Education (DOE) on policies or procedures for oversight and monitoring of private school or facility placements. The resolution also lists agencies from which representatives are to be selected for the task force. I support HCR 150 as I believe the DOE may benefit from such a task force.

However, it is noted that HCR 150 names the DOE as the agency which would establish and facilitate the task force. I respectfully suggest that an agency independent of the DOE would be the more appropriate organization to take on the work of establishing and facilitating the task force. Hawaii Disability Rights Center or a similar entity with the legal background and knowledge of the IDEA may be such an organization.

In addition, it appears the majority of individuals on the task force are from the DOE and other state or quasi-state agencies. This limited group of individuals is not representative of others who have a legitimate interest in the DOE's oversight and monitoring of private school or facility placements and who are stakeholders in the matter.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that the Committee expand the task force to include the following members:

A representative from the Autism Society of Hawai'i who will be able to address issues related to children with autism as well as other disabilities;

A representative from a for-profit special school in Hawaii that provides educational and related services to children which is not a member of HAIS, as not all of the private schools are members of HAIS. These private schools are faced with unique issues which can be brought to the task force;

A representative from a private day treatment facility in Hawaii that provides educational and related services to children;

A representative from a hospital with an educational component;

The executive director of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center or his designee, as the Hawaii Disability Rights Center has had a great deal of interaction with both the DOE and private schools in the area of special education; and

A parent with a child who has special needs and was placed in a private school or facility, day treatment facility or hospital.

The additional representatives will bring balance to and greatly assist the task force in fulfilling the mandates of SCR 150. We urge this Committee to adopt our recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

Nate Dudoit

LATE TESTIMONY

Don King
320 Poopoo Pl.
Kailua, Hawaii, 96734

THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
SCR 150
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

April 24, 2009

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

I am a parent of a child with autism. I know many other parents of children with autism. For some children, there is no appropriate public education setting for them. Even though private education is expensive for the state, making an appropriate educational setting for some children would be even more expensive. Placement in a private school has given them an opportunity to learn that they would not have in the public school. We have seen a number of children with autism make remarkable progress when in the right setting, and the hope is that given the right education children with autism can grow into independent adults.

I support HCR 150 as I believe the DOE may benefit from a task force that would oversee private school placements.

However, it is noted that HCR 150 names the DOE as the agency which would establish and facilitate the task force. I respectfully suggest that an agency independent of the DOE would be the more appropriate organization to take on the work of establishing and facilitating the task force. Hawaii Disability Rights Center or a similar entity with the legal background and knowledge of the IDEA may be such an organization.

In addition, it appears the majority of individuals on the task force are from the DOE and other state or quasi-state agencies. This limited group of individuals is not representative of others who have a legitimate interest in the DOE's oversight and monitoring of private school or facility placements and who are stakeholders in the matter.

True oversight would have to come from outside the DOE.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that the Committee expand the task force to include the following members:

A representative from the Autism Society of Hawai'i who will be able to address issues related to children with autism as well as other disabilities;

A representative from a for-profit special school in Hawaii that provides educational and related services to children which is not a member of H AIS, as not all of the private

schools are members of HAIS. These private schools are faced with unique issues which can be brought to the task force;

A representative from a private day treatment facility in Hawaii that provides educational and related services to children;

A representative from a hospital with an educational component;

The executive director of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center or his designee, as the Hawaii Disability Rights Center has had a great deal of interaction with both the DOE and private schools in the area of special education; and

A parent with a child who has special needs and was placed in a private school or facility, day treatment facility or hospital.

The additional representatives will bring balance to and greatly assist the task force in fulfilling the mandates of SCR 150. We urge this Committee to adopt our recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

Don King

LATE TESTIMONY

berg1-Ana Maria

From: Naomi Grossman [naomigr@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2009 12:00 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: SCR 150, SD 1 042409 2 PM Conference Rm 329 Fwd: Caleb Hwang testimony letter

Please accept testimony from Caleb Hwang for submittal to the House Committee on Education Chair Takumi and Vice Chair Berg at the 2 pm hearing in Conference Room 329.

Aloha and Best Wishes,
--Naomi Grossman
228-0122

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Caleb <calebhwang@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Apr 24, 2009 at 11:47 AM
Subject: Regarding the testimony letter
To: naomigr@gmail.com

Caleb Hwang.

2535 Alaula Way, APT#D

Honolulu,Hawaii 96822

THE HOUSE

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

SCR 150

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

April 24, 2009

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

My name is Caleb Hwang, and I am a special education teacher of a child with special needs.

SCR 150 urges the Superintendent of Education to establish and facilitate a special education private school task force to advise the Department of Education (DOE) on policies or procedures for oversight and monitoring of private school or facility placements. The resolution also lists agencies from which representatives are to be selected for the task force. I support HCR 150 as I believe the DOE may benefit from such a task force.

However, it is noted that HCR 150 names the DOE as the agency which would establish and facilitate the task force. I respectfully suggest that an agency independent of the DOE would be the more appropriate organization to take on the work of establishing and facilitating the task force. Hawaii Disability Rights Center or a similar entity with the legal background and knowledge of the IDEA may be such an organization.

In addition, it appears the majority of individuals on the task force are from the DOE and other state or quasi-state agencies. This limited group of individuals is not representative of others who have a legitimate interest in the DOE's oversight and monitoring of private school or facility placements and who are stakeholders in the matter.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that the Committee expand the task force to include the following members:

A representative from the Autism Society of Hawai'i who will be able to address issues related to children with autism as well as other disabilities;

A representative from a for-profit special school in Hawaii that provides educational and related services to children which is not a member of HAIS, as not all of the private schools are members of HAIS. These private schools are faced with unique issues which can be brought to the task force;

A representative from a private day treatment facility in Hawaii that provides educational and related services to children;

A representative from a hospital with an educational component;

The executive director of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center or his designee, as the Hawaii Disability Rights Center has had a great deal of interaction with both the DOE and private schools in the area of special education; and

A parent with a child who has special needs and was placed in a private school or facility, day treatment facility or hospital.

The additional representatives will bring balance to and greatly assist the task force in fulfilling the mandates of SCR 150. We urge this Committee to adopt our recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

Caleb Hwang

LATE TESTIMONY

Vera Marie Asato
94-1023 Mawaho Street
Waipahu, HI 96797

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
SCR 150
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

April 24, 2009

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

My name is Vera Marie Asato, and I am a parent of a child with Aspergers. Who deserves to access options and alternatives to educational success when they have unique learning styles.

SCR 150 urges the Superintendent of Education to establish and facilitate a special education private school task force to advise the Department of Education (DOE) on policies or procedures for oversight and monitoring of private school or facility placements. The resolution also lists agencies from which representatives are to be selected for the task force. I support HCR 150 as I believe the DOE may benefit from such a task force.

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Therefore, we respectfully ask that the Committee expand the task force to include the following members:

A representative from the Autism Society of Hawai'i who will be able to address issues related to children with autism as well as other disabilities;

A representative from a for-profit special school in Hawaii that provides educational and related services to children which is not a member of HAIS, as not all of the private schools are members of HAIS. These private schools are faced with unique issues which can be brought to the task force;

A representative from a private day treatment facility in Hawaii that provides educational and related services to children;

A representative from a hospital with an educational component;

The executive director of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center or his designee, as the Hawaii Disability Rights Center has had a great deal of interaction with both the DOE and private schools in the area of special education; and

A parent with a child who has special needs and was placed in a private school or facility, day treatment facility or hospital.

The additional representatives will bring balance to and greatly assist the task force in fulfilling the mandates of SCR 150. We urge this Committee to adopt our recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

Vera Marie Asato

LATE TESTIMONY

JOYCE M. ALLEN
55 SOUTH KUKUI STREET #2415
HONOLULU, HI 96813
APRIL 24, 2009

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Hawaii State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawaii

Re: SCR 150 Testimony in Support

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

My name is Joyce Allen, and I am a parent of a child with autism and neurological processing difficulties who deserves to have access to educational success and FAPE.

SCR 150 urges the Superintendent of Education to establish and facilitate a special education private school task force to advise the Department of Education (DOE) on policies or procedures for oversight and monitoring of private school or facility placements. The resolution also lists agencies from which representatives are to be selected for the task force. I support HCR 150 as I believe the DOE may benefit from such a task force.

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Therefore, we respectfully ask that the Committee expand the task force to include the following members:

A representative from the Autism Society of Hawai'i who will be able to address issues related to children with autism as well as other disabilities;

A representative from a for-profit special school in Hawaii that provides educational and related services to children which is not a member of HAIS, as not all of the private schools are members of HAIS. These private schools are faced with unique issues which can be brought to the task force;

LATE TESTIMONY

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

April 24, 2009

Page Two

A representative from a private day treatment facility in Hawaii that provides educational and related services to children;

A representative from a hospital with an educational component;

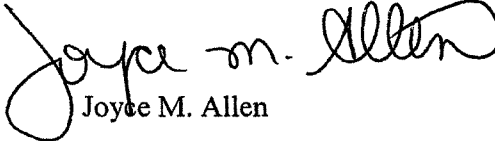
The executive director of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center or his designee, as the Hawaii Disability Rights Center has had a great deal of interaction with both the DOE and private schools in the area of special education; and

A parent with a child who has special needs and was placed in a private school or facility, day treatment facility or hospital.

The additional representatives will bring balance to and greatly assist the task force in fulfilling the mandates of SCR 150. We urge this Committee to adopt our recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,


Joyce M. Allen

LATE TESTIMONY

Jeffrey Newman
3607 Diamond Head
Honolulu, Hi. 96815
808-936-6090

THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
SCR 150
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

April 24, 2009

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

My name is Jeffrey Newman, and I am a parent of a child with autism and neurological processing difficulties who deserves to have access to educational success and FAPE.

SCR 150 urges the Superintendent of Education to establish and facilitate a special education private school task force to advise the Department of Education (DOE) on policies or procedures for oversight and monitoring of private school or facility placements. The resolution also lists agencies from which representatives are to be selected for the task force. I support HCR 150 as I believe the DOE may benefit from such a task force.

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In addition, it appears the majority of individuals on the task force are from the DOE and other state or quasi-state agencies. This limited group of individuals is not representative of others who have a legitimate interest in the DOE's oversight and monitoring of private school or facility placements and who are stakeholders in the matter.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that the Committee expand the task force to include the following members:

A representative from the Autism Society of Hawai'i who will be able to address issues related to children with autism as well as other disabilities;

A representative from a for-profit special school in Hawaii that provides educational and related services to children which is not a member of HAIS, as not all of the private schools are members of HAIS. These private schools are faced with unique issues which can be brought to the task force;

A representative from a private day treatment facility in Hawaii that provides educational and related services to children;

A representative from a hospital with an educational component;

The executive director of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center or his designee, as the Hawaii Disability Rights Center has had a great deal of interaction with both the DOE and private schools in the area of special education; and

A parent with a child who has special needs and was placed in a private school or facility, day treatment facility or hospital.

The additional representatives will bring balance to and greatly assist the task force in fulfilling the mandates of SCR 150. We urge this Committee to adopt our recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Newman

LATE TESTIMONY

Attention: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair, and Representative Lyla Berg, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Education

Testimony of: Linda Elento, parent, board director of the Hawaii Down Syndrome Congress

Hearing: Friday, April 24, 2009, 2:00 pm

SCR150 SD1 DOE; Special Education Private School Task Force; Establish

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments for your consideration to improve upon the purpose of SCR150 if you are inclined to pass this resolution. I personally do not support the passage of this resolution as it is written.

According to the IDEA, private providers for special education students must be included in developing procedures and standards. The goal of this resolution might instead be to require the DOE, according to federal law, to develop and to provide such standards and requirements and knowledge to the BOE within a reasonable amount of time, while considering the duties and direct involvement of all SEAC (Special Education Advisory Council) members through their monthly meetings.

If passed, the following options for a task force would benefit our special education system:

- * To not include a DCCA administrative hearings officer (a conflict of interest). Why? The hearings officer is trained by the DOE, is in a position of neutrality but in authority over the DOE and student; and the information and current cases are confidential as well as the identity of the students and related schools;
- * To include at least one representative of each state agency related to the development, education and protection of children in order to consider agreements with agencies to provide special education and related services, and the monitoring of such agreements;
- * To include the Attorney General and legal interpretation;
- * To include only representatives who do not already serve on any education-related council or board;
- * To include representatives from all private schools and agencies, not just HAIS;
- * To involve as many parents as want to be included, such as parents of students who are parentally-placed in private schools and inclusive preschool programs because this resolution applies not only to students who are publically-placed at a private school, inclusive preschool programs or facility.
- * To expand the data collected and purpose of this task force since all members together may address other needs. Other state monitoring activities that should be considered in this resolution include state complaints, where substantive issues, not procedural violations alone, must be reviewed and decided upon by the state complaints office. Solutions in this bill would not only be for monitoring purposes but also for equalizing public school choice for children with disabilities, through traditional public schools, charter schools, alternative programs, private schools and home schools, given that public school choice is a key strategy in current federal legislation meant to improve educational outcomes.