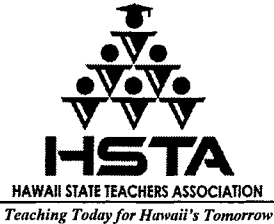


SCR 34



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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS**

**RE: SCR 34, SD1 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO  
CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY TO EXAMINE THE FISCAL,  
CURRICULUM, AND OTHER IMPACTS OF A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK  
FOR SCHOOL COMPLEXES.**

April 8, 2009

**ROGER TAKABAYASHI, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

Chair Kim and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association wishes to comment on SCR 34, SD1, which requests the Department of Education (DOE) to conduct a feasibility study to examine the fiscal, curriculum, and other impacts of a four-day school week for school complexes.

HSTA supports research that would examine different school day schedules. We recognize that a study would benefit all of us by providing more insight into what type of school day could be most beneficial for students, in terms of the quality and quantity of learning. However, given the current economic situation and the DOE budget restrictions, we question the timing of such a study. Will the effort of the DOE to conduct such a study take away from other activities more relevant to the education of the students? While the study may not cost the DOE in terms of money, it may cost in terms of finding the personnel to conduct the study. If so, conducting such a study could result in the department taking away positions that could possibly be put to better use in the classroom, costing students in the quality of their education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.