



888 Mililani Street, Suite 601
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2991

Telephone: 808.543.0000
Facsimile: 808.528.4059

www.hgea.org

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Judiciary
Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
February 09, 2010

H.B. 2376 H.D.1 – PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE HAWAII CONSTITUTION
RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
AND
H.B. 2377 H.D.1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

The Hawaii Government Employees' Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO provides the following comments and recommendation.

The governance model for public education is not the panacea for student achievement although it may be a component for purposes of accountability. Historically educators have supported an elected school board but that position is being evaluated. As a general rule, the electorate has remained apathetic and we've seen the results with "blank votes" receiving the most votes.

Educators want leadership in the public school system. They want public officials including the governor, legislature, board of education and superintendent that support public education. Principals are educational leaders of their schools and they need the support of the system in order to do their jobs.

If this committee continues to move this measure forward we strongly recommend the insertion of language that assures at least part of the membership of the board shall represent geographic subdivisions of the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 2376 H.D.1. and H.B. 2377 H.D.1.

Respectfully submitted,

Leiomalama Desha
Executive Assistant