

To: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, Rep. Takumi, Chair & Rep. Berg,
Vice Chair

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE,
REGULAR SESSION OF 2010

Testimony for: HB1988, HB1989, HB 2177, HB 2178, HB 2376, HB
2377, HB 2424, HB 2428

DATE: Monday, February 1, 2010

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 309, State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania St.

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Berg, and members of the Education
Committee,

Support HB 2177 and HB 2178

Hawaii's schools are failing and it isn't due to lack of funding or oversight. It is due to the lack of accountability and too much overhead. When many are responsible such as the Board of Education and/or the Legislature, then no one is responsible. The Board of Education (BOE) is unneeded bureaucracy. Eliminate BOE. Let our tax dollars, time and efforts go directly to hard working, dedicated teachers. I strongly recommend the Governor appoint the Superintendent of the Department of Education. Only then can Hawaii citizens hold the Governor responsible for what transpires in the Department of Education.

Oppose HB 1998, HB 2376, HB 1989, HB 2377, HB 2424, HB 2428

These Bills needlessly retain the Board of Education, and put the Senate, or the Board of Education Advisory Council with the Legislature between the Governor and the appointment process and increase or reapportion membership in the BOE. Eliminate the BOE. Allow the Governor to appoint the Superintendent.

Two Bills are not being considered today that relate closely to these scheduled Bills. Please consider giving **HB 2552** (could replace HBs 1989, 2178, 2377, 2428) and **HB 2553** (could replace HBs 2177, 2376, 2424) hearings as alternative solutions.

Sincerely,

Mary Smart
Mililani, HI