

Date of Hearing: Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Committee: House Committee on Education

Board: Education

Person Testifying: Garrett Toguchi, Chairperson, Board of Education

Title of Bill: H.B. No. 86, Proposing an Amendment to Article X, Section 2, of the Hawaii Constitution Relating to Education

Purpose of Bill: Proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the Board of Education (Board) Student Member to vote.

Board's Position: Chairperson Takumi, Vice Chairperson Berg, and members of the House Committee on Education, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on H.B. No. 86.

The Board notes that this measure would remove the non-voting restriction established under the Hawaii State Constitution from the Student Board Member.

The Board recognizes that measures similar to this have been introduced in previous legislative sessions. At this time, however, the Board has not taken a position on this measure. The Board Committee on Legislation, Public Charter Schools & Public Libraries will be meeting tomorrow to discuss this measure and others similar to it.

As 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

House Bill (HB) Number 86

Title: Student BOE Member to vote on all matters

Good afternoon, Senators. Alesha Gooden is a planner from the Central District, senior at Aiea High School, and unfortunately could not make it today's hearing. However, she would like to speak in strong support of this bill which would ask for the student member of the BOE to vote on all matters.

This bill asks for a constitutional amendment: true. But the constitution was initially amended to create the student position as well. If we did it once—why not again? According to the Attorney General in 2004, I believe, there is issue of conflict when it comes to the Board member being a voting member and still a minor. As long as it is written into the constitution, it is acceptable, and therefore, should be whole-heartedly pushed for.

If any amendments should be made to this bill, perhaps it should be that the member do not vote on ALL matters. It is my understanding that voting on personnel issues would be a conflict or interests, and so, should be excluded from Student Board member rights.

Regardless, it is the will of the keiki of Hawaii to have this voting right. Whether the rights be full or partial, as long as the Board Member possesses significant weight on the Board, we will be content. Since 1988 we have wanted this right and we believe our time is due.

berg1-Liz

From: Susan_Sato/OIS/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 2:24 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: Alesha Gooden
Subject: Testimony for HB 86 from Secondary Student Conference
Attachments: SSC#4Testimony.pdf

Aloha:

On behalf of student planner of the 2008 Secondary Student Conference, Alesha Gooden fr Aiea High School please except 26 testimonies for HB 86 from secondary students of Hawaii who due to their school schedules are unable to attend the House Education Committee 2/11/09 scheduled for 2 pm.

If you have questions please contact:
Alesha Gooden
2260554
agoodenr@hotmail.com

December 6, 2008

From: Matthew Howard, Central District-Mililani High School

Subject: Support of voting rights for the Board of Education student member.

Aloha! My name is Matthew Howard, and I am currently a senior at Mililani High School. I strongly support this resolution and I would like to ask for your support. The student member on the Board of Education is involved in all aspects of the board. The member takes part in all activities and assumes all responsibilities as adult members. However, the student member does not have the right to vote. If the student member on the BOE is supposed to be representing all public high school students in Hawaii, the member should have the right to vote.

Students across the state of Hawaii have expressed their full support for voting rights of the BOE student member. One of the major reasons why this resolution passed was the fact that the student member works just as long and hard and understands policies, making him/her qualified to make educated decisions. Also, having a representative a high school student's age will allow the member to more effectively relay the view and voices of Hawaii's youth.

Hawaii has always been on the forefront in supporting its student activities programs that individuals on the mainland wish they had. Please continue Hawaii's tradition of being at the forefront of supporting students by granting full voting rights to future Board of Education student members. Providing this privilege will allow the students of Hawaii to let their voices be heard.

December 6, 2008

From: Alesha Gooden, Central District-Aiea High School

Subject: Supporting full-voting rights for the Student BOE Member.

Aloha! My name is Alesha Gooden from Aiea High School. I would like to ask for your support on a highly important issue. Though the Secondary Student Conference has been passing resolutions concerning full voting rights for the for the student BOE member, I believe that it is about time to ratify it. The occupation of Student BOE Member is useless for representation comes only with equality. "Separate but equal" is a voice no longer endorsed by the United States of America. Being so, it is time that the state of Hawaii granted equality to the separate party of the Student BOE Member.

The resolution passed at the 2008 Secondary Student Conference strongly endorsed a fullvoting right for the Student BOE Member. Frankly, I cannot imagine an official policy-making body promoting anything else. It is important that the state comply with the values and yearnings of the federal government. This should be reason enough to grant the Student BOE Member his/her voting rights. As a representative of the student body of Hawaii, this resolution must be accepted.

Thank you for your consideration and I strongly hope you will support the Secondary Student Conference in this effort.

December 6, 2008

From: Caselyn Gale Pacpaco, Cental District- Aiea High School

Subject: Support of Resolution 4, voting rights for the Board of Education (BOE) Student Member

Hello! My name is Caselyn Gale Pacpaco, and I am currently a junior at Aiea High School. I am definitely support Resolution 4 and hope that you would also take it into consideration. The responsibility of the student member commensurate within those of the Board yet they do not carry the same right. The policy makers make policies for the students therefore they shall have a voice that is a direct effect on them. A chain of communication is created between the fellow students to the student member. The student member would be able to represent those 182,000+ students.

This topic has been brought up for many years and unanimously voted in support. In fact, there are states that allow the student member a vote, whether it be full or partial. Some of these states are California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Iowa, Washington DC and even US Territory of Guam. It is to my understanding that it is also supported by the Hawaii State Board of Education, Hawaii State Senate, Hawaii House Education Committee and our recent governor, Linda Lingle. Pursuing voting rights for the BOE Student member has been a continuous concern from the students.

I appreciate your time an I hope that you will support Resolution 4, voting rights for the student board member.

DECEMBER 06, 2008

FROM: ANTHONY BALDOS, HAWAII DISTRICT, HONOFAA HIGH SCHOOL

SUBJECT: VOTING RIGHTS FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE)
STUDENT MEMBER.

HI! MY NAME IS ANTHONY BALDOS AND I AM A JUNIOR AT HONOFAA HIGH SCHOOL ON THE BIG ISLAND OF HAWAII, HAWAII DISTRICT. I AM IN FULL SUPPORT OF ALLOWING BOARD OF EDUCATION STUDENT MEMBERS THE RIGHT TO VOTE ON RELATING CONCERNS. AS OF NOW, STUDENT MEMBERS OF THE BOE PARTICIPATES IN ACTIVITIES SUCH AS COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS, ALL BUT THE RIGHT TO VOTE. SINCE STUDENTS ARE MOST LIKELY THE ONES THAT ARE AFFECTED BY THE DECISIONS PASSED, THEIR STUDENT MEMBER WITHIN THE BOE SHOULD HAVE AN AFFECTING SAY OF THOSE DECISIONS.

CURRENTLY SUCH VOTING RIGHTS FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION STUDENT MEMBERS DO EXIST. CALIFORNIA, MARYLAND, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ARE JUST SOME OF THE FEW STATES GRANTING STUDENT MEMBERS WITH LIMITED OR FULL VOTING RIGHTS. SINCE STUDENT MEMBERS ARE SELECTED DUE TO QUALIFICATION AND CAPABILITIES, I FEEL THAT THE BOE STUDENT MEMBERS ARE RESPONSIBLE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ENOUGH TO HOLD UP TO SUCH A PRIVILEGE IN MAKING THEIR VOTE COUNT. SO BY GIVING STUDENT MEMBERS ON THE BOE A RIGHT TO VOTE IT WILL HELP OUR STUDENT VOICES TO BE HEARD TOWARDS IMPROVING THEIR EDUCATION.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND I HOPE THAT YOU WILL SUPPORT THIS ISSUE.

December 6, 2008

From: Cody Aguirre, Hawaii District, Honokaa High

Subject: Voting rights for the Board of Education
(BOE) Student Member.

Hi, my name is Cody Aguirre, and I am currently a Junior at Honokaa High School. I am in full support of allowing the student member of the Board of Education have voting rights. The BOE student member is an attendant to all board meetings therefore I strongly believe he/she should have voting rights.

The student member understands everything that goes on at these meetings and they were elected because of those reasons. They voice the thoughts and opinions of all students across the state of Hawaii, but their not given the right to vote for what has been expressed, that make NO sense at all. All voices should be heard and shall be heard if you support this cause.

Thank you for your time, I hope you will support this cause.

December 6, 2008

To:

From: Jessica Minick, Hawaii District, Hilo High School.

Subject: Support of ~~Resolution~~, Voting rights for the Board of Education Student Member.

Hello! My name is Jessica Minick and I am currently a junior at Hilo High School and involved with the Hawaii State Student Council. I strongly believe that the BOE student member should receive voting rights and I would like to ask for your support. Currently, the student member has the same responsibilities as the other members of the BOE except voting rights. The student member's right to vote impacts over 180,000 students state wide. Since the students are so directly affected by the BOE's decisions, it is only right to allow our vote to be heard.

Currently there are other states in the U.S that have voting student members. These states include California, Maryland, Massachusetts, and 7 other states, including Guam. There are many supporters of this bill, including a majority of the BOE and Governor Linda Lingle. Please join us in support. It is imperative that this bill is passed. The students voice need to be heard and it fully deserves the right to have a vote.

Thank you for your time, and I deeply hope that you will support this resolution.

December 6, 2008

From: Hokuāla Kamaka Hawaii, Keala Kehe Intermediate

Subject: Voting rights for the Board of Education
DOE student member

Hi My name is Hokuāla Kamaka
my concern is voting rights for the
DOE student member. I'm concerned
because students also know something
but nobody knows what there
talking about. So we need a voice.

Voting rights will help students to
get what there fighting for. That is
why I'm concerned with this. So
please pass this Resolution.

December 6, 2008

From: Nadia Khaddar, Honawaena High School, Hawaii District.
Subject: Supporting Voting rights for the Board of Education (BOE) Student member.

Aloha my name is Nadia Khaddar, and I am currently a junior at Honawaena High School in Kona. I strongly support voting rights for the Board of Education (BOE) student member, and I would like to ask for your support. Allowing a student member of the BOE voting rights would grant students a voice. The majority of BOE decisions affect students which is why I believe it is important to give the students a voice.

The BOE student member carries out the same responsibilities as a BOE non-student member. The BOE student member must attend all meetings and voices the opinions of the students he represents. What is the point of having a BOE student member to represent us when he can't vote? Without voting rights the student will not be taken seriously, and nor will the voice of the students he/she represents.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I truly hope that you will support voting rights for the Board of Education student member.

December 6, 2010

From: Kelly Andrews, Hawaii district -
Subject: Support of voting ^{rights for} Kealahou Inter
BOE student members.

Hello, my name is Kelly Andrews, and I am a 7th grader at Kealahou Intermediate School, in Kailua-Kona, HI. I support resolution #4 because the idea of having student BOE members, have voting rights is a great idea. Student BOE members have the same responsibilities as adult board members. They deserve voting rights for the Board of Education.

The State of Hawaii, Board of Education, has passed a resolution, supporting voting rights. One of the reasons, for them passing this resolution, is because BOE members were amazed and impressed with student members abilities to understand, the issues that come to the board. The BOE chooses student members that ~~are~~ take pride in making their schools and other peoples' education better. If they can do a job like this, it shows how courageous they are. Them being a student board member, should give them the right to vote and ~~to~~ show their voice and opinions.

Currently, the states of California, Maryland, Massachusetts,

Tennessee, Iowa, Washington DC,
and the US Territory of Guam, have
Student members with limited or
full voting rights. Hawaii, has always
supported granting voting rights, to
future BoE ~~members~~ student
members. Please make it possible.
Allowing the students to vote
on the BoE, will motivate students
to participate in Education and
Hawaii government.

Thank-you for your time and
consideration, and I hope that
you will support this idea.

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December 6, 2008

From: Christi Economy, Hawaii District - Waialakea High School

Subject: Support of Voting Rights for the Board of Education Member

Hello! My name is Christi Economy, and I am currently a junior at Waialakea High School in Hilo. I strongly believe that the student member of the Board of Education should have voting rights, and I would like to ask for your support. States such as California, Maryland, and Iowa have student members with voting rights, and Hawaii should take a step forward and follow their example. The idea of voting rights for the student member is supported by the Board of Education, shown by a resolution they have previously passed. The process of selecting a student member is a rigorous one, so the student is extremely well qualified and capable to make decisions.

Because students are the ones affected by decisions passed by the B.O.E., they should have a say in those decisions. I believe no one is better qualified to make a decision that will affect students' lives than a student themselves. The BOE student member represents over 180,000 of Hawaii's students in over 250 public schools. These students have a right to be heard.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I truly hope you will support the idea of voting rights for the BOE student member.

December 6, 2008

From: Ariana Nussbaum, Hawaii District, Lanpanchoe High School

Subject: Support of voting rights for the Board of Education (BOE) student member.

My name is Ariana Nussbaum, and I am a sophomore at Lanpanchoe High School. I am writing to you in support of obtaining voting rights for the B.O.E student member. It is my understanding that the student member has the same duties as the other members, but they don't have the right to vote. I strongly feel that this is unfair to not only the student member, but to all the students in the State of Hawaii.

The BOE student member represents all the students, so if you deny this student's voting rights, then you are denying all of our rights to have a say in our education and futures. All the decisions made by the BOE affects us majorly, so shouldn't our representative be able to vote? And what is the point of the student representative if they cannot represent us? In my opinion, the purpose of the BOE is to make decisions to better the student's education, so if they are not taking into account what the students really want, then the BOE is not adequately serving this purpose.

One of the reasons they don't have voting rights is because this would increase the possibility of a tie. This reason seems to be just an excuse to keep things the way they are. Ties can be solved in many ways, and there are many other solutions. I feel that having a student rep with voting rights will really benefit all students, and help get what we want and need.

Thank you for taking my opinions into account and taking time to read my letter.

December 6, 2008

From: Dailee Morrone, Hawaii District - Hilo High School

Subject: Support for the Board of Education
Student Member Voting Rights.

My name is Dailee Morrone and I am a current junior at Hilo High school. I truly believe in the idea of having the Board of Education (BOE) student Member having the same voting rights as the other board members of the BOE. I would also like to ask for your support. The student member has the same responsibilities but not the same rights. From anyone's point of view, this is clearly unfair. The student member goes to all of the meetings and is also directly affects the member and all the students he or she represents. The student member also is our direct link to the BOE. Shouldn't our vote count?

Voting rights for the BOE Student member happens in other states such as California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Iowa. If it happens in other states, why not Hawaii? Please help support this wonderful idea and give students a voice.

Thank you for your time and support.

December 6, 2008

From: Kelly Macshiro, Leeward district representative, Hawaii State Student Council
Subject: Support of Voting Rights for the BOE Student Member

Hello, I am Kelly Macshiro, a junior at Pearl City High School. I speak on behalf of the Leeward district's six public schools by believing in and voting for support on the BOE student members' voting rights. The student member is the embodiment of student voice, its greatest proponent and advocate, concerns travel from the school to the district to the state where they are then entrusted to the BOE student member to represent at the Board of Education. Vested in him/her is the voice of the student, a voice currently being neglected.

The main arguments against this move are those regarding the student members' knowledge and liability. Let me articulate to the adult community that the education system is NOTHING like it was twenty, ten, or even five years ago. The student member is the ONLY member of the BOE that is affected by the board's decisions and participate in the school. He/she has the most comprehensive knowledge of contemporaneous issues and problems of the public school system because he/she lives them everyday and experiences the ramifications of BOE decisions.

Secondly, as former Attorney General Earl Arai elucidated, "Because our constitution itself provides for the student member to be a... member of the BOE, any legal challenge raising this concern I class decisions nullified because of non-legal age of responsibility. I would not accept." He also states that the BOE student members parents wouldn't be liable in the event of litigation so long as his actions are within the scope of his/her position.

I believe a government for the people by the people and a government of direct representation. Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope with earnest intentions that you'll support this effort.

December 6, 2008

From: Joriel Mauga, Leeward-Kapolei High School.

subject: support of voting rights for the Board of Education member

Hello, my name is Joriel Mauga, and I am currently a junior at Kapolei High School. I strongly agree to allow full voting rights for the Board of Education member and I would like to ask for your support. The BOE's student member not only represents his/her school, but the BOE member represents over 150,000 of Hawaii's students in over 250 public schools. The student elected as a member of the BOE takes part in all activities and responsibilities as the other members; they deserve the right to vote.

Students across the state of Hawaii are affected by the decisions made by the BOE. It would be ethical to allow the student member the right to vote on the issues that will directly affect over 152,000 students. The student BOE member should have the right to vote on decisions because the decisions voted on affects many students in Hawaii. Allow the student BOE member to do their job, represent Hawaii's students.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I truly hope you will support giving the BOE student member full voting rights.

December 6, 2008

From: Jordan Ferreira, Leeward Dist, Kapolei High School

Subject: Voting rights for the Board of Education member

Hello, my name is Jordan Ferreira and I am a senior at Kapolei High School. Right now the Student Member doesn't have the right to vote, but they share the same responsibilities as the other members. The student member represents over 180,000 students and deserves the voice and right to vote.

In other states like California the Student member has the right to vote. They put in the time and hard work so it is the least that they deserve. Having the BOE Student member's vote count will increase the student involvement in student government and education. It will make them more aware.

Thank you for your time. I hope you support the bill.

December 6, 2008

From: Grace Morita, Leeward - Pearl City High School

Subject: Support of Voting Rights for the Board of Education Member

Hello, my name is Grace Morita, and I am a current freshman at Pearl City High School. I am in strong affirmation, and your support will truly be appreciated. At the moment, the Board of Education student member does not have the same rights as the adult board members, however he/she still has to perform the same responsibilities. Honestly, this makes absolutely no sense at all. It is outrageous! As you may already know, the Board of Education student member represents approximately 190,000 students in over 250 primary and secondary schools. Without providing the student member voting rights, 190,000 Hawaii public school students are not being voiced.

Honestly, what sense is there in having a student member on the board if they are not able to vote and voice the ideas and opinions and ideas of the students? Students are the majority of people who are affected by the Board of Education, so shouldn't we have a say also? The Board of Education student member is our open window - our voice.

Students have been pursuing voting rights for the Board of Education student member since 1988. It is quite obvious that Hawaii students are demanding their voting rights, and now is the time to act upon these consistent requests. "Yes we can!"

Thank you for your consideration and previous times.

December 6, 2008

From: Mark Aoki

Subject: Support of ~~the~~ Voting rights
for the Board of Education (BOE)
student member.

Hello! My name is Mark Aoki, and I am currently a sophomore at Roosevelt High School in Honolulu. As a student I believe strongly in the importance of allow ~~the~~ students a strong vote in their own education. I believe that I am very verse in the issues that face the Hawaii students and my fellow 182,000 peers are as well.

How does the BOE know the daily aspects of a students life? Do they understand the additional stress added by increasing credit requirements? They can't without a student member. Yes we already have a student member, but without a vote this member has no true power to excercise his/her opinion.

Governor Linda Lingle, as well as previous votes made by the Senate have expressed support to giving the student member the right to vote.

Finally in addition I believe that by giving the student member the right to vote we invest more of ~~the~~ student's education in the students. This would be in line with one of Hawaii general learner outcomes (GLOs) to be a self-directed learner.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will support my stance on this issue.

December 6, 2008

From: Dominique Pascoe, Kawai District, Waimea High School

Subject: Support of Voting Rights for the Board of Education member.

Aloha, my name is Dominique Pascoe, and I am currently a senior at Waimea High School. I sincerely ask for your support. The Board of Education member was elected by the students of Hawaii. The member must attend all meetings and perform the same duties as the rest of the Board. This member acts as the representative of 250 primary and secondary schools, consisting of 182,000+ students. The member may voice our concerns and state opinions from a student perspective, but they only remain suggestions. To allow the member to vote would finally mean full representation.

I would also like to remind you that the student member is the only one directly influenced by the Board's decisions. By performing his/her role proficiently, the member does understand the concerns and issues presented, therefore, the member is qualified to make decisions. We do have the support of the Board of Education, Senate, House Education Committee, and Governor Linda Lingde. By supporting this resolution, you are supporting the students of Hawaii.

Thank you very much for your time and effort.

December 6, 2008

From: ~~Monique~~ Monique Smith

La Pietra - Hawaii School for Girls

Subject: Support of Voting Rights for the Board of Education Member

Aloha! My name is Monique Smith and I am currently a Freshman at La Pietra Hawaii School for Girls in Diamond Head. I would like to ask for your support. The current situation is that on the Board of Education a student member does not have any voting rights. These members are required to attend the same meetings and public hearings, but is not allowed to vote in the final conclusion. I believe that if all these student members have the same obligations as the adult Board members, then they should have the same rights. We would not be the only state with student members having rights. California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Iowa currently have limited or full voting rights.

It would great to have representation for all students because it lets our voice be heard. Having Hawaii's youth being heard encourages them to want speak up, which ensures the outlook of our future leaders! We are represented in the Board of Education, but how can we truly be correctly represented without a vote?

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I hope you will support this resolution!

December 6, 2008

From: Tia Hulganga District: Maui

Subject: Voting rights for the BOE student member

Hello, my name is Tia Hulganga. I am a current high school senior attending Maui High School. My purpose for writing this testimony is to portray my reasons for supporting the voting rights for the BOE student member.

I strongly support ~~DE~~ this resolution because voting rights to be implemented for the BOE student member would create a stronger voice for all students attending primary and secondary schools across Hawaii. The BOE member is obviously very intelligent and holds the same duties as those on the Board of Education. They should be able to hold that privilege of voting, being partial or full, in order to justly represent the students of Hawaii.

I strongly urge you to consider this resolution given to you. By supporting this resolution, you are allowing the BOE student member to hold that right to vote on issues and conflicts presented in our Hawaii schools today. To have a voice, yet not the right to vote is absolutely redundant.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

December 6, 2008

From: RONENA Muted, Maui District - Maui High School

Subject: Support of voting rights for the Board of Education
student member

Hello! My name is Ronena Muted. I'm currently attending Maui High School as a junior. I am writing this letter to provide reasons why you should support this subject.

I am, as I've stated, in strong support of this because I feel that students of the public school system deserve not only a chance to explain their end of an issue, but a vote also. Members of the BOE are intelligent individuals who are extremely respected. Though, these members are not aware of how students feel about specific concerns and issues. Yes, BOE student members have the privilege to express their thoughts. No, they do not have a physical chance to vote in favor or against something that may affect students physically and mentally.

I strongly urge you to consider this due to the fact given to you. By supporting this bill, you are allowing the BOE student member to not only hold an important position, but give them the right to vote.

Thank you for your time, and please consider this to better the voice of our public school students.

December 6, 2008

From: Summer Wilkinson, Maui District, King
Kekaulike High School

Subject: Support of Voting Rights for the
Board of Education Student Member

Hello, my name is Summer Wilkinson and I am currently a senior at King Kekaulike High School on the island of Maui. I am a strong support of voting rights for the Board of Education student member and I hope you will be too.

The Board of Education student member is initially placed on the board to voice the opinions of thousands of students; without voting rights, the student's voice is lost. In addition, the Board of Education student member has all the same responsibilities as the adult members; therefore, he should receive all of the same rights.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you chose to support voting rights for the Board of Education student member.

December 6, 2008

From: Ka'ulani Akins, Maui District, Kamehameha Schools

Subject: Support of voting rights for Board of Education Student Member

Aloha, my name is Ka'ulani Akins, and I am currently a junior at Kamehameha Schools Maui and a delegate in the 2008 Student Secondary Conference. I am in strong support of allowing the Board of Education student member the right to vote on all decisions of the Board of Education. Even as a student of an independent school who would not be affected by the BOE's decisions I still feel this is an important issue.

I am in full support of this issue for many reasons. The BOE student member assumes all the same responsibilities as all the other BOE members who do have voting rights. The reason there is a student member on the board is to represent the over 180,000 of Hawaii's public and charter schools students. It is the student member's position to represent the students of Hawaii and their stance on the issues the BOE reviews and votes on. Thus, the student member be given the privilege to vote on these issues as the voice for hundreds of thousands of students.

Hawaii is not the only state that has ever considered or adopted a bill that allows the student member to vote, including California, Vermont, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Prividing the student member with voting rights has been an issue since 1988. If this privlidge is awarded it will increase student's participation in their education. Thank you for your time and consideration of this issue as I ask for your support.