

Date: 03/22/2010

Committee: House Education
House Labor & Public Employment

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn Matayoshi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HCR 136 Department of Education; Collective Bargaining; Advocate to Represent Interests of Students.

Purpose of Resolution: Requesting the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing an attorney position to represent the interest of students in collective bargaining proceedings that affect the number of instructional days and hours offered by the Department of Education.

Department's Position: The Department of Education does not oppose a study concerning the issues, provided there is opportunity to submit input, including objections and/or concerns, during the study, which will be considered when preparing findings and recommendations.

TRANSMITTAL COVER

TESTIFIER: Kathy Bryant-Hunter, President
Melanie Bailey, Vice President
Aikahi Elementary School PTSA

To: The House of Representatives
The Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Regular Session of 2010

Re: HCR 136
Hearing Date March 22, 2010 2:00pm

Date: March 21, 2010

Dear House of Representatives:

We are President and Vice President of Aikahi Elementary School PTSA who are testifying as individuals. We **support the intention of this bill to protect the interest of children.**

We had assumed the Board of Education (BOE) was the party in the negotiation process who had Education as their top priority but are now seriously concerned based on:

- The BOE agreement to bargain with instructional days.
- The BOE giving Principals and Teachers no guidance on how to modify curriculum with a 10% reduction of classroom time.
- The BOE leaving the same two negotiators who negotiated the 2009-2011 Contract in place for the re-opening of the Contract in November 2009.
- The BOE approved school schedule proposed for 2010-2011 with Fridays off throughout the school year even after the detrimental affects it had this year.
- The BOE failure to notice Hawaii's already shortened school day and make an effort to lengthen it, even within this Contract.

If the Board of Education stays in tact we have no choice but to add an Attorney to protect our children's interest in the collective bargaining procedures.

Aloha,
Kathy Bryant-Hunter 225-9043
Melanie Bailey 277-5121