

SB2350

SD1

Date of Hearing: Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Committee: Senate Committee on Judiciary and
Government Operations

Written Comments

Agency: Garrett Toguchi, Chairperson, Board of Education

Title of Bill: S.B. No. 2350, S.D. 1, Proposing an Amendment to Article X,
Section 2, of the Hawaii Constitution

Purpose of Bill: Proposes an amendment to Article X, Section 2, of the Hawaii State
Constitution to have the Board of Education (Board) student
member be selected by secondary public school students at an
election held by the Hawaii State Student Council to allow the
Board student member to vote on all matters before the Board
except for finance or personnel issues.

Board's Position: Chairperson Taniguchi, Vice Chairperson Takamine, and members
of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations,
thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of
S.B. No. 2350, S.D. 1.

The Board welcomes and appreciates the perspectives and insight
of the Board student member in representing the views of students
to the Board. At board meetings, the Board student member
shares the educational needs of students, conveys student
concerns, and participates in Board member discussions.

As an elected board, we recognize that citizen input in government is critical for sound decision-making. The Board student member's input and perspective, like other educational stakeholders, is essential in developing sound educational policies and decision making. We believe the Board student member enhances the Board's understanding and knowledge of current school issues. The student voice is an important and necessary factor in educational policymaking.

The Board affirms its support of allowing the Board student member to vote on matters before the Board, except for budgetary and personnel matters.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of this measure.