

SB2573

February 18, 2010

To: Committee on Education and Housing

Fr: Shanye Valeho-Novikoff

Re: SB25673

Aloha Senator Norman Sakamoto, Senator Michelle Kidani and the committee on Education and Housing. My name is Shanye Valeho-Novikoff and I am opposed to Senate Bill 2573 which will require principals to waive the modern history of Hawai'i requirement upon request by an out-of-state transfer student, including a military transfer student, who has taken and passed a different state history course. Principals should not be allowed to do this.

When anyone comes to domicile or to live in a state, it behooves them to learn about where they are living. As a social studies educator, it is important for the malihini (newcomer - stranger) to understand the underlying values, protocols, and history of that particular state. If we allow the student, whomever they may be, to forego the modern history of Hawai'i, we have done a disservice to them. History, especially the history of Hawai'i is important and unique for it helps the student to analyze significant contemporary issues that influence present day Hawaii which obviously have come from the past actions of the people in Hawai'i. This allows the student to effectively address complex issues in a continual lifelong manner. I am talking about multiple social, political, and economic causes and effects of change in modern Hawaii which include, but are not limited to, the overthrow of Lili'uokalani, the plantation era and immigration to Hawai'i, World War II and Pearl Harbor, as well as the establishment of the Democratic party in Hawai'i.

The same can be said if our student went to another state or country. They should take the opportunity to learn about where they are residing for the time. It is enriching and it becomes much more educational in a primary sense.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,
Shanye Valeho-Novikoff