



**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

P. O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

House Committee on Finance
Hearing: Monday, February 28, 2011
2:30 p.m., Conference Room 308

Testimony in **Strong Support of HB338 hd1**
Relating to Education: Student Voting Member of Board of Education

Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

I submit testimony in my capacity as a Member of the Hawai'i State Board of Education (BOE) in strong support of HB338 hd1, which would require that one of the voting members on the BOE, be a student.

The National Association of State Boards of Education affirmed: "the contribution of students to the education policymaking process is without question an asset to the states and local communities that presently have students serving on boards of education." There are currently fourteen states that have student input on the state board. In California and Massachusetts, students on the Board of Education are full voting members on all matters before the board.

During the past four years, I have had the opportunity to work with four student board members. They were always prepared to discuss the subjects posted on the agenda. These student representatives asked insightful questions, offered constructive comments and were excellent advocates for the student stakeholders. I did not always agree with the student board member's positions on every matter but I was always impressed with their arguments.

For these reasons, I urge this Committee to pass HB338 hd1. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Kim Coco Iwamoto, Esq.
State of Hawaii Board of Education Member, Oahu-at-Large



**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

PO BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HI 96804

OFFICE OF THE STUDENT MEMBER

February 28, 2011

**TESTIMONY TO THE STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**State Capitol
415 S Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI. 96819**

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 338, H.D. 1

Chairman M. Oshiro and Honorable Members of the Committee:

My name is Mark Dannog, the current elected Student Member of the Hawaii State Board of Education. I was elected by a constituency of approximately 45,000 public secondary school students, to be the official voice of over 178,000 public school students in the state.

When I was sworn into office more than six months ago, I became part of something greater than myself and dedicated to a greater purpose. That, is public service through representing the students. I dedicated myself to the work of improving education and welfare for my peers and constituents.

In a few months, the students may unfortunately lose their voice on the Board. It is critical for the ultimate success of education, that the students be able to participate in discussion and collaborate on how to improve the educational system. More significantly, it is an obligation for us to impact and shape the future of Hawai'i.

For over two decades, we have been in the back of the canoe, only able to suggest where we should go or how fast we should paddle. We have always faced a storm in our efforts to do more.

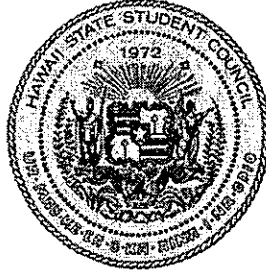
Today, I no longer see a horizon, but the sunrise. It is the promise of "a new day" in Hawai'i. If our canoe is ever to reach our destination, we must be a part of the greater journey. Give us a paddle, and let us help.

Therefore, on behalf of the over 178,000 public school students of Hawai'i, who may one day perform operations, hold CEO positions, or occupy the very seats you now sit in, I ask you and trust that you will support and pass H.B. 338, H.D. 1, which grants the student member of the Board of Education voting rights, which the students have demanded for over two decades. We are the future and now is our time.

Mahalo and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Dannog". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a stylized "D".

Mark Dannog, Student Member
Board of Education



To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair of Finance
Members of Finance Committee

From: Isaac Hein Windward Rep of Hawaii State Student Council
Chair of Political Action Committee

Subject: HB 338 Voting Student Member on the BOE

Hello my name is Isaac Hein and I am currently the Chair of the Political Action Committee on the Hawaii State Student Council. I strongly support the Board of Education Student Member position and to have voting rights under the new appointed board bill and I would respectfully ask for your support. As of the recent election results the elected BOE has been changed to an appointed BOE. This correction to the constitution has crossed out the BOE Student Member Completely. So we need to keep this position that we have had for the last 33 years. With this letter I am requesting a hearing on HB 338

The Student BOE Member has existed since 1977. Hawaii State Student Council along with the support of Secondary Student Conference has been striving for the Voting rights for the last 22 years. The number one reason that the legislative has said that there is legal issues, but in the 90's the Attorney General of Hawaii stated that the student member would have the same coverage as the adult members would. Due to that all members represent there part of Hawaii including the student member who represents the entire the student population has the right to have a vote. It would be like a member of congress being elected by the people and then not being able to vote for those people. Those people then don't truly have a vote in the process that affects them. This is exactly what has been happening with the student member for the last 33 years. With this ending I am requesting the passing of HB338.

Thank You
From
Isaac Hein
HSSC Windward Rep
PAC Chair



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Legislative Director

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 338, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO EDUCATION

House Committee on Finance
Hon. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Hon. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

Monday, February 28, 2011, 2:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Honorable Chair Oshiro and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the Imua Alliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 60 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of HB 338, relating to education.

It is time to stop the continued marginalization of the Board of Education's student member. Early versions of legislation creating an implementation process for an appointed school board, from which HB 338, HD1, is taken, extended voting privileges to the student member, rewarding students who have repeatedly demonstrated an eagerness to exercise civic responsibility when afforded the opportunity, as evidenced by the success of programs like Kids Vote Hawaii. Moreover, 70 percent of high school students polled in a 2008 survey favored enfranchising the student member, except on personnel matters, a step already taken by states as varied as California and Vermont, both of which have appointed school boards. Given that students are the primary stakeholders in the state's education system, the school system's intent to foster civic engagement, and the differentiated perspective offered by students impacted at the classroom level by changes made to the educational process, it seems logical to enfranchise the board's student member, except, again, on personnel matters.

As mentioned by delegates from the Department Education's Secondary Student Conference at a recent hearing on an appointed school board, at which this issue was discussed, public school students constitute 15 percent of the state's population, yet receive no vote. As SSC's representatives indicated, several hundred of these students—in particular, students from Kalaheo High School—have signed a petition calling for enfranchisement. Concerns were raised regarding the safety of the student member in the event of controversial votes and the extent to which the member speaks for all public school students. Such concerns are misplaced, however, for several reasons. In this case of student safety, the student member is covered by Hawaii state law, including §8-19, which defines policies relating to student conduct. Thus, the student member is incorporated into a class of citizens already afforded special status because of their age. Thus, to assert that public service places the student member in

danger, one must also conclude that students are so heavily vested in public affairs that they're willing to literally fight for their views or police and school administrators are incapable of carrying out basic security functions. With regard to representation, allowing the governor, instead of the Hawaii State Student Council, to appoint the student member ensures that he or she will have the same accountability as all other appointed members, and brings the selection process into consonance with other governing bodies that include such members, like the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

Again, Imua Alliance urges the committee to recognize the unique place of students in the educational process by extending voting rights to the Board of Education's student member. Now is not the moment to discard the fierce beliefs of our state's youth, but is, on the contrary, the time to bring those voices into the fold, incorporating them into discussions about how to prepare our state for an increasingly competitive future. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director
Imua Alliance

January 15, 2011

To: Chairperson Oshiro
Vice-chairperson Lee

From: Monique Ishikawa

Subject: Support of Bill HB338

Hello! My name is Monique Ishikawa and I am currently a junior attending Kalaheo High School. I am also part of Kalaheo's student government. I strongly support SB 8 and hope that you will join me in support as well. The student member is a very important member of the BOE. And it is even more important for this student to have voting rights.

Without a student member on the BOE, students across Hawaii lose their voice. They lose their chance to have a say in what happens. With my position as student body vice-president, I know exactly how important this is. It is very important for us to be the passageway for students to be heard and their ideas expressed. Our thoughts and ideas are just as important as any of the members on the council.

I strongly believe in this bill and support it completely. I hope you will do the same. Thank you for your time. Mahalo!

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 10:31 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: hannahcarnes96@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB338 on 2/28/2011 2:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/28/2011 2:30:00 PM HB338

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Hannah Carnes
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: hannahcarnes96@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro
Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Hannah Carnes
Kalaheo High School, Grade 9
Kailua, Hawaii

Subject: Request for a Hearing, Student Member with Voting Rights

Aloha! My name is Hannah Carnes, and I am currently a freshman at Kalaheo High School, here on Oahu. I fully support HB338, and I would like your support as well.

The Student Member of the Board of Education represents the voice of the students of approximately 250 schools, and so the BOE Student Member should get all the opportunities available to express the opinions of our student population. If the BOE Student Member doesn't get a true vote in what happens state - wide regarding our schools, what is the point of even having a Student Member?

The point of having a Student Member of the Board of Education is to have the voice of the students be heard. If he/she can't help to make the decisions that affect us, and speak for us, what else can the Student Member do? The Student Member represents the voice of students throughout Hawaii and what we want to see happen in our schools. The Student Member shares all the same responsibilities as other Board members, such as formulating education policies. If the Student Member has no choice in the matter, what need do we have for a student member.

For years, members of student councils state - wide have been pushing for the Student Member of the BOE to be granted full voting rights. In one of the most recent Kids Voting Elections, 80% of the students who voted said they wanted the Student Member to have full voting rights. Right now, students don't really feel like they have a say in what happens, but granting the Student Member voting rights would probably change that. If they see that the student representing them at such a high level can make a difference and be heard, then why can't it be the same for them? Students might actually care about trying to make a difference in their schools if they saw that it is actually possible, and that students can make a huge impact.

I would just like to say thank you for your time, and I hope that you will at least consider my testimony in favor of HB338.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 10:31 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: hannahcarnes96@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB338 on 2/28/2011 2:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/28/2011 2:30:00 PM HB338

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Hannah Carnes
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: hannahcarnes96@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro
Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Hannah Carnes
Kalaheo High School, Grade 9
Kailua, Hawaii

Subject: Request for a Hearing, Student Member with Voting Rights

Aloha! My name is Hannah Carnes, and I am currently a freshman at Kalaheo High School, here on Oahu. I fully support HB338, and I would like your support as well.

The Student Member of the Board of Education represents the voice of the students of approximately 250 schools, and so the BOE Student Member should get all the opportunities available to express the opinions of our student population. If the BOE Student Member doesn't get a true vote in what happens state - wide regarding our schools, what is the point of even having a Student Member?

The point of having a Student Member of the Board of Education is to have the voice of the students be heard. If he/she can't help to make the decisions that affect us, and speak for us, what else can the Student Member do? The Student Member represents the voice of students throughout Hawaii and what we want to see happen in our schools. The Student Member shares all the same responsibilities as other Board members, such as formulating education policies. If the Student Member has no choice in the matter, what need do we have for a student member.

For years, members of student councils state - wide have been pushing for the Student Member of the BOE to be granted full voting rights. In one of the most recent Kids Voting Elections, 80% of the students who voted said they wanted the Student Member to have full voting rights. Right now, students don't really feel like they have a say in what happens, but granting the Student Member voting rights would probably change that. If they see that the student representing them at such a high level can make a difference and be heard, then why can't it be the same for them? Students might actually care about trying to make a difference in their schools if they saw that it is actually possible, and that students can make a huge impact.

I would just like to say thank you for your time, and I hope that you will at least consider my testimony in favor of HB338.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 10:32 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: maile.ikagawa@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB338 on 2/28/2011 2:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/28/2011 2:30:00 PM HB338

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Maile Ikagawa
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: maile.ikagawa@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:

Hello, my name is Maile Ikagawa, and I am a freshmen at Kalaheo High School. I am in strong support of HB338 HD1 and I ask that you support it as well. If HB338 HD1 is passed, it will allow the student member of the BOE who previously did not have the rights to vote in matters than pertain closer to them than any on the board, would then have them. Through this bill becoming an act, the students would get a legitimate say in the decisions made by the BOE that affect them more than anybody else.

The bill states that "The student member shall have at least an overall 2.0 grade point average and be passing courses for graduation." I believe that with these requirements, the student would be fully capable of the responsibilities placed upon them with voting rights. Also, I believe with the help of students capable of making serious decisions, the student member would also be able to make appropriate decisions that represent the students. Thank you for your time, and I hope that you will consider my testimony and support House Bill 338.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 11:00 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kaitlynagrimm@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB338 on 2/28/2011 2:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/28/2011 2:30:00 PM HB338

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kaitlyn Grimm
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: kaitlynagrimm@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro
Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Kaitlyn Grimm
Kalaheo High School, Grade 11
Kailua, Hawaii

Subject: Request for a Hearing, Student Member with Voting Rights

Hello, my name is Kaitlyn Grimm and I am currently a junior at Kalaheo High School, here on Oahu. I fully support HB338, and I would like your support as well.

It is the Student Member of the Board of Education responsibility to represent the voices of students that attend the schools of Hawaii. So the BOE student member should have an equal opportunity like all the other BOE members to express the opinions of the students. A way to make the opportunities equal would be granting the BOE student member a right to vote. If our BOE student member can't even participate in the voting process over situations that personally affect the students, then what is the point of even having a Student Member?

The BOE student member shares the same responsibilities as the other board members except for the right to vote. For years, members of student councils state - wide have been pushing for the Student Member of the BOE to be granted full voting rights. Students even want a Student Member to have voting rights in one of the most recent Kids Voting Elections, 80% of the students who voted said they wanted the Student Member to have full voting rights. This shows that students care about the decisions that the BOE is making, and that we want to also actively participate in those decisions. Giving the BOE student member a right to vote would make students feel that their opinions matter too.

Thank you for taking time to read my testimony, and please consider supporting bill HB338.

February 28, 2011

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro
And Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Kayla Avega
Kalaheo High School, Grade 11

Subject: Support of HB338

Hi, my name is Kayla Avega; I'm currently a junior of Kalaheo High School and I'm a member of the student council (ASK). I really believe in this bill and ask for your support. With a student board member, they are able to let student's opinions and concerns to be heard and resolved. I believe that Student Board Member should also have the same voting rights as the BOE members.

I strongly believe that a student board member has the same qualities and responsibilities as a regular BOE member, to keep our schools with high standards, that'll bring success. A student board member knows what goes on in their schools that need to be fixed and also knows what goes on every day, which leads them to speak for the students of their school and get the help that is needed. With the Student Board Members this helps let the student's voices to be heard. Though the BOE makes decisions to make our school's successful, they don't use the concerns of the students.

Student Board Members should have the right to vote with the BOE members to make decisions for our schools because I believe they have the potential and the knowledge of what a BOE member already has. From the year of 2003 to 2006 it had increased from 96 percent to 97 percent of voters believe that Student Board Members should be allowed to vote with BOE members when making decisions for the education of our students because as a Student Board Member they know the system with working with BOE members and what needs to be done. Overall, I can say that I would like to strongly ask for your support of this resolution due to the fact that Student Board Members can take the challenge of making sure that every school can get their voices heard and problems get resolved.

Thank you so much for your time and I hope that you'll take action and support HB338.

February 28, 2011

To: Representative Roy Takumi
Members of the House Education Committee

From: Rona Lee Gallardo
Farrington High School

Subject: Support of HB338

Aloha, my name is Rona Lee Gallardo and I am currently a junior at Farrington High School in Honolulu. I firmly support HB338 and I would like to ask you to advocate for this resolution also.

The BOE's student member is a committed, hardworking student who participates in the same activities as the other members and holds the same responsibilities as the adults. As it was recently voted on to appoint the Board of Education, the student member position is at risk of being taken away. Being that the student member represents the students of over 250 public schools across the state, it would be very unfortunate for the voice of the students to be lost.

During the 2010 Secondary Student Conference, delegates from public and independent schools throughout Hawaii came together in support of this resolution, showing that students care about the decisions that can potentially impact our education. The Hawaii State Student Council is proposing to hold an election for the BOE student member to allow the public school students to choose the right student. The position of the Board of Education student member is definitely not one for the average student. Upholding all of the duties and expectations of the BOE is something that should be placed upon an outstanding young adult and the decision should be left to the public school students. It is also very important for the student member to be allowed the right to vote. It may not be enough to have one student trying to persuade the other members to choose what he knows is best for us students. Without voting rights, the fate of our education is only in the hands of the other Board of Education members.

By giving the Hawaii State Board of Education student member voting rights, students across the state will have a bridge of communication to the adults of the BOE and leaders of Hawaii. In America, several other states have given their student members the right to vote. If we wish to better our education, passing HB338 would be a stepping stone to great accomplishments.

Mahalo for your time and consideration, and I hope that you will support HB338.

February 28, 2011

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro
And Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Wren Fukada

Subject: Support of HB338, Appointed Board of Education with Student Member

Hello, my name is Wren Fukada and I am currently attending Kalaheo High School as a junior, here on the windward side of the island. I strongly support HB338 and I am asking for the same support from you.

With this bill not only will the student's voice be heard, there will be a force behind the voice. The students of 284 public schools of Hawaii are the ones that are mostly affected by the voting of the board. There voice is the one student BOE board member, silencing the board member or giving them no power to vote is like taking the voice away from the students of Hawaii.

The job of the student board member is to make sure that every student in Hawaii has a voice and their opinion or concerns are heard. Self-representation is a democratic ideal- a government for the, and by the people, which in this case are the students. Hawaii's public school students represent 15% of the state's population yet their voice is in jeopardy. For the past four years the majority of adult BOE members support the student BOE member having a partial voting right. If the majority already supports it, then why haven't we moved on the fact? The decision making should be kept closet to those of it, who are mainly effected by the decision. Not only do policies passed by BOE often disregard or may differ with the opinion of students, a student board member can also provide insight to the other BOE members who have questions or concerns.

Thank you for your time and I hope that you will support HB338 and ask you to pass this measure.

February 28, 2011

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro

And members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Peter Cheng

Roosevelt High School

Subject: Support of SB8 HB338

Aloha! My name is Peter Cheng, and I am currently a senior at Roosevelt High School in Roosevelt. I strongly believe in HB338, and I would like to ask for your support. The student member has been voicing the concerns of approximately 182,000 students from 250 primary and secondary school. Students are usually the ones affected by decisions passed by the BOE, so they should have a vote.

Students of Hawaii have been pursuing Student Member voting rights since 1988 through the Hawaii State Student Council and Secondary Student Council. Being the BOE student member is definitely not an easy job and certainly not a job for all students, but the Hawaii State Student Council takes pride in its vigorous process of selecting a well-qualified, capable, responsible student.

Voting rights on the Board of Education is very important. Every person deserves the right to be heard. We are the future of Hawaii and we can't be heard with no vote. Allowing the student member on the BOE to vote will increase and improve student participation in education and government. Please support this bill by granting voting rights to future BOE student members.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I truly hope that you will support of HB338.

February 28, 2011

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro
Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Maureen Bali
Waimanalo Intermediate School

Re: Request for a hearing for HB338

My name is Maureen Bali and I am a 7th grader at Waimanalo Intermediate School. I am in full support of HB338..

In the Board of Education I think that student members should have rights to vote. Student members from the Board of Education represent the schools on Hawaii to voice their opinions, but yet their voice is not heard.

I think that student members should have the right to vote because the student members is a leader, who represents the school with their opinions, voices, problems, and others, I believe in keeping decision-making closest to those whom are most directly affected by those decisions. The students deserve voice in their own education and welfare.

Thank you for taking your time to read this. I hope you fully support HB338 I as a student agree with it

February 28, 2011

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro
And Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Vallie Rodriquez
Kailua, Hawaii

Subject: Support of HB338

Aloha! My name is Vallie Rodriquez, and I am currently a senior at Kalaheo High School on Oahu. I strongly believe in HB338, and I would like to ask for your support.

The Student Board Member is the one who is in school and knows how the voting of the BOE actually effects as students. He/she can speak up for the rest of the students. It is only fait that the student voices be heard too.

The Student Board member must attend all of the community meetings and attend public hearings monthly and he/she has the same responsibilities as the other board members. If he/she has the same responsibilities as the adult members he/she should have equal rights and should be able to be on the board and be able to vote.

Eighty percent of the 2008 Kids Voting Elections have reported in favor of granting voting rights to the BOE Student Member. If that large percent is in favor along with other committees than I know that this is very important and as a student I also agree strongly.

Mahalo for your time and I hope you consider my testimony in support of HB338

Date: February 28, 2011

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro

And Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Emily Theoret

Subject: Support of HB338

Hello, my name is Emily Theoret, and I am currently a junior at Kalaheo High School, here on Oahu. I strongly support HB338, and I would like to ask for your support.

As it stands, the student member takes part in all activities and assumes all responsibilities as all other members, except the right to vote. The BOE's student member represents over 180,000 of Hawaii's students in over 250 public schools. The students are the most affected by the BOE's decisions and should have a voice in those decisions and the only way they can do that is through the vote of the BOE student member.

Voting rights on the State Board of Education's are not unheard of, and states like California, Vermont, Maryland and the District of Columbia all granted full or partial voting rights to their student member. Hawaii has always been at the forefront in supporting student activities. For the last 20 years the Secondary Student Conference participants voted overwhelmingly to support a resolution giving the BOE student member voting rights on the Board of Education.

A self-representation is a democratic ideal- a government for of, and by the people, which in this case are the students. Hawaii public school students represent 15% of the state's population yet have no vote. Please help reach this democratic ideal by supporting SB8. Allowing the student member on the BOE to vote will increase and improve student participation in education and government. An appointed voting student member is the best representation for the students of Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I truly hope that you will support HB338.



HAWAII STATE STUDENT COUNCIL

Mililani High School
475 22nd AVENUE, RM. 211
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

January 23, 2011

To: Central District Representatives
Central District Senators

From: Dana Katsura, Junior Class Recording Secretary

Subject: Student Representative on the Appointed Board of Education With Voting Rights

Aloha! My name is Dana Katsura I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am in full support of keeping a student representative with voting rights on the appointed Board of Education (BOE). I am asking you to support this position as well. Frequently people say: "the youth are the future of tomorrow." To prepare us effectively give us a student representative on the appointed BOE with voting rights. The student BOE representative experiences the education system provided and thus first hand understands the needs and concerns of the students.

The student BOE representative is also a member of the Hawaii State Student Council which is networked to every school district council and their respective schools. This communication network assists the student BOE representative to communicate with the students of all school districts and get their feedback and input.

For the past 22 years the student BOE representative has fulfilled all the same responsibilities as the other BOE representatives but without voting rights. States such as California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Vermont all support the student BOE member by granting them partial or full voting rights.

The student population is 15% of Hawaii's population, give us a choice on the education system that directly impacts us and our future. Please vote yes to have a student representative on the appointed BOE with voting rights. Thank you

Dana Katsura,
Mililani High School Junior Class Council



HAWAII STATE STUDENT COUNCIL

Mililani High School
475 22nd AVENUE, RM. 211
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

January 23, 2011

To: Central District Representatives
Central District Senators

From: Higashi, Heather- Class of 2012 corresponding secretary

Subject: Student Representative on the Appointed Board of Education With Voting Rights

Aloha! My name is Heather Higashi I am a junior at Mililani High School. I am in full support of keeping a student representative with voting rights on the appointed Board of Education (BOE). I am asking you to support this position as well. Frequently people say: "the youth are the future of tomorrow." To prepare us effectively give us a student representative on the appointed BOE with voting rights. The student BOE representative experiences the education system provided and thus first hand understands the needs and concerns of the students.

The student BOE representative is also a member of the Hawaii State Student Council which is networked to every school district council and their respective schools. This communication network assists the student BOE representative to communicate with the students of all school districts and get their feedback and input.

For the past 22 years the student BOE representative has fulfilled all the same responsibilities as the other BOE representatives but without voting rights. States such as California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Vermont all support the student BOE member by granting them partial or full voting rights.

The student population is 15% of Hawaii's population, give us a choice on the education system that directly impacts us and our future. Please vote yes to have a student representative on the appointed BOE with voting rights. Thank you

Heather Higashi,
Associated Students of Millilani High School



HAWAII STATE STUDENT COUNCIL

Mililani High School
475 22nd AVENUE, RM. 211
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

January 23, 2011

To: Central District Representatives
Central District Senators

From: Lee, Sharmaine – Student Body President

Subject: Student Representative on the Appointed Board of Education With Voting Rights

Aloha! My name is Sharmaine Lee. I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am in full support of keeping a student representative with voting rights on the appointed Board of Education (BOE). I am asking you to support this position as well. Frequently people say: “the youth are the future of tomorrow.” To prepare us effectively give us a student representative on the appointed BOE with voting rights. The student BOE representative experiences the education system provided and thus first hand understands the needs and concerns of the students.

The student BOE representative is also a member of the Hawaii State Student Council which is networked to every school district council and their respective schools. This communication network assists the student BOE representative to communicate with the students of all school districts and get their feedback and input.

For the past 22 years the student BOE representative has fulfilled all the same responsibilities as the other BOE representatives but without voting rights. States such as California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Vermont all support the student BOE member by granting them partial or full voting rights.

The student population is 15% of Hawaii's population, give us a choice on the education system that directly impacts us and our future. Please vote yes to have a student representative on the appointed BOE with voting rights. Thank you

Sharmaine Lee,
Associated Students of Mililani High School

February 28, 2011

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro
Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Jenna Oue
Castle High School

Re: Support of HB338 for BOE Student Member Voting Rights

My name is Jenna Oue and I am a junior at Castle High School. I am support of HB338 to include voting rights for the BOE student member.

I believe that this bill should be passed with an amendment giving the Board of Education student member voting rights. The BOE student member is the only board member who is in the schools, everyday experiencing and understanding the full impact of board policy on individual students. We believe in keeping decision-making closer to who are most directly affected by those decisions. The students deserve a voice in their own education and welfare.

Please support HB338 to include voting rights for the BOE Student Member.

February 28, 2011

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro
Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Daisjah Paio
Waimanalo Intermediate School

Re: Support of HB338

My name is Daisjah Paio and I am an 8th grader at Waimanalo Intermediate School. I am in support of HB338 to include voting rights for the BOE student member.

In the Board of Education I think student should have a right to vote. Hawaii public school students represent 15% of the states population, but yet their voice still hasn't been able to be heard. If the students have a right to discuss with the Board of Education, then I believe students should have a right to vote.

My reasons, is the student member is a leader, that is directly representing the students, whom are directly affected by board policies. He/She is a direct link between the student and the state. The student member works with the Hawaii State Student Council to gain greater insight onto issues and other student opinions brought to be discussed, but the student right to vote isn't there.

Thank you for your time and I really hope you support HB338 to include student member voting rights.

February 28, 2011

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro
Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Chauntel Mitchell
Waimanalo Intermediate School

Re: Support of HB338 to include Student Member Voting Rights

My name is Chauntel Mitchell and I am an 8th grader at Waimanalo Intermediate School. I am in support of HB338 to include voting rights for the BOE student member.

I feel that the student member of the Board of Education should have their voices be heard and have their voting rights put into use. I believe that those who are affected by the decisions that are made by the Board of Education-the students of Hawaii schools-should be kept close and be apart of the decision making process. The students deserve a voice in their own education and welfare.

For the past 4 years most of the adult BOE representatives support that the student BOE representative should have partial voting rights. In the 2008 elections 79% of K-12 students that participated in the statewide survey of the kids voting survey favored that the student BOE representatives should have voting rights.

Our education is important to us for the future, so student BOE representatives should have voting rights. Thank you for your consideration and your time. I hope you support HB338 to include voting rights for the BOE student member.

February 28, 2011

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro
Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Paris Botelho-Jamorabon
King Intermediate School

Re: Support of HB338

My name is Paris Botelho-Jamorabon and I am an 8th grader at King Intermediate School. I am asking your support for HB338 to include voting rights for the BOE student member.

We "students" should have a say because education is for us. Also in the 2008 elections, on the kids voting survey 79% of the K-12 students who participated in the statewide survey voted in favor of the BOE student representative having voting rights.

Please support HB338 to include voting rights for the student member.

February 28, 2011

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro
Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Rhiannon Callahan
Castle High School

Re: Support of HB338

My name is Rhiannon Callahan and I am a junior at Castle High School. I am in support of HB338 to give the BOE student member voting rights.

I support this bill because Hawaii's public school students represent 15% of the states population, and the student member is a servant leader, directly representing the students, whom are affected by the BOE's decisions.

In the 2008 elections, on the kids voting survey 79% of the K-12 students who participated in the statewide survey voted in favor of the BOE student representative having voting rights.

Please support the HB338 to include voting rights for the student member.

February 28, 2011

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro
Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Melissa-Sue Kamaau
Kailua High School

Re: Support of HB338

My name is Melissa-Sue Kamaau and I am a senior at Kailua High School. I support HB338 to include voting rights for the BOE student member.

The Board of Education student member represents 15% of the state's population. Said student is able to advocate the student's opinion on issues & policies to the board, but are not able to help make final decisions.

"When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps."
-Confucius

We need to adjust the action steps in this decision-making process to be able to reach the goal of creating a better future for Hawaii's education system. By giving the BOE student member the right to vote, you are enabling students to act on their opinions. Isn't that what we're supposed to do? Students have high expectations to make change in this world. I believe voting rights for the BOE student member is the first step for students to make change in this world and their future. The younger generation will inherit the world some day and all it is problems that come with it. We are ready to help make decisions for a better tomorrow.

I believe the BOE student member is qualified to participate in the voting process due to all the requirements he/she must meet to be the BOE student member. Also said member is voted onto the board by the students, so he/she is trusted to be voicing student's opinions on issues and policies being addressed.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I hope you support HB338 to include voting rights for the student member.

February 28, 2011

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Iniki Leialoha
Kalaheo High School

Subject: Support of HB338

Aloha, my name is Iniki Leialoha and I am currently a senior at Kalaheo High School. I am writing this testimony in full support of HB338 and I hope you will agree with me.

The student body in the State of Hawaii has never had the right to vote with the BOE. Now the BOE has taken away the right of the student BOE member to be voted by the student body. The schools of Hawaii can be greatly affected if we have no BOE student member representing them. If the student body is not able to decide the BOE student member, then the student body of Hawaii has no say in the issues presented.

This is an important issue for the students of Hawaii because we want our voice to be heard and we want to have a say in what goes on in our schools. This is a very important position for the student BOE member and if this Bill were to be passed, the students will once again have their say in the educational issues presented in Hawaii schools. I feel this is an important bill because with the student BOE member not able to vote, it would take away the rights of our students.

I would greatly appreciate it if you would be in full support HB338 and we would like for you to have a hearing on this. Thank you.

February 28, 2011

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro
Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Jordy Smith
Kalaheo High School

Subject: Support of HB338

Aoha! My name is Jordy Smith, and I am currently a senior at Kalaheo High School. I strongly believe in HB338, and I would like to ask for your support.

As it stands today, our Board of Education was voted into office by the public and the student member that represents our children attending Hawaii's public schools does not receive the right to vote on matters brought up to the board. Even though our student member is an active participant in our public schools and they know how the students are affected by the board's decisions first hand, they aren't allowed to voice their opinion because they don't have the right to vote. Now that the policy has changed, and we are to have an appointed Board Of Education, I feel that with the change should come change for our appointed student member; change to where their voice actually gets put into action.

I believe in keeping decision making closest to those whom are most directly affected by those decisions. The students deserve a voice in their own education and welfare. If we give the students a voice and actually have it count towards something, the integrity of the board will be more respected. Also, in 2008 elections, on the Kids voting survey 79% of the K-12 who participated in the statewide survey voted in favor of the BOE student member having voting rights. We have heard from our children and they feel the same way. Student member should have voting rights.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I truly hope that you will support HB338.

February 28, 2011

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro
And member of House Committee on Finance

From: Jared Agtunong
Maui High School, Grade 10
Kahului, Hawai'i

Subject: Support for HB338

Aloha! My name is Jared Agtunong; and I am currently a Sophomore at Maui High School as well as being a part of Maui High's Student Council. I stand strongly in HB338 by having an appointed Board of Education (BOE) as well as a student member on the BOE with voting rights. The student BOE member is the sole representative of over 180,000 students in over 250 public schools but has no voting rights on the matters that solely affect them.

For 22 years the BOE student member has had the same responsibilities and duties as other BOE members. The BOE makes decisions that affects all Hawai'i public school students, the BOE student member is our voice but as it stands does not take part in those decisions being made. I believe that we as students should have that representation for the decisions that affect us, the student BOE member is our voice and therefore should have a vote in those decisions.

States such as California, Vermont, Maryland, and the District of Columbia all grant partial or full voting rights to their student member. By granting partial or full voting rights to the BOE student member Hawaii's students will now have that voice and link with the BOE and the decisions that they make that affect them.

I thank you for your time and consideration. I truly hope that you will support HB338.

HB 338

**We received
hundreds of
signatures in
Support**



Please return by the
END of HR today: 1/28.

SA Room: T4

HAWAII STATE STUDENT COUNCIL

475 22ND AVENUE, RM. 211
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

Since 1988 the students of Hawaii have had a student representative on the State of Hawaii Board of Education. For 22 years the Board of Education Student Representative has fulfilled the same responsibilities as all other Board of Education Members. The November 2010 State election changed the Hawaii Constitution and created an appointed BOE which also deleted the Student Representative from the Board of Education. Therefore, we the undersigned, support the preservation of a Student Representative on the Hawaii Board of Education.

<u>PRINT NAME</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>
Kevin J Park		Moanalua High School
David Haji	David Haji	Moanalua High School
Shahed Saadiq	Shahed Saadiq	Moanalua High School
Dalton Pasorn	Dalton Pasorn	Moanalua High School
Taylor Pittard		Moanalua High School
Daniel Pauao		Moanalua High School
Taylor Adams		Moanalua High School
Cedric Joaquin		Moanalua High School
Toree Hill	Toree Hill	Moanalua High School
Krystal Fing		Moanalua High School
VIATCHI CANENCIA		Moanalua High School
Anthony Bower	Anthony Bower	Moanalua High School
MARISA BRACONELL	Marisa Bracowell	Moanalua High School
Kaishan Chu		Moanalua High School
MICAH RUIVEAUMI		Moanalua High School
MATTHEW LEE		Moanalua High School
Nainoa Coelho-Lopes	Nainoa Coelho-Lopes	Moanalua High School
Joshua Butecl	Joshua Butecl	Moanalua High School
Christine Sirls	Christine Sirls	Moanalua High School
		Moanalua High School
		Moanalua High School
		Moanalua High School
		Moanalua High School