

Date: 02/09/2011

Committee: House Education
House Labor & Public Employment

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0995 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

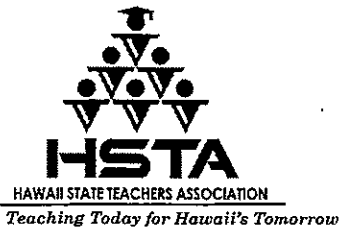
Purpose of Bill: Requires fiscal accountability measures at the school level. Requires the BOE to develop an appeals process for when school principals set aside a school community council decision. Requires school principal evaluations to assess the performance of principals in carrying out statutory powers and duties.

Department's Position: The Department opposes this bill as it complicates efforts now underway under the Race to the Top reforms and possibly contradicts pledges made in Hawaii's application for the Race to the Top. Under the Department's Race to the Top reform efforts, the Department is actively working on creating a new Principal evaluation that includes student learning growth while realigning both the Principal evaluation tool and the Department's goals to focus on student achievement. Creation of a new evaluation system, including compensation tied thereto is subject to collective bargaining. An effective evaluation for any employee, including Principals, includes a multitude of measures and must be designed to fairly capture the employee's efforts as it relates to the employer's expectations. The Department already expects that all Principals follow Federal and State law, as well as Board policies and Department regulations and guidelines; thus the statutory mandate that this bill seeks to create is not necessary. With respect to the creation of an appeals process, the Department is concerned that the creation of this process duplicates and/or compounds the existing appeals process as delineated in the Department's School

Community Council Handbook II, page 81:

"Board of Education: If an appeal made to the superintendent is denied, the SCC may, within ten (10) working days of receipt of the written notice from the superintendent, submit an appeal to the Board of Education. The appeal is sent to the School and Community Leadership Branch for processing.

The Board of Education Committee on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Support will review the information and decisions from the appeals to the complex area superintendent and superintendent and make a recommendation to the full board. A written response will be provided to the SCC within ten (10) working days of the board's decision."



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ʻ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ʻ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ʻ Web: www.hsta.org

Wil Okabe
President

Karolyn Mossman
Vice President

Joan Kamila Lewis
Secretary-Treasurer

Alvin Nagasako
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

RE: HB 995 - RELATING TO EDUCATION.

February 9, 2011

WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Takumi, Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports the concepts and the intent of HB 995. The Association believes in collaboration with all stakeholders in creating the academic and financial plans for the schools.

Through our collective bargaining agreement with the State of Hawaii Board of Education **Appendix XII: School-Based Budgeting**; the parties support the concept of School-Based Budgeting to further expand collaborative decision-making and empowerment at the school level. School-based budgeting is a process established by law to provide all schools flexibility in the school level budgeting process. The school level budgeting process shall be open, democratic, and collaborative and teachers share in decisions regarding school-based budgeting using a mechanism established by the principal and teachers and understood by all.

As you address this legislation we would like you to revisit SECTION 4. (4):

(4) Develop and present to the school community council, in accordance with section 302A-1308, the school budget process as it aligns with the school's academic and financial plan; and

We do believe that the School Community Council should understand the school budget process as it aligns with the school's academic and financial plan. However, that budget process, developed by principals and teachers at the school, should be the process presented to the School Community Council.

We support the presentation of the school budget process to the School Community Council. We realize it is a critical component in understanding the development of the academic and financial plan. A strong academic and financial plan is essential for self directed learners to acquire attitudes, knowledge, and skills necessary to contribute positively and compete in a global society.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

EDNtestimony

From: John Kometani [jkometani@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 8:35 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: HB 995

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: RELATING TO EDUCATION.

February 8, 2011

John Kometani

Kohala High School

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I support HB 995 because I feel with all of the mandates given schools and education it is imperative that fiscal accountability measures required.

The School Community Council at Kohala High School does not function under transparency and collaboration regarding the decision making process between the principal and stake holders.

As a member of the HSTA Government Relations Committee, it has been stated many times that this identical situation exists at many schools throughout the state.

Fiscal accountability measures must be required at the school level.

The Board of Education must develop an appeals process when school principals set aside a School Community Council decision.

School principal evaluations must include an assessment of their performance in carrying out statutory powers and duties.

I urge you to support the passage of HB995)

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



888 Milliani Street, Suite 601
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2991

Telephone: 808.543.0000
Facsimile: 808.528.4059

www.hgea.org

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The House of Representatives
Committee on Education
And
Committee on Labor and Public Employment
Testimony by
HGEA/AFSCME Local 152
February 09, 2011

H.B. 995 - Relating To Education

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, HGEA/AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO opposes H.B. 995.

We do not support the proposed amendments on page 2, lines 1-4. The department of education currently administers the Professional Evaluation Program for School Leaders (PEP-SL). The standards used in the evaluation have a strong research base as they are aligned with the Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium Standards for School Leaders, otherwise referred to as ISLLC Standards. While there are always opportunities to reassess the standards, it is important to emphasize that they are research based.

We do not support the proposed amendment on page 5, line 19. Principals are expected to be accountable for their schools, and all of the students, teachers, support staff, parents and community members nevertheless, efforts are made to curtail their authority and responsibility.

Finally, and perhaps most important is that the State of Hawaii was awarded a four-year \$75 million Race to the Top grant. The grant sets forth an ambitious plan that includes the establishment of a performance evaluation for principals and teachers. The goal is to implement both evaluations in the Zones of Innovation. We continue to advocate that the evaluation program must include a system of support for principals and teachers. This will require a review and realignment of current resources as well as a requirement for new resources. This bill will interfere with these efforts and should be held in committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify:

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leiomalama E. Desha'.

Leiomalama E. Desha
Executive Assistant

EDNtestimony

From: Annie [ack519@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 12:22 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: Susan "2T" Bitler; Rae Yamanaka
Subject: TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION RE:
RELATING TO EDUCATION.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: RELATING TO EDUCATION.

February 9, 2011

Anne Kettenring
Kea'au Elementary School

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I support HB 995 because I feel with all of the mandates given schools and education it is imperative that fiscal accountability measure are required.

I currently have a very supportive and collaborative Principal, but I am concerned about what might happen if a new Principal comes in. I have heard horror stories from fellow teachers about Principals making unilateral decisions after plans are approved by faculty and School Community Councils that do not benefit our children. I urge you to support the passage of HB985.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Anne C. Kettenring
Special Education Teacher
Kea'au Elementary School

Sent from my iPhone

MILES D. OKUMURA

Attorney at Law
PO Box 186
Kamuela HI 96743
808 640 4602

Testifier's name with position/title and organization: Miles Okumura, teacher at Honokaa High and Intermediate School; Teacher Representative to the School Community Council.

The Committee the comments are directed to: Committee on Education

The date and time of the hearing: Wednesday, February 9, 2011, 2:00 pm.

In regards to: HB 995

MILES D. OKUMURA

Attorney at Law
PO Box 186
Kamuela HI 96743
808 640 4602

February 8, 2011

Dear ladies and sirs:

I am testifying in support of the bill HB 995.

1. School Community Councils need increased clarity and confirmation of the authority of the community in their efforts to improve local schools. All too often, the Department of Education misleads the community and the School Community Councils telling them that they are merely “consultants” or “advisors.” Providing specific procedures for the Councils to appeal a decision of the principal will emphasize to involved parents and other citizens that they are true partners in helping students to achieve and schools to improve.

2. I also support the addition of subparagraph (4) to Section 302A-1103, requiring the principal to “present to the school community council . . . the school budget . . . as it aligns with the school's academic and financial plans.” Sometimes principals do not present the actual budgets to the faculty or the school community council, leaving them in the dark as to significant financial aspects of how the administration intends to spend taxpayer's money to achieve goals as stated in the Academic Plan.

3. I would like to submit, however, that the wording in the subsection is confusing when it uses the phrase “school budget process” instead of “school budget” (preferred). It should be the “budget” that aligns with the school Ac-Fin plan, and not the “budget process.”

Please approve of the changes contained HB 995 to empower the community to have meaningful input into improving their schools and increasing student achievement.

Sincerely,

Miles Okumura

EDNtestimony

From: Angie miyashito [terqu2004@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 2:20 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: ryamanaka@hsta.org
Subject: HB995

February 9, 2011

Angie Miyashiro

Ka'u High and Pahala Elementary

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I support HB 995 because I feel with all of the mandates given schools and education it is imperative that fiscal accountability measure are required.

We are in a very rural district with high poverty levels. We want our students to have the very best education as well. It is imperative in these times to use money wisely and fairly so that all students have a chance to succeed and teachers are able to have the resources to make it possible.

I urge you to support the passge of HB995

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

EDNtestimony

From: mhc [biologistmhc@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 5:37 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: EDUCATION-Support passage of HB995

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: RELATING TO EDUCATION-Support passage of HB995

February 8, 2011

Melany H. Chapin
Kea`au Middle School, Kea`au, Hawaii

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I support HB 995 because I feel with all of the mandates given schools and education it is imperative that fiscal accountability measures are required.

It is imperative that monies that are allocated to schools are spent in an accountable and responsible way that targets the education and benefit of the students first and foremost HB 995 requires the BOE to develop an appeals process for when school principals set aside a school community council decision. It requires school principal evaluations to assess the performance of principals in carrying out statutory powers and duties.

I urge you to support the passage of HB995.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Melany H. Chapin
Teacher, KMS
DOE

EDNtestimony

From: Joy & Don Memmer [kickithilo@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 10:49 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: In Support of Bill HB 995

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: RELATING TO EDUCATION.

February 8, 2011

From: Joy Memmer

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I support HB 995 because I feel with all of the mandates given schools and education it is imperative that fiscal accountability measure are required.

As a parent representative on the Hilo High SCC I have found that there were several opportunities for the principal to set aside what was the decision of the council. I believe that this change will be helpful in finding those checks and balances put in to the system.

In closing, I urge you to support the passage of HB995.

Joy Memmer,

SCC Parent Representative Hilo High School

50 Lahaina St., Hilo, HI 96720

808-961-6402

kickithilo@yahoo.com



Youth need praise everyday!

EDNtestimony

From: Vicky Kometani/Current Events [Vicky@Current-events.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 8:15 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony / HB 995

Please consider this testimony as it relates to HB#995:

Having served four years on a School Community Council, I resigned after years of worthless meetings that served no purpose for the school or the community. The mandated SCC's were given no power, no decision making rights but were put in place to rubberstamp whatever the Principals' presented. And no matter what was discussed, what concerns were expressed, what disagreements the Council may have had with the Principal, all decisions were trumped by whatever the Principal wanted - or had already decided - to do because it was made abundantly clear that the Principal had final say in all decisions, regardless. Furthermore, as it related to budgets, our SCC was presented a budget that was a done deal with no input in to how it was arrived out and no opportunity to make suggestions or recommendations.

HB#995 seems to address the powerless SCC and actually enable the Council to become a true part of making valuable decisions for schools in their respective communities. Furthermore, HB#995 addresses the lack of consistency statewide as it relates to school Principals and teacher evaluations which is sorely lacking. A poor, ineffective Principal can drag a school down, fudge the numbers, fudge graduation rates, force teachers to pass failing students and more (and I'm keenly aware that this occurs in our school), but there is no oversight or control to make certain EVERY school is on a level playing field with talented, committed, and fair administration. I am hopeful that HB#995 might address these concerns.

Please add my support to HB#995.

Vicky Kometani
PO Box 213
Hawi, HI 96719
808.884.5003

EDNtestimony

From: Ms. Ott [msott_teacher@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 6:49 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: I support HB995

I support HB995. Right now, it is far too easy for principals to ignore the advice of the school's School Community Council. There is little accountability within the DOE and I support any move that will strengthen the powers of SCCs.

Thank you,

Vanessa Ott
P.O. Box 825
Naalehu, HI 96772
808-854-1018

EDNtestimony

From: Diane and Fred Holschuh [triplef80@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 5:27 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: HB 995 Relating to Education

To: Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair; Rep. Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair; and Members, Committee on Education; Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair; Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair; and Members, Committee on Labor and Public Employment

From: Fred C. Holschuh, M.D.
Honokaa, Hawaii 96727

Hearing Notice: Wed., Feb. 9, 2011, 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 309

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of HB 995. This bill requires fiscal accountability at the local school level and requires evaluations of school principals and establishment by the BOE of an appeals process when principals set aside a school community council decision. These measures will be positive steps towards more local accountability in our education system.

Aloha,

I am in support of HB 995 to give our school's School Community Councils more strength and support. I have been a chairperson of Pa'auilo School's SCC for the past 4 years. As it stands now, our SCC's are powerless to make any effective changes or offer input. Last year our school's SCC voted to keep our Vice Principal position at our school and our principal ignored our advice. What is the point of having a council that nobody takes seriously? Everyone's time is important and to sit on a council that has no meaningful input is senseless. Principals make mistakes, sometimes huge ones. It seems like nobody is watching them very well. Help our School Community Councils have meaning to the work we do.

Mahalo,

Donna Mitts

Past chair

Pa'auilo SCC

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 8:55 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: pointman_jeno@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for HB995 on 2/9/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN/LAB 2/9/2011 2:00:00 PM HB995

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jimmy ~~F "Jeno"~~ Enocencio
Organization: Kalalau Ranch and Victory Gardens
Address: 152 Aikane Lp Hilo, HI 96720
Phone: 8085428666
E-mail: pointman_jeno@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/8/2011

Comments:

EDNtestimony

From: Diane Aoki [ddkaoki@mac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 7:00 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: HB 995

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: RELATING TO EDUCATION

February 8, 2011

Diane Aoki
Kealakehe Elementary School
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii

Chair Takumi and members of the committee,

I support HB 995 because it provides a checks and balances on decision-making at the school level. As it is now, the principal has the final say. He or she can go through the motions of "collaboration" but ultimately, the principal can overrule any opposition or criticism of his/her plans. This bill just makes sense. There is much research to support the fact that schools that are run democratically and collaboratively will have higher teacher and community satisfaction.

Unfortunately, there are too many stories of schools where the principal rules with an iron fist, and there are no positive outcomes to show for this leadership style. The whole idea of the School Community Councils is rendered null and void if ultimately, a principal can trump the decision of the council. It is difficult to get teachers to run for positions on the council because they feel that it is a rubber stamp rather than a true, sincere means of democratically making decisions. If you believe in the checks and balance system in our democracy, you will allow this bill to go forward and if the members of the Hawaii State Legislature agree and pass it, it will make a profound difference in Act 51. I urge you to support HB 995.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Diane Aoki
Kona

EDNtestimony

From: Brendan Poff [brendan.poff@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 9:56 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony for HB995

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: RELATING TO EDUCATION.

February 9, 2011
Brendan Poff
Kealakehe Intermediate

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I support HB 995 because I feel with all of the mandates given schools and education it is imperative that fiscal accountability measure are required. Right now principals are given the ultimate power in deciding how budgets are going to be spent. The opinions and wishes of the SCC and faculty do not matter according to the law of ACT 51 because it states that "The principal shall have the authority to set aside any decision made by the SCC if the principal determines it to be in the best interests of teh school". While we have opportunities to appeal, it's a little bit difficult to do when the principal and CAS have already worked together and are prepared to back one another. Kind of biased wouldn't you say? I have a prinicipal that believes using 80k to purchase an additional VP makes more sense than not cutting any of the following: librarian, 1.5 counselors, 8th grade PE teacher, robotics programs, etc. With shrinking numbers, due to redistricting and bus availability, he believes that the VP is the best choice. How does that affect the whole education of the child? Is the decision being made in the best interest of the child? Our faculty has been assured that our CAS 100% supports this decision, so how would appealing it make a difference and with the deadlines being set and people needing to reapply to other schools, it drags the entire process entirely. Also the proposed budget to the SCC has changed numerous times, so how is that working that the Principal gets approval for a budget and ends up changing it 2-3 more times without the knowledge of the SCC? I would propose an amendment that would give the faculties, who by far are a majority stakeholder in the school system, a voting power that counts when it comes to budgetary decisions. If the SCC and faculty cannot come to consensus, then give overriding power to the Principal.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

--
Brendan Poff

Gloria V. A. Ilagan

gilagan72@hotmail.com

P.O. Box 624
Captain Cook, HI 96704
(808) 987-1972

February 7, 2011

Dear Members of the Committee:

I am in favor of HB 995 as it gives fiscal accountability to those in Public Office, the check and balance system that provides for responsible and prudent use of public funds.

In these times of economic hardship, we need to streamline expenses for the use of finances which provide for direct correlation with promoting student achievement. Superintendents and Principals who abuse their authority to make independent decisions to spend the Publics' funds without consulting the Community School Council, have led to misuse of funds, inefficiency and waste.

HB 499 addresses the essential components of providing accountability and responsibility for those who manage the use of Public Funds.

Sincerely,

Gloria Ilagan
Kealakehe High School

EDNtestimony

From: Colleen Pasco [cjpasco@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 12:47 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: HB 995

Colleen Pasco
Kohala High School

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I write in support of HB 995 because fiscal accountability measures are required in order for School Community Councils to function effectively.

I was involved in establishing the original SCBM at Kohala High School and was active in the revamping for the School Community Council under Act 51. It has been an extremely difficult and stressful process. From the beginning my principal said she would not be "outnumbered" by the faculty and the parents and insisted all representatives be held to two per role group and the Vice Principal be included as a voting member. I filed complaints with my CAS that this was a violation of the regulations which specifically indicated the principal as the voting member and the vice principal as ex-officio. He said he would note my concerns. The SCC was also stacked with school staff who filled representative positions parents, and the community members were only elected by the principal who hand-picked people she was comfortable with.

The principal's evaluation at the end of that first year was four ridiculous questions that did not get close to identifying the issues we dealt with. The principal at first refused to leave the meeting for the evaluation saying she had a right to be there (when the guidelines clearly stated she did not), and insisted that the vice principal be allowed to stay. Even after reminding everyone that the discussion was to be confidential and the CAS would share the report with the principal, the vice principal went immediately to the principal's office and reported on the evaluation. Again, my complaint to the CAS was "noted."

The phrase that gives the ultimate authority in decision making to the principal took the legs right out from under the SCC. You can't really get people to get involved because they have no real impact on the school programs; they just have more meetings to go to. Our SCC is not even involved in the creation of the Academic and Financial Plan. They only see it to review before signing off on it. Our current SCC is operating with Alternate Faculty Representative as the Chair. When I questioned that, the response was no one else would do it.

You may wonder why I am not on the SCC if I am so dissatisfied with the process. I made waves, and at the end of my term, my principal insured she could get other teachers (who are less involved in HSTA activities) elected.

I urge you to support the passge of HB995.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 10:56 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: kimkspringer@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB995 on 2/9/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN/LAB 2/9/2011 2:00:00 PM HB995

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kim Springer
Organization: Individual
Address: 1722 Kaiiao Street Hilo
Phone: 8089879982
E-mail: kimkspringer@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/8/2011

Comments:

Please support making school principals fiscally accountable at the school level by requiring the BOE to develop an appeals process for when school principals set aside a school community council decision. While my principal has always followed the process, there are many principals who have not. Therefore, requiring school principal evaluations to assess the performance of principals in carrying out statutory powers and duties is necessary.

EDNtestimony

From: Rosemary_Orr/KEALAKI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 8:32 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Please pass HB 995.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: RELATING TO EDUCATION.

February 9, 2011

Rosemary Orr
Kealakehe Intermediate School
Kailua, Kona, Hawaii 96740

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I support HB 995 because I feel with all of the mandates given schools and education it is imperative that fiscal accountability measure are required.

I feel EVERYONE needs to be accountable.

I urge you to support the passge of HB995.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

EDNtestimony

From: toni_reynolds@email.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 8:11 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: HB 995

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: RELATING TO EDUCATION.

February 9, 2011

Toni Reynolds, Teacher

Kealakehe Elementary School

To: Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in support of HB 995. I believe it will help tighten up some of the gaps currently facing our School Community Councils. With the new mandates required by Race to the Top, (and the Act 51 mandates about how SCC's should function) this bill will help us ensure that financial accountability measures are also part of the principal's responsibilities. I am a member of my school's SCC, and feel that some adjustments need to be made to ensure that a democratic process is followed in the SCC. Passage of HB 995 would hold principals accountable, especially when they set aside a decision made by fellow members of the SCC. I believe that HB 995 will be one needed step to help make sure the SCC functions as it was intended when Act 51 was first written.

Again, I urge you to support passage of HB 995.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Toni Reynolds
76-6307 Kaheiau St.
Kailua Kona, HI

EDNtestimony

From: Anthony Russo [trusso@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 7:33 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: Susan [HI] Bitler.
Subject: HB 995, relating to education

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I support HB 995 because it seeks to establish accountability measures at the school level.

In the years since its enactment, Act 51 has proven to be flawed. In particular, the role played by principals in the operation of School Community Councils (SCC) is questionable at best. At my own school, where we have had four principals since 2004, the administration has controlled or evaded the SCC. Financial and Academic Plans are slam dunk affairs which have conveniently avoided scrutiny and input from the faculty for "lack of time" before going to the SCC. And at the SCC level, discussion and decision-making are relegated to evasive comments or lame excuses about restructuring. This has left faculty with a deep sense of mistrust and resentment; hardly the intention, I would like to believe, of the Act.

I believe HB 995 would help remedy this unfortunate turn of events by requiring fiscal accountability measures, establishing an appeals process for SCC decisions set aside by principals, and requiring evaluations to assess the performance of principals in their carrying out of statutory powers and duties.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Lilian Yamasaki
McKinley High School
Social Studies Teacher

EDNtestimony

From: Lou_Padavan/KEALAKI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 9:04 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: HB995

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee: I am the librarian at Kealakehe Intermediate School on the Big Island. I support HB995 because I feel with all of the mandates given schools and education, it is imperative that fiscal accountability measures are required. I will be retiring this school year. We have a brand new library costing over \$12,000,000 dollars. Our principal has decided NOT to replace me the coming school year. This is horrendous. I worked for nearly 13 years for this building, and now we will NOT have some one to run it. What will happen to our students who use the library? Where is the accountability??? Up until 3 years ago, our library was in two portables that had to support, at that time, over 1,000 students. Accountability is most important. I URGE YOU AND YOUR COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF HB 995. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit my testimony. Louis Padavan, Librarian, Kealakehe Intermediate School