



February 25, 2011
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211

TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

RE: SB 1485 – Relating to Reconstituting Schools

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Witt and I am executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 students statewide.

We support SB 1485, which would allow the superintendent of education to reconstitute a public school that has been in restructuring for four or more years, as well as recommend actions to the charter school review panel, including revocation of the school's charter.

We believe reconstitution is a tool the superintendent needs to be able to catalyze change in schools that are not serving our children well. The superintendent would be able to use this strategy to significantly benefit children whose learning has not been adequate in our most struggling schools.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



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The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii

The Senate

Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by

HGEA/AFSCME Local 152

February 25, 2011

S.B. 1485 - Relating To Reconstituting Schools

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, HGEA/AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO opposes S.B. 1485 Relating to Reconstituting Schools.

The State Constitution provides public employees the right to organize for the purposes of collective bargaining. Wages, hours and other terms and conditions of work are negotiable matters with HGEA as the exclusive representative of bargaining units 02, 03, 04, 06, 08, 09 & 13. We oppose any measure that seeks to circumvent our collective bargaining rights.

As written, this bill only requires the department to negotiate the process of reassigning employees of the school to other positions within the department for which the employees are qualified. This language is very limiting and presumes there are sufficient positions for the potential reassignment of employees. In view of WSF, recent reorganizations and overall budget constraints, we disagree.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Leiomalama Desha
Executive Assistant