



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

Wednesday, February 16, 2011, 2:00 PM
State Capitol Room 308

Testimony of
Honorable Neil Abercrombie
Governor, State of Hawaii

To the House Finance Committee
Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

SB8 SD1 HD1 Relating to Education

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the Legislature's swift action to establish implementing procedures for an appointed Board of Education. We need the appointed board in place to take action on important and time sensitive matters.

In November 2010, Hawaii's people voted decisively to change from an elected to an appointed board of education. Fifty-seven percent (57%) of voters marked "yes" for the "Board of Education (to) be changed to a board *appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate*, as provided by law." The voters stated clearly their desire for a clear line of accountability between the Governor and the educational system's governance and outcomes.

For effective governance of public education, the Governor should select from the entire community for quality candidates and to balance the composition of the Board of Education. Senate Bill 8 Senate Draft 1 House Draft 1 (SB1 SD1 HD1) reflects this process and considers prior citizen testimony suggesting that board members meet specific qualifications or represent particular interests. The process described in SB1 SD1 HD1 will result in a Board of Education that is representative of the people and will steward public education wisely.

I applaud you for your leadership in moving this issue forward expeditiously. Thank you for your leadership on this matter, and I look forward to implementing the will of the people.



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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE**

RE: SB 8, SD1, HD 1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION.

February 16, 2011

**WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports SB 8, SD1, HD1, that establishes implementing legislation for the appointment of Board of Education members. The amendments to Senate Bill 8 continue to reflect the diversity of experience and abilities of the appointees to the Board of Education. The nine voting members of the Board are reflective of the interest of each county. It would have been admirable to recognize the amount of work, time, effort, and commitment of the student member by allowing the student to have voting rights as all other members of the Board.

Having shared that concern, HSTA supports SB 8, SD1, HD1, as amended.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
February 16, 2011

SB 8, SD1, HD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports SB 8, SD1, HD1 that allows the governor to appoint the members of the board of education with the advice and consent of the senate. As written, the Governor will be accountable for public education in our state.

The legislature should make every effort to approve enabling language that will establish a process that will expedite the appointment of a new board of education on or before this legislative session adjourns. This will definitely help to ensure leadership stability in public education.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of SB 8, SD1, HD1.

Respectfully submitted,

Leiomalama Desha
Executive Assistant



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol
Agenda #1**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 8 SD1, HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and members of the committee:

My name is Jim Tollefson and I am the President and CEO of The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports SB 8 SD1, HD1 relating to Education with a proposed amendment.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing 1100 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. The organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

This measure establishes implementing legislation for the appointment of board of education members. The bill also establishes considerations for the senate during the advise and consent process.

Workforce education is a high priority for the Chamber. To remain competitive, businesses need employees who are prepared to address the quickly altering demands of the 21st century workplace. Therefore, a quality education is vital to the success of our students, communities and the economy.

The Chamber supported the constitutional amendment implementing an appointed Board of Education. We believe an appointed will ameliorate the current system and fundamentally reform public education in Hawaii, which in turn, will improve the performance outcomes of our students.

Because the Department of Education is a large institution with a complex organizational structure as well as one that takes up more than one fourth of the State's budget, it is critical that at least some of the board members have leadership experience in running an organization similar to the DOE in terms of size and complexity.

Therefore, we respectfully ask the committee amend the bill to include in the qualification requirements of some of the appointees a background in running a large organization, whether it be a for-profit or non-profit entity.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii
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Testimony of
League of Women Voters-Hawai'i
To the House Finance Committee
Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-Chair

SB8 SD1 HD1

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and members of the Committee:

The Board of the Directors of the League of Women Voters of Hawai'i strongly supports SB8 SD1 HD1 as written. We respectfully submit the following as input for you to consider in your decision-making process concerning implementing the enabling legislation that defines the selection procedure for Board of Education members.

All of the rhetoric prior to the general election vote that opted to change the method for choosing the members of the Board of Education centered on the issue of 'accountability' and the idea that if 'everyone is accountable then no-one is accountable.' Thus, the voters opted for 'accountability' when they chose to have the governor nominate Board of Education members. We are pleased that the Senate has taken a stand that the public supports to create the governance structure outlined in SB8 SD1 HD1, and we are pleased that the House Committee on Education has now forwarded this bill to you. We urge you to approve this bill.

The League feels that the only acceptable route to accountability will be for the governor to make the nominations with the advice and consent of the senate, through confirmation of the nominees.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Valere McFarland, Ph.D.
Education Chair
League of Women Voters-Hawai'i



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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Marcus R Oshiro, Chair

SB 8, SD 1, HD 1
Relating to Education

Chair Oshiro and Members of this Committee.

My name is Max Sword, here on behalf of Outrigger Hotels Hawaii, in support of this bill.

Outrigger Hotels is committed to the betterment of education here in Hawaii. With an educated workforce, we get a stronger workforce.

Outrigger, especially thru the participation of its Chairman Dr. Richard Kelley and its President and CEO, Mr. David Carey, has been part of the previous effort in trying to correct the course of the ship known as the Department of Education.

We participated in the effort of Hawaii's Children First to support an appointed Board of Education (BOE), because we believe that an appointed board will be responsible for the success or failure of the DOE. They will be accountable.

SB 8 makes the Governor the appointing authority of the BOE, as well as sets the geographic representation for the board. We support that direction.

With that being said however, in Section 302A-F, BOE qualifications, administration priorities, paragraph 5, requiring all board members to demonstrate an understanding of the collective bargaining process, is a little to limiting. Having at least one or two members having that understanding would be sufficient. Finally in paragraph C1, just a concern. I am not sure what a "complex" organization means, but there is a difference between a big and small "complex" organization. Overseeing 50 personnel is a lot different from overseeing 2,000 employees. Not sure how you would rephrase that paragraph, but the DOE is a large organization, which takes up over one fourth of the State budget and, therefore, needs the expertise of those who have had relative leadership experience in this area.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 8, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO EDUCATION

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

February 16, 2011, 2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Honorable Chair Oshiro and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, editorial director of Fracturedpolitics, an emergent political action network born out of internet activism. Currently, the network boasts over 50 local members, though I offer this testimony only on behalf of myself, in support of SB 8, SD1, HD1, with consideration for amendments.

While I was initially opposed to the appointment of Board of Education members, the overwhelming approval of the Hawaii Board of Education Amendment, Question 1, during last year's elections, gave lawmakers a mandate for streamlining accountability within the state's educational bureaucracy. In renouncing the creation of an advisory council to vet potential board members, SB 8, SD1, HD1 accomplishes that task. An advisory panel would inhibit accountability and contravene the will of the electorate by diluting gubernatorial responsibility for appointment decisions, thereby creating a system in which competing factions can, and likely would, shift blame back and forth. Some have argued that an advisory panel implements much needed "checks and balances" in case leadership of the executive and legislative branches is split between two parties with opposing visions for scholastic improvement. Should such a situation occur, however, an advisory panel may become a scapegoat for the performance of board members or nominate candidates who are unpalatable to the governor, leading to delayed nominations and gridlock. In either case, the Board of Education selection process and subsequent board decisions would remain heavily politicized, with no clear line of accountability established for public evaluation. It is also worth noting that under such circumstances, an advisory panel would be bureaucratically redundant if the Senate retains "advise and consent" authority over gubernatorial nominations, as is set forth in section §302A-G of SB 8, SD1, HD1.

Furthermore, ensuring that at least three seats are apportioned to outer island counties, as this legislation does, allays the disproportionate advantage reaped by O'ahu-based representatives under the current system. Today, 10 out of 13 of the school board's voting members are from O'ahu, accounting for 77 percent of the Board of Education's total votes, despite O'ahu's population accounting for roughly two-thirds, or 66 percent, of the statewide total. Even allowing that the vast majority of the state's student population attends class on O'ahu, the most recent census data, released in 2010,

expose higher rates of population growth for outer island counties as compared to the City and County of Honolulu. For example, Hawaii County and Maui County grew at 19.6 and 13.3 percent, respectively, while the City and County of Honolulu grew at a 3.6 percent clip. Clearly, population growth is trending toward outer island communities. Power sharing inequalities are borne out by student population statistics, too, as City and County of Honolulu enrollment stands at 116,952 for the 2010-2011 academic year, accounting for approximately 69 percent of the state's total enrollment of 169,987, a number that, again, falls short of the 77 percent of votes allocated to representatives of districts falling within Honolulu's boundaries. If SB 8, SD1, HD1 is codified promptly and properly into law, this disparity in voting clout could be redressed through a combination of minimizing guaranteed seats (§302A-A, as amended) and concretizing geographical considerations during the nomination and confirmation process (§302A-G, as amended).

One concern I have with the bill, as currently drafted, is the continued disenfranchisement of the Board of Education's student member. Early versions of this measure extended voting privileges to the Board of Education's 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 school system, the school system's intent to foster productive citizenship, and the differentiated perspective offered by students actively experiencing the educational process, it seems logical to enfranchise the board's student member, except on personnel matters. I fervently encourage the committee to reinstate the student's member's voting privileges by amending §302A-A(2) to read: "One voting member who shall be a public high school student at the time of that member's term of appointment, selected by the Hawaii state student council; provided that the student member shall not vote on any issue directly pertaining to personnel matters." Also, a revision to section §302A-C(c), stipulating that the student member must maintain an overall grade point average of 2.0 or higher, would bring the qualifications for the student member into consonance with established protocols for participation in co-curricular activities at the public school level.

A second lingering concern is the place of Native Hawaiians and charter schools at the table of educational governance. As expressed at the Senate Committee on Education's previous hearing on this measure, Native Hawaiians comprise roughly 30 percent of the state's public school student population, according to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Numerous programs have been implemented in Hawaii's schools to acknowledge and promote our host culture, including the teaching of Native Hawaiian language, history, music and agricultural methods. Yet, as written, SB 8, SD1, HD1 incorporates no guarantor of Native Hawaiian representation on the Board of Education, nor does the bill guarantee representation for the state's 31 charter schools, some of which, like Kaneohe's Hakipu'u Learning Center, embody the 'olelo no'eau, "Ma ka hana ka 'ike," (the knowing is in the doing) by integrating modern technological demands with traditional Hawaiian practices. Encouraging the governor to

consider the needs Native Hawaiians and charter schools during the appointment process is one way to address the issue. A more efficient vehicle for ensuring representation for Hawaii's indigenous people would be to amend subsection §302A-A(a)(1)(E) to enact the appointment of three at-large members, at least one of whom must be of Native Hawaiian ancestry. Another way of executing indigenous representation, should the question of ancestry be complicated by issues relating to blood quantum, would be to amend section §302A-A by adding a subsection (e) inviting the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to appoint a nonvoting Native Hawaiian representative to the board, in a similar mode as provision §302A-A(d), which invites the state's senior military commander to appoint a nonvoting military liaison. Such a change would also entail revising the title of section §302A-A to read: "Board of Education; members; military representative; Native Hawaiian representative."

Again, it is imperative that the State Legislature act on this matter with alacrity. Besieged by a range setbacks—furlough Fridays, infighting over the execution of drug-testing, cyberbullying, achievement gaps on national assessments, and ongoing teacher shortages, just to name a few—Hawaii's education system is now, more than ever, in need of consistent leadership that can be held accountable to the public trust. Passage of SB 8, SD1, HD1 is a step toward realizing that goal.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Editorial Director
Fracturedpolitics



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SECONDARY STUDENT CONFERENCE
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

February 15, 2011

To: Chairman Marcus Oshiro
Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Emily Theoret
Kalaheo High School, Grade 11
Kailua, Hawaii

Subject: Request for Amendment of Senate Bill 8

Hello, my name is Emily Theoret, and I am currently a junior at Kalaheo High School, here on Oahu. I strongly support Senate Bill 8, with an amendment adding voting rights to the Board of Education student member.

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 22 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 Senate Bill 8 with amendments. 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 and amendment to Senate Bill 8 to include voting rights for the student member on the Board of Education.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair

Hearing:
Feb. 16, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. (Agenda #1)
Conference Room 308

Re: SB 8 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Testimony in support with an amendment.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 8 SD 1 HD 1, which contains the details needed to implement the Constitutional amendment approved by the electorate several months ago that creates a Board of Education (BOE) with members appointed by the Governor. I support the bill with an amendment.

Voters approved the Constitutional amendment because they were frustrated with decades of neglect by the elected BOE toward public education. They hoped that the Governor would be able to appoint courageous, forward-thinking people to the BOE who would be able to make the changes needed to improve the quality of education. The bill implementing the Constitutional amendment should reflect what voters approved when they said "yes" to the following question:

"Shall the Board of Education be changed to a board appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, as provided by law?"

SB 8 SD 1 HD 1 sets forth many of the provisions needed to implement the Constitutional amendment. However, it takes the unnecessary and inadvisable step of establishing criteria for the Governor to make the BOE appointments. The requirements are overly restrictive because many people who would make effective BOE members would be disqualified since they meet most -- but not all -- of the requirements. The Governor should be able to select from among all people who would serve effectively on the BOE.

I believe that voters who approved the Constitutional amendment did not think that the phrase "as provided by law" in the question could limit the Governor's discretion. The Governor has full discretion in appointing the heads of executive branch departments, and so it should be for BOE members as well.

I urge the House Finance Committee to amend SB 8 SD 1 HD 1 by removing the criteria for the Governor to appoint the members of the Board of Education. The remainder of the bill should be approved.

John Kawamoto

House of Representatives

Committee on Finance
Marcus Oshiro, Chair

Wednesday, February 16, 2011; 2:00 p.m.
Capitol Conf. Room 308

Testimony - SB 8, SD 1 HD 1

Chairman Oshiro and members of the Committee on Finance. My name is Jim Williams and I am testifying in support of SB 8, SD 1 HD 1.

Senate Bill 8 provides for implementation of an appointed Board of Education **without** nomination by a board of education selection advisory council, but with direct appointment by the Governor and confirmation by the Senate.

During the period preceding the election, there was considerable effort by various groups to support the Constitutional amendment that passed overwhelmingly. The key theme of the support for the amendment was to make the Governor ultimately accountable for improvements in our education system. SB 8 implements the Constitutional amendment in a way consistent with the communications that resulted in its approval.

The result of the election is that we have a "lame duck" board of education. To get on with the business of improving our public schools, it is imperative that this Legislature act quickly to give the Governor the authority to appoint the BOE. The best way to move forward is to move SB 8 forward.

The House Education Committee made several amendments to this bill, almost all of which I support. However, I would urge this Committee and the conferees when this bill goes to conference to revise the qualifications, so that they do not unduly restrict who the Governor may appoint. For instance, knowledge of "best practices" in education if construed strictly might eliminate many business and community leaders. In addition, there is no consensus, even among educators, of what "best practices" in education board members should know about.

I urge you to respond to the current consensus among education, labor and business groups and join with the Senate in passing a straightforward measure providing for appointment of the Board of Education by the Governor with confirmation by the Senate. The best way to do this is to give quick approval to SB 8.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 8 SD 1 HD 1.

Jim Williams
Honolulu

February 1, 2011

To: Chairperson Marcus Oshiro
and members of the House Finance Committee

From: Wren Fukada

Subject: Support of SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments

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 SB8 SD1 HB1 with amendments 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 SB8 SD1 HB1 with amendments and also take action.

February 10, 2011

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

From: Iniki Leialoha
Kalaheo High School

Subject: Support of ^{S08}~~SB1~~ SD1 HB1 with Amendments

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 SB1 SD1 HB1 with Amendments 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 SB1 SD1 HB1 with Amendments.
Thank you.

February 9, 2011

To: Chairperson Marcus Oshiro
and Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Monique Ishikawa

Subject: Support of ~~SB~~^{SB}1 SD1 HB1 with Amendments

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 SB1 SD1 HB1 with Amendments and hope that you will join me in support as well.

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.

Appointing the board members of the Board of Education is a lot more efficient. Campaigning for that position will no longer need to be done. Also the process will take less time and move it ahead faster. It will also allow the governor to go forth with his plans in how he wants education in Hawaii to be revised.

I strongly believe in SB1 SD1 HB1 with Amendments and support it completely. I hope you will do the same. Thank you for your time. Mahalo!

February 9, 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 SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments

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 SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments 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 SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments.

February 9, 2011

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

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

Subject: Support of SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments

Aloha! My name is Hannah Carnes, and I am currently a freshman at Kalaheo High School, here on Oahu. I fully support SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments, and I would like to ask for 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 SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments.

February 9, 2010

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro

And members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Peter Cheng

Roosevelt High School

Subject: Support of SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments

Aloha! My name is Peter Cheng, and I am currently a senior at Roosevelt High School in Roosevelt. I strongly believe in SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments, 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 SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments.

February 9, 2011

To: Representative Roy Takumi
Members of the House Education Committee

From: Rona Lee Gallardo
Farrington High School

Subject: Support of SB8 SD1 HB1

Aloha, my name is Rona Lee Gallardo and I am currently a junior at Farrington High School in Honolulu. I firmly support SB8 SD1 HB1 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 SB8 SD1 HB1 would be a stepping stone to great accomplishments.

Mahalo for your time and consideration, and I hope that you will support SB8 SD1 HB1.

February 9, 2011

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

From: Vallie Rodriquez
Kailua, Hawaii

Subject: Support of SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments

Aloha! My name is Vallie Rodriquez, and I am currently a senior at Kalaheo High School on Oahu. I strongly believe in SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments, 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 SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments.

February 9, 2011

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

From: Kayla Avega
Kalaheo High School, Grade 11

Subject: Support of SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments

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 SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments.

To: Representative Roy Takumi
Members of the House of Representatives Education Committee

From: Lauren Hill, Hawaii Secondary Student Conference Planner

Date: February 16, 2011

Subject: Amendment of SB8 SD1 HD, Partial Voting Rights for Student Member

Aloha! My name is Lauren Hill, and I am a junior at Waiakea High School. I am requesting an amendment to SB8 SD1 HB1 to include partial voting rights for the BOE Student Member.

I feel that it is extremely important for a student member to exist on the Board of Education (BOE) and to have partial voting rights. Decisions made at the BOE meetings impact the students of Hawaii momentarily. Students should be represented and should be able to vote on the issues that pertain to them.

In the mid-18th century, settlers from the Thirteen Colonies in America used the saying "no taxation without representation" to express their grievances to Great Britain. Great Britain had been imposing rules and regulations upon these American colonists without allowing them reasonable opportunities for representation. Similarly, we, the students that make up Hawaii's education system, ask that decisions are not made for us without proper representation.

Children are the future of Hawaii and thus, should be allowed to be participate in making the decisions that will change their lives. Our great country was founded upon the ideas of representation and democracy. I believe that such democracy should extend to the students of Hawaii through the appointed BOE student member.

Thank you for your time and consideration! I hope you will support the amendment of SB8 SD1 HB1, concerning the appointed BOE student member and partial voting rights to include all issues, except those that concern personnel.

February 16, 2011

To: Chairperson Marcus Oshiro
and members of the House Finance Committee

From: Sarah Fitzherbert-Velasco
Kalaheo High School, Grade 11

Subject: Support of SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments

Hello my name is Sarah Fitzherbert-Velasco and I am currently a junior at Kalaheo High School. I am in strong support of SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments and I am asking for your support. As of right now, the BOE Student Member represents over 180,000 students and 250 public schools. Students are most affected by the BOE's decisions and by the student not having the right to vote, Hawaii students have a very minimal say in decisions.

By allowing the student to have even partial voting rights, Hawaii would not be the only state. States such as California, Maryland, Vermont, and the District of Columbia have all granted their students either full or partial voting rights.

For the past 20 years, the Secondary Student Conference have been voting in overwhelming numbers, in full support of resolutions to give the BOE student member voting rights. Our nation has been built off of democratic ideals, a government for the people, and allowing everyone to have a say. By not allowing the student member the right to vote, the rights of the public school students are being taken away. Hawaii's public school students represent 15% of the population and they have no right to vote.

Thank you for the time, and I hope you support SB8 SD1 HB1.

SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments Letters of Support

February 16, 2010

To: Legislators

From: Devon Tenney

Subject: Support of Senate Bill 8

Hello, my name is Devon Tenney and I am currently a junior at Aiea High School. I support SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments concerning "the appointed Board of Education should include a student member selected by a state-wide election conducted by the Hawaii State Student Council. The Board of Education member should also have voting rights with the exception of issues concerning personnel." I believe that it is important for a governing body, such as the BOE, to be influenced by the people it governs.

The BOE student member is our voice in that body that governs so much our lives as students. We need to keep the BOE student member because otherwise the Board will be making decisions without the input of those most affected by their decisions. This resolution, brought up in the Secondary Student Conference of 2010, stands to keep the student member as a member of the BOE and to allow them voting rights on non-personal issues, so that the representative of the students can have actual power in the decision-making process. This to me, seems only just, as this body makes decisions that affects us and we, through our representative student member, should have power to affect the passing or failing of politics that impact this large portion of our lives.

Thank you for your time and I hope that you will support SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments.

To: Legislators

From: Erika Edwards

Subject: Support of SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments

Hello. My name is Erika Edwards, and I am currently a senior at Mililani High School in the central district of Oahu. I am a strong supporter in SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments, which is concerning that, "In the appointed board of education (BOE) there be included a student member selected by a statewide election conducted by the Hawaii State Student Council (HSSC). The BOE student member is to have voting rights with the exception of voting on personnel issues." I would like to ask for your support. Due to the recent election and the decision of having an appointed board, the student BOE member position has been removed. With no student on the BOE there will no longer be a voice of the students while making these decisions.

For their past 27 years there has been a student sitting on the Hawaii State BOE and to take that privilege away from us would be taking away the voice of 182,000 students. The reason that they have had the student BOE member in the past was so that we all could be heard. I feel that at certain times a student will understand the needs of another student than an adult would. The only direct connection from the BOE to the students is the Student Board Member.

It is thought that such a job is not fit for a student to hold, however by looking at the credentials of the past student board member they have accomplished many things that make them qualified. The HSSC has taken on the responsibility of sort through the prospects and making sure that they are capable of holding such a position. The student board member has all the responsibilities of an adult board member so why not give them the sane right? Many think that it is a ludicrous idea, but this is not unheard of. In states such as California, Vermont, and Maryland allow their student member to posses voting rights. Please help us restore our position on the BOE and allow us to vote along with it. Not only will this help students now but it will help the board determine what is in the best interest of Hawaii's keiki.

Thank you so much for your time and effort, I hope that you will support SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments.

To: Legislators

From: Jamie Fujino

Subject: Support of SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments

Aloha, my name is Jamie Fujino. I am currently a sophomore at Aiea High School on Oahu and a 2010 Secondary Student Conference delegate. I strongly support SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments concerning, "the appointed Board of Education (BOE) should include a student member selected by a statewide election conducted by the Hawaii State Student Council (HSSC). The Board of Education Student Member should also, have voting rights with the exception of issues concerning personnel," and I would like to ask for your support. As it stands with the new appointed BOE, there is no student member. Before we had an appointed BOE there was a student member but with he/she did not have voting rights. The BOE's student member represents concerns of approximately 182,000 students from 250 primary and secondary schools throughout Hawaii. The students are the ones who are affected by the BOE's decisions, so I think we should have a voice in the decisions and to do this, we need to have a BOE student member with full voting rights.

For the last 22 years, students have been trying to get voting rights for the BOE student member; the BOE student member has the same responsibilities, work, and requirements as the adult members, so there is no legitimate reason for him/her not to have voting rights.

Please help us support SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments allowing the student member of the BOE to vote. This will improve student participation in education and government.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I truly hope that you will support SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments

To: Legislators

From: Jazmin Fong

Subject: SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments

Hello, my name is Jazmin Fong, and I am currently a junior, here on Oahu. I strongly believe in SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments, and I would like to ask for your support. As it stands currently, the BOE student members are involved in all activities and assume the same responsibilities as all the other members, except the right to vote. The student member has been voicing the concerns of 182,000 students from 250 public schools. The BOE student member is the voice of the students, whom are the most directly affected by the BOE's decisions, so they should have a say, a vote, in the decisions made.

The Board of Education student member has the same responsibilities as his/her fellow adult board members, but not the same right. For the last years of the Secondary Student Conference, participants voted overwhelmingly to support giving the BOE student member voting rights on the Board of Education. Please help and support SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments. Allow the student member on the BOE who has the same responsibilities, to have the same rights.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I truly hope that you will support SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments.

To: Legislators

From: Justine Bolosan

Subject: Support of SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments

Hello, my name is Justine Bolosan, an 11th grader at Aiea High School and a Hawaii State Student Council Representative from the Central District. I am in strong support of SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments concerning that "in the appointed Board of Education (BOE) there be included a student member selected by a statewide election conducted by the Hawaii State Student Council (HSSC). The BOE student member is to have voting rights with the exception of voting on personnel issues."

Being that as it has been recently revised, the Hawaii State Constitution allows for the governor to appoint all BOE members with senate consent, there is no guarantee there will be student representation. As the results have shown from the Secondary Student Conference of 2010, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total delegates voted in favor of an appointed Student BOE member with voting rights. Thus, revealing the great deal of importance of student representation on the BOE through student selection, no matter the process. Students should be allowed to select who speaks on our behalf. Much less, have no one else but a student to speak on our behalf.

I also understand that issues may rise with having a single member of the board to be chosen by those they represent. As the resolution has stated, it proposes that the member be "selected" and not possibly done solely through a voting process.

In a bigger picture, the existence of a BOE student member has been around for more than 30 years. Those who have held the position have upheld their duties, representing the students of Hawaii wonderfully. I feel that it is vital to maintain this representation and selection. Students should most definitely have a say, through voice and vote, on education. After all, what demographic is more directly or greatly affected?

Thank you for taking the time to consider this resolution, and it is my hope that you will share your support of SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments as well.

To: Legislators
From: Ra'iatea Lohe
Subject: Support of SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments

Hello! My name is Ra'iatea Lohe and I am a sophomore at Kaiser High School in Hawaii Kai. I support SB8 and humbly ask for your support also. I was currently informed that there will no longer be a Board of Education student member and I was perplexed. With the 182,000 students throughout Hawaii's primary and secondary schools, I believe it is vital for us to choose and elect a student member for the Board of Education. If a student is qualified and is a hard working and responsible individual I believe they will respectfully represent Hawaii's students in front of the Board of Education.

This member should have voting rights because they are filling the same responsibilities as the adult board members. Why don't they have the rights? They are the voice of Hawaii's students and should be allowed to have voting rights.

In conclusion, I hope I have gained your support for this resolution. Thank you for your time and consideration.

To: Legislators

From: Joyce Arnaldo

Subject: Support of SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments

Hello, my name is Joyce Arnaldo, and I am currently a junior and the student body corresponding secretary of Saint Francis School. I am strongly in favor of SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments, and I would like to ask for your support. The current Board of Education (BOE) student member takes part in all community meetings and public hearings monthly, but yet has no vote in the final conclusion. For the past twenty-two years, the Hawaii State Student Council (HSSC), the Secondary Student Conference (SSC), and other students across Hawaii have been fighting for student member voting rights.

The Board of Education Student Member has existed since 1973. Since then, the student member has been voicing the concerns of approximately 182, 000 students throughout the State of Hawaii. The students that will be represented elect this BOE student member because students feel that he/she is highly capable of being an advocate for them. As an advocate, this student member has a great ability of understanding the issues that come before the board. This student member is just as capable as the adults when discussing the well being of students' education.

The student member along with the adults of the Board of Education shares the same responsibilities. They both put in the same effort and the same time. What makes the BOE student member especially valuable to this board is the student's personal understanding and relation to all the students across Hawaii. It is this student member and the students in Hawaii that are being affected by the decisions of the BOE. Therefore, I believe that the student member should have a right to vote to represent the thoughts and concerns of the students. If this resolution were taken into consideration, this would allow student participation in education, government, and the step towards making their own future a success.

I sincerely thank you for your time and I hope that you will take SB8 SD1 HB1 with Amendments into consideration.

February 16, 2011

To: Chair Marcus Oshiro
Vice Chair Marilyn Lee
Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Lindsay San Nicolas

Subject: Amendment of SB8 SB1 HB1 to include Voting Rights for Student Member

Hello, my name is Lindsay San Nicolas and I am currently attending Kalaheo High School as a senior here in Oahu. I am also a member of the Associated Students of Kalaheo. I write to you today to amend SB8 SD1 HB1 to include voting rights for the BOE Student member. The reason being is because the student on the board receives just as much responsibility as any other member of the board and should have the right to vote. I do not see why the student would not be able to vote if the student already has a place on the board.

The reason why the student on the board of education should be given voting rights is because they are our voice. If we do not get our own voice in the board of education, what is the point of having a student on the board? This will be a great opportunity for students across the state of Hawaii to tell about the concerns in our state, or any comments we may have and with those comments and concerns, the student on the board will have a chance to tell the rest of the board members what we think, and will have an influence in the end result.

Giving the BOE student the right to vote will give other students a chance of being heard and will hope for one day making a change. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2011 4:04 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: sgd8@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB8 on 2/16/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/16/2011 2:00:00 PM SB8

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Susan Dursin
Organization: Hawai`i County League of Women Voters
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: sgd8@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/15/2011

Comments:

Please support this important bill which moves forward enabling legislation for the direct appointment of the school board by the governor. We believe that it leads to greater accountability and transparency than a process in which the legislature plays a large role early in the process.

The legislature will have its say in the review of those appointees after the governor fulfills his responsibility.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Dursin
Co-president
Hawai`i County League of Women Voters

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2011 1:54 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: looneypunalu_2@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB8 on 2/16/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/16/2011 2:00:00 PM SB8

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Joni Sawada
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: looneypunalu_2@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/14/2011

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2011 7:49 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jbaydo001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB8 on 2/16/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/16/2011 2:00:00 PM SB8

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jacqueline Baydo
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jbaydo001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/16/2011

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2011 8:24 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: hemmesh@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB8 on 2/16/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/16/2011 2:00:00 PM SB8

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Don and Helen Hemmes
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: hemmesh@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/15/2011

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2011 8:22 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ssctestimony@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB8 on 2/16/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/16/2011 2:00:00 PM SB8

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Jordy Smith
Organization: Associated Students of Kalaheo High School
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ssctestimony@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/16/2011

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2011 10:33 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: donnaoba@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB8 on 2/16/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/16/2011 2:00:00 PM SB8

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Donna Oba
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: donnaoba@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/16/2011

Comments: