

February 16, 2011

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

From: Wren Fukada

Subject: Amendment of SB8 SD1 HD1, BOE Student Member with Voting Rights

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 am requesting an amendment to SB8 SD1 HB1 to include voting rights for the BOE student member.

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 the amendment of SB8 SD1 HD1 to include voting rights for the BOE Student Member.

February 15, 2011

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro  
Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Maureen Bali  
Waimanalo Intermediate School

Re: Request for an amendment to SB8 SD1 HD1

My name is Maureen Bali and I am a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Waimanalo Intermediate School. I am requesting an amendment to SB8 SD1 HB1 to include voting rights for the BOE student member.

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

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

Thank you for taking your time to read this. I hope you fully support and amendment to SB8 SD1 HB1 to include voting rights for the student member.

February 15, 2011

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro  
Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Daisjah Paio  
Waimanalo Intermediate School

Re: Amendment of SB8 SD1 HB1

My name is Daisjah Paio and I am an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Waimanalo Intermediate School. I am requesting an amendment to SB8 SD1 HB1 to include voting rights for the BOE student member.

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

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

Thank you for your time and I really hope you support the amendment of SB8 SD1 HB1 to include student member voting rights.

February 15, 2011

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro  
Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Chauntel Mitchell  
Waimanalo Intermediate School

Re: Amendment of SB8 SD1 HB1 to include Student Member Voting Rights

My name is Chauntel Mitchell and I am an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Waimanalo Intermediate School. I am requesting an amendment to SB8 SD1 HB1 to include voting rights for the BOE student member.

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

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

Our education is important to us for the future, so student BOE representatives should have voting rights. Thank you for your consideration and your time. I hope you support the amendment of SB8 SD1 HB1 to include voting rights for the BOE student member.

February 15, 2011

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro  
Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Melissa-Sue Kamaau  
Kailua High School

Re: Amendment of SB8 SD1 HB1

My name is Melissa-Sue Kamaau and I am a senior at Kailua High School. I am requesting an amendment to SB8 SD1 HB1 to include voting rights for the BOE student member.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration and I hope you amend SB8 SD1 HB1 to include voting rights for the student member.

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 2:07 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** shaglund@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB8 on 2/16/2011 2:00:00 PM

## LATE TESTIMONY

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

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Sue Haglund  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: shaglund@hotmail.com  
Submitted on: 2/16/2011

### Comments:

My name is Sue Haglund. I am a member of Save Our Schools Hawaii but I am submitting my testimony as an individual testifier.

My position remains the same as in previous testimonies I have submitted relating to SB 8.

I stand in OPPOSITION to SB 8 SD 1 HD1.

Accountability does not fall under one branch of government. Accountability is everyone's responsibility in the state of Hawaii.

This bill has been put together in such HASTE for a "FORESEEABLE Process" that No ONE still has addressed the UNFORESEEABLE RAMIFICATIONS DIRECT Appointment by a Governor will have on the Board of Education.

The idea that a school board direct appointment by a governor and the advise and consent of the Senate holds limits of fair process and qualifications. And leaves the door open for politicizing education and cronyism. Look at the Board of Regents prior to 2006, it was cronyism and political rewards at its finest. It was to such a degree of a mockery that the 2004 commencement speaker for UH-Manoa 2004 keynote speaker addressed such mockery and political agendas that overlooked the fiduciary needs and educational enhancements of UH Public University System.

Legislators I ask you to learn from the state of Hawaii's history and look at our lovely UH Board of Regents prior to 2006? how were they appointed? by advisory council selection process or governor-direct appointment?

Governor direct appointment. And what happened? Cronyism is what occurred. Prior to 2006 Board of Regents was a direct appointment by governor and advise and consent by Senate. Did this commit any fair accountability process? Did the public hold the governor accountable to the public university's higher education standards? Did the governor admit to any accountability to Board of Regents appointments? None it was all politicized.

Education and Qualification to serve as a potential board member are the issues at hand. But how can this be achieved by direct appointments by Governor and advise and consent of Senate? Sure SB 8 SD1 HD1 has a minimum listing of qualified recommendations, but this recommendations are vague and open-ended.

Education is not a gamble or a risk to bet on. It is the foundation of the major function in our society. Without qualified members with the interest in improving the quality of education in Hawaii's public schools then our students in the public schools don't advance and progress because our state has made a mockery and political game to the educational system.

There are three important factors in my opinion that need to be set in place since our November elections' approval for a governor-appointed Board Of Education.

1-first and foremost: Clear Long-Term Process An adequate system of a selection process needs to be set in place when we have a governor-appointed BOE. A selection advisory council set-up similar to the judicial selection commission is a viable necessity.

SB 8 SD 1 HD1 is an inadequate bill and does not fulfill this mechanism. Instead SB 8 SD 1 HD 1 eliminates public participation: the Senate confirmation process is not a public participation process, most of the time all these senatorial confirmation hearings is a "venting" process rather than a "vetting" process. It is not a fair process where public input and civic participation can take place through a non-partisan non political selection commission. It becomes very Partisan and Political.

## 2-Procedure

first and foremost a step-by-step description of an internal structure and composition of proper procedural rules need to be provided. This is VITAL to a long-term process because currently SB8 SD1 HD 1 allows this current administration FULL POWER to Appoint 9-members of his choosing Plus the Chairperson of the Board. And does any one see a problem with this system?

3-Lastly: Accountability and Public Input Once again accountability does not fall under one branch of government. Accountability is the entire state of Hawaii. By passing SB 8 SD 1 HD1 then as a state we are accountable in further destruction of the educational system. This direct appointment process holds no one accountable. Governor can blame the advise and consent Senate process, the public and DOE can blame the legislative and executive branches. But no one is pointing fingers at themselves. This is not an accountability bill--this is a bill that shifts blames under the guise of this is what the people want. I can tell you not all the people want this because most of them did not vote.

You want public input and accountability. Then go out to your communities go door to door like any other election campaign do it year round stay in touch with the public. And ask them for input. But educate and inform them of their choices. Because at the end of the day when the people are presented with a concept only one alternative has been presented and eliminated the rest.

As an alumni of a Hawaii public high school, I want the BEST selection and choice that will improve in the long term the quality of education, not a closed limited systemic process.

My recommendations:

Public awareness, transparency and accountability should be taken into consideration. When I state transparency and accountability I am referring to a fairness process. Be Fair on who are selected, be Fair in the mechanics and structural components of process and be Fair and Accountable in making sure that all matters regarding process and procedure remains non-partisan in all matters not only on paper, but IN PRACTICE and IN-SPIRIT.

Therefore I highly recommend and urge the committee NOT to pass SB 8 SD 1 HD 1. Thank You.