

LATE



HAWAI`I COUNTY  
P. O. Box 4478, KAILUA-KONA, HI 96745  
P.O. Box 665, HILO, HI 96721

TESTIMONY FOR THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
RE: SB8, RELATING TO EDUCATION  
MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2011, 1:15 P.M., CONFERENCE ROOM 225  
SENATOR JILL N. TOKUDA, CHAIR  
SENATOR MICHELLE KIDANI, VICE CHAIR

THE HAWAI`I COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS WISHES TO VOICE ITS  
SUPPORT FOR SB8.

AFTER TALKING TO A NUMBER OF VOTERS FROM THIS ISLAND, WE BELIEVE  
THE PUBLIC'S INTENT IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTION WAS THAT THE GOVERNOR  
DIRECTLY APPOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS. FURTHERMORE, PEOPLE  
WE TALK TO STRONGLY BELIEVE THE PUBLIC SHOULD PLAY A PART IN BRINGING  
FORWARD NAMES FOR CONSIDERATION.

WE UNDERSTAND HOW IMPORTANT ENABLING LEGISLATION IS AND ASK THAT  
YOU WILL SUPPORT SB8 AS WRITTEN.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,  
SUSAN DURSIN,  
HELEN HEMMES  
CO-PRESIDENTS, HAWAI`I COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS



KANEOHE  
RANCH

LATE

January 24, 2011

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Hawaii State Senate  
Committee on Education  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RELATING TO SENATE BILL 8

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani and Committee Members:

My name is H. Mitchell D'Olier and I am the President and Chief Executive Officer of Kaneohe Ranch Management Limited.

This letter is written to support legislation requiring the Board of Education members to be nominated by the Governor from qualified candidates presented to the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The voters of our State have mandated that an appointed Board of Education is needed for clear accountability and vision for our public education system. The ultimate responsibility for our public education system should be that of the highest ranking position in our State government – the Governor. Allowing the Governor to appoint members of the Board as provided in SB8 provides a direct line of accountability to the Governor for actions of the Board and the Department of Education. This is needed.

There are many complex and detailed issues to be resolved in connection with Race to the Top and other important education matters and, because of that, it is imperative that we move quickly to provide leadership for a new Board of Education. Delay will come at the expense of Hawaii's children. The undersigned supports the principals of SB 8 and urges that it be moved forward expeditiously. The Department of Education's and State's recent Race to the Top victory needs to be supported by quick action on the new board.

Thank you for your kind consideration of these matters.

Very truly yours,

H. Mitchell D'Olier  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer

**Erin Conner**

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**From:** Helen Hemmes [hemmesh@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 12:26 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Support for SB8, Relating to Education

**Testimony for the Senate Committee on Education**

**Re: SB8, Relating to Education**

**Monday, January 24, 2011, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 225**

**Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair**

**Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair**

**As registered voters, we support having the governor directly appoint Board of Education members. We also believe that the public should play a part in bringing forward names for consideration.**

**We understand how important enabling legislation is and ask that you will support SB8 as written.**

**Don and Helen Hemmes**

**333 Kalili St.**

**Hilo, HI 96720-4061**

**808-935-6214**

LATE

To: Chairperson Carol Mon Lee  
Vice Chairperson Kim Coco Iwamoto  
Members of the BOE Legislation Committee

From: Kelsey Porto  
Radford High School, Grade 12  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Subject: Support for SSC Resolution 67

Hello, my name is Kelsey Porto and I am Student Body President and a senior at Radford High School. I am writing this testimony in full support of Senate Bill 8. 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. With 15% of Hawaii's population being represented by the BOE student member, the position is important.

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.

Thank you for taking your time to read this resolution. I hope you consider what I have written as important and decide to pass Senate Bill 8.

LATE

To: Chairperson Carol Mon Lee  
Vice Chairperson Kim Coco Iwamoto  
Members of the BOE Legislation Committee

From: Melany Gelabert  
Radford High School, Grade 11  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Subject: Support for Senate Bill 8

Aloha! My name is Melany Gelabert; I am a junior at Radford High School as well as member of Radford's Student Council. I am writing this to show my support for Senate Bill 8. I would like you to show your support as well. The student BOE member represents 15% of Hawaii's population; this is important to the student population of Hawaii.

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, taking away the right of the student body to vote their BOE representative leaves the HDOE without any input from actual students attending school in Hawaii. This allows students to express their views and concerns coming straight from the source.

Thank you for taking your time to read this testimony.

LATE

To: Chairperson Carol Mon Lee  
Vice Chairperson Kim Coco Iwamoto  
Members of the BOE Legislation Committee

From: Roshan Abuan  
Radford High School, Grade 12  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Subject: Support for SSC Resolution 67

Hello, my name is Roshan Abuan and I am the Senior Class president at Radford High School. I am in full support of Senate Bill 8. To myself and the student body of the state of Hawaii, this Bill would make an impact in the HODOE school system. This Bill would allow the student board member to be appointed by the students of Hawaii. If this is not passed, it would take away our voice in the State of Hawaii.

I feel that if this Bill is not passed, the students will not have a say in the issues that are presented to the BOE. It is important that students be allowed to choose who they want to represent our schools. If students are allowed to choose the representative they will be able to have a say in what goes on in the Hawaii school systems. I feel the student BOE member role is very important in making decisions and therefore, the student population should be able to choose who they want to represent them in the BOE.

Thank you for your time and patience in reading and considering this testimony.



LATE

Monday, January 24, 2011, 1:15 PM  
State Capitol Room 225

Testimony of  
Debi Hartmann  
Executive Director, Democratic Party of Hawaii

To the Senate Education Committee  
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

SB8 Relating to Education

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee:

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 Democratic Party of Hawaii supports the passage of Senate Bill 8 which provides, by law, the implementing procedures for appointing Board of Education members. We appreciate your leadership in moving this issue forward expeditiously.

Given the community's demand for more accountability for education, we feel that it is responsible to move wisely and quickly to establish the implementing procedures. We need the new appointed board in place to take action on important and time sensitive matters.

The voters have established a clear line of accountability between the Governor and the educational system's governance and outcomes. The Senate confirmation process gives the public an opportunity to comment on gubernatorial appointees. We believe that this process will result in a Board of Education that is representative of the people and will steward public education wisely. Senate Bill 8 establishes the procedures to operationalize the accountability and quality demanded by the public.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. We look forward to thoughtful and timely resolution of the issues identified in Senate Bill 8.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

1050 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite #2660 \* Honolulu, HI 96814 \* Phone: (808) 596-2980 \* Fax: (808) 596-2985



Testimony in Opposition of SB8  
Marguerite Higa  
Manoa, HI

Dear Senators

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Marguerite Higa, I am a member of Save Our Schools Hawaii, a parent of a public school child and a graduate of Mililani High School. Today I am testifying as an individual.

I am in adamant opposition to SB 8. Let's not forget in the midst of all the excitement over a governor who is pro-education that this law will stand for a LONG time. My reasons are four-fold.

### **1. Direct appointment is easily abused and has the dangerous potential to politicize the DOE/BOE.**

As one example...Imagine that we have a time of great economic stress where we elect a fiscal conservative who has national ambitions, and whose primary goal is to shrink the size of state government. At \$1.4 billion, the public education system is the biggest apple in the state budget pie. With a governor-appointed BOE it is not hard to imagine that the governor will have great influence on the selection of the Superintendent as well. Imagine how easily it would be to enact a political agenda of slashing budgets despite the objections of the legislature, the students, the families?

Folks we just lived through this... All I can say is are we nuts?? With all the power concentrated in one body we amplify the ease with which the system can be abused.

### **2. The governor already has too much power over public education.**

Gov. Lingle was single-handedly able to institute furloughs over the objections of every group: the legislature, the public, the DOE/BOE, the students. No one was able to stop the governor's policies. Why give the governor even more power? Imagine how easy it would be with a BOE and a Superintendent directly aligned with the governor. The BOE despite it's faults was the only body that was responsive to citizen concerns. The directly appointed BOE will no longer answer to the people, it will answer to the governor and the people have no recourse.

### **3. The Accountability issue is a false premise.**

Where is the accountability? How are citizens to obtain relief from bad choices of BOE members and superintendents? Or if we object to the governor's/BOE/Superintendent policies? Vote the governor out of office? Hawaii has a long-history of two-term governors, that is not likely to happen. Have them impeached? Yeah right.



By removing any intermediate body in the selection of candidates, you remove all avenues for public input and accountability. The governor is a bit too insulated from consequences.

Accountability is not the same thing as having a single person to blame. Accountability is about leadership that accepts the responsibility for their actions and listens to public evaluation. We have no recourse if the governor doesn't care. Without consequences, the accountability issue is a sham.

#### **4. Hawaii has a very weak track record for opposing potentially bad appointments.**

We do not have a strong system of averserial vetting. Yes, I recognize that you have confirmation hearings for other offices, but Hawaii is no British Parliament. Our culture is one of consensus, to want to agree once choices have been offered. What is our track record on rejecting bad prospects? Recently we have had the rejection of some judicial nominees, but that was only after heavy outcry from the Bar Association. Public education has no similar powerful group to serve a watchdog function.

#### **5. People voted for the hope of a BETTER QUALIFIED board.**

The governor is not guaranteed to be an expert on have strong interest in education. The governor's job is complex and people vote for many reasons. An advisory commission or some such nominating body can be always composed of education experts, and the nominating body can also be composed to represent diversity. I want the BEST QUALIFIED BOE members. Why not form a search committee for those best candidates composed of education experts?

I listened with great interest at the hearing today for SB8. Your concerns seemed to be that the advisory panel is not subject to sunshine laws and its work is done in secret. There must be a way to make more of the process more transparent. They can be required to take public input, for example.

How is the direct appointment process more transparent? Is the governor's deliberation process somehow subject to sunshine laws when the advisory panel is not? Where is the merit in this argument. If the people are unhappy with the advisory panel (as well as the legislature, the P-20 council, etc.), then it is possible to replace the advisory panel. Here is where we can have accountability that does not require 8 years for the gubernatorial cycle.

I oppose direct selection by the governor. It concentrates too much power in one individual. I urge you to vote against SB8. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,  
Marguerite Higa  
808-636-3283  
2814 Lowrey Ave.  
Honolulu, HI 96822

LATE

January 24, 2011

To: Senator Jill Tokuda  
Senate Education Committee

From: Ramona Hinck

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

Aloha! My name is Ramona Hinck; I am a parent and I am in full support of having a student representative on the appointed Board of Education (BOE) with voting rights. The student BOE member is the sole representative of 15% of Hawaii's population but has no voting rights on the matters that directly affect them. The opinions of the students are often disregarded in the policies passed by the Board.

The Student BOE representative is the only member of the BOE who spends everyday in Hawaii's schools so they know what the students experience, need and want. Their vote should count. States such as California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Vermont all support the student BOE representative by granting them partial or full voting rights. For 22 years the BOE student representative has had the same responsibilities as other BOE members, so they should be granted voting rights on the decisions that directly affect themselves and their peers.

In granting the Student BOE Member partial voting rights, the decisions of the BOE can have a direct link between the schools and the Board of Education. I thank you for your time. I trust you will show your support for Senate Bill No. 8.

LATE

January 24, 2011

To: Senator Jill Tokuda  
Senate Education Committee

From: Michelle Balala Maui High School, Student Body President

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

Aloha! My name is Michelle Balala; I am a senior at Maui High School as well as a member of the Maui district student council organization. I am in full support of having a student representative on the appointed Board of Education (BOE) with voting rights. The student BOE member is the sole representative of 15% of Hawaii's population but has no voting rights on the matters that directly affect them. The opinions of the students are often disregarded in the policies passed by the Board. The Student BOE representative is the only member of the BOE who spends everyday in Hawaii's schools so they know what the students experience, need and want. Their vote should count. States such as California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Vermont all support the student BOE representative by granting them partial or full voting rights. For 22 years the BOE student representative has had the same responsibilities as other BOE members, so they should be granted voting rights on the decisions that directly affect themselves and their peers.

In granting the Student BOE Member partial voting rights, the decisions of the BOE can have a direct link between the schools and the Board of Education. I thank you for your time. I trust you will show your support for Senate Bill No.8.



LATE

**STATE OF HAWAII  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

P. O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Senate Comm. on Education

Hearing: Mon., Jan. 24, 2011

1:15 p.m., Conf. Rm. 225

Testimony: Support Intent of SB8

Relating to Education: Implementing Legislation for the appointment of the Board of Education

Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee on Education:

Thank you for allowing me to testify in my capacity as an individual member of the Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE).

I support the general intent of SB8: If the governor is to be held directly accountable for public education, then the governor should not be restricted in the selection of appointees, other than the senate confirmation process. How could a governor be directly accountable for any state agency if all candidates for directorships were limited to a handful of individuals pre-selected by a non-profit organization accountable to no one?

While I trust our current governor to select BOE appointees who sincerely want the best for Hawaii's public school students, we need to be mindful of how SB8 could be implemented by a governor with a different political ideology, one that is hostile towards working class families, civil rights and publicly funded services, such as education. Please ensure that the language in this bill provides sufficient safeguards to prevent proponents of private school vouchers, creationism as science, and regressive health education from taking control of the BOE.

I strongly support allowing the **student member the opportunity to vote**. I request that this committee also consider allowing the **student member to continue receiving the \$100 per meeting stipend**. I would hate to see economically disadvantaged students discouraged from applying for this position because they "cannot afford to".

While I have personally enjoyed the company and friendliness of all the military representatives sent to serve on the BOE during the past four years, I do not understand how public school students benefit by reserving a seat for a military representative on the BOE. Two elected members of the current BOE are former service members; I could see military service being one aspect of a BOE member, but it should not be the only reason a seat is occupied. Otherwise please consider reserving additional seats on the BOE for a Poet Laureate, Peace Activist and Native Hawaiian Cultural Practitioner.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kim Coco Iwamoto, Esq.

State of Hawaii Board of Education Member, Oahu-at-Large

LATE

To: Senator Tokuda, Chair

Senator Kidani, Vice Chair

From: Emily Theoret

Date: Friday, December 21, 2011

Subject: Support of SB 8

Hello, my name is Emily Theoret, and I am currently a sophomore at Kalaheo High School, here on Oahu. I strongly support SB 8, and I would like to ask for your support. As it stands, the student member takes part in all activities and assumes all responsibilities as all other members, except the right to vote. The BOE's student member represents over 180,000 of Hawaii's students in over 250 public schools. The students are the most affected by the BOE's decisions and should have a voice in those decisions and the only way they can do that is through the vote of the BOE student member.

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I truly hope that you will support Senate Bill 8.

LATE

January 20, 2011

To: Senator Jill Tokuda  
Members of the Senate Education Committee

From: Kayla Avega  
Kalaheo High School, Grade 11

Subject: Support of SB8, Appointed Board of Education with Student Member

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.

December 2, 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 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.

To: Legislators  
From: Erika Edwards  
Subject: Support of SB8

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 SSC resolution 67, 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 there 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 ludacris 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 SSC resolution 67.

To: Legislators  
From: Jamie Fujino  
Subject: Support of Senate Bill 8

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 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, 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.

To: Legislators  
From: Jazmin Fong  
Subject: Senate Bill 8

Hello, my name is Jazmin Fong, and I am currently a junior, here on Oahu. I strongly believe in SB8, and I would like to ask for your support. As it stands currently, the BOE student member are involved in all activities and assumes 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. 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.

To: Legislators  
From: Justine Bolosan  
Subject: Support of Senate Bill 8

Hello, my name is Justine Bolosan, an 11<sup>th</sup> grader at Aiea High School and a Hawaii State Student Council Representative from the Central District. I am in strong support of SB8 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, ¾ 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 as well.

To: Legislators  
From: Ra'iatea Lohe



Subject: Support of SB8, requesting a Board of Education student member and allowing them to have voting rights.

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 Resolution 67, Voting Rights for the Board of Education Member

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 Resolution 67, 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 into consideration.