

Lori K. Yamada
3800 Noeau Street
Honolulu, HI 96816

LATE

February 4, 2011

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Committee on Education
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony of Lori K. Yamada regarding the Public Hearing on SB 1487, Relating to Education

Dear Senator Jill Tokuda and Honorable Committee Members:

After reading through the Senate Bill 1487 Relating to Education, I hereby support this bill.

I am supporting this bill because of my personal experience with the frustrating and unfair consolidation process that is presently occurring at Queen Lili'uokalani Elementary School in Kaimuki. I believe that this bill would set a due process for actions in a timely and organized manner.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lori K. Yamada
Community Volunteer

LATE

Lyle G. Bullock Jr.
3634A Sierra Drive
Honolulu, HI 96816

February 4, 2011

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Committee on Education
State Capital
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony of Lyle G. Bullock Jr. at the 2/3/11 Public Hearing on SB 1487, Relating to Education

Dear Senator Tokuda and Honorable Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opposition to this bill, SB 1487, Relating to Education.

As a concerned citizen and a parent, I support the need to *wisely* consolidate schools and utilize the resources available for the education of our children. Streamlining the process and setting objective standards for the consolidation is definitely a requirement.

However, the implementation outlined in this bill seriously jeopardizes the due process and accountability for those involved.

Assigning the responsibility for the entire process to the Department of Education, without any oversight by an external agency or governing body removes the citizens, communities, parents and children from the process.

Under this bill's provisions, when the Department of Education determines that a school should be consolidated (or closed), it then can become a self-fulfilling prophecy. As a case in point, the current efforts to consolidate the Queen Lydia Lili'uokalani Elementary School (QLS) displays all of the possible actions by the Department of Education to make the decision a reality.

1. Tell everyone who is interested in the school that you want to close it. As a parent of a student enrolled in the school, this was one of the first things that was mentioned to me by the then principal of the school.
2. Accept no new GE's into the school unless there is a very compelling reason. We have seen new students told to go to other schools because the school is closing.
3. Relieve the principal that is trying to change things and keep the school open. The principal of the school has been placed on administrative leave and no information has been provided to the parents as to the reason, the status, anticipated return date, or when there will be a principal assigned permanently.
4. Assign multiple "Acting" principals in a short period so that no real positive action can happen. QLS has had three acting principals in less than a year.

5. Assign an acting principal whose stated goal is to transition the students before a decision is made and who tells teachers and the School Community Council it is not their role to get involved with the politics of the school consolidation process.

All of this happened under the current system where the Board of Education is involved. (Please note that with respect to QLS, the board failed to vote on items as a board -our public hearing was approved unilaterally by chair Toguchi).

To change the process would only give the Department more license to accomplish their tasks as they see fit without any involvement of the legislature, supervising board or any representative of the citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lyle G. Bullock Jr.