



STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Senate Committee on Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chairperson
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chairperson

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee, Chairperson
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chairperson

Friday, February 3, 2012
2:15 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 225

Testimony of Don G. Horner, Chairperson

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2789, Relating to Education

The Board of Education fully supports the goals set forth in SB 2789.

As board chair over the past 10 months, I have been greatly impressed by the hard work and dedication of our teachers, principals and support staff. They continue to make personal sacrifices to benefit Hawaii's children, are committed to the students' best interest and deserve our full support.

An important support tool is a fair, consistent, and comprehensive evaluation system that is focused upon the professional growth of the individual employee. The system should be flexible and reflect the diverse and changing nature of our teaching profession and be fully supported with checks and balances to ensure the employee is professionally, accurately and fairly evaluated. As proposed in the Bill the system should be both qualitative and quantitative and the overall goal should be professional development that leads to student achievement.

It is our firm position that the proposed legislation is in the best interest of both our staff and our students and will greatly serve to move Hawaii's public education forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



HAWAI‘I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER
Informing the Education Community

Written Testimony
presented before the
Senate Committee on Education
and
Senate Committee on Human Services
February 3, 2012, 2:15 pm, Room 225
by
Donald B. Young, Director
Hawai‘i Educational Policy Center

SB 2789: Relating to Education

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee on Education;
Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor.

HEPC supports the intent of SB 2789, which will develop a comprehensive system of accountability that will provide the Hawaii Department of Education the directive, means and flexibility to improve educator effectiveness. One of the tenets of any successful organization is to have accountability and having accountability in the public school system means being able to evaluate the effectiveness of our children’s teachers. The current system, which is based on longevity and awarding tenure, does not provide the kind of evaluation necessary to reward highly effective teachers or to be able to solve the problems encountered when a teacher is not effective. It also does not provide the kind of support new teachers need. The result has been that very effective teachers often leave the system after a few short years in their career. HEPC recognizes that developing this system will not be easy and that such a system needs to have built-in support for teachers, such as effective and attainable professional development. It also needs to consider variables such as whether teachers are teaching core subjects or hard to staff subjects and whether they are assigned to high economic area schools or high poverty area schools.

HEPC appreciates the important objective the state of Hawai‘i recognizes in the need to work toward establishing an objective and equitable comprehensive evaluation system for teachers. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2789.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 03, 2012 10:51 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: jennifer_solmirin@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2789 on 2/3/2012 2:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU/JDL 2/3/2012 2:15:00 PM SB2789

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jennifer Solmirin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jennifer_solmirin@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

Teachers already have an effective evaluation system proven and valid. A new system would take time, resources, and MONEY to develop. Our state is short on money so do not waste it by recreating evaluations that are already in place for teachers.

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 03, 2012 1:57 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: knadays@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2789 on 2/3/2012 2:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU/JDL 2/3/2012 2:15:00 PM SB2789

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bill Armijo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: knadays@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

I oppose this legislation, it is against best interests of teachers. There are already provisions for evaluating teachers in place. Your administrators do not use them. This is redundant and should be voted down and the concept of evaluating teachers should be done by third party individuals with actual background in the content area of teachers. NOT BY ADMINISTRATORS who have clearly shown that bias, nepotism, and favoritism is rampant. There are administrators with simply a bachelors degree in PE like at Kealakehe High School, and you would have them evaluate PHD teachers or Masters Degree teachers in AP Chemistry or other academic content areas, that they are not qualified to evaluate with absolutely no background in those content areas. This bill should be voted down. All teachers oppose it. If you want to evaluate someone evaluate administrators, as there is simply no accountability for administrators. Your arrangement with administrators is much like the Catholic Church with pedophile priests, when there is an issue with them they are moved to another parish. When there are issues with administrators you simply move them to another school or to a district position....think about what it is that you are doing !!!!! We pay you to represent us.