



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

House Committee on Education
Representative Roy Takumi, Chairperson
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chairperson

Monday, March 24, 2014
2:00 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 309

Testimony of Don G. Horner, Chairperson

**Comments to HCR 82/HR 56, REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO
PROVIDE MORE TRANSPARENCY IN ITS MEETINGS**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments to HCR 82/HR 56 which requests that the Board of Education (the "**Board**") consider publishing board members email addresses; ensure greater public input by holding public meetings after regular work hours or on weekends when possible to accommodate people that may not be available to attend the meetings held earlier in the day; hold its general business meeting in each county at least once a year; and publish more detailed and specific agenda items; as well as an email address of an appropriate contact person to ensure clarity and transparency.

The appointed Board since inception has placed a high priority upon stakeholder and community engagement. We spent 18 months engaging various stakeholder communities statewide in the development of the Board/Department of Education ("**BOE/DOE**") strategic plan. We have conducted 15 evening community meetings throughout the state which is nearly double the number of meetings required by law. Our nine volunteer Board members have visited over 200 schools and attended over 400 community stakeholder meetings throughout the state. Additionally, the Board has held 180 committee and board meetings. All meeting have been open to the public and the meeting agenda allows for public testimony at the beginning of the meetings and prior to action items on the agenda.

The board has expanded the opportunity for the public to send emails to the Board via the website as well as make phone calls to the Board office. All complaints are shared with all Board members and require a response within specific guidelines. Additionally, the BOE/DOE established an independent "hotline" for members of the public to anonymously express concerns. These are all recorded and an audit trail has been established. Also, to allow for concerns or recommendations to be expressed in private from parents, employees and general public, our Board has established "chair office hour". These times are available after every General Business Meeting (2 times per month) and typically from 4:30-5:30 p.m. which allows for parents and employees to come after work. Additionally, we have added to the permanent Board agenda, a monthly Complex Area presentation with specific metrics and performance

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

data so that each Board meeting allocates time for our 15 community complexes to specifically discuss their individual issues with the Complex Area Superintendent (“CAS”). This allows any community member to come and testify on any subject within their school complex with the CAS and senior DOE staff as well as the Board members present.

We are in the process of reviewing all of our Board policies and are in the process of first seeking public input prior to any revisions. A good example, is a review of policy 2105 which concerns our Hawaiian Immersion program. In order to gain community input on this important subject the Board established a stakeholder working group and has conducted and attended over 40 community meetings and school visits statewide. Sex education is another example of where recently the Board dedicated the bulk of a Board meeting time to seek public input before reviewing changes to our current sex education policies. Again, a public stakeholder meeting is being formed by the DOE to ensure public input is considered.

Our DOE/BOE strategic plan specifically addresses goals and requirements for community engagement. The Superintendent's contract goals address a requirement for community engagement. Our Board fully understands we are the public's voice and therefore, have a duty to proactively seek that voice. We welcome the opportunity to improve public engagement in meaningful and productive ways.

Currently, under consideration is the televising of our Board meetings at certain times per quarter, creating public forums in which there is dialogue between the community and the Board, and increasing the number of community/complex meetings which are held within the community during the evening hours and adding a separate time for meeting staff to discuss their issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to HCR 82/HR 56.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION

Wil Okabe
President
Joan Kamila Lewis
Vice President
Colleen Pasco
Secretary-Treasurer
Alvin Nagasako
Executive Director

DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2014

RE: HCR 82 / HR 56 - RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

PERSON TESTIFYING: WIL OKABE
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Roy Takumi, The Honorable Vice-Chair Takashi Ohno and
Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports HCR 82/HR 56, Relating to the Board of Education.**

HSTA is the exclusive representative of more than 13,500 public and charter schoolteachers statewide. As the state affiliate of the 3.2 million members of the National Education Association, the HSTA believes that an active, working relationship with the BOE will help HSTA members to function effectively to protect our rights, our interests and help us to advocate for better policies that affect public education.

It is clear that this Board of Education has done very little since 2010 to advance public education and include all educational stakeholders. For our schools and our children to be as successful as they can be, public participation must be part of the educational process and the core democratic principles of transparency, accountability government must be respected.

For example, neighbor islands are still excluded in the discussion to public meetings. BOE meetings never start on time and never end on time, consistently holding meetings that last well over 2 hours.

It has also been difficult to submit testimony as the agenda items are very vague and when seeking clarification. Board staff has admitted that even they do not understand the topic on the agenda.

HSTA continues to advocate for an elected Board of Education. We believe in democracy where the people can select who they want and have the opportunity to vote for people who want to serve the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HCR 82/HR 56.**

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education
March 21, 2013
By

Karen H. Ginoza
Faith Action for Community Equity

Dear Chair Takumi and Members of the Education Committee:

Support for HCR82 and HR56

Thank you for hearing these two resolutions on the Board of Education. My name is Karen Ginoza. I am President of FACE Oahu. Faith Action for Equity (FACE) is a grassroots, interfaith organization driven by a deep spiritual commitment to improve the quality of life for our members and all the people of Hawaii. Through our common values and collective power, we address the root causes of challenges facing our community. FACE is the only organization of its kind in Hawaii.

On behalf of FACE Oahu as well as President of the Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA), I have attended many meetings of the elected and appointed Board of Education. One significant difference between the two boards is the lack of access and voices of teachers and the general public. The current school board does not allow public testimony if the item is not on the agenda. It is very difficult to know what the agenda items are since the agenda is released to the public with very little details. We do not have access to the documents that the board members have.

Last year, I requested to speak to the board but was never given the opportunity to present a report completed by Faith Action for Community Equity (FACE). I was finally given a few minutes in a public forum before a few board members to share the report.

Under the appointed school board, the public is not given the opportunity to submit items for consideration by the board. Change will only take place when a new governor is elected since it is the governor who appoints the school board. Do we have to wait four to eight years to bring democracy back to the school system? Parents, teachers, and the public need to have their voices heard. It is only when we all work together that we will be able to improve education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I strongly urge your support for HCR82 and HR56. I hope this can be part of state law next year.

Sincerely,

/s/ Karen Ginoza

Karen Ginoza
President, FACE Oahu



49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813
www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7448 | voters@lwv-hawaii.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Monday, March 24, 2014, 2:00 p.m., Room 309

HCR 82 RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

TESTIMONY

Janet Mason, Legislative Co-Chair, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Ohno and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HCR 82, which requests that the Board of Education provide more transparency in its meetings.

The League supports the public's rights and interest concerning receiving information regarding Board of Education meetings, as well as being able to give input to the Board. The intent of HCR 82 is consistent with the League's position on Hawaii Schools; i.e., (1) action to support the public's rights and interest concerning the administration, policy setting, and budget making for the statewide K-12 school system; (2) action to support the goal of equal educational opportunities for each child, and financing procedures to reach this goal; and (3) action to support the principles of 'choice' for students, teachers, parents, and staff as appropriate and essential for improving performance and participation in elementary and secondary functioning and programs.

We urge you to pass this resolution. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2014 6:42 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: otterik@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR82 on Mar 24, 2014 14:00PM

HCR82

Submitted on: 3/21/2014

Testimony for EDN on Mar 24, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erik Ott	Individual	Support	No

Comments: HCR82, and its companion, HR56 are a good start in making the Board of Education more accountable to the public. Therefore, I support these resolutions. However, am hopeful that someday these concepts make their way into Hawaii's statutes and have the force of law.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2014 11:01 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: msvott@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR56 on Mar 24, 2014 14:00PM

HR56

Submitted on: 3/21/2014

Testimony for EDN on Mar 24, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vanessa Ott	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha House EDN Committee Members, I support HR56. I support HCR82. These two resolutions are a good first step in making our public education system more accountable to the public, transparent in its operations, and cooperative with education advocates. We have a long way to go to truly make that a hard and fast reality, but in the mean time, please support HR56 and HCR82. Mahalo, Vanessa Ott

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2014 9:14 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: rddefault@phaccountability.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR56 on Mar 24, 2014 14:00PM

HR56

Submitted on: 3/21/2014

Testimony for EDN on Mar 24, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Renee Dufault	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support any bill or resolution that requires the Board of Education meetings to be more accessible to the public so that people can attend after work or on weekends. I support any resolution that requires the Board of Education members to interact with the public via email. I support any resolution that requires the Board of Education to provide to the public details at least two weeks in advance of their meeting agenda items.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2014 11:50 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: CKing@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR82 on Mar 24, 2014 14:00PM

HCR82

Submitted on: 3/22/2014

Testimony for EDN on Mar 24, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cheryl King	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I wholeheartedly support this resolution. I have tried to write to my island's Board representative at his work address, which is perhaps inappropriate, and never received a reply. The only other option is the Board's address which serves a multitude of purposes. An e-mail sent there might be lost in the shuffle. Please do give us a specific B.O.E. e-mail address for each Board member. We definitely need B .O.E. meetings on each island to get to know our representatives and to be able to discuss issues one on one with them. It is not fair for our representatives to stay so distant given the multitude of problems our schools face. Cheryl King Kailua-Kona, HI

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2014 5:18 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: hughey2000@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR56 on Mar 24, 2014 14:00PM

HR56

Submitted on: 3/21/2014

Testimony for EDN on Mar 24, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
justin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Minor changes made On Mar 21, 2014, at 1:54 PM, hughey2000@aol.com wrote: Aloha, Chair Roy M. Takumi, HCR 82 / HR 56 / REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE MORE TRANSPARENCY IN ITS MEETINGS. DATE: Monday, March 24, 2014 TIME: 2:00 p.m. PLACE: Conference Room 309 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street I am very frustrated with the lack of transparency of the appointed Board of Education. I submitted testimony Sept. 1, 2013 in regard to the agenda item Update/Discussion on Special Education implementation. I had SERIOUS concerns about how the Department of Education changed the special education weighted staffing allocation formula (established because of the Felix Decree) to a proportional formula. My testimony was not provided to the people who were able to make the board meeting. I could not make the meeting myself because the BOE rarely comes to the neighbor islands and their meetings are during the school day. I was informed that the board members said they received my testimony and would respond to my questions. A person who attended the meeting asked what those questions were, what was the testimony. The board refused to read or hand out my testimony. I was not able to view this meeting online. The elected BOE provided their meetings online, convened regularly on neighbor islands and at times when all stake holders could attend, view and participate. There is good and bad governing. Why should an appointed board answer to the people when they aren't elected? This is an example of bad governing. This resolution or belief statement would be a baby step but a MUCH needed baby step. Please vote yes on this resolution. Best, Justin Hughey Teacher King Kamehameha III Elementary school Lahaina, Maui

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2014 5:49 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: brendan.poff@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR56 on Mar 24, 2014 14:00PM

HR56

Submitted on: 3/21/2014

Testimony for EDN on Mar 24, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brendan Poff	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The BOE should not shun transparency but embrace it in order to help bridge the widening gap between schools, the DOE, and home. They should want to get input rather than non aggressively find ways to deter it. The agendas are vague. There's never supplemental material to educate the citizen. With the state you get access to bills and can decide on your own. With the BOE you must be present every time at the actual meeting in order to know what they're talking about. And is there any reason this committee goes into executive session every single meeting to discuss HSTA and HGEA? A bit suspicious as NONE of what is discussed at that time is recorded for public view. Read the minutes if Don Horner is sitting there shaking his head no as usual.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2014 7:23 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: jbickel15@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR82 on Mar 24, 2014 14:00PM

HCR82

Submitted on: 3/22/2014

Testimony for EDN on Mar 24, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Bickel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As one who served twelve years as a teacher in the Dept. of Education, I think it is important for the Board of Education to be more open to comments from teachers, parents, and the general public. The Board seemed to be more open when it was elected as the members had an incentive to be open to the public who elected them. Now that it is appointed, we must make a greater effort to achieve transparency. Please support this resolution.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE TESTIMONY

HR 56

House Education Committee

Mar 24 2014

RM 309

Chair Takumi and members of the Committee:

I am Marcia Linville, speaking in support of HR56.

I have a MLS and have been a librarian for over thirty years working in Federal, State, City, and Special Libraries. I have served as president of the Librarians Association of Hawaii, Section Head of the Hawaii Library Association, and as Agency Council Head (that's Chief Steward) for Unit 13, Professionals DOE, HGEA, for almost 20 years. I have also served as the Democratic Party's Legislative Liaison for Education, and presently serve on the Board of League of Women Voters. I have a Phi Theta Kappa in Early Childhood Development from the UH at HCC. I have also worked as Resource Teacher in the schools. At the request of Marian Saunders originally, and for most of these positions at one time or another over the last 40 years, I have attended Board of Education Business Meetings. I am testifying as a concerned citizen on the basis of that experience.

I, like many people have become concerned over the lack of information flow and transparency in the present appointed Board of Education. The concern stems from the fact that they are appointed. Unlike you, they have never had to go to the public, tell them who you are, what you hope to do in the position, and ask them what they want from the holders of that position. And you must admit, it is so much easier to do the public's work if you don't have to talk to the public. That is essentially what the Board is doing. Input from the public is allowed by the Board only on what the Board wants to hear, when the Board wants to hear it. It's much commented on Community Meetings are attended primarily by DOE staff. At the Honolulu meeting, there were only 5 people who stood up when community members were asked to stand. Me and two friends were 3 of them. At the Hilo meeting only 2 community members stood. So, no, the Board is not hearing from the Community. When one of those people asked how she could get an item on the agenda for discussion, she was told, "You can't". When a teacher tried to bring the problem of the lack of qualified school librarians to the Boards attention, by the ingenious method of buying a cake and having it inscribed in frosting, someone came down with a knife and cut it out. When the public has tried to bring problems to the Boards attention, by legislative action, we have been stopped. The public input item on the agenda which was a working part of every Board Meeting for the last 40 years has been eliminated.

The Board has done a remarkably fine job in organizing the DOE Administration. It is more efficient and productive, and probably more ethical, and they are to be congratulated. But it has done this by using a business paradigm, in which the Superintendent is seen as the CEO, the Complex Area Supes are seen as Middle Management, and the teachers are seen as retailers, with the students as consumers. But the education of the children of Hawaii is not a business. And the ultimate consumers are all the people of the state. They need to be heard.

And while the Administration is remarkably improved, teachers, parents and children seem to have been forgotten, and forgive me, but it was my understanding that the main purpose of the schools was to serve the needs of the children through the work of the teachers.

HR 56 will go a small way toward making that possible. I ask for your support
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter

Marcia Linville

Marcia Linville.

536-4466