
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE MORE TRANSPARENCY
IN ITS MEETINGS.

1 WHEREAS, according to the Superintendent's 23rd Annual
2 Report, in 2012, there were more than one hundred eighty
3 thousand students enrolled in the public school system; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Board of Education's mission is to "promote
6 excellence and equity in Hawaii's public schools and enable all
7 students to meet their own unique and varied potentials"; and
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9 WHEREAS, the Board of Education is tasked with the
10 responsibility to oversee and manage Hawaii's public educational
11 system, as well as the development and implementation of
12 statewide educational policies for Hawaii's students, while
13 ultimately ensuring appropriate academic progress for every
14 student; and
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16 WHEREAS, the policies and programs that the Board of
17 Education implements to carry out its mission has a major impact
18 on students' education and future as they become the next
19 generation of leaders and every person should have the
20 opportunity to express their thoughts and concerns on matters
21 that affect the State's public educational system; and
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23 WHEREAS, in light of the importance of educational policy
24 decisions on the State, citizens across the State deserve the
25 opportunity to comment on and be informed of the policies and
26 actions that affect the student's education; and
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28 WHEREAS, printed material of the Board of Education
29 meetings present only a limited view of the matters to be
30 discussed and the business to be transacted at the meetings
31 whereas audio or video coverage of a meeting captures the actual
32 proceedings; and
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1 WHEREAS, people can effectively express their thoughts,
2 ideas, and concerns when the board meeting is within their
3 community; and
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5 WHEREAS, many parents, educators, staff, and members of the
6 public are unable to attend board meetings that occur during the
7 day for a number of reasons, such as work and other conflicting
8 obligations and lack of transportation; and
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10 WHEREAS, because of the important role played by the Board
11 of Education in ensuring that student educational standards are
12 met, and the fact that it is a state entity and therefore
13 subject to Hawaii's public records and open meetings laws, it is
14 important that the Board of Education operate in a manner that
15 is more transparent to the community; now, therefore,
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
19 Session of 2014, that the Board of Education is requested to
20 provide more transparency in the conduct of its meetings, the
21 way it notifies the public of its meetings, and the way
22 testimony is submitted at its meetings; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is
25 requested to consider the following approaches to increasing the
26 transparency of its operations:
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- 28 (1) Publish board members email addresses and make them
29 available to the public; and
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31 (2) Ensure greater public input by holding public meetings
32 after regular work hours or on weekends when possible
33 to accommodate people that may not be available to
34 attend the meetings held earlier in the day; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is
37 requested to consider broadening public access at its meetings
38 by:
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- 40 (1) Holding its general business meetings in each county
41 at least once a year; and
42



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1 (2) Publishing more detailed and specific agenda items, as
 2 well as an email address of an appropriate contact
 3 person to ensure clarity and transparency; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 6 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
 7 Education and the Superintendent of Education.
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 10

OFFERED BY: Nicole E. Lower

J. Charles Brown

James Colby

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