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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

RE: HB 2049, HD 1 - RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports HB 2049, HD 1**, relating to the Board of Education.

Teacher voice matters. Too often, educational governance decisions are made without the input of the Hawai'i's hardworking teachers, who are responsible for crafting our children's future. Yet, teachers are expected to carry out these decisions, each day, without fail and without being paid the professional salaries earned by their mainland peers.

Already, the Board of Education has nonvoting members representing the military community and the student community. Both members—currently Col. Peter Santa Ana from as the board's military liaison and Kealakehe High School senior Maya Gee as the board's student representative—provide valuable insight into the experience of their constituencies with the public school system. Teachers, too, should be heard on matters ranging from curriculum development to testing to school funding. Policymakers often talk about improving learning conditions at the “classroom level.” No one is better equipped to discuss those conditions than the teachers who are tasked with managing the classroom experience.

To empower teacher voice in educational leadership, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Executive Director

**TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 2049, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**House Committee on Finance
Hon. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Hon. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair**

**Tuesday, February 27, 2018, 12:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

Honorable Chair Luke and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 400 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in strong support of House Bill 2049, HD 1, relating to the Board of Education.

Empowered teachers are excellent educators. Yet, too often, teachers are omitted from educational policymaking. When teachers' voices are silenced, the views of the hardworking educators charged with shaping our children's minds and leading Hawai'i's classrooms are absent from discussions about how policy decisions impact classroom learning.

Already, the BOE hosts a military liaison and a student representative, both of whom are nonvoting members who wield considerable influence in board debates. They are critical thinkers, quick to question departmental initiatives that undermine student achievement and steadfast in their support of better schools. Likewise, teachers should have the opportunity to articulate their views on, for example, student assessment or school funding, since they are ultimately responsible for implementing the board's decisions and know best what's needed to strengthen their classroom experiences and inspire their children to succeed. Finally, this bill does not conflict with collective bargaining, since the teacher representative may always recuse themselves from such discussions.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance



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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Tuesday, February 27, 2018, 2:10 pm, Conference Room 308
HB 2049, HD1 RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

TESTIMONY

Janet Mason, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly opposes HB 2049 HD1 that would amend the Board of Education membership by inviting the exclusive representative for bargaining unit 5 (teachers and other personnel of the Department of Education) to appoint a nonvoting public-school teacher representative to the Board.

This measure would create an inherent conflict of interest between the Board of Education and the (HSTA) representative, since the Board oversees labor negotiations with bargaining unit 5. Unfortunately, this conflict would exist even if the bargaining unit member were a nonvoting (but perhaps influential) member.

Another potential conflict concerns setting teacher standards. The Hawaii Teachers Standards Board (HTSB) was formed through the enactment of HRS 302A-801 in 2001 to provide impartial advice to the Department of Education and the Board of Education for decision-making on the critically important process of creating high standards to produce top-drawer public-school teachers within the Department of Education. A bargaining unit appointee to the Board of Education should not take part in such standard-setting.

Further, we believe it would take an amendment to Article X, Section 2 of our Constitution to make the change proposed in this measure. Why would voters endorse having the HSTA appoint someone to the Board? The voters of Hawaii overwhelmingly passed a Constitutional amendment in 2010, allowing the Governor to appoint members of the Board of Education with the advice and consent of the senate.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

HB-2049-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 7:26:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SUPPORTING Definitely needed BUT the person picked should be willing to speak up and offer information and actual classroom experience. In addition, this position should be rotated between high school, middle and elementary who all have different experiences.