



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

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Friday, February 2, 2018, 2:10 pm, Conference Room 423
HB 2049, RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Sattoru Kong and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly opposes HB 2049 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.

Since one of the duties of the Board of Education is to oversee negotiations concerning the collective bargaining unit agreement with the Hawaii Teachers Association (HTA), this measure would create an inherent conflict of interest between the Board of Education and the (HTA). 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 direction on teacher standards, including best practices through supporting teachers' obtaining national certification. HTSB provides a very necessary layer of separation between the Department of Education and the Hawaii State Teachers Association.

The League questions why Legislators would want to abrogate the authority established by HRS 302A-801. We believe that a separation of the Board of Education and the HSTA is necessary for the very reason the HTSB was created in the first place: providing impartiality in decision-making on proper certification, in-field teacher placement, and supporting the critically important process of creating high standards to produce top-drawer public-school teachers within the Department of Education.

The Legislators of 2001 recognized the need to maintain a separation on the above issues between the Department of Education and the teachers' union; thus, they created the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board. It is important to continue to maintain the impartiality that the Legislature intended when they established the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



LATE

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

Corey Rosenlee
President
Justin Hughey
Vice President
Amy Perruso
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

RE: HB 2049 - RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports HB 2049**, 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, RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**House Committee on Education
Hon. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Hon. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair**

**Friday, February 2, 2018, 2:10 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309**

Honorable Chair Woodson 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, 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 Hawai'i State Board of Education 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.

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

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance