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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION and LABOR

RE: SB 2380 - RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani, Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports SB 2380**, 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 BOE has nonvoting members representing our military and student communities—currently, Col. Peter Santa Ana and Kealakehe High School senior Maya Gee, respectively—who 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. While the board does occasionally discuss collective bargaining and disciplinary matters, a *nonvoting* teacher member would not be subject to these discussions and could recuse themselves, or be asked to do so, whenever appropriate.

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 our keiki's 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 SENATE BILL 2380, RELATING TO THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

**Senate Committee on Education
Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Hon. Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair**

**Senate Committee on Labor
Hon. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Hon. J. Kalani English, Vice Chair**

**Friday, February 5, 2018, 2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

Honorable Chair Kidani, Chair Tokuda, and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, Executive Director of 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 Senate Bill 2380, 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.

SB-2380

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 11:53:55 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louise Storm		Comments	No

Comments:

It would be refreshing to have more input from people who actually have to work with students in the classroom. My cousin is a public school teacher and has often told me how out of touch some of the policies and directives given what teachers have to deal with in interacting with students and their families.