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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

RE: SCR 162/SR 121 - REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO
ESTABLISH A PROCESS WHEREBY THE PUBLIC MAY PETITION THE
BOARD TO ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SCR 162/SR121**, requesting the Board of Education to establish a process whereby the public may petition the board to add items to the agenda of the next meeting.

The Hawai'i State Board of Education is responsible for setting public policy that determine the course of our children's future. When the board makes a decision, all public school students—nearly 180,000 keiki—are affected, along with the teachers, administrators, and staff tasked with delivering a quality learning experience.

Too often, though, community members, including teachers and parents, are absent from public education decision-making because they have no role in setting the board's agenda. Teachers, especially, should be empowered to influence the board's concerns, since they are the professionals who most directly impact and interact with Hawai'i's student population. Providing a pathway for teachers to petition the board regarding their concerns will ensure that the classroom experience—from class sizes to educational technology to mandated curricula—is reflected on the board's agenda.

To promote community engagement in education governance, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this resolution.

SR-121

Submitted on: 3/24/2018 1:11:03 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/28/2018 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

What a wonderful idea. Currently, as stated, the Board sets the agenda. If we, the public, has any comments, they can send them in. If not on the agenda, comments are welcome, just not discussed. It would be great to have the ability to influence the agenda.

As for public participation, you must show up at the meeting. Many of us listen to the meetings but that is only one way communication. I have suggested that they change to modern technology for holding on- line meetings where the public can ask questions or comment in a chat room. Currently we can only listen. No mention of my suggestion made it to their minutes.

SR-121

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 4:15:49 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/28/2018 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: