



**STATE OF HAWAII  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**House Committee on Finance**

Tuesday, February 26, 2019  
12:30 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308

**House Bill 407, House Draft 1, Relating to the Board of Education**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education ("Board") would like to provide comments on HB 407 HD1, which would grant the Board the authority to appoint complex area superintendents.

The Board agrees that the complex area superintendents play a vital role for their public school communities, and they are an integral component of the Department of Education's tri-level leadership structure. The Board currently has approval authority over any complex area superintendent appointments made by the Superintendent. The Board reviews the resume of the candidate and meets with the candidate before the appointment.

The Board appreciates the additional clarity that the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education provided. The added language requiring that the approval of the Board "be obtained prior to the termination of a complex area superintendent" appears to imply that the Superintendent would seek the approval from the Board for any termination of a complex area superintendent she recommends; therefore, under this measure, the Superintendent would still directly oversee complex area superintendents, not the Board. If this is not the Legislature's intent, the Board respectfully requests further clarification.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.

Very truly yours,

Catherine Payne  
Chairperson, Board of Education  
Chairperson, 2019 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee