

Democratic Party of Hawai'i
O'ahu County Committee
Affirmative Action Committee

Testimony in Support of SR9/SCR10

Requesting the Dept of Education to Explore the Possibility of Updating "Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind" to "Hawai'i School for the Deaf" to Reduce Confusion and Identify Where Students Who are Blind May Access Appropriate Resources and Services

Committee on Education

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Hearing: March 18, 2:45 p.m., Conf Rm 229

Aloha, Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Committee on Education

The Affirmative Action Committee of the Oahu County Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports SR9/SCR10. This resolution helps to clarify that blind keiki cannot get services at the Hawai'i School for the Deaf and Blind. Far too many blind children and adults are referred to the Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind, but they cannot help them.

Some teachers of the blind in Hawai'i don't even know any of the people who work at the Hawai'i School for the Deaf and Blind. If they don't know each other, attracting people to that school is counter-productive.

Also, many blind people are often asked if they were molested at the School for the Deaf and the Blind because of a sexual assault scandal. Even if they are not asked, this topic comes up and makes people uncomfortable. Since blind people haven't gone to that school for so many decades, they are often shocked by the question and uncomfortable. To help distance them from a scandal that never affected them, it might also help to pass this resolution.

Please pass SR9/SCR10.

Respectfully,

LEIMOMI KHAN

Chair, OCC Affirmative Action Committee