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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds Hawaii is the only state  
2 in the nation where a single department of education and a  
3 single statewide board run the public education system. All  
4 other states have school systems broken down into districts  
5 within the state. Each district has a separate board of  
6 education. Hawaii's single board of education is unlike any  
7 other state.

8           The legislature also finds the condition of Hawaii's public  
9 schools, in terms of facility maintenance, infrastructure, and  
10 school performance is below average. The department of education  
11 has a large deferred maintenance backlog, with an estimated  
12 3,800 pending repair and maintenance projects totaling an  
13 estimated cost of \$868 million for its 256 schools. Recent data  
14 from the Strive HI Performance System for Hawaii public schools  
15 also shows below average results for students meeting the  
16 statewide proficiency standards for the subject areas of  
17 language arts (54%), math (43%), and science (44%).



1           The legislature further finds the current centralization of  
2 the board of education undermines the autonomy that counties  
3 should have over their schools. Creating separate boards for  
4 each county will shift autonomy to the counties and better  
5 address the needs of the public schools within the county. This  
6 will provide more efficient and effective management of funds.

7           The purpose of this Act is to reorganize the structure of  
8 the current board of education and establish separate boards of  
9 education for each of the four counties of Hawaii.

10           SECTION 2. Section 302A-121, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
11 amended to read as follows:

12           " (a) The [~~board~~] boards shall consist of  
13 [~~nine~~] \_\_\_\_\_ members as follows:

- 14           (1) [~~One member~~] \_\_\_\_\_ members from the county of Hawaii;  
15           (2) [~~One member~~] \_\_\_\_\_ members from the county of Maui;  
16           (3) [~~One member~~] \_\_\_\_\_ members from the county of Kauai;  
17           (4) [~~Three members~~] \_\_\_\_\_ members from the city and  
18           county of Honolulu; and  
19           (5) [~~Three~~] Four at-large members, one for each county  
20           board; provided that the [~~governor~~] mayors of each



1           county shall select an at-large member as the  
2           chairperson~~[.]~~ of each board.

3 The members of each county board shall be appointed by the  
4 ~~[governor]~~ mayor of the county, with the advice and consent of  
5 the senate. The~~[governor]~~ mayor of each county may remove or  
6 suspend for cause any member of the board~~[.]~~ that serves on the  
7 board of the mayor's county.

8           (b) Pursuant to article XVIII, section 12, of the Hawaii  
9 State Constitution, the period of transition from the elected to  
10 the appointed board shall be as determined in section 21 of Act  
11 5, Session Laws of Hawaii 2011.

12           (c) The members of ~~[the]~~ each county board shall serve  
13 without pay but shall be entitled to reimbursement for necessary  
14 expenses, including travel and board and lodging expenses, while  
15 attending ~~[meetings of the board]~~ board meetings or when  
16 actually engaged in business relating to ~~[the work of the board]~~  
17 each member's county board for which they serve.

18           (d) Pursuant to section 302A-447, the state student  
19 council shall select a nonvoting public high school student  
20 representative to ~~[the board]~~ each of the county boards.



1 (e) Pursuant to section 302A-1101(c), ~~[the board]~~ each  
2 county board shall invite the senior military commander in  
3 Hawaii to appoint [a] one nonvoting military representative to  
4 ~~[the board]~~ serve on each county board."

5 SECTION 3. Section 302A-201, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 **§302A-201 Statewide performance standards.** "~~The board]~~  
8 Each county board shall create [establish statewide] its own  
9 recommendations for student performance standards and the means  
10 to assess the standards based upon the recommendations in the  
11 final report of the performance standards commission established  
12 pursuant to Act 334, Session Laws of Hawaii 1991; provided that  
13 each county board will present its findings to the performance  
14 standards commission, and the [board] commission may review and  
15 modify the performance standards, as the [board] commission  
16 deems necessary, to reflect the needs of public school students  
17 and educational goals adopted by [the board] each county board."

18 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
19 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

20 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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# H.B. NO. 2247

INTRODUCED BY:

*Sen Wood*

*Rida Cattulla Akawa*

*Tom B...*

*[Signature]*

JAN 21 2020



# H.B. NO. 2247

**Report Title:**

Board of Education; County Boards

**Description:**

Changes the Board of Education from one centralized Board to a Board for each county. Gives authority to county mayors to appoint members to the Board.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

