



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

House Committee on Education

Tuesday, March 16, 2021
2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309

Senate Bill 76, Senate Draft 2, Relating to Education

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education ("Board") opposes SB76 SD2, which would require the Board to prioritize candidates for the superintendent of education position with certain minimum qualifications and establish a desired qualification.

The Board opposes proposed legislation that restricts its ability to hire and effectively manage and oversee the superintendent.

The main issue with this measure is not necessarily one of content but of principle. This is essentially the Legislature dictating a management function over which the Board clearly has authority and responsibility as envisioned by the State Constitution. Even if this Board does not disagree with the minimum qualifications this measure would set, a future Board might. As a final point, while this measure would not have prevented the Board from hiring its current superintendent, it would have prevented the hiring of previous, long-serving superintendents.

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

Very truly yours,

Catherine Payne
Chairperson, Board of Education
Chairperson, 2021 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee

SB-76-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 7:58:45 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Qualified applicants should have 10 or more years experience as a teacher or administrator in the Hawaii Department of Education.

SB-76-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 2:41:25 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Jim Shon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair and Members. This bill appears to require that a new superintendent MUST be from Hawaii, and probably must be a current administrator. It is biased. There are many well qualified educational leaders in the private schools, as well as on the mainland.

If COVID has taught us anything, it is that doing the same thing and defining success as old style normal may not be wise. Can they manage a large and complex system? Are they used to reporting to a governing board and assisting it in understanding its options and making decisions, rather than rubber stamping them? Have they demonstrated sound, clear and honest communication to a system, and the public? Do they understand the mega trends that impact all of society, as well as education? Will they commit to attending Board of Regents meetings so as to be well acquainted with both systems? Will they choose as deputies people who are not only well informed, but strong enough to be innovators? Will they be comfortable in dealing with the legislature? Do they understand technology? Would they create an advisory group from outside the department to include other innovative leaders in the business sector? Will they understand that chart schools are a useful model, and seek to utilize their flexibility to pilot programs and conduct useful research? Are they open to non-DOE research and willing to seek ways to apply it?

Sincerely

Jim Shon