



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

House Committee on Education

Tuesday, March 15, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309

Senate Bill 2189, Relating to the Board of Education

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

The Board of Education ("Board") respectfully provides comments on SB 2189, which would remove the governor's authority to select the chairperson of the Board, authorize a majority of the members of the Board to elect a chairperson from among its members, and remove the requirement that the chairperson be an at-large member.

The Board takes no position on legislation relating to the Board's membership, as the Board believes it is most appropriate for the Legislature and Governor to decide such matters. The Board will endeavor to provide the Legislature with any relevant information relating to Board membership matters to enable the Legislature to make informed decisions.

For practical and implementation consideration, we note that Section 3 of the bill as currently written appears to prevent the Board from electing a new chairperson in the event the position becomes vacant until the Governor fills any resulting vacancy. If the Legislature intends for the Board to be able to fill the chairperson position in the event of a vacancy through an election of its remaining membership, we recommend changing Section 3 to delete Section 302A-125(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes, rather than amend it.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William N. Arakaki".

Bill Arakaki
Chairperson, Board of Education 2022 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee

SB-2189

Submitted on: 3/11/2022 11:19:51 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Azuma Chrupaluk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for presenting this bill that will allow people who interact with education to elect, by using their perspective of experience with the subject matter of the decision. The governor does not work in this field, does not interact with the content of the decision being made, therefore shall not have any vested powers regarding decisions that correspond to the education of Hawai'i's future. People who actually work in that profession are more capable of producing efficient results.

SB-2189

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 1:32:11 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marty Martins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the members of the Board of Education electing their own chairperson and not have the Governor appoint the chairperson.

Does the Governor know all the people on the Board? Likely not, so s/he is going to appoint some party loyalist who may know little to nothing about the issues important to teaching our children and managing the bloated BoE.

Time to end the "good ol' boy" appointments and let the people on the board, who know the strengths and weaknesses of the various members, to elect their own chairperson.