



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

**Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

Wednesday, March 2, 2022  
9:30 a.m.  
Via Videoconference  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211

**Senate Bill 2189, Relating to the Board of Education**

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Keohokalole and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees:

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,

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