



**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 2824, Senate Draft 1, 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 2824 SD 1, which would amend the minimum qualifications for Board members.

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.

The Board is unclear how this measure would affect the Board's membership. The Board has the diversified experience that this measure seeks, and arguably, so has every version of the appointed Board. We appreciate the Senate Committee on Judiciary for recognizing through its committee report outstanding "questions as to what the qualifications in the measure specifically require and how it will be determined that members of the Board of Education are in compliance." The Board requests that this committee clarify the answers to these questions either through its committee report or in the measure itself. Without answers to these questions, it is not likely that this measure will have any practical effect nor can the Board or public comment on its intended effect.

Additionally, the Board currently receives services and training from the National Association of State Boards of Education through a private grant, and if this is to be a statutory requirement, we then respectfully request a recurring general fund appropriation to fund training and meet the new requirement.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William N. Arakaki". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W'.

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



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David Miyashiro
Executive Director

March 15, 2022

Committee on Education

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee,

HawaiiKidsCAN strongly supports SB2824 SD1, which amends the minimum qualifications for board of education members.

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a local nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawaii has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, has a transformational impact on our children and our state. We strongly believe that all students should have access to excellent educational opportunities, regardless of family income levels and circumstances.

In terms of generational sustainability, it is clear the status quo won't cut it. Hawaii continues to be a place that is losing population, and research shows that a significant number of young and educated former residents have now found other states their home.¹ Addressing and fundamentally changing this trajectory will require cross-sector strategies that look at how we are equipping our young people to live, play, and work in Hawaii.

To that end, we have seen some exciting developments in our schools, including the growth of career readiness programs. However, as educational opportunities and schools continue to become more innovative and sophisticated, policy leaders at the Hawaii Board of Education will increasingly need to understand and foresee how the K-12, higher education, and workforce sectors intersect, and how technology and entrepreneurial skills will play a larger role into the future. To that end, SB2824 SD1 will

¹ <https://www.civilbeat.org/2022/01/hawaiis-population-drain-outpaces-most-states-again/#:~:text=From%20July%202020%20to%20July,from%20the%20U.S.%20Census%20Bureau.&text=This%20means%20about%2014%2C500%20people,Hawaii%20has%20lost%2030%2C000%20residents.>

highlight the kinds of diverse experiences the BOE will need to successfully tackle these issues.

Respectfully, the current board does not have – and prior boards likely never have had – the diversified experience that this measure seeks. While this says nothing negative about the current members, who should be applauded for their service, stronger guidance is critical for ensuring that current and future governors view appointments more strategically. We believe such diversity will help the BOE consider education both as it has been delivered in the past, but also what shape it will take in the future. The more our education system can break down silos and further innovation, the better positioned our kids will be to thrive and remain in Hawaii.

In response to the Senate Committee on Judiciary’s committee report, we believe the Senate confirmation process is sufficiently rigorous to assess the specific qualifications of nominees and whether they meet the guidance proposed by SB2824 SD1. The confirmation process is also an opportunity for legislators to review the overall composition of the board and determine if nominees will enable to board to reach the diversity intended by SB2824 SD1.

Let’s put a stake in the ground this session to change the trajectory of our state, and fully leverage the diverse perspectives and backgrounds in our community to chart a new and better course for local education.

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro
Founding Executive Director
HawaiiKidsCAN

Benjamin Duke

Kailua-Kona

March 13, 2022

Re: SB2824 SD1

Committee on Education

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee,

I am a teacher from Kailua-Kona and I'm proud to support SB2824 SD1.

As we deal with the fallout from the pandemic and the learning loss that has created even more challenges for our state's schools to address.

More than ever, we need to have a sophisticated and strategic approach to education that takes a holistic approach to how we set our kids up for success. That means breaking down silos and looking across sectors like K-12, higher education, and the workforce to find creative solutions that puts our kids one step ahead versus one step behind.

As the policy-making body for our public school system, the Hawaii Board of Education must have a diverse representation of members that can help to tackle these complex issues. SB2824 SD1 will make sure the BOE doesn't just keep up with innovation in our schools, but can push them to think bigger and bolder.

Mahalo,

Benjamin Duke

SB-2824-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 9:58:38 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica Yamauchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee on Education

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

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

I am a mother of two children in Hawai'i public schools and am writing today in strong support of SB2824 SD1.

As a state, we continue to lose population for numerous reasons, and a lot of talented young people are leaving Hawai'i for better opportunities. How might we change this?

More than ever, we need to have a sophisticated and strategic approach to education that takes a holistic approach to how we set our kids up for success. That means breaking down barriers and silos, and looking across sectors like K-12, higher education, and our workforce to find creative solutions that puts our students one step ahead versus one step behind.

As the policy-making body for our public school system, the Hawai'i Board of Education must have a diverse representation of members that can help to tackle these complex issues. SB2824 SD1 will make sure the BOE doesn't just keep up with innovation in our schools, but can push them to new heights.

Very sincerely,

Erica Yamauchi, Kaimukī/Wilhelmina Rise