

**HCR-145**

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Testimony for EDN on 3/23/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
cheryl Burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT this bill which urges THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP AND ENFORCE NON-SEX SEGREGATED DRESS CODES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL FORMAL EVENTS. I am not sure why this HCR is limited to formal events and encourage the legislature and BOE to look at dress codes throughout the year in the school daily as well.

# **Written Testimony to the House Education Committee in support of HCR145/HR147**

## **HAWAII HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE 2023**

Rep. Justin Woodson, Chair

Rep. Lisa Marten, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 23, 2023

2:00 p.m.

## **STRONG SUPPORT FOR HCR145/HR147**

Thank you Chair, Vice Chair, and other members of the House Education Committee:

I am Ella Matsui, the President and co-founder of Project Soar, a youth led nonprofit association striving to achieve gender and LGBTQ+ equality through the education of others. I am testifying on behalf of myself, my group, and my community. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HCR145/HR147, which would urge the Hawaii Board of Education to develop and enforce non-sex-segregated dress codes in public school formal events including, but not limited to, prom, graduation, or homecoming.

I do not fit into what society has labeled women to be. I am loud, outspoken, and confident in who I am and what I believe in, and I believe that this resolution will help others do the same. Through my plethora of work in the community, especially among the youth, I have witnessed and experienced first hand what it is like to be treated as not “normal.” Enforcing sex segregated dress codes among students still trying to figure out who they are, makes those who do not feel comfortable obliging to the dress codes feel out of place and forces them back into their shell. I know this not only because I’ve seen it amongst my friends and peers, I have also experienced this myself. I have never felt comfortable wearing dresses to school events and I always felt like there was something wrong with me. Coming to high school, I thought that I could finally be comfortable in expressing who I truly am. However, the fear of being judged and ridiculed took over and forced me back into my shell. Encountering sex segregated dress codes at my school activities and formal events furthered my feeling of being alone. I thought that I was the only one who had a problem with conforming to the sex specific dress codes. It wasn’t until I met others who felt the same, that I knew something had to change. No one, especially youth, should have to feel like they need to change themselves in order to fit in or conform to societal norms.

I support HCR145/HR147 because I believe that it will be the start that we need to transition our society into one that is more equitable, inclusive, and accepting. This resolution will work to remove negativity surrounding those who do not fit with today’s stereotypical gender roles and will make youth formal events safer and more inclusive for everyone.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ella Matsui

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Rep. Justin Woodson, Chair

Rep. Lisa Marten, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 23, 2023

2:00 p.m.

## **STRONG SUPPORT FOR HCR145/HR147**

Thank you Chair, Vice Chair, and other members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Cooper J Endo, I am a co-founder and co-vice president of Project Soar and I am testifying in favor of HCR145/HR147.

As a highschool student myself, I truly believe that this resolution would not only help me, but many of my friends and classmates. Seeing the current formal events dress-code filled me with disappointment, surely we would have learned to be more accommodating to students who may not fit into the typical gender norms by now? I wasn't the only one who thought this, many classmates laughed at the gendered dress codes, calling it outdated, ridiculous, and various other choice words. And even those who never felt targeted by the current dress codes saw the benefits in changing to a more gender-neutral one. For those reasons, I feel it is within reason to speak out on behalf of my beliefs in support of HCR145/HR147.

If this resolution will help any students, I see no reason not to implement it. I am in full support of HCR145/HR147.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Cooper J Endo

Project SOAR

cooperj.p.endo@gmail.com

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Rep. Justin Woodson, Chair

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Thursday, March 23, 2023

2:00 p.m.

## STRONG SUPPORT FOR HCR145/HR147

Thank you Chair, Vice Chair, and other members of the House Education Committee:

I am Gabriela Virardi, a member of Project Soar, and today I am speaking to my experience as a high school student. I am testifying on behalf of myself, my group, and my community. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HCR145/HR147, which would urge the Hawaii Board of Education to develop and enforce non-sex-segregated dress codes in public school formal events, such as prom, graduation, or homecoming.

I strongly support HCR145/HR147 on two fronts: firstly, as an individual with many close friends whom this bill would support and protect (especially as our own graduation approaches). For them and many more, identity is tied strongly to appearance. For example, many elderly individuals dye their graying hair a natural color. Similarly, many transgender individuals choose to get surgery in order to realize a self-image that meets their self-concept. In the same way, all students deserve to feel safe and fully themselves at formal events, as they are major milestones not only in one's high school career, but life. This inclusion, however, doesn't currently exist for students whose personal style or identity don't fall in line with sex-based restrictions on formal wear. Non-discriminatory dress codes are the bare minimum in events designed for **all** students.

Secondly: I support HCR145/HR147 as an individual who can clearly see that not only do the current restrictions in formal events preclude inclusivity, they are simply outdated. The average woman wears pants, and men wear jewelry. There is no reason to continue upholding rigid sex-based standards that are no longer applicable to modern society. Our teenage years should be a space to figure out our style, personality, and identity — to learn, have fun, and transition into adult life. Our preferences, let alone our identity, should not be policed by discriminatory dress codes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Gabriela Virardi (Grade 11)

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Thursday, March 23, 2023

2:00 p.m.

## **In SUPPORT FOR HCR145/HR147**

Thank you Chair, Vice Chair, and other members of the House Education Committee:

Hello, my name is Rissa Liu, I am the treasurer of Project Soar. I am very grateful for the opportunity to testify in support of HCR145/HR147 in hopes to create a safer and more inclusive environment at formal school events.

Since I was young I always wondered about high school events like prom and graduation. I always dreamed of what it would be like to attend these gatherings and enjoy them with my friends and fellow classmates and see everyone just having fun. But how can one enjoy and have fun if they are uncomfortable with what they are wearing? Now as a highschool student I watch as some of my friends and fellow classmates struggle to feel comfortable because of the dress codes for formal events and what they are told they can and can't wear.

I support HCR145/HR147 because it will give students the opportunity to choose what they wear, and allow them to feel comfortable in it. As a high school student myself I strongly feel that HCR145/HR147 will be beneficial in moving our society towards a more equal and accepting future. This resolution will remove negativity surrounding those who do not fit with today's stereotypical gender roles and will make youth formal events safer and more comfortable for everyone.

Thank you for your time.

Rissa Liu

Project Soar

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## **STRONG SUPPORT FOR HCR145/HR147**

Thank you Chair, Vice Chair, and other members of the House Education Committee:

I am Jack Dias, one of the Co-Vice Presidents of Project Soar, a youth-organized group striving to achieve gender and LGBTQ+ equality through the education system. I am testifying on behalf of myself, my group, and my community. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HCR145/HR147, which would urge the Hawaii Board of Education to develop and enforce non-sex-segregated dress codes in public school formal events, such as prom, graduation, or homecoming.

I support HCR145/HR147 because it would be beneficial in moving society towards a more equal and accepting future. In 2019, I was nominated to be on the Homecoming court for my school. At first, I was beyond excited until I opened the pdf with the strict sex-based dress codes. I have never fit within society, considering how I am a young cisgender homosexual man who prefers stereotypically feminine clothing, so when I saw the dress codes, I felt marginalized and “different” for something I can’t change. This prompted me to write this resolution and work with Project Soar and certain representatives to make a more impactful change. I know many people in LGBTQ+ community who do not “fit in” and are tired of the heteronormative rules in schools. It is not inclusive for transgender, non-binary, māhū, and gay students and those who do not feel like they fit within stereotypical gender roles. This resolution will help make public schools a safer place for everyone.

Thank you for your time.

Jack Dias

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Thursday, March 23, 2023

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## STRONG SUPPORT FOR HCR145/HR147

Thank you Chair, Vice Chair, and other members of the House Education Committee:

I am testifying on behalf of the students and educators of Hawaii. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HCR145/HR147, which would urge the Hawaii Board of Education to develop and enforce non-sex-segregated dress codes in public school formal events, such as prom, graduation, or homecoming.

I support HCR145/HR147 because it would be beneficial in moving our society towards a more equitable and accepting future. This resolution will work to remove negativity surrounding those who do not fit with today's stereotypical gender roles and will make youth formal events safer and more inclusive for everyone.

Thank you for your time,

Ai Yamana - Noelani Elementary (teacher)  
Aikira Aoki-Daquip - Mid-Pacific Institution (Grade 10)  
Alana Johnson- Kalani High School (Grade 10)  
Alanna Umakoshi - Kaimuki High School (Grade 11)  
Alex Kiyokane - Noelani Elementary (teacher)  
Aliyah Shklov - Kalani High School (Grade 11)  
Amelia Lim - Mid-Pacific Institute (Grade 7)  
Anastasia Chrysler - Kalaheo High School (Grade 11)  
Angela Isaacson - Kalani High School (teacher)  
Artemis Garcia Wang - Kaiser High School (Grade 10)  
Ashley Yim - Punahou School (Grade 9)  
Axel Hallstrom - Kalani High School (Grade 9)  
Bodhi Mylett - Kalani High School (Grade 10)  
Brooke Sumimoto - Kaiser High School (Grade 9)

Caitlin Lamb - Kaiser High School (Grade 10)  
Calista Yokooji - Punahou School (Grade 9)  
Caris Leong - Punahou School (Grade 9)  
Casey Lam - Noelani Elementary (teacher)  
Charlie Ahlgren Folkert - Kaiser High School (Grade 10)  
Charlotte Bowden - Konawaena High School (Grade 11)  
Chris Lee - Salt Lake Elementary (teacher)  
Cielle Charron - Kalani High School (Grade 11)  
Clyde Sabas - Kalihi Uka Elementary (teacher)  
Cooper Umeda - Punahou School (Grade 9)  
Daniel Pruder - Punahou School (Grade 12)  
Demetri Nguyen - Kaimuki High School (Grade 10)  
Destin Dahl - Kaimuki High School (Grade 10)  
Diego Carranza - Leilehua High School (Grade 12)  
Emme Smith - Mid-Pacific Institute (Grade 8)

Emily Hinshaw - Kalani High School (Grade 11)  
Emily Lim - Mid-Pacific Institute (Grade 10)  
Eric Gee - Kealakehe High School (Grade 11)  
Flor Figueroa - Kalani High School (Grade 11)  
Gabriel Ryan-Kern - Punahou School (Grade 10)  
Gaiya Wilms-Paul - Konawaena High School (Grade 11)  
Gizelle Rodrigues - King Kekaulike High School (Grade 11)  
Grace Gilbertson - Kaiser High School (Grade 10)  
Grace Harris - Mid-Pacific Institution (Grade 8)  
Greta Hallstrom - Kalani High School (Grade 11)  
Isabella Leoiki - Mid-Pacific Institution (Grade 8)  
Isabella Leonardo - Kalani High School (Grade 10)  
Isabella Long-McGie - Konawaena High School (Grade 12)  
Jan Omura - Kalani High School (teacher)  
Jenelle Wong - Kalani High School (Grade 11)  
Jingxin Dong - Punahou School (Grade 9)  
Jocelyn Mina - Punahou School (Grade 9)  
Johannah Benitez - Kaiser High School (Grade 10)  
Kaelyn Chun - Punahou School (Grade 9)  
Kaimana Burns - Kalani High School (Grade 10)  
Kaitlyn Nagata - Kalani High School (Grade 11)  
Kaitlyn Scrivner - Punahou School (Grade 11)  
Kalei Greeley - Kalani High School (counselor)  
Kaylie Liu - Kalani High School (Grade 10)  
Keith Mylett - Kalani High School (teacher)  
Kenny Dias - Kaimuki Middle School (Grade 8)  
Kiana McCully - Punahou School (Grade 11)  
Kiana Mizuno - Kalani High School (Grade 11)  
Kilia Lawrence Gallagher - Punahou School (Grade 9)  
Kirra Baughn - Myron B Thompson Academy (Grade 7)  
Kristen Nakamura - Noelani Elementary (teacher)  
Layna Faria - Kalani High School (Grade 9)

Lehua Norris - Konawaena High School (Grade 11)  
Liliana Lisama - Kalani High School (Grade 11)  
Lily Vasquez - Kalani High School (Grade 11)  
Lisa Mauricio - Konawaena High School (Grade 11)  
Logan Mansfield - Punahou School (Grade 11)  
Luana Richter - Castle High School (Grade 11)  
Manami Sato - Kalani High School (Grade 11)  
Maraea Lawrence Gallagher - La Pietra (Grade 7)  
Mari Neely - Noelani Elementary (teacher)  
Marvin Atem - Kaimuki High School (Grade 10)  
Matthew Yadao - Roosevelt High School (Grade 11)  
Maya Lai - Mid-Pacific Institution (Grade 8)  
Megan Bangal - Kalihi Uka Elementary (teacher)  
Micah Devine - Kaimuki High School (Grade 9)  
Michael Machado - Kaimuki High School (Grade 10)  
Nanea Allen - Punahou School (Grade 11)  
Nathalie Wong - Kalani High School (Grade 11)  
Nathaniel Ryan-Kern - Punahou School (Grade 12)  
Nicolai Perez - Mid-Pacific Institute (Grade 11)  
Rachel Shimabukura - Kalani High School (Grade 12)  
Regine Medeiros - Konawaena High School (Grade 11)  
Rocco Bechirian - Kalani High School (Grade 9)  
Salani Alailima - George Washington University Online High School (Grade 11)  
Savannah Buckley - Southern New Hampshire University (College Freshmen)  
Shane Nishimura - Punahou School (Grade 10)  
Sheri Falls - Washington Middle (teacher)  
Stephanie Quay - Noelani Elementary (teacher)  
Taeyana-Li Kam - Kalani High School (Grade 11)  
Thaila Fee - Kaiser High School (Grade 10)  
Tiffany Subramaniam - Kalani High School (Grade 11)



Tiffany Nagano - Kalani High School (Grade 12)

Toney K. Ryan -Kalani High School (staff)

Tracey Matsui - Noelani Elementary (teacher)

Trinity Choy - Kalani High School (Grade 11)

Tyler Grune - Kalani High School (Grade 11)

Tysen Jao - Punahou School (Grade 9)