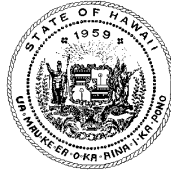


JOSH GREEN, M. D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



WILBERT S. HOLCK
CHIEF NEGOTIATOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
235 S. BERETANIA STREET, SUITE 1201
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

Statement of
WILBERT S. HOLCK
Chief Negotiator, Office of Collective Bargaining

Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
February 15, 2024
2:02 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HB 1650 HD1, RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and the members of the committee.

The Office of Collective Bargaining (OCB) appreciates the intent of HB 1650 HD1, which requires the board of education to invite the exclusive representative for bargaining unit (5) (teachers and other personnel of the department of education) to appoint a nonvoting public school teacher representative to the board and the exclusive representative for bargaining unit (6) (educational officers) to appoint a nonvoting public school administrator representative to the board. However, OCB offers the following comments on this measure:

1. Although it is a nonvoting appointment, allowing the exclusive representative to appoint a public school teacher and a public school administrator to the board creates a conflict of interest as they could influence the board's decision-making process for collective bargaining.
2. Public school teachers and public school administrators, as members of the exclusive representative, already have measures in place that provide for the fair representation of all employees.
3. Further, allowing these individuals into the board's executive sessions would make them privy to confidential information which may unfairly impact collective bargaining negotiations for their respective bargaining units.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and comments on this measure.



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Osa Tui, Jr.
President

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Vice President

Lisa Thompson
Secretary-Treasurer

Ann Mahi
Executive Director

TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAII HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Item: **HB1650 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education**
Position: **Support**
Hearing: **February 15, 2024, 2:02 p.m., Conference Room 325**
Submitter: **Osa Tui, Jr. – President, Hawai'i State Teachers Association**

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association **supports** HB1650 HD1 which requires the board of education to invite the exclusive representative for bargaining unit (5) (teachers and other personnel of the department of education) to appoint a nonvoting public school teacher representative to the board and the exclusive representative for bargaining unit (6) (educational officers) to appoint a nonvoting public school administrator representative to the board.

Teacher voice matters. Too often, educational governance decisions are made without the input of the hardworking public school teachers in Hawai'i, who are responsible for crafting our children's future. Yet, teachers are expected to carry out these decisions, each day, without fail.

Already, the Board of Education has non-voting members representing the military community and the student community. Both members, the board's military liaison as well as the student member on the board provide valuable insight into the experience of their constituencies with the public school system. Teachers, too, should be heard on matters ranging from curriculum development to testing to school funding. Policymakers often talk about improving learning conditions at the "classroom level." No one is better equipped to discuss those conditions than the teachers who are tasked with managing the classroom experience. We also welcome having a non-voting BU6 member at the table to bring their perspective, too.

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 15, 2024

H.B. 1650, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

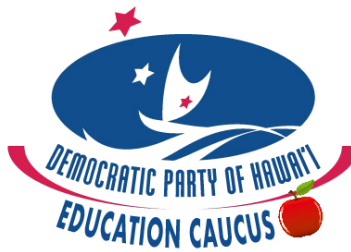
The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO opposes the intent of H.B. 1650, H.D. 1 and its concept of having a non-voting public school teacher representative and school administrator representative on the Board of Education. While teachers and school administrators may be essential to student success, they are certainly not the only school level employees who contribute and are integral to the success of a student. All of our public schools employ a variety of classifications such as security attendants, account clerks, educational assistants, cafeteria managers, and custodians, just to name a few.

If the legislature finds that the Board of Education would benefit from the perspective of a public-school teacher and administrator, they should equally consider the benefit of having the perspective of employees from other bargaining units. Adding a non-voting representative to the board from each classification of the other bargaining units may seem unwieldy, however, under the circumstances, it is only fair for all school level employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 1650, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director



HOUSE BILL 1650, HD1, RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 15, 2024 · JHA HEARING

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports** HB 1650, HD1, relating to the Board of Education, which requires the Board of Education to invite the exclusive representative for bargaining unit (5) (teachers and other personnel of the department of education) to appoint a nonvoting public school teacher representative to the board and the exclusive representative for bargaining unit (6) (educational officers) to appoint a nonvoting public school administrator representative to the board.

Empowered teachers are excellent educators. Yet, too often, teachers are omitted from educational policymaking. When teachers' voices are silenced, the views of the hardworking educators charged with shaping our children's minds and leading Hawai'i's classrooms are absent from discussions about how policy decisions impact classroom learning.

As noted in this measure's preamble, the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic (COVID-19) significantly disrupted Hawai'i's public education system, forcing schools to adapt their operations to protect public health. School communities were required to adopt new protocols to deliver instructional content, including comprehensive distance learning programs. Board of Education members and school administrators were also responsible for using medical information to make decisions about school safety, such as when school campuses could safely reopen and welcome

the return of faculty and students. Educational governance deliberations about protocols and developed in response to COVID-19—including how to address learning loss, distribute federal relief funds, and strengthen social and emotional learning—would also benefit from the experience of a public school teacher representative and public school administrator representative, given that teachers and administrators directly manage school-level educational services.

Already, the BOE hosts a military liaison and a student representative, both of whom are nonvoting members who wield considerable influence in board debates. They are critical thinkers, quick to question departmental initiatives that undermine student achievement and steadfast in their support of better schools. Likewise, teachers should have the opportunity to have a representative articulate their views on, for example, student assessment or school funding, since they are ultimately responsible for directly implementing the board's decisions and know best what's needed to strengthen their classroom experiences and inspire their children to succeed.

Kris Coffield · Chairperson, DPH Education Caucus · (808) 679-7454 · kriscoffield@gmail.com