



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

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 1, 2024

2:00 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309

Measure: House Bill 1650, Relating to the Board of Education

Purpose of Measure:

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.

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education (“Board”) respectfully offers **comments** on House Bill 1650.

The composition of the Board is the prerogative of the Legislature. We endeavor to provide relevant information to assist the Legislature with making its decision.

1. In addition to its nine members, the Board currently has two nonvoting “representatives” as provided by statute – a student representative and military representative. The Board’s bylaws define the rights of its representatives as follows: “There shall be a student representative and a military representative as provided by Sections 302A-121, 302A-447, and 302A-1101, HRS. The student representative and military representative are not members of the Board, but they may engage in discussion and deliberation at General Business Meetings, Special Meetings, and Standing Committee meetings. The student representative and military representative shall not have other rights or privileges, including the right to make motions or vote, nor shall they be counted for quorum purposes or be entitled to be present in executive sessions of the Board unless necessary for the purpose of the executive session.”

2. The Board requests clarification regarding whether the intent is to have the exclusive representatives appoint a teacher who is currently teaching in a public school, and a school administrator who is currently running a public school. As worded currently, the measure appears to give discretion to the exclusive representatives to appoint whomever they choose regardless of current position, employment status, or affiliation.
3. There are numerous stakeholders with specific educational interests, including other employee groups and the attached agencies that the Board exercises constitutional or statutory authority over, who may also be interested in dedicated seats on the Board.
4. This legislation, if passed, will create precedent that may affect Board representation in other ways.
5. All Board committee and business meetings are conducted in compliance with the Sunshine Law and offer ample opportunities for all collective stakeholders to testify. The Board has actively heard and listened to numerous issues and concerns raised by these groups, all of whom have the best interests of our keiki in mind.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.



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TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAII HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Item: **HB1650 - Relating to the Board of Education**
Position: **Support**
Hearing: **February 1, 2024, 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 309**
Submitter: **Osa Tui, Jr. – President, Hawai'i State Teachers Association**

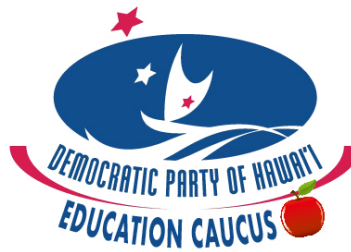
Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association **supports** HB1650 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.



HOUSE BILL 1650, RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 1, 2024 · EDN HEARING

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports** HB 1650, 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



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 1, 2024

H.B. 1650 – RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO opposes the intent of H.B. 1650 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director