



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

House Committee on Finance

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

2:00 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308

Measure: Senate Bill 747 SD1 HD1, Relating to the Board of Education

Purpose of Measure:

Establishes an Audit Office within the Board of Education to audit operations and expenditures of the Department of Education. Exempts positions within the Audit Office from civil service law. Requires annual reports to the Governor and Director of Finance. Authorizes the Legislature to request a copy of the annual reports. Establishes six full-time equivalent (6.0 FTE) positions within the Audit Office. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000.

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education (Board) respectfully offers comments on Senate Bill 747 SD1 HD1, noting that performance and management audits tend to be costly and require support through contract work.

The level of funding provided in the original draft of the bill – \$575,000 – would be insufficient for the ongoing appropriations required for the staffing and contract work needed to fulfill its intent.

We note that the Office of the Auditor, with its expertise and experience, has conducted similar audits in the past.

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