



841 Bishop St., Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

Hawaii Board of Education
Student Achievement Committee
Cheryl Lupenui, Chair
Patricia Halagao, Vice Chair

January 20, 2015

Dear Chair Lupenui, Vice Chair Halagao and Members:

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

This testimony is submitted in regards to the revision of BOE Policy 2403 (proposed Policy 304.2) on Parent/Family Involvement. A workgroup in which HE'E participated convened in 2012 for Senate Concurrent Resolution 79 (SCR 79) on Family Engagement; the group recommended and submitted a revised BOE Policy 2403. A copy of this policy is attached. The Board's current proposed policy contains elements of that draft but omits a crucial step directing the Department to establish statewide standards, including the six standards of Family-School Partnerships developed by the National PTA. In addition, the Board's revised policy is entitled "Family and Community Engagement;" however, HE'E prefers the title that was recommended by the group, "Family-School Partnerships" as the policy focuses on the interaction between family and schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

HE'E Member List

Academy 21

After-School All-Stars Hawaii

Alliance for Place Based Learning

*Castle Complex Community Council

*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS

Center for Civic Education

Coalition for Children with Special Needs

*Faith Action for Community Equity

Fresh Leadership LLC

Girl Scouts Hawaii

*Good Beginnings Alliance

Harold K.L. Castle Foundation

*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice

Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars

*Hawai'i Charter School Network

*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition

*Hawaii State PTSA

Hawai'i State Student Council

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

Hawai'i P-20

Hawai'i 3Rs

Head Start Collaboration Office

It's All About Kids

*INPEACE

Joint Venture Education Forum

Junior Achievement of Hawaii

*Kaho'omiki

Kamehameha Schools

Kanu Hawai'i

*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council

Keiki to Career Kaua'i

Kupu A'e

*Leaders for the Next Generation

Learning First

McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds

Our Public School

*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning

*Parents and Children Together

*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i

Punahou School PUEO Program

Teach for America

The Learning Coalition

US PACOM

University of Hawai'i College of Education

YMCA of Honolulu

Voting Members () Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition. List as of January 2015*

Revised BOE Policy 2403 Family-School Partnerships Policy

The Board of Education (“Board”) recognizes that a child’s growth and educational success are responsibilities and goals shared by the Department of Education (“Department”), communities, schools and families. It follows that achievement of these goals depends on the establishment of a broad array of informed partnerships among stakeholders that address the strengths and needs of all students.

In setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to effective partnership implementation, the Board acknowledges the importance of administrative leadership at all levels, including its own. Therefore, the Board directs the Department to establish an organizational culture characterized by practices and programs that build and sustain positive and engaged relationships with families by:

- Taking a comprehensive and coordinated approach to family-school partnerships;
- Addressing family-school partnerships in strategic planning processes;
- Assigning formal responsibility, accountability and necessary authority for partnership implementation to staff at the State, Complex Area and School level;
- Embracing the diverse cultures, languages, strengths and needs of all families;
- Providing adequate and appropriate time, resources and opportunities to include families in the design, implementation, evaluation and oversight of all relevant programs and services; and,
- Establishing statewide standards, administrative guidelines, associated metrics/indicators, timelines and reporting requirements that support the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of family-school partnerships based upon national evidence-based best practices including, but not limited to:

Standard 1: Welcoming all families into the school community—Families are active participants in the life of the school and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.

Standard 2: Communicating effectively—Families and school staff engage in regular two-way, meaningful communication about student learning.

Standard 3: Supporting student success—Families and school staff continuously partner to support students’ learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

Standard 4: Speaking up for every child—Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

Standard 5: Sharing power—Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

Standard 6: Partnering with community—Families and school staff partner with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

(Drawn from the 2012 PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships)

In order to assure congruence with best practices at the state and national level, this policy shall be reviewed and updated no more than five (5) years from the date of its initial passage.