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House Committee on Education
Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

March 20, 2015

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno and Committee Members:

This testimony is in support of HCR117/HR70, which requests the Board of Education to review whether the student representative to the Board should be given voting rights.

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.

One of the priorities of the Coalition is influencing public policy that affects education. Consequently, Coalition staff attends Hawaii Board of Education (BOE) meetings on a regular basis. We see the BOE student member present at every Committee and General Business Meeting. It is a privilege and a sacrifice for the student member to attend and participate in Board of Education meetings. A student member must miss two full days of school a month but participates in critical discussions on educational policy. The Coalition believes we should empower our student member, since the students are most affected by the policies of the Board. We therefore support this resolution, asking the BOE to review whether the student members should be given voting rights.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

Academy 21
After-School All-Stars Hawaii
Alliance for Place Based Learning
*Castle Complex Community Council
*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS
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.*