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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	Teach for America
After-School All-Stars Hawaii	The Learning Coalition
Alliance for Place Based Learning	US PACOM
*Castle Complex Community Council	University of Hawai'i College of Education
*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS	YMCA of Honolulu
Coalition for Children with Special Needs	<i>Voting Members (*) Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.</i>
*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	
Punahoa School PUEO Program	