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

February 4, 2014

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for HB822 on student instructional hours.

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.

Act 167/52, establishing a minimum number of student instructional hours and days per year, was passed in 2010 for three primary purposes:

1. Prevent future furloughs for students
2. Provide instructional time equity among Hawaii students and their mainland peers
3. Establish transparency and clarity in the definition and amount of instructional time provided by each school

Hawaii is unique; the only state that is one school district, with one funding source, and one union contract for all teachers. This should help ensure that equity exists across the state. Instructional time for students should be no different. Prior to the law, there was great disparity especially in secondary schools on instructional time for students. The law has helped bring schools in line. Therefore, we support the first phase of the law, which requires 180 days and 915 and 990 student instructional hours per year for elementary and secondary schools, respectively.

We agree with eliminating the second phase of the law which requires an increase of all schools to 1080 student instructional hours a year from 2016, in particular, because schools will be challenged with another change in schedules and because schools will not have the financial resources to support the increase in instructional time. However, we also recognize that 1080 student instructional hours per year is average across states, especially in the secondary years (see table attached). Therefore, Hawaii at 915 and 990 hours per year is below national averages.

We also agree with the bill which has the Board of Education in consultation with representatives of collective bargaining units define student instructional time; we recommend that the definition be broadened to give more flexibility to schools with the goal of creating schedules that are best for student learning.

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	Punahou School PUEO Program
After-School All-Stars Hawaii	Teach for America
Alliance for Place Based Learning	The Learning Coalition
*Castle Complex Community Council	US PACOM
*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS	University of Hawai'i College of Education
Center for Civic Education	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	

While there is not new research to report on this front, the following table has been updated to reflect a change in one state's policies. It is based on research from a Spring 2013 report from the National Center on Teaching and Learning – *Learning Time in America: Trends to Reform the American School Calendar* – and shows the minimum number of instructional hours required by other states' laws, by grade. The cells of the table are color-coded to demonstrate whether the minimum is below (red), equivalent to (yellow), or above (green) Hawaii's minimum of 990 hours. Hawaii requires more time in earlier grades than most states and less time later grades than some states.

Number of minimum instructional hours required by state law, by grade
below 990 **990** **above 990**

STATE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
average	930	936	936	976	976	986	1006	1009	1015	1015	1015	1014
AK	740	740	740	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900
AZ	712	712	712	890	890	890	1000	1000	720	720	720	720
CA	840	840	840	900	900	900	900	900	1080	1080	1080	1080
CO	968	968	968	968	968	1056	1056	1056	1056	1056	1056	1056
CT	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900
DE	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080
FL	720	720	720	800	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900
GA	810	810	810	900	900	990	990	990	990	990	990	990
ID	810	810	810	900	900	900	900	900	990	990	890	890
KS	1118	1118	1118	1118	1118	1118	1118	1118	1118	1118	1118	1086
KY	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062
LA	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062	1062
MA	900	900	900	900	900	990	990	990	990	990	990	990
MD	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080
MI	1086	1086	1086	1098	1098	1098	1098	1098	1098	1098	1098	1098
MN	935	935	935	935	935	935	1020	1020	1020	1020	1020	1020
MO	1044	1044	1044	1044	1044	1044	1044	1044	1044	1044	1044	1044
MT	720	720	720	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080
NC	1025	1025	1025	1025	1025	1025	1025	1025	1025	1025	1025	1025
ND	951.5	951.5	951.5	951.5	951.5	951.5	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038
NE	1032	1032	1032	1032	1032	1032	1032	1032	1080	1080	1080	1080
NH	845	845	845	845	845	990	990	990	990	990	990	990
NM	990	990	990	990	990	990	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080
OH	910	910	910	910	910	910	910	910	910	910	910	910
OK	900	900	900	900	900	900	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080
OR	810	810	810	900	900	900	900	900	990	990	990	990
PA	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	990	990	990	990
SD	975	975	975	982.5	982.5	982.5	982.5	982.5	982.5	982.5	982.5	982.5
UT	810	990	990	990	990	990	990	990	990	990	990	990
VA	990	990	990	990	990	990	990	990	990	990	990	990
WA	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080	1080
WI	1050	1050	1050	1050	1050	1050	1137	1137	1137	1137	1137	1137

The Department has not yet researched how other states' and districts' collective bargaining agreements and requirements around teacher work year, day and schedule impact implementation of student learning time requirements.