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Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Ronald Kouchi, Vice Chair

March , 2015

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Committee Members:

This testimony is in opposition to SB126 SD1, relating to the reconstitution of the Board of Education.

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 Coalition's priorities is to influence public policy that affects education; hence, we attend Board of Education meetings on a regular basis. We have attended meetings since the beginning of the appointed Board of Education and have seen the evolution of the entity since its inception. We have also seen new members join the Board and the transition process that is involved in the change. It has taken time for the Board to find its efficiencies. Likewise, it takes time for new members to get up to speed to participate effectively. We oppose this bill, which recommends change of Board members upon change of the Governor because we believe that change to the constitution of the Board in this way would disturb the Board's work. The loss of institutional knowledge of existing members and cost of transition would not benefit our educational system and most importantly our students. Finally, the Appointed Board is still a relatively new entity, only established in 2010; therefore, our members feel it is premature to make substantive changes.

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	Our Public School
After-School All-Stars Hawaii	*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning
Alliance for Place Based Learning	*Parents and Children Together
*Castle Complex Community Council	*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i
*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS	Punahou School PUEO Program
Center for Civic Education	Teach for America
Coalition for Children with Special Needs	The Learning Coalition
*Faith Action for Community Equity	US PACOM
Fresh Leadership LLC	University of Hawai'i College of Education
Girl Scouts Hawaii	YMCA of Honolulu
Good Beginnings Alliance	<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>
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	