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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

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.*