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

February 25, 2015

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for SB822 SD1 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, which was passed in 2010, established a minimum number of student instructional hours and days per year. The purpose of the law was to:

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

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.

Since the inception of the law, we have heard that schools have experienced tremendous challenges in implementing Act 167/52. Therefore, we support the current amendment in SB822 SD1, which changes student instructional hours to "student hours." We know that schools need flexibility and we believe this change will help. At the same time, we agree that the Board of Education in consultation with representatives of collective bargaining units should still define what "student hours" are, to add clarity for schools.

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.*