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Hawaii Board of Education
Don Horner, Chair
Brian De Lima, Vice Chair

January 20, 2015

Dear Chair Horner, Vice Chair De Lima and Members:

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.

This testimony is submitted in regards to the revision of BOE Policy 2403 on Parent/Family Involvement. A workgroup in which HE'E participated convened in 2012 for Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR79 on Family Engagement; this group recommended and submitted a revised BOE Policy 2403 on Family-School Partnerships. A copy of the revised policy is attached. The Board's proposed policy contains elements of that draft but omits a crucial step directing the Department to establish statewide standards, including the six standards of Family-School Partnerships developed by the National PTA. In addition, the Board's revised policy is entitled "Family and Community Engagement;" however, HE'E prefers the title that was recommended by the group, "Family-School Partnerships" as the policy focuses on the interaction between family and schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration. Our support of this policy represents a 75% consensus or more of our membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

HE'E Member List

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. List as of January 2015*