



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
HAWAII STATE STUDENT COUNCIL  
475 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Room 211  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

March 20, 2012

TO: The Honorable Donald G. Horner, Chairperson  
Board of Education

FROM: *Angelica Wai Sam Lao*  
Angelica Wai Sam Lao, Student Representative  
Board of Education

SUBJECT: Discussion/Recommendation for Board Action on Proposed Amendments to  
Board of Education Policy 2121 "Board of Education Student Member Elections"

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Education (BOE) approve the proposed amendments to Board Policy 2121, "Board of Education Student Member Elections" as specified in Attachment A.

2. RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE

Upon Board approval.

3. RECOMMENDED COMPLIANCE DATE

Upon Board approval.

4. DISCUSSION

a) Conditions leading to the recommendation

The recommendation aligns to Act 5 signed by the Governor on March 14, 2011 establishing an appointment process for BOE members versus the past election process.

The recommendation also aligns the BOE policy with the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §302A-447 (Attachment B) which states: "(b) The council (Hawaii State Student Council) shall determine whether it shall directly select the student member of the board or whether it shall run an election to select that individual..." and supports HRS §302A-121 (Attachment C) which states: "(d) Pursuant to section 302A-447, the state student council shall select a nonvoting public high school student representative to the board."

b) Previous action of the Board on the same or similar matter

None.

c) Other policies affected

None.

d) Arguments in support of the recommendation

1) *To broaden the involvement of different stakeholders in the selection of the student BOE representative.* Revision to the current statewide student election system to a selection system that includes the involvement of the BOE chairperson or his/her designee and the Department of Education (DOE) Hawaii State Student Council Advisor in the selection process. In a survey conducted of high school Student Activities Coordinators (SAC) 23 of the 23 who responded favored the proposed process that allows each school to select/elect a candidate for consideration. Each district then selects one candidate from the school candidate pool for the statewide selection committee to consider. The statewide selection committee, which include members of the state student council, then makes a recommendation for selection.

2) *To establish a selection process that is more rigorous.* Currently, interested individual students submit applications directly to the state level. If the student meets the state's minimum qualifications, his/her name is placed on a statewide ballot and a statewide general election is conducted. Schools and districts do not have the option of submitting a candidate as the individual applies independently. In a survey conducted of high school student councils in all seven school districts, six districts favored a more rigorous selection process. Majority of the students surveyed felt the individual high schools should be involved in the initial selection/election of candidates from their respective schools.

e) Arguments against the recommendation

None.

f) Findings and conclusion of the Board committee

On February 21, 2012, the Student Achievement Committee deferred the recommendation to the general board meeting.

g) Other agencies or departments of the State of Hawaii involved in the action

None.

- h) Possible reaction of the public, professional organizations, unions, DOE staff and/or others to the recommendations

The majority of the public voted in the November 2010 elections for an appointed BOE versus an elected BOE, however the public may have mixed reactions to the new selection process of the BOE student representative.

- i) Educational implications

Students will continue to address the student-oriented priorities of the Department's 2011-2018 Strategic Plan, including civic responsibility, by participating in the selection/election of the BOE student representative candidates at their schools.

- j) Personnel implications

None.

- k) Facilities implications

None.

- l) Financial implications

None

#### 5. OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS

None

AWSL:ss

Attachments

- c: Superintendent  
Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Support

**BOARD OF EDUCATION STUDENT MEMBER ~~ELECTIONS~~ SELECTION**

**POLICY**

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of providing students with meaningful democratic experiences. By encouraging students to involve themselves in their governance, schools enable them to become active and contributing participants in government.

Each secondary school shall: (1) participate in the annual Board of Education student member ~~election~~ selection process; and (2) make ~~the ballots and~~ candidate information available to all students. The Hawaii State Student Council shall organize and execute the Board of Education student member ~~election~~ selection process and, in accordance with Article X, Section 2, of the Hawaii State Constitution, is authorized to set the rules and procedures surrounding the ~~election~~ selection.

Approved: August 16, 2001

## Attachment B

**[§302A-447] State student council.** (a) There is established within the department for administrative purposes the state student council, which shall consist of representation from each departmental school district.

(b) The council shall determine whether it shall directly select the student member of the board or whether it shall run an election to select that individual.

(c) The council shall establish policies and procedures governing its operations, including the selection and number of council members, without regard to the public notice, public hearing, and gubernatorial approval requirements of chapter 91, but subject to the open meeting requirements of chapter 92.

(d) The state student council shall cooperate with the student conference committee established under section 317-2 in planning the annual secondary school students conference established under chapter 317. [L 2002, c 172, §2]

**Revision Note**

Throughout this section, "state student council" substituted for "Hawaii state student council".

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B. Board of Education

**Revision Note**

Sections 302A-121 and 302A-127 designated as subpart B by revisor.

**[§302A-121] Board of education; members; student and military representatives.** (a) The board shall consist of nine members as follows:

(1) One member from the county of Hawaii;

(2) One member from the county of Maui;

(3) One member from the county of Kauai;

(4) Three members from the city and county of Honolulu; and

(5) Three at-large members; provided that the governor shall select an at-large member as the chairperson.

The members shall be appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate. The governor may remove or suspend for cause any member of the board.

(b) Pursuant to article XVIII, section 12, of the Hawaii state constitution, the period of transition from the elected to the appointed board shall be as determined in section 21 of Act 5, Session Laws of Hawaii 2011.

(c) The members of the board shall serve without pay but shall be entitled to reimbursement for necessary expenses, including travel and board and lodging expenses, while attending meetings of the board or when actually engaged in business relating to the work of the board.

(d) Pursuant to section 302A-447, the state student council shall select a nonvoting public high school student representative to the board.

(e) Pursuant to section 302A-1101(c), the board shall invite the senior military commander in Hawaii to appoint a nonvoting military representative to the board. [L 2011, c 5, pt of §2]

**Revision Note**

In section title, "representative" changed to "representatives".

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