



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony in Support of Sunny Unga's Petition for Rule Change

1 message

Sunny Unga <sunnyrkim@gmail.com>

Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 10:25 AM

To: Testimony.BOE@boe.hawaii.gov

-Special Meeting December 17th, 2020 at 11 am.

-Agenda Item: II.A, IV.A, IV.B

Aloha Board Members,

My name is Sunny Unga, Kahuku resident, and I strongly support my Petition No.20-01 proposing the adoption of a new administrative rule that will ensure that a public meeting be held to obtain and consider the views of the community before the BOE provides official comment regarding project nearby schools or public library.

DOE is frequently asked to provide official comments regarding projects occurring near schools even without its authority over proposed developments. As a well established state government institution, the DOE's decisions carry significance and have strong influence. The DOE has provided numerous comments on these proposed developments near schools up to date and will continue to do so. It is important that the DOE consult affected communities before it supports or makes any official comments on any projects or developments near their school. It is crucial that the DOE's official stance and comments align with its community in order to avoid what happened with the Kahuku Schools and its own community.

The developer for NPM asked the DOE to provide an official comment regarding its project that currently towers over Kahuku Elementary, Intermediate, and High School. In the EIS, the DOE stated that the students will hear the turbines but stated no concerns regarding the project. On the contrary, this NPM wind project lead to a mass arrest of the Kahuku community where majority of the arrests were mothers, grandmothers, and aunties who were extremely concerned regarding the proximity of these turbines to our children's schools and how this would detrimentally impact the health, safety and the learning environment of our keiki. This huge disconnect caused much contention and conflict with the community and the DOE.

Holding a public hearing and getting the affected communities input prior to the DOE making any official comments on these projects near schools would allow the DOE to bridge this gap. It will allow the DOE to become aware of parents concerns and provide an opportunity to address them early on in the process.

In addition, I believe that the DOE could have made a difference in resolving the parents' concerns with its influence and weight as a well established government agency. Had the DOE advocated and stood with its affected students and community in solidarity and expressed grave concerns on how this project would detrimentally impact the health, safety and learning environment of our keiki; I believe it would have been difficult for other decision making agencies, city and state leaders to ignore these concerns and allow these projects to move forward without addressing them. These 568 feet industrial turbines are now towering over Kahuku Elementary, Intermediate, and High school. Have any of you personally come to visit the Kahuku schools to personally witness the tragedy of these turbines right next to our keiki's learning facilities? These are the closest and largest land turbines ever located to a school and residential community in the U.S. We

cannot ignore the detrimental impacts that this close proximity brings to the very students the DOE is to advocate for.

The DOE has a duty to ensure that the students and faculty have a safe learning environment. If projects nearby schools compromises the safety, wellbeing, and its learning environment, the DOE must be able to address this especially prior to making any official comment on EIS's. One of the best ways in finding out these concerns is by talking to the very community that will be impacted by these projects. There would be no issue if there are no community concerns. However, if there are legitimate concerns then the DOE must be willing to support its students and advocate on behalf of them to ensure a healthy and safe learning environment and be expressed in its official comments to EIS's or official statement.

DOE may state that any comments the department provides to state or county agencies or private landowners on proposed developments' are its own views and not the views of the community, and therefore irrelevant. However, we all understand that the community is an essential part of the school and the school is also an essential part of the community especially in rural communities. Oftentimes, the school becomes part of the community's identity as in the case in Kahuku. With this, it is difficult to justify that the DOE's stance has no impact on its community and is separable. If the school supports a project, it gives the appearance to other entities that the community supports it as well. The problem occurs when the school makes an official comment or stance in support of a project while the community opposes. This created much contention with the school and community and our children suffered as a result of that.

Our community went through a traumatic experience during the mass arrest of over 200 community members. Our children saw their grandparents, mothers, fathers, aunties and uncles, cousins get arrested over this project. Many students expressed sadness, anger, and anxiety in school during this time. Rather than helping our students process these complex emotions, the school administration and faculty prohibited teachers from discussing any issues related to the project that was happening literally in their community. In addition, parents of students attempted numerous times through email, letter writing, meetings to raise concerns to no avail feeling ignored and shut down.

We cannot allow another tragedy like this to happen in another community with its own school where they are supposed to feel safe and empowered. More so than ever, we need greater transparency and a better relationship between the school and its community. This rule change can foster a positive relationship with the BOE and community. Please let's learn from what happened in Kahuku and improve how we do things. The first step is by accepting this petition for rule change. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Sunny Unga



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony in Support of Sunny Unga's Petition for Rule Change

1 message

Wilson Unga <wilsonunga@gmail.com>

Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 10:28 AM

To: Testimony.BOE@boe.hawaii.gov

-Special Meeting December 17th, 2020 at 11 am.

-Agenda Item: II.A, IV.A, IV.B

Aloha Board Members,

My name is Wilson Unga, a lifelong resident of Kahuku, and I strongly support Sunny Unga's Petition No.20-01 proposing the adoption of a new administrative rule that will ensure that a public meeting be held to obtain and consider the views of the community before the BOE provides official comment regarding project nearby schools or public library.

Wilson A. Unga, R.A., J.D., M.B.A.

Real Estate Agent at Green Realty Group

[1888 Kalakaua Ave., Suite C312 | Honolulu, HI 96815](#)

Phone: (808) 352-7870

Email: wilsonunga@gmail.com



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony in Support of Sunny Unga's Petition for Rule Change

1 message

Kananiloa'ānuenue Ponciano <raylans_mommy15@icloud.com>
To: Testimony.BOE@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 10:33 AM

Kananiloaanuenue Ponciano
Kahuku Farmer and Resident
Meeting December 17th, 2020 Special Meeting at 11:00am.
Agenda Item: II.A, IV.A, IV.B

December 16th, 2020
10:30am

Aloha! My name is Kananiloaanuenue Ponciano and I strongly support Sunny Unga's petition No.20-01 proposing the adoption of a new administrative rule that will ensure public meeting be held to obtain and consider the views of the community before the BOE provides official comment regarding projects nearby schools or public library.

BOE should be held accountable for the lack of transparency they have shown to us parents here in Kahuku and I hope with this rule change other communities will be saved from investors and developers who's purpose is to sell out the health, safety and mental well-being of our children for profit on their development projects. I am urging you to accept and adopt this rule change NO.20-01 and right the wrong you have done to our children.

Mahalo nui,

Kananiloa'ānuenue Ponciano
Mother, Organic Farmer and Kahuku Resident
Kahuku, HI 96731



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony in Support of Sunny Unga's Petition for rule change

1 message

Alexander Ponciano <aponciano731@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 10:53 AM

Alexander Ponciano
Meeting: Dec 17th, 2020
Special meeting 11am
Agena item: II.A, IV.A, IV.B

My name is Alexander Ponciano and I strongly support Sunny Unga's petition No.20-01 proposing the adoption of a new administrative rule that will ensure public meeting be held to obtain and consider the views of the community before the BOE provides official comment regarding projects nearby schools or public libraries.

The BOE violated the sunshine law and held a secret meeting behind closed doors and because of this it has caused a lot of pushback, distrust and suspicion that BOE's intentions are Not pono and negligent to the Health and safety of our children and it also violated the sunshine law. This rule change can create a better transparent relationship with the BOE and the community.

I support Sunny Unga's Petition for rule change.

Aloha,

Alexander Ponciano
Kahuku Resident



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony in support of Sunny Unga's Petition for rule change

1 message

Ina Taea <ina.taea@power-constructors.com>

Tue, Dec 15, 2020 at 7:08 AM

To: "testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov" <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Ina Taea

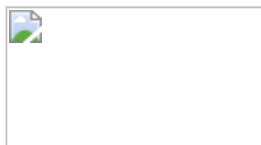
Dec 17, 2020 Special Meeting 11am

Agenda Item II.A, IV.A, IV.B

My name is Ina Taea and I strongly support Sunny Unga's Petition No 20-01 proposing the adoption of a new administrative rule that will ensure public meeting be held to obtain and consider views of the community before the BOE provides official comment regarding project nearby schools or public library's. This was wrong on so many levels and I'm appalled at how this was handled. I've attended both schools being affected by these windmills and it makes me sick to see what's being done to protect our keiki. This is Hewa!!!! I pray that all of you who have a voice in the state to make the difference do it and if not I hope one day this will happen to you or someone you love so you can feel all that we are going through w/no justice and no voice. Just because we live in the country, in a less affluent community doesn't give anyone the right to do this. One of the smallest communities in the state that bring out some of the best athletes & scholars and even the most NFL players in the state. Someone thinks it'd be a great idea to put the tallest turbines in the NATION?!? Are you kidding me? I'd like to challenge you folks to come take a drive w/your ohana and play in the playground in the elementary or public park between the schools and tell me how you feel seeing your precious loved ones below those massive turbines that if malfunctions, burns or blade throws our keiki and staff have no protection. There is no \$ that will soothe any aching soul should something happen and a law suit is made. This should have never happened, our community has always been against the turbines. But unless you have \$\$ you are not heard. This is not right!

Ina Taea

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INA TAEA



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony in support of Sunny Unga's petition for rule change

1 message

Fifita Unga <fifitaunga@icloud.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Tue, Dec 15, 2020 at 8:36 AM

Fifita Unga
Dec 17, 2020 Special Meeting 11am
Agenda items II.A, IV.A, IV.B

My name is Fifita and I strongly support Sunny Unga's petition No-20-01 proposing the adoption of a new administrative rule that will ensure public meeting be held to obtain and consider community views of the community before BOE provides official comment regarding project nearby schools or public libraries.

Mahalo!
Fifita Unga

Sent from my iPhone



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony in support of Sunny Unga's Petition for rule change

1 message

Terava Casey <teravahutia@gmail.com>

Tue, Dec 15, 2020 at 8:40 AM

To: "testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov" <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Lana Casey
Dec 17, 2020 Special Meeting 11am
Agenda Item II.A, IV.A, IV.B

My name is Lana and I strongly support Sunny Unga's Petition No 20-01 proposing the adoption of a new administrative rule that will ensure public meeting be held to obtain and consider views of the community before the BOE provides official comment regarding project nearby schools or public library's.

Mahalo!
Lana Casey



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony in support of Sunny Unga's Petition for rule change

1 message

Falon Meredith <falonmachiko@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Tue, Dec 15, 2020 at 9:30 AM

Falon Meredith
Dec 17, 2020 Special Meeting 11am
Agenda Item II.A, IV.A, IV.B

My name is Falon and I strongly support Sunny Unga's Petition No 20-01 proposing the adoption of a new administrative rule that will ensure public meeting be held to obtain and consider views of the community before the BOE provides official comment regarding project nearby schools or public library's.

Mahalo!
Falon Meredith



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

Sina P. Pili <pili.sina.p@gmail.com>
To: Testimony.BOE@boe.hawaii.gov

Tue, Dec 15, 2020 at 10:24 AM

Dear Board of Education,

I support the petition for rule change to require the Department of Education (DOE) to hold a public meeting for community input on proposed developments near schools before the DOE makes an official statement. I am a resident with children within the Kahuku High School district. My son has special needs and the wind turbines may have a negative affect on his learning and health. At no time, has the DOE considered the special needs of students or health of our community students when supporting this detrimental wind turbine project.

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Mahalo,**Sina P. Pili**



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony support of Sunny Unga's Petition for rule change

1 message

Livingston Unga <ungapita@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 8:31 AM

Livingston Unga
Dec 17, 2020 Special Meeting 11am
Agenda Item II.A, IV.A, IV.B

My name is Livingston Unga and I strongly support Sunny Unga's Petition No 20-01 proposing the adoption of a new administrative rule that will ensure public meeting be held to obtain and consider views of the community before the BOE provides official comment regarding project nearby schools or public library's.

Mahalo!
Livingston Unga

Sent from my iPhone



Special Meeting Dec 17, 2020 at 11:00am
Agenda Item II.A, IV.A, IV.B

December 16, 2020

With sadness and disdain, The Lāhui Foundation feels compelled to step forward and use our platform to speak up alongside our community and voice our opinion on the Board of Educations support of the Na Pua Makani project. This contentious project has brought to light many issues that have been ongoing and unresolved in dealings with the community.

The BOE, being a Government institution, is a representative of the welfare and stewardship of children's education with a role to ensure that school districts are responsive to the values, beliefs, and priorities of their community. As government officials and public servants, The BOE is supposed to be in service and employment of the people of Hawai'i, not self-serving for-profit corporations that hold money over our communities' livelihoods and well-being.

The overnight industrialization of the Kahuku school zone is a vast community issue that should have required the Department of Education to exercise much better communication and caution before deciding to support or reject the Na Pua Makani project. Furthermore, the silencing of students, faculty, and staff by the DOE is extremely disheartening. Had the DOE consulted with the community before supporting the Na Pua Makani project, it would have created an opportunity for the community to voice their concerns regarding this project and possibly have avoided traumatic events and the conflict between the schools and the Kahuku community. The BOE's actions speak more of a dictatorship system, where the affected community and employees have no say in the decision-making that directly impacts them. By not consulting with the community before supporting the Na Pua Makani project, the DOE have not only lost the tentative trust of the Kahuku community, but the damage caused by this will likely have long-standing and far-reaching consequences.

The Sunshine law was designed to protect citizens, provide transparency, and create a dialogue for the community to voice their concerns regarding such projects. The Lāhui Foundation strongly supports Sunny Ungas petition No.20-01 proposing the adoption of a new administrative rule that will ensure public meetings be held to obtain and consider the views of the community before the BOE provides official comment regarding projects nearby schools or public libraries.

We hope that this hearing will allow the board to see how important it is for the DOE to consult with affected communities prior to making any official statement or support for projects near schools.

E lanakila ke Akua,

Lāhui Foundation



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

Rachel Tachibana <rachelnmt@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 1:43 AM

Name: Rachel Tachibana
Agenda item: BOE Special Hearing
Position: Support the petition for rule change

Aloha,

I would like to submit this written testimony to support Sunny Unga's petition for Rule Change. I have a lot of and friends who live in Kahuku next to those monstrous turbines. I also have a lot of family and friends who attend and work at the schools. I opposed Napua Makani Windturbines, AES. This is terrible that there is no safety protocol for the schools. Numerous students got together to try and have a voice in the decision being made for them. If BOE had a meeting with the parents and community then it would've impacted the decision of AES windturbines and the Laie Climbworks Ziplines. It makes me sick to my stomach to read the official comments from the Schools in support of these terrible projects. My nieces and nephews are having a hard time with the shadow flickers affecting their seizures. Please change the Rule and support Sunny Unga for all of Hawaii's Schools.

Mahalo,

Rachel Tachibana



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony SUPPORT for Petition no 20-011 message

Anthony Calimlim <uluadreamer@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

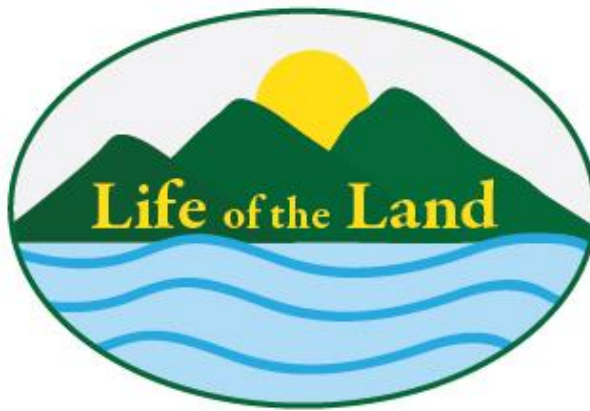
Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 11:07 AM

I SUPPORT the petetion no. 20-01

BOE and DOE is a public service system for the community of Hawaii, NOT for corporations.

I am a Kahuku resident. My children attend Kahuku high and Elementary schools and the DOE/BOE clearly displays support for the corporate organizations to benefit in our community over the very children they are designed to teach, grow and support.

Anthony Calimlim
41 years Kahuku resident



P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, Hawai`i 96837-0158
Phone: 927-0709 henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com

December 17, 2020

Catherine Payne, Chairperson
State of Hawaii
Board of Education
1390 Miller St 4th Floor,
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Petition No. 20-01

SUPPORT

Aloha Board Members

Life of the Land is Hawai`i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for 50 years. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sound energy and land use policies and to promote open government through research, education, advocacy and, when necessary, litigation.

The question is whether the Department should issue policy statements with or without public input and with or without adopting Hawai`i Administrative Rules.

Life of the Land favors meaningful public input and Hawai`i Administrative Rules.

The fact that the department has no control over authorizing proposed development is irrelevant to the fact that the department can and has responded to requests for comments and can and has initiated the filing of comments.

The Board of Education and the Department of Education sometimes comments on projects that are geographically beyond the borders of school property.

The Department has highlighted its support for food and energy beyond its borders. “Addressing the theme of this year’s World Conservation Congress (WCC), ‘Planet at a Crossroads,’ these resources are a starting point for teachers, students and schools to participate and contribute to the primary areas of focus — namely biodiversity, food and water security, and climate change.”¹

Strategic Plan 2017-2020 (“SP”)²

“We are heartened by how much these community priorities align with growing initiatives and investments within the DoE and public education in Hawai‘i. Superintendent’s Message. SP at 2

“Every student, school, and community is unique.” SP at 3

"Lastly, as we look to the future, we know that part of the legacy of our special island home is to support the community relationships, culture, values, and sense of place that enables students to thrive." SP at 4.

“We believe that our special island home prepares us to lead globally. our unique values, sense of place, and strong community relationships are increasingly important here and around the world.” SP at 5

¹ <http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/TeachingAndLearning/StudentLearning/Stem/Pages/WCC.aspx>

² <http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/DOE%20Forms/Advancing%20Education/SP2017-20.pdf>

“This updated strategic Plan strikes a new balance between maintaining shared expectations for all schools and students, and supporting diverse approaches and community-based objectives” SP at 11

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math: " STEM education will prepare students to understand the local and global challenges of the 21st century and inspire them to become lifelong learners who will confront these challenges and seek solutions.”³

Our endorsing the Department to establish rules for meaningful community engagement and input is not meant to endorse any specific distance.

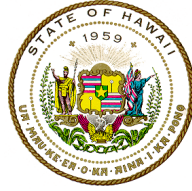
Mahalo

/s/ Henry Curtis

Henry Curtis

Executive Director

³ <http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/TeachingAndLearning/StudentLearning/Stem/Pages/home.aspx>



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Hawaii Board of Education
Special Meeting on December 17, 2020

Submitted via Email
Testimony.BOE@boe.hawaii.gov

Re: Petition Number 20-01
Proposing new rule for public input

Aloha, Chair Payne and Members of the Board.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my **support** for amending the process by which the Department of Education responds to comment requests. Any such comment by the DOE should be informed by the interests and will of the impacted community.

The purpose of this proposed amendment would not create an undue burden on DOE or shift responsibility for gathering public comment from proposing entities to DOE. Rather, if asked to comment, the BOE could either decline to provide any comment or make sure it has considered all the facts before commenting.

By asking DOE for comment, the applicant seeks another voice to add to its public outreach, a voice that might not have been heard otherwise. At a minimum, the school principal and school advisory council should be polled. When there is a potential controversy, an opportunity for public input related to school operations or concerns should be welcomed.

In the case of the Na Pua Makani wind project, a controversial development that had been opposed by the Kahuku community for years, the DOE missed an opportunity to accurately comment. Community concerns, particularly about health and wellbeing of students and residents, are school concerns.

Informed decision making requires informed input. DOE would do better by considering the opinion of affected communities before commenting on controversial projects. Surely, the BOE has it within its kuleana to improve its commenting process.

Mahalo for your favorable consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gil Riviere".

Gil Riviere
Senator, District 23
Oahu's North and Windward Shores



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony/ Board of Education

1 message

Paula Duke <dukepaula@hotmail.com>

Tue, Dec 15, 2020 at 7:31 PM

To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

I support Sunny Unga for rule change with Board of Education. We pay taxes therefore we are the shareholders of our schools. Our Children deserve safe, healthy, and accountable learning environments. We should have BOE transparency and public hearings especially regarding what can affect our children. Shame on the Board for not caring for our keiki.

We have the right to know and the right for safe learning facilities.

Paula Duke mother, community member



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony in support of Sunny Unga's Petition for Rule Change

1 message

Priscilla Tamangaro <priscilla.tamangaro@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Tue, Dec 15, 2020 at 1:26 PM

Priscilla Wong
Dec 17, 2020 Special Meeting 11am
Agenda Item II.A, IV.A, IV.B

My name is Priscilla and I strongly support Sunny Unga's Petition No 20-01 proposing the adoption of a new administrative rule that will ensure public meeting be held to obtain and consider views of the community before the BOE provides official comment regarding project nearby schools or public library's.

Mahalo,

Priscilla Wong