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## Agenda item VI A

1 message

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**Cheryl B** <burgharc@gmail.com>

Wed, Feb 15, 2023 at 9:35 AM

To: Testimony BOE <Testimony.BOE@boe.hawaii.gov>

To the BOE

I am in total SUPPORT of the BOE taking time to reinforce, strengthen our policies and feel this is a good start to the discussions that need to be held. I don't want to muddle the intent for this item VI A so just wish to comment the following:

*"Who and how is it determined what is "disruptive or coercive"?"*

I realize that using the above terms seems clear to all of you but in light of the nature of humans, I feel that it is very subjective and a retired educator can see this causing some pressure on administrators and community. I am not sure how to make it more objective but wanted to offer this comment.

This change should make it easier for the policy to be understood but we also need to be ready for those who will try to find the smallest loophole. Another comment goes along with the Kennedy decision. I understand that it says that it is on his personal time which I am not questioning. What I would like to remind the BOE is that students, especially in a team situation might feel that they have to join even if the school person/coach does not ask them to join. This is not something the BOE can change because it's a US Supreme Court decision but it definitely something which all adults should be aware. Lastly, while the US courts and laws govern our paths, Hawai'i is unique and we need to look at the ways of our islands to move forward.

Thank you for reading my mana`o on this item.

Add: I hope at some point we will look along with the State at the current calendar which promotes religion by its' design.



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## Board Action on amendment of Board Policy 900-3, entitled “Religion and Public Schools”

1 message

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**Abigail Rose** <molokaipony@gmail.com>  
To: Testimony.BOE@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, Feb 15, 2023 at 9:42 AM

As a former teacher and a member of a religious minority, I must ask that the Board of Education does it's job to protect student's rights to a education which is not influenced by religion.

Teachers have a big influence on students' behavior. By allowing Teachers and other staff to perform religious actions, such as prayers, in view of students you are allowing religion in the schools. It is easy enough for a staff member to pray during their lunch time or in their offices.

As a former public school student from a minority religion, I can tell you that I was already bullied. For my religious views. I can't imagine how much worse it would be if teachers are allowed to perform religious rituals in front of their students.

We all know that the Federal Court has been filled with conservative religious judges. This particular case does not warrant changing the current policy of Hawai'i Public Schools! Please do not pass this amendment!

Abigail Rose  
503-320-9202



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## Testimony

1 message

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**Kyle Shimabukuro** <kyle.shimabukuro@k12.hi.us>  
To: Testimony.BOE@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, Feb 15, 2023 at 3:23 PM

Meeting: 2023-02-16 BOE General Meeting

Agenda Item:

- Amendment of Board Policy 900-3, entitled "Religion and Public Schools"
- Amendment of Board Policy E-2, entitled "Mission, Vision, Values, and Beliefs"

Position: Support for both amendments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kyle Shimabukuro  
Principal

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