



Testimony: Feb. 16 General Business Mtg., Agenda Item VI.B

1 message

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Cc: "Bruce D. Voss" <BVoss@legalthawaii.com>

Mon, Feb 13, 2023 at 11:12 AM

Aloha, Chair Voss and Board Members.

I am writing on behalf of three grassroots community organizations (HALE Hawai'i, Hawai'i A.C.E Initiative, and Operation Grateful: Health & Safety for Keiki & Community), to comment on item VI.B on the General Business Meeting agenda for February 16, 2023. This agenda item proposes to amend Board Policy E-2 to align its language with the Strategic Plan that the Board recently adopted.

We have no opposition, of course, to amending Board policies to reflect changes in the Strategic Plan. But we would like to point out that something is unfortunately missing from both the existing and proposed versions of Policy E-2: an expressly stated commitment from the Board to **protecting and promoting the health and safety** of our public school students.

The strategic plan and the proposed Policy E-2 both adopt, as a guiding principle, the 'ōlelo no'ēau "A'ōhe 'ulu e loa'a i ka pōkole o ka lou." The point of this proverb is that in order to take full advantage of an opportunity, one must be prepared with the proper resources. Surely this encompasses the principle that students learn best when they are healthy and safe, so that their education is not interrupted by absences due to school-related illness or injury. Indeed, we have heard Board members acknowledge at meetings that protecting the health and safety of our keiki while at school is a core part of the Board's mission.

However, this outlook is not expressly reflected anywhere in the proposed version of Policy E-2. We urge the Board to amend the proposed version to add the following language to the proposed policy (proposed addition in ***bold italics***):

- 'A'ōhe 'ulu e loa'a i ka pōkole o ka lou. (There is no success without preparation.)* Nurturing individual strengths, increasing proficiencies and abilities to be able to serve, ***promoting and protecting the health and safety of our students***, and fostering excellence in ourselves and those we serve.

Mahalo for your careful consideration of this comment.

Sarah Hofstadter, Kihei resident, on behalf of:
HALE Hawai'i (www.HALEHawaii.cc, Facebook.com/HALEHawaii808/
Hawai'i A.C.E Initiative (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/353280102797757>), and
Operation Grateful: Health & Safety for Keiki and Community (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1281845142641641>)

Board of Education

February 16, 2023

Testimony

Susan Pcola-Davis

Special Meeting Info Item

AGENDA

II. Discussion Item

- A. Update on Hawaii Public Education 2023-2029 Strategic Plan (Phase II), Implementation Plan
Lack of an active link since Friday to prepare a meaningful testimony doesn't give the public any information in order to prepare. If a link isn't provided before 48 hour rule all testimony will be late or there will be no testimony on this item.

Board of Education

February 16, 2023

Testimony

Susan Pcola-Davis

General Business Meeting

VI. Action Items

- B. Board Action on amendment of Board Policy E-2, entitled "Mission, Vision, Values, and Beliefs"
Vision, Mission, and Core Values Makes better sense for the policy title.

Board Policies need to be reviewed and updated. This would be in the order of the document when each is mentioned.

At the last meeting I mentioned that I felt Health and Safety were missing or just being assumed. Is Board Policy 103-1 sufficient?

POLICY 103-1 HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The Department shall establish guidelines to ensure compliance with federal school wellness regulations. The guidelines shall include, but shall not be limited to, the establishment of:

- (1) Goals for nutrition education, health, physical activity, physical education, and other school-based activities that are designed to promote student wellness, as deemed appropriate by the Department;

(2) Requirements for all foods and beverages that are sold or made available on each school campus during the school day, with the objectives of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity; and

(3) **A plan for measuring implementation of the wellness policy** that includes annual progress reports with school level data and is completed in partnership with other agencies, as appropriate; and

(4) **A committee which meets annually** to participate in the wellness policy process including the review and update of wellness guidelines.

Rationale: The Board recognizes that schools play an integral part in educating and exposing students to wellness practices, health-enhancing behaviors, good nutrition, and physical and other school-based activities that lend to student achievement and learning. [Approved: 06/07/2016 (as Board Policy 103.1); amended: 06/21/2016 (renumbered as Board Policy 103-1] Former policy 1110-6 history: approved: 11/16/1995; amended: 08/17/2006