



Housing Hawai'i's Future  
PO Box 3043  
Honolulu, HI 96802-3043

June 15, 2023

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Education  
RE: Presentation on 2023 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee Chairperson summary of 2023  
Legislative Session

Housing Hawai'i's Future is a movement led by young locals who will create opportunities for Hawai'i's next generation by ending the workforce housing shortage.

Unfortunately, financial illiteracy puts home ownership out of reach for many families.

I've spoken with loan counselors who meet local families that know *nothing* about credit. They have no credit score because they didn't learn how to use credit responsibly. Or they took out bad loans, not knowing it would affect their ability to purchase a home.

By the time these families learn the basics, they have already made years of mistakes.

This is a preventable tragedy. **All we need to do is teach personal finance in public schools.**

This session, [HB 936](#) was introduced by 10 Senators and 27 Representatives. The bill would have included personal financial education in the half-credit Personal Transition Plan.

Despite an overwhelming show of support in the House, HB 936 was not scheduled for a hearing in the Senate, thanks in part to this Board's testimony in opposition.

In testimony opposing House Bill 936, Board Member Bill Arakaki wrote, "The Board generally opposes proposed legislation that diminishes the Board's power to formulate statewide educational policy as envisioned and established by Article X, Section 3, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii."

Okay, Bill. If you want the power, then you have the responsibility that comes with it.

**I humbly ask all members of the board to answer these two questions:**

**"Why aren't our keiki learning personal finance?"**

**"Will you commit to ensuring they do?"**

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sterling Higa".

Sterling Higa  
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