



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Hawaii Board of Education
Special Meeting on January 14, 2021

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. If the Board believes the proposed amendment would be unworkable and overcomplicated, perhaps there is a middle ground that the Board could support.

The purpose of this proposed amendment is to ensure that comments offered by the DOE are not contradictory to the will and interests of the affected school community.

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.

Surely, the BOE has it within its kuleana to improve its commenting process. The question, then, is how? If not with this amendment, then can the Board provide additional guidance to the DOE to help ensure that comments fully consider community sentiments?

Mahalo for your favorable consideration.

Respectfully,

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