JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

ROY M. TAKUMII
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAIʻI
BOARD OF EDUCATION
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November 12, 2026

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Roy M. Takumi
Chairperson, Board of Education

AGENDA ITEM: Designation of Board Members to an ad hoc committee (a permitted interaction group pursuant to paragraph 92-2.5(b)(2), Hawaii Revised Statutes) concerning the 2027 legislative session

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- I propose the establishment of the 2027 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee to engage with the Hawaii State Legislature (Legislature) for the 2027 legislative session, which shall include any special session(s) that may be convened.
- The proposed approach will allow the Board to be proactive in its dealings with the Legislature and with stakeholders, and will also provide for timely comment on proposed legislation. The approach follows Board of Education (Board) precedent related to legislative sessions.
- I recommend the authorization and appointment of Board members to an ad hoc committee charged with the duties described in this memorandum, as well as approval of the 2027 legislative policy positions of the Board.

II. BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Though the Legislature is in session for only part of the year, legislative policymaking is a year-round process that involves planning, engagement, and other preparation prior to the start of the session. The Board should

have policy conversations with the Governor and Legislature as the Board's partners in education policymaking, beyond the legislative session.

The Sunshine Law, in section 92-2.5(b)(2), Hawaii Revised Statutes, allows two or more Board members–but no more than four–to present, discuss, or negotiate a position the Board has adopted, provided the Board makes the assignment and establishes the scope of each member's authority before any presentation, discussion, or negotiation takes place. Section 5.7 of the Board Bylaws allows the Board to form an ad hoc committee "for a discrete and specific purpose of interest to the Board" and "for a definite time period or until its specific function has been completed." However, the ad hoc committee "shall not exist longer than one year from the date of authorization unless specifically authorized by its charge." The Board must approve the charge of the ad hoc committee and this memorandum describes its envisioned responsibilities envisioned.

Since the 2019 legislative session, the Board has formed an ad hoc committee that has allowed the Board to take a more active role in engaging with the Legislature, while ensuring compliance with Sunshine Law requirements. The ad hoc committee mechanism has allowed for members to attend hearings, submit testimony, and meet with legislators. It has also allowed the Board to make its policy positions, especially on a number of important legislative measures, known to the Legislature and the public in a timely and effective manner.

Ad Hoc Committee Charge and Member Authority

The charge of the ad hoc committee, which will be known as the 2027 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee (Committee), is to present, discuss, and negotiate the policy positions to be adopted by the Board as related to the 2027 legislative session, which shall include any special session(s) that may be subsequently convened, though in no event later than one year from the date of authorization of the Committee. All members of the Committee shall have the authority to present, discuss, or negotiate any of the 2027 legislative policy positions the Board adopts and subsequently amends. The Committee Chairperson has the additional authority to call Committee meetings, schedule and provide periodic reports to the Board, and submit written testimony to the Legislature on behalf of the Board, as approved by the Committee, and to delegate such authority to a fellow Committee member.

Timeline

The following table outlines the projected timeline for the work of the ad hoc committee:

Date	Activity
Fall 2026	Board establishes ad hoc committee and adopts legislative policy positions.
Fall 2026 to early January 2027, and before the convening of any subsequent special session(s)	Ad hoc committee conducts pre-session work with stakeholders and legislators.
Spring 2027, and during any subsequent special session(s)	Ad hoc committee tracks legislation and conducts in-session work with stakeholders and legislators, including testifying, as appropriate.
Summer 2027, and until after any subsequent special session(s)	Ad hoc committee provides Governor advice on enrolled legislation and concludes its work.

III. RECOMMENDATION

Based on the foregoing, I recommend the Board authorize the creation of an ad hoc committee charged with the duties described in this memorandum. I recommend appointing Board Members Bill Arakaki, Mary Hattori, Wesley Lo, and myself to the ad hoc committee, with myself serving as committee chairperson.

Finally, I recommend the Board adopt the 2027 legislative policy positions attached as Exhibit A.

Proposed motion: "Moved to:

1. **Authorize the creation of the 2027 legislative ad hoc committee as a permitted interaction group formed pursuant to section 92-2.5(b)(2), Hawaii Revised Statutes, with the charge and authority defined in Board Chairperson Takumi's memorandum dated November 12, 2026;**
2. **Appoint Board Chairperson Roy Takumi and Board Members Bill Arakaki, Mary Hattori, and Wesley Lo, as members of the ad hoc committee, with Board Chairperson Takumi serving as chairperson of the committee; and**
3. **Adopt the legislative policy positions explained in Board Chairperson Takumi's memorandum dated November 12, 2026."**

Exhibit A

Proposed Board of Education 2026 Legislative Policy Positions

BOARD OF EDUCATION 2027 LEGISLATIVE POLICY POSITIONS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION POLICY POSITIONS

The Board supports proposed legislation that addresses the needs identified in the Department's Board-approved biennium operating and capital improvement program budget requests for fiscal years 2027 and 2028.

LIBRARIES POLICY POSITIONS

The Board supports proposed legislation that addresses the needs identified in the Hawaii State Public Library System's Board-approved biennium operating and capital improvement program budget requests for fiscal years 2027 and 2028.

CHARTER SCHOOL POLICY POSITIONS

The Board supports proposed legislation that addresses charter school facilities needs as a longstanding and unresolved issue that the Board cites in its annual charter school report to the Legislature.

The Board supports measures that seek to reexamine governance, authority, and accountability structures of the charter school system as recommended in the Board's previous annual charter school reports to the Legislature.

EARLY LEARNING POLICY POSITIONS

The Board supports proposed legislation that expands access to high-quality early learning opportunities for more children and promotes the development of more high-quality early educators.

GENERAL POLICY POSITIONS

The Board supports proposed legislation that:

- Increases the compensation of school-level employees in public schools;
- Aligns with the priorities of the Department of Education, including the Hawaii Public Education 2023-2029 Strategic Plan, and the Hawaii State Public Library System;
- Enhances public education and empowers the Board to effectively serve public education stakeholders;
- Supports informed decision-making and priority-setting through thoughtful and intentional engagement with stakeholders; and
- Improves transparency and access to information to encourage an informed and engaged community of citizens.

The Board 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;
- Requires the Board to assume management responsibilities over employees other than the Superintendent of Education and the State Librarian (or heads of other agencies over which the Board has governance authority) rather than remain focused on its constitutional responsibility of policymaking;
- Creates additional duties or responsibilities for the Department or Board without appropriating adequate, commensurate resources to accomplish such duties or responsibilities; and
- Makes the organizational structure and lines of authority within the public education system, including the Department of Education and its attached agencies, less clear or more cumbersome.

The Board takes no position on legislation relating to the Board's membership, as the Board believes it is most appropriate for the Legislature and Governor to decide such matters. The Board will endeavor to provide the Legislature with any relevant information relating to Board membership matters to enable the Legislature to make informed decisions.

The Board defers to the Department or its administratively attached agencies, where appropriate, on operational and implementation matters.