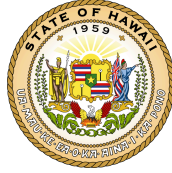


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



ROY M. TAKUMI
CHAIRPERSON

**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION
PAPA HO'ONA'AUAO**
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

October 8, 2026

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Roy M. Takumi
Chairperson, Board of Education

AGENDA ITEM: Action on designation of board members to an investigative committee (a permitted interaction group pursuant to paragraph 92-2.5(b)(1), Hawaii Revised Statutes), concerning a comprehensive audit of Board of Education policies and policy framework

I. BACKGROUND

Under Article X, Section 3, of the Hawaii State Constitution, the Board of Education (Board) is granted authority to formulate statewide educational policy, as provided by law. Likewise, section 302A-1101, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), grants the Board the power, in accordance with law, to formulate statewide educational policy, while section 26-12, HRS, establishes that the Board is the head of the Department of Education (Department) and requires the Superintendent of Education to administer educational programs under policies established by the Board.

In addition, Board Policy 400-1 delineates several areas of policy development to ensure effective and comprehensive oversight of the Department. It also states that policies should be linked to student outcome objectives, curricular frameworks, and assessments.

It is critical, therefore, that the Board develop a coherent and sustainable policy framework comprising policies that reflect appropriate roles and responsibilities between the Board and the staff and systems under its jurisdiction, establish effective and consistent oversight and reporting mechanisms for implementation, and clearly reflect the mission, vision, and values the Board has set out.

II. **DISCUSSION**

The Board currently maintains 206 distinct policies that address wide-ranging policy issues under the Board's jurisdiction, including those related to the Department, the Hawai'i State Public Library System, and charter schools. The current policy structure is the result of a multi-year policy audit that began in 2012 and wrapped up in 2016. This policy audit largely focused on formulating ends policies (policies that delineate outcomes) and means policies (policies that specify methods to achieve and maintain those outcomes). The work also included a review of then-existing policies to identify those that were no longer needed, and restructuring and renumbering all policies to align with the Strategic Plan that was in place at the time.¹

It has been a decade since Board policies have been comprehensively and thoroughly reviewed, while global historic events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and disruptive technology such as artificial intelligence have drastically changed both the educational landscape and the social context within which it operates. It is critical, therefore, that the Board once again undertake the work of reviewing and auditing Board policies to ensure that they reflect our core values and the needs of the students and communities we serve.

Integral to this policy review work is consideration of the fundamental policy framework that underlies the Board's governance logic and engaging with questions around guiding principles such as:

- What criteria should guide whether an issue is addressed in Board policy?
- To what extent should Board policy prescribe mechanisms for process, reporting, and implementation?
- How will the Board distinguish policy direction from operational implementation?
- What criteria should be used to determine whether a new policy is warranted?

¹ See in particular the [Permitted Interaction Group Report and Recommendations](#) dated November 7, 2014, and the [associated policy-related findings](#) (attachments to the [General Business Meeting](#) that took place on November 18, 2014).

An investigative committee established pursuant to [paragraph 92-2.5\(b\)\(1\), HRS](#), and [section 5.8 of the Board's bylaws](#), will allow the Board to more effectively and efficiently conduct its scope of work and devise thoughtful and informed recommendations for consideration and Board action.

The intended objective of this investigative committee is to create a coherent, streamlined, sustainable, and appropriately focused policy framework and body of policies. The intended scope of work, therefore, will include a holistic review of existing Board policies within the context of the larger legal and regulatory framework; identification of policy gaps and redundancies; research and fact-finding around educational policy frameworks in other jurisdictions; and the development of a structured and sustainable policy framework and approach to future policy formulation and organizational logic, as well as recommendations for policy deletions, additions, and consolidations that align with the revised policy framework.

The investigative committee will present its findings and recommendations at a general business meeting of the Board no later than May 2027. The Board will take action on these recommendations at the subsequent general business meeting(s).

Pursuant to section 5.8 of the Board's bylaws, the Board is required to take action to assign Board members to this investigative committee, to designate the Board member who will serve as chairperson of the investigative committee, and to define the scope of work.

III. RECOMMENDATION

Based on the foregoing, I recommend the Board establish an investigative committee tasked with conducting a comprehensive audit of Board policies and existing policy structure, and developing recommendations for Board action related to the committee's scope of work as outlined above.

Proposed Motion:

"Moved to:

- 1. Establish an investigative committee (a permitted interaction group pursuant to paragraph 92-2.5(b)(1), Hawaii Revised Statutes), tasked with conducting a comprehensive audit of Board policies and policy framework and developing recommendations for Board action related to the committee's scope of work as outlined in Board Chairperson Roy M. Takumi's memorandum dated October 8, 2026; and**

- 2. Designate Board Chairperson Roy M. Takumi, and Board Members Bill Arakaki, Mary Hattori, and Wesley Lo to serve on the investigative committee, with Board Member Hattori serving as chairperson.”**

Exhibit A

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