



Resolution In Support Of Local, Elected School Boards

Whereas in 2010 the people of Hawai'i voted to amend the Hawai'i Constitution to replace the two elected School Boards with a single Board of Education (BOE) with members appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate;

Whereas the current BOE is not directly accountable to the people of Hawai'i;

Whereas the BOE as an entity at the State level, is much more distant (both geographically and politically) from local education issues than county-based school boards would be;

Whereas the BOE has had difficulty managing local schools' finances in a practical and efficient manner;

Whereas parents/guardians of Hawai'i's children are often unable to voice their opinions to those BOE members in person although they are responsible for the education of their children; and

Whereas H.B. No. 2331 in 2004 proposed a constitutional amendment that included a detailed plan based on the Recommendation of the Citizens Achieving Reform in Education (CARE) Committee, to decentralize the State BOE and to create an Education Standards Accountability Commission with duties and responsibilities identified; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Hawai'i Republican Party in virtual convention on May 15, 2021:

1. urges Hawai'i Legislators to put a constitutional amendment before the voters on the next ballot that provides for the direct election of county school boards which are accountable to the electorate to govern the schools of their County and identifies:
 - a. support requirements for these School Boards similar to those identified in H.B. 2331;
 - b. responsibilities of those School Boards similar to those identified in H.B. 2331; and
 - c. an Education Standards and Accountability Commission similar to that specified in H.B. 2331 (2004); and

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2. will post copies of this resolution will post copies of this resolution to the Hawai'i Republican Party website and transmit copies to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, members of the Hawai'i State Legislature, and the Mayors of each County.

References:

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2010/otherreports/2010ConstitutionalAmendmentEnglish.pdf>

Hawaii Board of Education Amendment, Question 1 (2010) - Ballotpedia

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2004/bills/HB2331_.htm

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