

Date of Hearing: February 4, 2008

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. No. 2476, Home schooling; Extracurricular activities

Purpose: Creates a new section allowing children who are home schooled to participate in extracurricular activities at the public school they would otherwise be required to attend.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) does not support S.B. No. 2476. When parents choose to home school their children, they are making a conscious choice to opt out of the public education experience, which includes extracurricular activities, and provide their children with an alternative academic program. The Department believes that the activities outlined in the bill are not peripheral or extra to the educational experience, but are integral to an education, providing opportunities that support and extend academic learning. The Department believes the requirements in the bill will result in an undue burden on the public school system. Financially, the Department will be put in the position of subsidizing the participation of non-public school students for the cost of transportation, staffing, equipment, and supplies. Student fees do not cover the entire cost of these activities. The Department also is concerned with issues of supervision, safety, discipline, academic eligibility, and liability.

Home-schooled students have opportunities to participate in extracurricular and athletic activities through their community organizations.

Attention; Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Office

This is written testimony being submitted to the Education and Ways & means committee, for SB2476, to be heard on Feb. 4, 2008 at 1:15pm.

1/31/08

**To: Senator Sakamoto and the members of the Education Committee
Rosalyn Baker and the members of the Ways and Means Committee**

**Fr: Gracie Cockett
1058E Awawamalu St
Honolulu, HI 96825
(808)395-8648**

**Written Testimony for SB 2476
February 4, 2008 1:15pm**

Support of SB 2476, Relating to Extra Curricular Activities for Homeschoolers

Hi. My name is Gracie. I am homeschooled by my mom, which is something I really enjoy. But I and many other homeschoolers feel that we don't have as many opportunities as public schooled kids to do extra curricular activities we love, such as: play on a soccer team or join a drama club. By passing Bill 2476 you would help give us homeschoolers the chance to do the things we've always wanted to do, and make good a good use of what the Hawai'i school system has to offer. Please pass Bill 2476. Thanks for listening.

Attn: Senate Sergeant-At-Arms Office

This testimony is being submitted to the Education and Ways & Means committee for SB 2476 to be heard on February 2, 2008 at 1:15pm.

1/30/08

**To: Senator Sakamoto and the members of the Education Committee
Rosalyn Baker and the members of the Ways and Means Committee**

**Fr: Will Cockett
1058E Awawamalu St
Honolulu, HI 96825
(808)395-8648**

Written testimony for SB 2476
February 4, 2008 1:15pm
Support of SB 2476, Relating to extra Curricular Activities for Homeschoolers

Hi, my name is Will Cockett.

I am homeschooled.

I think bill 2476 is a great idea because I love sports and I think children schooled at home deserve the chance to play sports like public school students.

When I heard about the recent homeschooled Heisman trophy winner from Florida I thought to myself what if this could be me or one of my friends someday. Who knows who could end up being the next Michael Jordan or even Colt Brennan. Hopefully it isn't someone, possibly a homeschooler who misses out on the opportunity here in Hawaii because of the current laws.

Thank you for listening and I ask that you give Bill #2476 your thoughts and deep consideration. Please support this bill!

Attention; Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Office

This is written testimony being submitted to the Education and Ways & means committee, for SB2476, to be heard on Feb. 4, 2008 at 1:15pm.

1/30/08

**To: Senator Sakamoto and the members of the Education Committee
Rosalyn baker and the members of the Ways and Means Committee**

**Fr: Lissa Cockett
1058E Awawamalu St
Honolulu, HI 96825
(808)395-8648**

**Written Testimony for SB 2476
February 4, 2008 1:15pm**

Support of SB 2476, Relating to Extra Curricular Activities for Homeschoolers

Mahalo to each of you for your time today and for your willingness to hear our testimonies regarding bill 2476.

I am a homeschooling parent along with my husband, a Hawaiian, we celebrate the freedoms we have here on this island including the opportunity to school our children at home.

Today, we would like to request that you carefully consider this bill on our behalf but most importantly on the behalf of all children and the urgent need to provide any support to them for the success of their future. You have the opportunity to open a door to homeschooled children here on the islands that 18 other states already have in place, the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities that are offered at the local schools.

We recently saw Tim Tebow, a homeschooled student, be awarded the Heisman trophy. He stands out as a great role model for all children and heightens our childrens desires to have the same opportunities he has. The number of children being homeschooled is growing across the nation so we hope that as this number grows so to will the support from our neighborhood schools.

My son has a dream to become an NBA player, this could really come to fruition with the right kind of opportunities and his God given talents. I ask you today to say YES to this bill. There is a vast amount of children and families that would prosper with this additional support. This day and age, it isn't easy raising a family, whether you school at home or elsewhere, but we all have the same needs and hope the same successes for our children. Bill 2476 could help afford us another tool in assuring that we are tapping into the full potential of our children providing more hope for their futures and future generations. Again, Mahalo!

1/28/08

To: Chairman Sakamoto and the Education Committee

From:

Tom & Kristi Lundell
7052 Kamilo St.
Honolulu, HI 96825
808-396-7418
Lundellk001@hawaii.rr.com

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2476
SCHEDULED TO BE HEARD ON FEB 4, 2008 AT 1:15pm**

We are Tom and Kristi Lundell and are testifying in favor of SB 2476.

We are homeschool parents of two boys (10 and 7) and, eventually two girls (currently 2 and 1). We homeschool to most effectively meet the learning style and needs of our children, and to best influence and cultivate their character.

Currently there are over 9,000 children who are homeschooled in Hawaii and the number continues to grow.

Homeschool families pay the same taxes as families who send their children to public schools. These taxes fund our public schools, whether homeschoolers elect to use them or not. Just as we have access to public institutions such as libraries, hospitals, and parks, we are respectfully requesting access to public school programs like sports, band, cheerleading, and clubs.

Our 10-year old son has developed a love for both basketball and baseball and is already aspiring to play at the high school level. This bill would give him the opportunity to compete with the Kaiser Cougars in Hawaii Kai.

Please pass Senate Bill 2476. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us at 396-7418. Aloha!

Dear Senator,

1-28-08

My name is Elijah Lundell and
I am a 1st Grade homeschooleder.

Please pass SB 2476 so that
I can participate in
activities. Thank you!



1/26/08

Dear Senator

My name is Isaiah Lundell. I am a homeschooled child in the 4th grade.

Please pass SB 2476. It will allow children like me to participate in extra curricular activities like sports. I love both basketball and baseball and am working hard to one day earn a spot on a Varsity team.

Thank you for supporting SB 2476.



Isaiah Lundell

To: Senate Sergeant-At-Arms Office

Fr: Joshua Micah Francisco Lacio

1144D Kumukumu Street

Honolulu, hi 96825

Written Testimony for SB 2476

For Hearing on February 4, 2008

In Support of SB 2476, Relating to Extra Curricular Activities for Homeschoolers

My name is Micah Lacio and I'm a homeschooled 10 year old boy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with a written testimony in support of Senate Bill 2476. Please support this bill so that my homeschooled friends and I can participate in the extracurricular activities in our school districts. While I totally enjoy being homeschooled, I think it would be really cool to play for a team in my district.

Please support Senate Bill 2476 that will allow homeschooled children to participate in their districts extracurricular activities.

**Thank you again for providing me with this opportunity to submit my testimony.
Please support Senate Bill 2476**

Thank you,

J. Micah F. Lacio

J. Micah F. Lacio

TO: Senate Sergeant-At-Arms Office

FR: Lillian Lacio

**1144 D Kumukumu Street
Honolulu, HI 96825**

Written Testimony For SB 2476

For Hearing on February 4, 2008 1:15pm

In Support of SB2476, Relating to Extra Curricular Activities for Homeschoolers

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you a written testimony in support of Senate Bill 2476. I am a homeschooling mom of a 10 year-old boy. I strongly ask for your support with this important bill. This bill will give my son and many other homeschooled children the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities at their neighborhood high school.

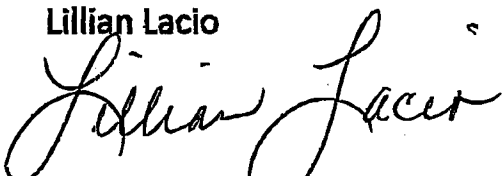
This is important to our family because my son is an aspiring athlete as well as a great student. My son was elated when he heard that this year's Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow was a homeschooler. This truly inspired some of us to look further into the law for the state of Hawaii's homeschoolers. We discovered the state of Hawaii's law prohibits homeschoolers participation. Therefore, we are seeking your support in passing this bill to make it possible for our children to have a chance, an opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities in their school districts.

I ask that you please strongly consider supporting Senate Bill 2476 which will allow homeschooled children an opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities in their district schools.

Thank you again for providing me with this opportunity to submit my testimony. Please support Senate Bill 2476

Sincerely,

Lillian Lacio



January 29, 2008

To: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Education Committee
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Ways and Means Committee

From: Andrew Zimmerman
3454 Sierra Drive
Honolulu, HI 96816

RE: Support for SB2476 relating to Extra Curricular Activities for Homeschoolers
Hearing Scheduled February 4, 2008 1:15pm

I am Andrew Luke Zimmerman, Jr. I am testifying in favor of SB2476 giving homeschool students access to extracurricular activities. If you were in public school, at one point of your life, you probably did extracurricular activities. Chances are, you liked them very much. If you were educated through homeschool, you knew about the other "cool kids" who got to do extracurricular activities.

This is my first year of homeschool. I enjoy it. Last year, I went to public school. I know about the extracurricular activities, having gone through them. I think it is unfair to say that homeschool students may not enter extracurricular activities... because... they are home schooled!

Some people may not believe us, but homeschool students are just like public school students. We are living, breathing, thinking, and learning people. We have hopes, dreams, and fears. I want to be able to use robotic, band, or swimming classes, but I don't think it is fair to send me to some "special class", like I'm some kind of alien.

Thank-you for sparking new hope in our lives. Please sign the bill, and if you have any questions, please contact me via phone or email

Phone: 735-7771

Email: (your going to laugh at this) holyhamster@yahoo.com

Oh, yeah, and "Live long and prosper".

January 29, 2008

To: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Education Committee
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Ways and Means Committee

From: Deborah Zimmerman
3454 Sierra Drive
Honolulu, HI 96816

RE: Support for SB2476 relating to Extra Curricular Activities for Homeschoolers
Hearing Scheduled February 4, 2008 1:15pm

As the mother of two homeschooled boys, ages 10 and 12, I was delighted to learn of SB2476.

I homeschool my children to best accommodate their special learning needs. With home education each child receives a high level of individualized attention which significantly impacts their academic achievement. Additionally, I feel that home education allows me to have greater influence on their character development.

However, I don't want to raise children who live in a bubble! Therefore, I actively search for outside extra curricular activities to enhance their development. Having access to the many after school programs offered by the DOE would assist my sons in developing their interests and social skills. It would also help me in my quest to raise up 2 productive, contributing gentlemen for the community.

I am very grateful that this bill was introduced, and I respectfully request your support.

FEB 1ST 2008

TO: Senator Sakamoto and the members of the
Education Committee

Rosalyn Baker and the members of the Ways and Means Committee

FR: Jennifer Brians

687 Kalanipu'u st Honolulu HI

Home Phone: 447-9239

Written Testimony For SB 2476

February 1, 2008 1:15pm

Support of SB 2476, Relating to Extra Curricular Activities for Homeschoolers

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with written testimony in support of Senate Bill 2476. I am a homeschool mom of 4 boys, ages 10, 14, 16 and 18 and strongly urge you to support this important bill that will give homeschool children an opportunity to participate in extra curricular activities at their local school.

Thank you again for providing me with the opportunity to submit testimony. Please support Senate Bill 2476.

Mahalo, Jennifer Brians

FEB 1ST 2008

TO: Senator Sakamoto and the members of the Education Committee
Rosalyn Baker and the members of the Ways and Means Committee

FR: Mark Brians

687 Kalanipu'u st Honolulu HI

Home Phone: 447-9239

Written Testimony For SB 2476

February 1, 2008 1:15pm

Support of SB 2476, Relating to Extra Curricular Activities for Homeschoolers

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with written testimony in support of Senate Bill 2476. I am a homeschool dad of 4 boys, ages 10, 14, 16 and 18 and strongly urge you to support this important bill that will give homeschool children an opportunity to participate in extra curricular activities at their local school.

Thank you again for providing me with the opportunity to submit testimony. Please support Senate Bill 2476.

Mahalo, Mark Brians

To: Senator Sakamoto and the members of the Education Committee Rosalyn Baker and
The members of the Ways and Means Committee

From: Stephen and Penny Rivas
1172 A Wainiha Street
Honolulu, HI 96825

Written Testimony For SB 2476
February 4, 2008 1:15pm

Support of SB 2476, Relating to Extra Curricular Activities for Homeschoolers

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with written testimony in support of Senate Bill 2476. I am a homeschool mom of 1 boy, age 10 and strongly urge you to support this important bill that will give homeschool children an opportunity to participate in extra curricular activities at their local school.

In Hawaii we do have a lot of communitiee-based sport teams that our available to our younger children, however these communitiee-based sports usually stop at the highschool age. Passing Bill 2476 would give our older children an opportunity to continue playing or participating in something that they really enjoy.

Thank you again for providing me with the opportunity to submit testimony. Please support Senate Bill 2476.

Thanks,

Stephen and Penny Rivas

Subject: Support of SB 2476, Relating to Extra Curricular Activities for Homeschoolers

TO: Senator Sakamoto and the members of the Education Committee

Rosalyn Baker and the members of the Ways and Means Committee

FR: Kristy Giasolli

Address 947 Kauku Pl

Phone 808-741-4100

Written Testimony For SB 2476

February 4, 2008 1:15pm

Support of SB 2476, Relating to Extra Curricular Activities for Homeschoolers

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with written testimony in support of Senate Bill 2476. I am a homeschool mom of two boys, ages 11 and 9, two girls ages 6 and 4 months and strongly urge you to support this important bill that will give homeschool children an opportunity to participate in extra curricular activities at their local school.

I would like my children to have the opportunity to participate in team sports, orchestra or marching band should their talents lead them in such directions. Please support this bill so all children will have an equal opportunity to benefit from these extra curricular activities. Thank you again for providing me with the opportunity to submit testimony. Please support Senate Bill 2476.

Kristy Giasolli
Hawaii Homeschooling mother of four