

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2008

Monday, February 4, 2008

1:15 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NUMBER 2476, RELATING TO EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

TO THE HONORABLE NORMAN SAKAMOTO, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

My name is Ryan McDonald and I am a home school student in the eighth grade. I strongly support this bill, knowing that it will give great opportunities for home school students to engage in the same extra-curricular activities as children in the public school system.

There are some areas that don't allow home schooled students to be a part of these activities. Because of current legislation, I am restricted from participating in public school activities. These programs are funded with tax dollars that my parents help to supply. Tax-payer funded programs should be open to all age-appropriate students, regardless of school affiliation.

Legislation similar to this bill in other areas has made way for successes that have gained national attention. Tim Tebow of the Florida Gators, for example, played football on a public team as a homeschooler in high school. He has now gone on to be the first ever college football player to win the Heisman trophy as a sophomore. Because he was able to play at a public school, he gained the experience that he needed to be the successful football player as he is now.

Testimony of Ryan McDonald
S.B. 2476
February 4, 2008
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From a personal view, the passing of this bill would give me great opportunities as well. I do many state-wide sailing races around the island, but several of these races are for high-school teams only. When I move into the high school grades, having the opportunity to take part in these races would allow me to excel in experience, and also give me the chance to use my God-given talent at a higher level.

I thank the committee for taking time to read my testimony, and I ask that this bill would be passed, for the benefit of all.

LATE TESTIMONY

Committee on Education
Senator Norman Sakamoto

Elizabeth H Molina
(805) 889-4834

Monday, Feb. 4, 2008
In Support of SB2476

My name is Elizabeth Molina and I am a public school teacher in the state of California, a UH alumni and aunty to a number of homeschoolers in Hawaii. I am testifying in favor of Senate Bill #2476. As a public school teacher and parent, I am a strong supporter of homeschooling. Too many children 'slip through the cracks' in schools because of the teacher student ratio. However, I also believe that participation in extra curricular activities is essential for successful development in children. The children of Hawaii are the state's future. Regardless of whether they are in public, private or homeschooled. Every citizen of Hawaii has the right to develop to his/her full potential. If homeschoolers are not allowed to participate in Public school sports, Hawaii is not only closing the door on her own but is also closing the door on a huge number potentially incredibly talented athletes. If this bill is not passed, Hawaii will never know what she had until it is gone on to support other states.

Please, I strongly urge you to pass SB 2476 so that Hawaii can stand on the same equal playing field as the rest of the country.

Very Sincerely,
Elizabeth Molina

Elizabeth Hunter Molina

LATE TESTIMONY

TO: Senator Sakamoto and the members of the Education Committee

FR: Mr. John Lacio
1144 D Kumukumu Street
Honolulu, HI 96825

Written Testimony for SB 2476

February 4, 2008 1:15pm

Support of SB2476, Relating to Extra Curricular Activities for Homeschoolers

I would like to take this opportunity to thank-you for taking the time to review my testimony and requesting your support with Senate Bill 2476. It is truly indicative of your willingness to place the people of our community first as you take the time to read our letters urging for your support. Mahalo Sir!

I am a proud father of a 10 year-old son who is homeschooled, and dreams of one day becoming a University of Hawaii (UH) "Warrior" and someday a Structural Engineer. I am certain with your support to push Senate Bill 2476, my Son Micah and many other homeschooled children living in this beautiful State of Hawaii will have a better chance to have their dream become reality.

My wife and I have had many aspirations for Micah; however, at the end of the recent Heisman Trophy announcements Micah had an aspiration of his own. Micah became ecstatic as he heard the sports commenter introduce the Heisman Trophy recipient as a former "homeschooler." As his joy filled our hearts we had a sense of urgency to see how we could facilitate his future endeavors in football. A few weeks later close friends shared an identical experience they encountered. They decided to seek if it was possible for their children to participate in extracurricular activities.

Therefore, we humbly ask for your support and ask your influence upon others to do same. If Senate Bill 2476 is approved I assure you the homeschoolers will have a definitive positive influence upon their public school teammates.

Again Sir, thank you for the opportunity in supporting this important bill for the children.

Sincerely,

John Lacio

L A T E

To the members of the Education Committee

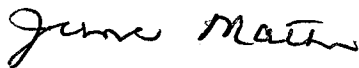
Thank you for this opportunity to present my testimony on Senate Bill 2476. My name is June Mather. My husband and I have been homeschooling our children since 1987 when Hawaii's homeschooling law was enacted under Chapter 12 Compulsory Attendance Exceptions. Like many other parents, we appreciate the freedom and responsibility to direct the education of our children.

My husband and I also serve on the board of Christian Homeschoolers of Hawaii and have over the years monitored legislation that would impact homeschoolers. I am here to ask you to preserve our current homeschooling rule.

As currently written, this law would empower the Department of Education to determine a homeschooler's eligibility requirement to participate in public school extra curricular activities. I would like to insure that these requirements are applied only to those homeschooling students that choose to participate in these extra curricular activities.

Also currently, the Chapter 12 rule requires parents to submit annual progress reports for their homeschooled children. Scores on a nationally normed standardized test meet this requirement. Students are also required to score in the upper two-thirds stanines on these tests. I would like the Committee to consider using this standard to determine eligibility and have this standard written into the proposed bill.

Respectfully submitted,



June Mather

dmather@hawaii.tt.com

LATE

From: Linda Elento, Member of The Hawaii Down Syndrome Congress

To: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair, Senate Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair, Senate Education
Senate Education Committee

Re: EDU February 4, 2008, 1:15pm

I support students, who are homeschooled, to be included in extra-curricular activities at their homeschools, just as they equally are able to participate in activities at district parks, sports clubs and church clubs.

Mahalo for your attention to this matter that increasingly affects families, including students with disabilities who are homeschooled.

Linda Elento
235-76101

