

LATE

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION**

RE: SB 2697 – RELATING TO PHYSICAL EDUCATION

February 11, 2008

**ROGER TAKABAYASHI, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association agrees with the intent of SB 2697.

The Association believes that we need to teach to the whole child through all subjects, not just the core subjects such as Reading, Math, and Science. SB 2697 which requires the Department of Education to implement physical education instruction for grades kindergarten through eight will allow teachers to reach children who are kinesthetic learners. However, we do have some reservations concerning this bill.

First, allowing high school principals to grant specialized credit for participation in after-school athletic activities and other co-curricular activities may be difficult to be determined. Will there be a checklist of these activities that principles will use to make this determination? Who will determine what these activities will be?

Second, how will this appropriation affect the Weighted Student Formula (WSF). Would the fund be a separate fund specifically for the purpose it is intended? Or, will it be an addition to the WSF pool; in which case, the money will be dispersed for use as the principal sees fit. If it is the latter, we would suggest that within this bill a request be made of the DOE to create categories of funds corresponding to the areas of need within the WSF.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB 2697

To: Whom it may concern

From: Robert Firme, 2007 Secondary Student Conference Delegate

Date: Friday, November 30, 2007

Subject: Resolution # 23, relating to the crediting for current extra-curricular sport participation.

Hello, my name is Robert Firme, a sophomore at James Campbell High School and a delegate of the 2007 Secondary Student Conference, in regards to the resolution suggesting the accreditation of High School Sports.

The obesity crisis in the State of Hawaii is exponentially increasing as it ranks 29th most overweight state in the nation, and students risk a high 36.7% in danger of obesity and its directly related illnesses/ diseases (such as diabetes, mental instability, suicide, etc.). The purpose of this resolution is not to replace or increase current P.E. credit or graduation requirements, but to rather encourage participation in sports, teach core values of commitment, active-participation, and citizenship. It will also help students attain the new graduation requirements of 24 credits.

Pertaining to the type of credit for sports, it can be determined by the state. This resolution will inspire students, not actively involved in sports, to convert their lives to a healthier lifestyle. Having sports credited will not deter commitment of the sport, as the curriculum and the criteria for evaluation can be determined by areas such as commitment, active-participating and effort. If an athlete is "cut" from the team, it shall not restrict him/her from attaining the credit, but rather inspire and give a motive to pursue the sport. Participation in sports benefits students in areas such as academics and citizenship. It was proven that student athletes have higher GPA's, better attendance records, lower drop out rates, learn discipline, build self-confidence, teamwork, and participation. It gives students opportunities to learn healthier habits, and self-appreciation.

By allowing credits in current extra-curricular sports, we encourage participation in physical activity to further reduce the current obesity rate in Hawaii High School Students, build a stronger (academic and physical citizenship), safer and active learning environment in all Hawaii Secondary Schools. I strongly support this resolution because it gives an opportunity and a reason for students of today and tomorrow to make a difference in their lives and their community.

To: Whom it may concern

SB 2697

From: Catherine Kahue, 2007 Secondary Student Conference Delegate

Date: Friday, November 30, 2007

Subject: Resolution# 23, relating to the crediting for current extra-curricular sport participation.

Aloha! My name is Catherine Kahue and I am a 2007 Secondary Student Conference Delegate from the Leeward District and representing Nanakuli High and Intermediate School. Currently, I am a senior and I feel that having sports in all secondary high schools be credited to encourage physical lifestyles, mental well-beings, and to decrease the obesity rate in Hawaii High Schools. It is a well thought out resolution, and I support it.

If passed, students who join sports will be able to learn English, and any of our hardworking core classes. Most students, who do join sports, join them because they love playing sports, not because they have to. This will also help to engage a healthier lifestyle and spirit. More students will participate in school sports, and have more school spirit and personal pride.

As a student athlete, I feel that this resolution will help me, as well as my fellow peer athletes who not only play sports but participate in clubs, organizations, or have a job, with no time left in our day, or might be obese. I'm a person who tries my best to manage two sports, represent the Hawaiian club as president, also the student government as corresponding secretary, hold positions in many small clubs and organizations, and two part-time after school jobs. Obviously, I have no time after school for anything, but I really enjoy sports. I like keeping myself busy and healthy at all times.

So please, I would like to encourage you to pass this resolution and help out athletes that can earn credits for their hard work, as well as live a healthy lifestyle, and lower obesity rates in Hawaii High Schools.

To: Whom it may concern

SB 2697

From: Charlene Caraang, 2007 Secondary Student Conference Delegate

Date: Friday, November 30, 2007

Subject: Resolution # 23, relating to the crediting for current extra-curricular sport participation.

Hi, my name is Charlene Caraang and I'm a delegate for the 2007 Hawaii's Secondary Student Conference. I'm strongly speaking for resolution 23 which is about allowing credits for High School Students to participate in after school sports while helping to reduce the statistics on obesity.

Hawaii's rank of obesity is the highest in the nation. With this resolution, we will be able to decrease the rate of obesity. The youth obesity rank in Hawaii was 29th while the adults ranked 47th. I feel like I should support this because there is a high percentage of obesity at my friend's school and most of them play sports. So if there's credits for sports, it would make more students feel like they could go ahead and not get discouraged.

With this resolution, I feel that it could help obese people be more active in their schools. My mom would probably be a good example for this resolution because of her own obesity. When she was younger, she was really active and soon she forgot about exercising after having me. Now, she sometimes complains about pains. I don't want my fellow friends and students to go through that. I want them to have the appropriate exercise instead of feeling lazy.

I strongly support this resolution because I don't want anyone to go through trouble when they are older because of lack of exercise. Being more active will help with their school also, because of their extra credits. The credits and active playing are both beneficial to teenagers. This resolution will allow High School students to live a healthy and educational lifestyle for the present as well as the future.

To: Whom it may concern

SB 2697

From: Franalyn Galiza, 2007 Secondary Student Conference Delegate

Date: Friday, November 30, 2007

Subject: Resolution# 23, relating to the crediting for current extra-curricular sport participation.

Hi, my name is Franalyn Galiza and I am a delegate of the 2007 Secondary Student Conference. I strongly support Resolution 23, which explains the accreditation for extra-curricular sports to help encourage and advocate physical lifestyles.

The resolution does not mandate everyone to participate, but gives them the opportunity to join. Not only will it be a credit for school, but also it will encourage exercising as a way of life.

According to *Trust for America's Health* report, Hawaii's youth ranks 29th in the nation for obesity. This resolution will help to decrease these obesity rates and prevent susceptibility of illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease, and asthma.

I strongly urge you and other lawmakers to support resolution 23. The students of the state of Hawaii want our elective officials to take action on this matter.

Mahalo,

Franalyn Galiza

To: Whom it may concern

From: Taylor Joseph, 2007 Secondary Student Conference Delegate

SB 2697

Date: Friday, November 30, 2007

Subject: Resolution# 23, relating to the crediting for current extra-curricular sport participation.

I am in support of crediting high school sports to encourage physical lifestyles and mental well-beings.

According to statistics, 17.8% of high school students are at risk of obesity. Statistics said students should have 60 minutes of exercise 3 times a week.

As a result of not confronting this problem earlier, Hawaii is ranked 29th obese state throughout the nation.

This is a huge problem that needs to be solved quickly. Not only will this resolution reduce obesity, it will make students think more about what they put into their mouths.

To: Whom it may concern

SB 2697

From: Mary Page Diaz, 2007 Secondary Student Conference Delegate

Date: Friday, November 30, 2007

Subject: Resolution # 23, relating to the crediting for current extra-curricular sport participation.

Hi, my name is Mary Page Diaz and I am a delegate of the 2007 Hawaii's Secondary Student Conference. I am for resolution 23. This resolution is about how we are requesting that the Department of Education (DOE) could allow credits of extra-curricular sport participation in all Secondary High Schools to encourage physically better lives, and reduce the current obesity rate in Hawaii.

In our GA III (General Assembly III) during a debate a delegate had stated, "Allowing optional credits would not encourage obese children to do sports, but it will give the student athletes more of an advantage. Obese students will not do sports anyway. It will not promote anything, and it will ruin the reason why students would do sports." But it won't do that if the students were motivated enough to actually get more health they would actually join the sport.

Also in the same GA, during the debate, a delegate expressed that in their school, they have a high percentage of obese people, and that most of them are in sports. So with supporting this resolution they think with the earning of the credits that they would get motivated to just go for it and that they can do it.

With passing this resolution, the obesity rate in Hawaii would slowly and as surly would go down. Also, students would feel better about themselves upon fulfilling their goal of losing weight. These are the things that we would like to look forward to when passing this resolution.

To: Whom it may concern

SB 2697

From: Lauren Tagaban, 2007 Secondary Student Conference Delegate

Date: Friday, November 30, 2007

Subject: Resolution# 23, relating to the crediting for current extra-curricular sport participation.

As a concerned student, I ask of support of crediting extra-curricular sports. I strongly say that crediting extra curricular sports will benefit to reach the new graduation requirements of 24 credits. This will also reduce the current rate of obesity in Hawaii.

A statement was stated that it will benefit physical stamina and it will help decrease the obesity rate in Hawaii High School students.

According to the Nutrition Education Needs Assessment Survey conducted, statistic stated that 2000-2004 Hawaii Public Schools 17.8% of high school students are at risk for obesity, 18.9% are overweight, and altogether, Hawaii has a total of 36.7% in danger of teenage obesity.

I urge that credited sports could benefit students struggling in school to pass the new graduation requirements of 24 credits. This will also benefit students to stay fit and decrease the obesity of teenage students.

To: Whom it may concern

SB 2697

From: Sheryl-Ann Miguel, 2007 Secondary Student Conference Delegate

Date: Friday, November 30, 2007

Subject: Resolution # 23, relating to the crediting for current extra-curricular sport participation.

Extra-Curricular sports serve as incentives for athletes to do better in schools and excel. I support this resolution passed at the 2007 Secondary Student Conference, which counts extra curricular sports as an extra credit. This resolution will benefit athletes and other individuals and will reduce obesity rates, promote physical lifestyles, and make more students well rounded.

Hawaii ranks as one of the highest in obesity rates being unhealthy, having diseases, and having health complications do to obesity. This defines obesity. Death could also be a factor because of obesity. If extra curricular sports were to be counted as a credit, obesity wouldn't be as much of a problem in Hawaii. It would promote physical lifestyles and reduce our high rank in our country.

Sports teach more students to be well rounded. Since there are many team-building sports such as basketball, soccer, football, etc., students will be more cooperative and demonstrate good teamwork skills. Sports also require commitment because athletes need to come to every practice and every game; hence also requiring consistency. Thus, after learning these skills to be well rounded, athletes can receive well deserved extra credit after this resolution is passed.

I strongly support this resolution because it benefits students mentally and physically. It promotes physically active lifestyles and reduces obesity. I strongly urge that this resolution be passed so that the benefits will be demonstrated in today's increasing rates of unhealthy weight gain. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Whom it may concern

SB 2697

From: Michelle Bareng, 2007 Secondary Student Conference Delegate

Date: Friday, November 30, 2007

Subject: Resolution 23, relating to the crediting for current extra-curricular sport participation.

My name is Michelle Bareng, a delegate for the 2007 Secondary Student Conference. I am in favor of Resolution 23. I am in support of crediting extra-curricular sports in order to encourage physical lifestyles and to reduce current obesity rates in Hawaii.

Our state's obesity rate is one of the highest in the nation and crediting extra-curricular sports would motivate those who are not in sports to participate. It is intended to give an opportunity for students to become actively involved in physical activity, and not to replace P.E. credit or increase graduation requirements. Reports show that those not involved in sports are 57% more likely to drop out of high school, 49% more likely to use drugs, 37% more likely to have become teen parents, 37% more likely to smoke, and 27% more likely to have been arrested.

In my own experience, I have friends who do wish that they could have opportunities to lose weight, and prospect joining sports to better their lifestyles. However, because some are afraid to make the "cut," and feel like they'd be wasting their time because of the low motivation, they often refrain from sports. Because this resolution states that getting "cut" doesn't restrict them from furthering their participation or attainment of their credit, it would inspire more participation.

In crediting extra-curricular sports, obesity rates will likely decreased. Students who are overweight will be motivated to join a sport for the reward of a credit from hard exercise. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ortega.Jessica

Testimony

Senate Bill Number: SCR32

Title: Keiki Caucus; Student Conference; Extracurricular Credits

Good Afternoon, Senators. My name is Jessica and I am a Junior at Moanalua High School. I am testifying on SB No.SCR32. I strongly support this bill for various reasons. On the behalf of an athlete and academic scholar I realize the dedication, hard work, and heart it takes to be an athlete. Unlike and hour long P.E. class, athletes dedicate endless hours of strenuous practice almost everyday to a sport they love. However, it's not simply practice; it's a time when you learn how to work with others, cooperate, and perform. School sports are not all about talent, all athletes are also scholars who maintain a minimum of a 2.0 GPA. I feel that if an athlete is maintaining this GPA, avoids academic probation, and plays a school sport especially because they are giving up their own time, they should be awarded a high school credit. Any sport can improve ones well-being and health, and also create a well-rounded student with a more promising future. By allowing this credit to be given for participation in extracurricular sports, we do not only promote the sports but we also encourage youth to change their lifestyles. It is proven that through sports a teen learns how to motivate themselves and is better at facing challenges. Not to mention how extracurricular athletics can keep our youth off the streets, and away from drug use, gangs, and violence. It is an alternative for teens today, but also acts as a way to stay active and promotes physical fitness; yet another step towards declining our high obesity percentages of youth in Hawaii. For the previous reasons I strongly support this bill and proudly testify upon it for it's passing.

Thank You.

Testimonial for SB 2697

I support the general intent of Senate Bill 2697 with the recommendation to amend the bill by deleting section 2 (4).

I support the following sections of this senate bill:

- Section 2. (2) Define and implement a developmentally appropriate course of study for physical education instruction in grades kindergarten through six that is taught by at least one licensed physical education teacher per school by school year 2013- 2014.
 - It is important that our children are being taught by someone who has been trained in that particular field.
 - We wouldn't send a math teacher to teach our children the principles of physical fitness. He would obviously not be qualified to teach our children of the importance of such an important matter.
- Section 2. (3) Implement physical education instruction that complies with the standards established by the national association for sports and physical education (NASPE) as a core requirement for grades seven and eight.
 - Often times even qualified P.E. Teachers get to caught up in just playing the sport; leaving out the lecture time which incorporates learning, not only playing.
 - Following the (NASPE) standards will give qualified P.E. teachers guidelines to teach to their best ability.

I oppose the following section of this senate bill which should be completely deleted from the bill:

- Section 2. (4) Assist and allow high school principals to grant specialized credit for participation in after-school athletic activity and other co-curricular activities by school year 2009- 2010; provided that a licensed physical education teacher shall certify that the activity is generally in accordance with the standards established by the department of education for physical education instruction.
- - Most coaches are not qualified to teach our children the principles associated with physical education.
 - You cannot replace quality instruction with a qualified teacher with afterschool sports.

LATE

To: Senate Education Committee
From: Chris Lehano, Brigham Young University Student
Re: SB 2697
Date: February 11, 2008

Position: I support the general intent of SB 2697 with the recommendation to amend the bill by deleting Section 2(4).

Comments: Regarding Section 2 (4), by assisting and allowing high school principals to grant specialized credit for participation in after-school athletic activity and other extra-curricular activities, takes away from the overall importance and role of both obtaining a quality, well taught physical education class from a licensed teacher, and portraying extra-curricular activities such as athletic teams more emphasis and importance than students and staff should allow.

As a former student athlete of three different local high schools on Oahu, sports and athletics played a very major part of my life. Each year of high school, I had participated in either 2 or 3 sports teams sponsored by the school and overall, found it a very positive experience. But current after-school athletic programs, the way they are currently organized, focus more on just the primary objective of creating and forming a winning team, not allowing the participants to fully obtain an education on the importance of all factors dealing with a physical education and health class. Current hired coaches also do not have the necessary license or training to be able to offer athletes the vital information dealing with a broad variety of health and fitness. They tend to focus on needs that are needed solely to accomplish the goal of creating the best player for the specific sport they are engaged in.

Another point I wish to express is the fact that school athletic teams have always been, to my knowledge, an after-school program that compliments to an education. Allowing sports to become "free credits" to athletes would be unfair for those not participating. To argue equality in that aspect, all after school programs and organizations would also need to offer school credits towards whatever subject they may support and compliment. For example, speech and debate giving credits for speech or English classes, band for music classes, and so forth.

Student athletes in all Hawaii high school's have always been expected to strive to excel in first and foremost, their education, and then, sports and athletics. Many programs including the OIA and ILH currently adhere closely to that theory. By combining the two into one, I feel it will dull important aspects of both that can only be fully recognized and appreciated through individual recognition and focus.

So in summary, I would like to propose that section 2 (4) be removed from Senate Bill 2697.

LATE

Room 225 State Capitol Building
February 11, 2008
3:00 P.M.

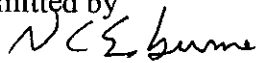
RE: Senate Bill 2697

Senate Bill 2696 in support of funded and regular physical education in Hawaii's schools is very important and worthy of every consideration. Under exercise is a major contributor to the illness and premature death that plagues our society. This bill, on the surface, appears to take a bold step to reduce this problem. However the expression "the devil is in the details" applies here and some of the methods suggested to meet the objectives of the bill are not in the best interest of Hawaii's children and youth. In particular the provision that allows for the substitution of participation in interscholastic sports for the required formal physical education class seems counter productive. Even if, as the bill mandates, a certified teacher attests to the quality of instruction in the sport there are serious questions concerning the differences in goals and objectives for physical education instruction and varsity athletic competition. The prime objective of interscholastic sports is winning. That is why they keep score and publish the results in the newspaper. Often winning comes at the expense of the total development of the individual. Rather than focusing on the overall development of physical fitness, neuro-muscular skill development, appreciation of the aesthetics of movement, and the acquisition of knowledge and skill in a variety of activities that can be continued throughout the lifespan, athletics generally focus on the immediate goal of winning the next game or achieving a winning record for the season. The coach of an athletic team is hired to win, that is the principal objective. If winning could be achieved through full participation and focus on the growth of each student athlete then there would be less problem with this. However experience has demonstrated that only the best athletes get to participate and some team members have little or no playing time. They may participate in every practice, but even so the activity is often focused on only a single position in a team sport or a single event in an individual sport. This focus runs contrary to a major goal in physical education that seeks to foster an array of knowledge, skill and interest in participants. This array of knowledge, skill and interest prepares the student for a lifetime of health-promoting physical activity. The student earning physical education credit via interscholastic sports is severely disadvantaged because he/she remains focused on a single sport, a single position or single event. At the conclusion of the school career that student would be less likely to have a lifelong pattern of physical activity to assist them in the promotion of a healthy lifestyle. How many people get to play football beyond high school? Is there a carryover to other exercise activities? Similarly such popular, and we should add very worthwhile, activities as basketball, soccer, baseball, wrestling etc. offer little potential for regular participation once the public school years are over. The accepted physical education curriculum in Hawaii, when taught by a certified teacher, seeks to promote lifelong participation in a variety of health-promoting activities. The diversity of activities taught in comprehensive physical education classes enabled lifelong participation because such complications as the lack of availability of a team or facilities would not prevent exercise during adult life. Further if injury or other circumstance should prevent participation in a favored form of exercise

the individual educated in an array of activities would have the knowledge and skill to find another exercise activity.

While Senate Bill 2697 has very good intent and would serve to help promote a healthy and vigorous lifestyle in Hawaii's children and youth the provision that would allow for the substitution of interscholastic athletic participation for quality, professional instruction that follows the prescribed state curriculum in physical education works in a most counter-productive manner as regards the ultimate health and well being of Hawaiians .

Respectfully submitted by



Norman C. Eburne
Visiting professor of Health Education
Brigham Young University-Hawaii
Laie, Hawaii

LATE

TO: Senate Education Committee
FROM: Seth Huish, Student
RE: SB2697
DATE: February 11, 2008, 3pm, Room 225

POSITION: I support the general intent of SB 2697 with the recommendation to amend the bill by deleting Section 2 (4).

I support the following sections of the senate bill:

Section 2. (2) Define and implement a developmentally appropriate course of study for physical education instruction in grades kindergarten through six that is taught by at least one licensed physical education teacher per school by school year 2013 – 2014.

Section 2. (3) Implement physical education instruction that complies with the standards established by the National Association for sports and Physical Education (NASPE) as a core requirement for grades seven and eight.

I OPPOSE the following section of this senate bill which should be completely deleted from the bill:

Section 2. (4) Assist and allow high school principals to grant specialized credit for participation in after-school athletic activity and other co-curricular activities by school year 2009-2010; provided that a licensed physical education teacher shall certify that the activity is generally in accordance with the standards established by the department of education for physical education instruction.

First, when examining the statistics of overweight to obese persons, only 14% of youth (ages 12-19) fit in this category whereas 61% of adults are found to be overweight to obese. A major reason for this difference in the amount of overweight and obese persons from youth to adulthood is due to the lack of education. Statistics shows that those who are, in general, less educated are less active than those with higher education.

Many athletes continue to pursue their sport after high school graduation, yet many others do not. A quality Physical Education setting will, due to the set standards, teach the importance of motor skills and lifetime fitness, the importance of exercising regularly, and introduce them to a variety of motor skills. As an athlete on a sports team, with a focus often too focused on next Friday's victory, the long term overall health of the athletes is overlooked. Thus, a quality Physical Education for all students, including student athletes will offer greater benefits and produce more champions in the long run.

Finally, since athletics isn't a class that is part of the normal school hours in Hawaii, to allow a student to sub-out a sport done after school with a class required during hours for the non-athletes, would be unfair to the non-athlete. The non-athlete would watch first hand the advantageous treatment the athletes receives in finishing their school day early.

In conclusion, athletics do not fulfill requirements for quality Physical Education, and to treat athletes differently will appear unfair. Substitution for such a quality Physical Education should not be substituted in Hawaii public schools.

I therefore urge the Senate Education Committee to delete section 2 (4) from Senate Bill 2697.

Written Testimony: Lynn Tagami, Physical Education teacher at
Kamehameha Elementary School, Gymnastics coach,
President-Elect of HAHPERD (Hawaii Association of
Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance)

LATE

I am a physical education teacher for 4th to 6th grade at Kamehameha Elementary School. I also coached gymnastics for over 30 years and a jump rope demo team for 20 years. I am opposed to Section 2.number 4 of S.B. No.2697. All sports have strengths and weakness in regards to fitness. Someone coaching a sport is working specifically on skills relating to the sport and will not be giving the athlete a well rounded background to a lifetime of fitness. As a physical education teacher and coach I know there will be a big conflict of interest in giving credit for participation in after-school athletic activity and other co-curricular activities. I would also put a licensed physical education instructor in a very awkward or demanding position that could lead to big problems in the future.

I support the rest of S.B. No.2697 but SECTION 2. number 4 I strongly oppose.

TESTIMONY for SB 2697

LATE

TO: Senate Education Committee
FROM: Jill Marie Haar, HAHPERD member, student athlete
RE: SB2697
DATE: February 11, 2008, 3pm, Room 225

POSITION: I support SB 2697 with the suggestion that section 2(4) be revised.

I agree and support with the following sections:

Section 2.(2) Define and implement a developmentally appropriate course of study for physical education instruction in grades kindergarten through six that is taught by at least one licensed physical education teacher per school by school year 2013 – 2014.

Section 2.(3) Implement physical education instruction that complies with the standards established by the National Association for sports and physical education (NASPE) as a core requirement for grades seven through eight.

I disagree with this section of the bill:

Section 2.(4) Assist and allow high school principals to grant specialized credit for participation in after-school athletic activity and other co-curricular activities by school year 2009 – 2010; provided that a licensed physical education teacher shall certify that the activity is generally in accordance with the standards established by the department of education for physical education instruction.

I believe that athletics does not cover all the essential parts of physical education. It is an extension of physical education, so does not include all the benefits and edification of a physical education class.

In order to wed athletics with physical education and to allow credit for athletics, I think the bill should be revised. Essentially, Section 2.(4) would be more valuable if student athletes were required to take a certain amount of physical education classes (i.e. two years). This would allow students to meet all of the four Hawaii Content Standards, and students would understand and receive all the benefits of physical education. Students would be able to go on and take advantage of these focused physical education classes.

LATE

Testimony for SB 2697

To: Senator Sakamoto, Jill Tokuda, Suzan Chun-Oakland, Hooser, Nishihara,
, Tsutsui
From: Diana Voorhees, BYU-Hawaii Student
Subject: SB2697
Date: February 11, 2008

Position: Oppose section 2 part 4

SECTION 2, page 2, Lines 17 and 18

The bill states that athletics can replace physical education. Being a part of an extra circular activity is a great thing. I participated in athletics all through out high school and also competed in the collegiate level. So I think that athletics is great, but replacing PE with athletics is something that I don't agree with. Physical education isn't just about exercise; it's about learning the fundamentals of living a healthy life style. As much as some one exercises with their athletic team it will not be the same as a PE course. What physical education teaches is the importance of exercise as well as ingraining in them the fundamentals of a healthy life style, and being an athletic just doesn't cut it.

LATE

To: Senate Education Committee
From: Felisita Ika, Brigham Young University Hawaii
RE: SB2697
Date: February 11, 2008, 3pm, Room 225

POSITION: I support the general intent of SB 2697 with the recommendation to amend the bill by deleting Section 2 (4).

I support the following sections of the senate bill:

Section 2.(2) Define and implement a developmentally appropriate course of study for physical education instruction in grades kindergarten through six that is taught by at least on licensed physical education teacher per school by school year 2013-2014.

Section 2.(3) Implement physical education instruction that complies with the standards established by the National Association for SPorts and Physical Education (NASPE) as a core requirement for grades seven and eight.

I OPPOSE the following section of this senate bill which should be completely deleted from the bill:

Section 2.(4) Assist and allow high school principals to grant specialized credit for participation in after-school athletic activity and other co-curricular activities by school year 2009-2010; provided that a licensed physical education teacher shall certify that the activity is generally in accordance with the standards established by the department of education for physical education instruction.

I oppose this part of the section because athletics is considered an extension of the core program of physical education. They do not include all the benefits that are fulfilled through physical education.

As a student athlete myself, I believe that it is important for athletes to learn about all the important health and fitness purposes that physical education has to offer. Coaches do not always include these important health principles when coaching. I would understand giving credit is athletes were included during school hours, but because athletics is only held after school hours, I don't find it necessary to substitute credit for PE. Also, most of the coaches in Hawaii are not certified, and giving student athletes credit from uncertified coaches would not be fair to physcial education teachers that have worked hard to get certified and gain their education.

Athletics is very important and provides many opportunities for students everywhere. However, Physcial Education is a very important part of education and provides important imformation for students that will benefit them throughout the rest of their lives, that athletics does not cover or cannot provide.

I urge the Senate Education COmmittee to delete section 2 (4) from Senate Bill 2697.

February 11, 2008

LATE

Written Testimony: Shelley Fey, Registered Voter State of Hawaii

Title: S.B. No. 2697, Public Education, Physical Education

Position: **I oppose this Bill as it is drafted.** SECTION 2. number (4) should be completely omitted for the following reasons:

- 1) Granting “specialized credit” for participation in after-school athletic activity contradicts the purpose of providing extra-curricular activities for students. Students are encouraged to extend their experiences beyond the classroom, allowing for continued growth in a specialty area (club membership, etc.); not for the sake of credit, but because they enjoy the success they have with it and want to go beyond the average experience.
- 2) For one year (required graduation credit for Physical Education), ALL students have an opportunity to:
 - a. Experience a physical activity environment that is heterogeneously grouped (gender, skill level – advanced to handicapped), providing further opportunity to learn to apply appropriate social skills;
 - b. Experience an activity they may have little knowledge of and learn to make the best of it;
 - c. Experience alternative forms of training and/or games they would never have experienced;
 - d. Experience an environment where winning isn’t the ultimate goal;
 - e. Experience an atmosphere where they could play for the fun of it and succeed all the time;
 - f. And learn to be physically fit for a lifetime and not just for the season.
 - g. Many of these educational opportunities would be denied if “specialized credit” was allowed in place of physical education or any other “elective” credit courses.
- 3) The goals of physical education and athletics are pillars apart. The first part of this bill states that “Contemporary physical education instruction goes beyond playing games and learning the rules to

promoting and furthering the understanding of healthy physical activity habits.” There are many examples with which practicing healthy habits is not the case in athletics (i.e. making weight for wrestling; competing through severe injuries; training overloads way beyond the norm – especially at the beginning of the season; limited rest/recovery periods). There are many other lessons to be learned/experiences to endure, good and bad, but again, the goals are different. Keep athletics as an extra-curricular activity, an arena for those who seek these experiences beyond the regular school day.

- 4) The implications of requiring a licensed physical education teacher to certify an activity lead by a coach would be one of disfunction. It would be unfair to anyone in this position to make this call, professionally and personally.
- 5) I urge the committee to completely omit SECTION 2. number (4) from SB2697.