

Date of Hearing: February 8, 2008

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S. B. No. 2769, Making Appropriations for Athletics in Public Schools

Purpose: Appropriates funds for an athletic director at Anuenue School; equipment, supplies, and transportation for school athletic programs; and athletic programs for females

Department's Position: The Department supports S. B. 2769. There is a need for a School Athletic Director position at Anuenue School. Currently, Anuenue School fields 19 interscholastic athletic teams and requires a dedicated athletic director position. The athletic program at Anuenue School is comparable in size to that of Laupahoehoe, Lanai, Paho, and Molokai High Schools, each of which has a full-time athletic director position.

In recent years the cost of fuel has gone up considerably. This has resulted in increased costs of supplies, equipment, and transportation for athletic teams to travel to and from events. Funds allocated to schools for transportation do not cover transportation costs for the school year. Each school statewide fundraises approximately \$20,000 to cover costs not covered by State allocated funds. An increase in supplies, equipment, and transportation allocations will lessen the burden of fundraising for school athletic programs.

Since school year 2001-02, schools have received allocations to increase participation in interscholastic athletics by the underrepresented gender. The \$794,195 yearly allocation has remained the same since its initial year. Since school year 2001-02, the number of sports funded by this allocation has increased from five to six, the number of student-athletes served by this funding has increased from 2151 in school year 2001-02 to 4218 in school year 2006-07. The Gender Equity allocation also funds coach's salary for paddling, junior varsity (JV) girls bowling, JV girls soccer, JV Softball, JV girls tennis, and girls water polo. In 2001, Legislative Act 315 increased the salary for coaches by 53% without an increase in allocation for the above mentioned sports. These increases in participation and salary have occurred without any increase in the program allocation.

The Department supports S.B. 2769, however, funding priority must be given to the Board of Education's supplemental operating budget requests before this measure.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

THE HONORABLE NORMAN SAKAMOTO, CHAIR

SB 2769 MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR ATHLETICS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Testimony of Neal Takamori  
McKinley High School Athletic Director  
Athletic Directors and Coachs Association, President

Senator Sakamoto and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Neal Takamori, athletic director at McKinley High School. I'm representing the athletic directors of the 44 public high schools in the State of Hawaii who are in support of SB 2769, to provide additional funding for equipment and supplies, for transportation of athletic teams, a permanent athletic director at Anuenue, and gender equity funds in the public high schools.

One of the primary goals of education is to develop a well-rounded individual and athletics is an integral part of the educational process to achieve this end. Athletics is really an outdoor classroom where physical, social, mental, and moral education is practiced. Values such as discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship, integrity, loyalty, emotional control, are just some of the lessons the student learns. Students deserve this opportunity to participate.

We believe that the athletic program, being an integral part of the school curriculum, should be properly funded .

1. The growth of Anuenue School's athletic program, which supports 19 teams in football, girl's and boy's paddling, girl's and boy's basketball, boy's and girl's volleyball, necessitates a need for a full time athletic director position. Anuenue's athletic program is comparable in size to Laupahoehoe, Lanai, Molokai, and Paho, each of which has a full-time athletic director.
2. Because of the rising costs of fuel, bus and air transportation has increased tremendously, especially for Maui and Hawaii. For example, the cost of a round trip from Kau to Kohala is \$989.00.
3. The rising costs of athletic supplies and equipment necessitates a need for an increase in the state allotment for equipment and supplies. Schools are currently fundraising \$15,000.00 - \$25, 000.00 annually to maintain current programs
4. Since 2000, participation in our girl's sports programs in the public schools have increased 100%. There were also increases in coaches pay , additional coaching positions, increases in the number of girl's sports, and increases in the costs of equipment, supplies, and transportation. However, there was no increase in funding. As a result of this, each school receives a lesser allocation every year. Please help us in providing equal opportunities for our girl's sports programs.

Please support SB 2769 which will provide additional funding that would help schools properly fund needed safety equipment and supplies, transportation, gender equity requirements, and a permanent athletic director for Anuenue.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2769.