

February 7, 2008

**L A T E**

**TO: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Senate Committee on Education**

**FROM: Allicyn Tasaka**

**RE: SB 2769 Making Appropriations For Athletics in Public Schools.  
(February 8, 2008 at 1:15 p.m. Room 225)**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Good afternoon Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education. My name is Allicyn Tasaka and I am submitting testimony as a member of the Board of Education's Superintendent Gender Equity in Athletics Advisory Board (previously the Advisory Commission on Gender Equity in Sports established by the Legislature in 2002 through the passage of SB2475 SD1 HD3 CD1).

SB 2769 appropriates funds for an athletic director at Anuenue School; equipment, supplies, and transportation for school athletic programs; and athletic programs for females.

I wish to testify in support of only Section 4 which appropriates a blank sum for athletics programs to meet gender equity in sports requirements for females in public schools.

Hawaii does not have state provisions that require the Department of Education to comply with Title IX of the federal Education Amendments of 1972. The advisory board is a local framework for ensuring compliance with federal mandates for gender equity in school athletics. One of the procedures that the advisory board implemented is having athletic directors complete regular reports on each of the sports offered, the ratio of boys to girls, and what steps are being planned to equalize the ratio. To that end, the DOE honored five public high schools at a reception celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Title IX Patsy Takemoto Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act last year. Farrington, Ka'u, Molokai, Waialua, and Waimea high schools received the "Gender Equity in Athletics Award" for outstanding efforts in achieving compliance and equity in their athletics programs.

In addition, the athletic directors recently agreed to move girls basketball from the spring to the winter, move girls softball from the winter to the spring, and move boys volleyball from the fall to the spring to align our seasons with standardized college and high school schedules on the Mainland. And it was done after a federal court ruling showed Hawaii that it would be costly and divisive to fight the inevitable. In a nutshell, we've finally complied with a federal law that our own Patsy Mink championed back in the 1970s.

It's time now to embrace the change and continue to move forward. Girls have lived in the shadow of inequality for too long. Girls deserve the same educational and athletic opportunities as boys.

I urge your Committee to pass this measure as a means to continue to strive for equity in sports for females in our public schools. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of SB 2769.