

To:

From: Katheryne Huihui, Kalaheo High School

Date: Friday, February 1, 2008

Subject: Support of S.B. 2774, Relating to Education

Aloha my name is Katheryne Huihui, and I wish to give my utmost gratitude to those of you earnestly listening to the ordeals which many adults are oblivious to, and accepting that what Hawai'i has become is inevitable but not permanent. Whether it is a growing industrialized ground or a fixation for millions of tourists, it is still the home and environment for the keiki of Hawai'i. I believe that throughout history, people have had some rooted things in households and schools, yet it often only shows in our environment. Considering that something so detrimental like global warming is taking its toll on the entire earth, it exposes a chance to the state of Hawai'i that we can make an impact to help, even if we are a speck on the map. The only barrier which stands in our way is that the government needs to take superior action. With every pulse which has beat in my heart for fifteen years on O'ahu, I deeply am in support of Senate Bill 2774. If not for necessities like recycling, then why even be granted the reward to live in Hawai'i?

Our islands hold true more than just what meets the eyes—in our schools—this issue of not recycling is also existent. Before we really even had the wisdom as to what education means, we embodied the learning minds of elementary students studying the Hawaiian culture growing up in Hawai'i. We were taught that the land is our ancestor, our forever giving support. Now around the learning minds of high school students I call my peers, I have learned to malama or care for the aina. As a student representing Kalaheo High School for more than two years, I have a rich exposé of what a school encompasses besides learning the basis of what is occurring all over the world, in fact, what high schools are doing stand in complete opposition to what they are supposed to with the state trying to influence recycling everywhere else. I have learned more of what is happening in my world, not through books or lectures, but rather when I become aware of plastic bottles in the hands of custodians making way toward the blend of food, milk, and complete garbage. Accompanied by that garbage is a one hundred percent guaranteed chance that Hawai'i will no longer be an immortalized beauty because of those recyclable materials going to waste, and creating less space for land and excessive holes in the earth.

In all of your hands, you have the phenomenal ability to change how our education runs. Not only should it be about passing state qualifying tests, but instead we must concern ourselves about what will become of ancient Hawai'i. It saddens me to hear that a city like Los Angeles can adopt a recycling program, yet considered one of the most beautiful places in the world, Hawai'i has not. The astounding facts provided in S.B. 2774 have opened my mind, and I hope it has made the same extraordinary effect on yours. I give the immensity of my support to this bill; in the hope that the future generations which live in Hawai'i can experience the magic of island life, this breathtaking irreplaceable beauty. Change is a prerequisite for improvement. Mahalo nui loa for your time, and patience.

To:

From: Emily Valdez

School: Kalaheo High School

Grade: 10

Bill: In support of S.B. 2774

Hello my name is Emily Valdez. I'm a tenth grader at Kalaheo High School and I am in strong support of bill S.B. 2774. I helped write S.B. 2774. Before it even became a bill and I was just in the beginning stages of writing my resolution for the Secondary Student Conference I was asked to look around my school and my community and look for a problem I would like solved. At first this seemed like a hard task because I didn't really know where to start, but after awhile it became quite obvious.

I began seeing distressing headlines in the newspapers about how our landfills are reaching their capacity. I even read recently that there was a two year extension put on our landfill and how people aren't even sure if it will last two more years without overflowing. Then it occurred to me, that we live on a tiny island, that doesn't have an unlimited amount of space. If we want to continue living here we cannot just fill it up with landfills and trash. Soon after I found a disturbing fact; every student in Hawaii produces about half a pound of waste per school day. When I read that I knew something had to be done. So I did some research and also found that schools in the state of Hawaii use 31,000 cubic yards of space in the landfill every month. Using this space isn't free. To put trash in a landfill it costs \$6 per cubic yard. So in total it is costing the state \$186,000 per month to have schools dump their trash. Schools in the state of Hawaii waste so many different resources such as all the papers teachers just throw away, lunch trays, plastic water bottles, aluminum soda cans, and even food waste, there are so many different possibilities to save these materials. It is also said that for every ton of paper that is recycled 7,000 gallons of water, 380 gallons of oil, and enough electricity to power a house for six months are conserved. Imagine if schools recycled all of their paper.

My idea is to have comprehensive recycling programs in schools that would not only cut down the amount of trash thrown into the landfill but save the state money because of that fact. The Long Beach Unified School District located in Los Angeles

adopted a recycling program that recycles everything from solid waste, food waste, paper, aluminum, glass, and plastic. Due to this program they save \$310,000 a year.

Saving money isn't even the biggest issue here. When I read my bill to students at Kalaheo High School I had a group of students that told me that no matter what we do kids still won't and will never want to recycle. This disturbed me more than the statistics of how much we waste. We need to start teaching the habits of recycling to our children of the future now. If they already don't want to recycle what makes us think they'll carry on the deed when they are on their own, or teach it to their children? If kids are brought up with recycling in schools it might have a domino effect and be brought to the home to.

The passing of this bill is not only beneficial for our landfill, and our taxes, but to our environment. The truth is that every student in the state of Hawaii produces half a pound of trash per school day and if we want our children and our grandchildren to know Hawaii the way we know it we have to do something about that.

Senate Bill (SB) Number 2774
Title: Recycling Task Force

Good afternoon, Senators. My name is Jenise Fo and I am a Senior at Kailua High School. I am testifying on SB No. 2774, Recycling Task Force. I support this Bill for the following reasons...

For every ton of paper that is recycled, 7,000 gallons of water, 380 gallons of oil, and enough electricity to power a house for six months is saved. Landfills in Hawaii are approaching capacity. Schools in the state of Hawaii use up to 31,000 cubic yards of landfill space every month.