

Date of Hearing: March 20, 2009

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. No. 360, S.D.1 (SSCR706) Relating to Extracurricular
Activities

Purpose: Requires the department of education to allow children who are
home schooled to participate in extracurricular activities at the
public school they would otherwise be required to attend.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports this Bill but
recommends clarification of the examples cited in the definition of
“extracurricular activity” described in §302A to minimize
confusion with “co-curricular activity.” Band and music are
co-curricular activity programs.
The Board of Education (BOE) decision to support a similar bill
(H.B. 493) was made at the February 19, 2009 BOE General
Business Meeting.

Date of Hearing: March 20, 2009
Committee: House Committee on Education

Person testifying: Neal Takamori, President
ADCA (Athletic Directors and Coaches Association of Hawaii)

Testimony on SB 360

On behalf of the Athletic Directors and Coaches Association of Hawaii (ADCA), we are opposed SB 360.

There are many concerns that are not addressed in the bill that will create tremendous conflicts and problems if not addressed. The following are some of the concerns.

1. **Philosophy:** When parents choose to home school their children, are they not making a conscious choice to opt out of the public education experience, which includes extra curricular activities of which athletics are a part of, and provide their children with an alternative academic program? Isn't the participation in athletics a privilege and not a right as established in many court cases around the nation?
2. **Funding:** Public Schools are funded by the Student Weighted Formula. What will be the formula for funding athletics for home schoolers? How will it be determined? Currently, allocation to the DOE is based on per pupil enrollment in schools. Will schools get additional funding? What about the class dues students are required to pay that support extra curricular activities or the costs of participation of a student in a single sport?
3. **Eligibility:** Public school students must abide by the 2.0 GPA rule and other DOE and School standards, rules, and policies. Who will monitor the Home School and the child? Are we creating a double standard with home schooled children as opposed to public schooled children? (example: a child is failing all his courses which renders him ineligible to participate in athletics and extra-curricular activities. The parents decide to home school him to enable him to participate, because under their grading, he can receive all passing grades.) We can foresee a multitude of potential abuses. In Florida, entire golf and tennis teams were comprised of home-schoolers.
Establishing years of participation would be a problem (National Federation rules is 4 consecutive years from entering the 9th grade). We can verify the records of a student in public school but will have problems of accountability in verifying home schoolers.
4. **DOE Standards, Rules, and Policies:** Who monitors this? A public school environment is more accountable for consistency and fairness for all students. The DOE does not accept credits from Home Schoolers. I believe largely due to the lack of accountability with academic standards.
5. We have State transfer rules. Who will monitor this rule: example... if a home schooler participated at another school?
6. There are many other scenarios that concern the athletic directors across the State, including athletic directors from the private schools that do not allow home schoolers to participate at their schools. A major concern against this bill is the opportunity for illegal recruitment.

Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Representative Lyla B. Berg, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

In Opposition to
SB 360, SD1 (SSCR706): Relating to Extracurricular Activities

Hearing: 02:00p, Friday, 20 March 2009

Testimony submitted by Mr. Meredith Maeda, Principal, James B. Castle High School

I would like to state my strong opposition to SB 360, SD1. There are several reasons that this measure should not be passed:

1. Historically and presently, there is a major philosophical difference in students who are home schooled and the public school attendees. Parents chose to provide the education best fit for their children that was other than that for the general population. This was a conscious choice to exclude their child from the public school environment and we have honored that decision.
2. Participation in co-curricular activities by a public school attendee requires meeting prerequisites before and during the period of the activity—grade requirements, obligation-free, and behavioral expectations according to Chapter 19. There is no fair and equivalent method to determine the eligibility of a home-schooled child.

Home-schooled students have many opportunities to participate in voluntary community activities that do not require external controls and monitoring, other than those that are self imposed, for children from elementary through high school—Honolulu Youth Symphony, Theatre for Youth, Little/Big League baseball and softball, year round clubs for volleyball, basketball, swimming, track and field, and bowling, USTA for tennis, Junior Golf, online advanced courses, and many more.

3. Schools are allocated general funds to secure the necessary resources to operate school activities by the Weighted Student Formula and vary from school to school depending on their characteristics. These funds are based on only those students that enroll and attend the school. Additionally, students attending public school have mandatory dues to supplement their class activities and in most cases must fund-raise to minimize their expenses. There is no viable fee structure and accounting system for non-attendees that would be fair and equitable without additional resources to monitor and hold participants accountable.

We all pay taxes for government services. But, we do not choose what our individual payments support. If we were to calculate which portion of our individual taxes pays for public education, the figures would be insignificant. It is our collective funds that you as decision makers determine to which service has the priority. Therefore, the task at the individual school to calculate how much home-schooled children should pay to participate in any one activity would be enormous.

There would be major negative impact on public schools, a strain on our limited funds, and inequitable requirements for our attending students, should this bill pass. Thank you for allowing me to submit my input.

March 19, 2009

To: Legislature (Education Committee)

From: Kelly Jack Sur, Athletic Director – Radford H.S.

Subject: Home School Children Participating in Co – Curricular Activities, S.B. 360

Federal law requires any educational system that receives Federal funding be required to make facilities, testing, books, and curriculum available to all home schooled children.
THERE ARE NO ESTABLISHED REQUIREMENTS FOR ATHLETICS.

Concerns relative to home schooled participation in athletics are:

- * Age
- * Years of eligibility
- * Determining GPA
- * Credits that establish grade level (no credits are granted home schooled children in this State)
- * Establishing grade level to determine JV or Varsity participation
- * Establishing number of years of participation
- * Establishing eligibility

Although the OIA (Oahu Interscholastic Association), KIF (Kauai Interscholastic Federation), MIL (Maui Interscholastic League), BIIF (Big Island Interscholastic Federation) function as independent leagues, we all belong to one State system. Athletic participation is a privilege not a right.

Parents have the right to withdrawl their children (Form 4140) from the public school system, but also understands in doing so, they waive the child's opportunity to participate in any extra – curricular activity. How will the home – schooled student comply with Policy 4520 “Guidelines for Implementing the Academic Requirements for Participation in Co – curricular Activities (2.0 rule)? How will Chapter 19 (Disciplinary policy) be followed by a home – schooled student?

Home schooled – schooled students credits are not recognized by the DOE. Thus, how will a home – schooled student entering the 10th grade establish his/her standing for eligibility? The Academic/Financial plan that basically formulates how much monies will be given to a school based on enrollment (free and reduced lunch, ESL –english as a second language, SPED – special education hold more weight/more monies for the school), how will a home –schooled student factor into this equation?

There are too many unanswered questions for this bill to pass. Until this bill formulates some type of standards based on the DOE, and the by – laws set forth by the state athletic associations, this will bring back the uncertainty that our educational system has frantically fought against throughout the years.

Jennifer Wilbur

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 10:21 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: thomas_correa@notes.k12.hi.us
Subject: Testimony for SB360 on 3/20/2009 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 3/20/2009 2:00:00 PM SB360

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tom Correa
Organization: Waiakea High School (Athletic Director)
Address: 155 Kawili Street Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Phone: 808 974 4830
E-mail: thomas_correa@notes.k12.hi.us
Submitted on: 3/19/2009

Comments:

Allowing a home schooled student to participate in High School athletics would give an unfair advantage to the home school student in regards to many of the DOE eligibility requirements.

1. Who will face the burden of responsible to give grades which will determine academic eligibility? (If it is left up to the parent, they have a conflict of interest.)

1a. If a DOE student is declared academically ineligible while attending a school can he/she now declare as a home school student, and have his/her parents give grades/ "grade checks"; so that eligibility can be restored.

1b. If we allow home schooled athletes to participate under these conditions we will make academic eligibility rules in the DOE moot.

2. Who verifies residency and therefore participation at a given school? Does this open the door for recruiting?

3. When a parent chooses to go the home school route they sign form 4140 which stipulates that the parent is responsible for all extra curricular activities.

3a. There are activities available in the community for home schooled/student athletes to participate in.

3b. Should we allow parents an ala carte menu to choose from in regards to education/ participation? If we do, are we also allowing the parents to avoid all the eligibility "safety nets" that are present in the DOE system. These "safety nets" establish a level playing field for all participants.

Do we want to tip that balance of fairness in the direction of one special interest group? If we do what is the chain reaction that will occur as a result of this decision?

TO: Committee on Education

FROM: Iris McGuire, Athletic Director, Kea'au High School

DATE: March 19, 2009

RE: Hearing Dated March 20, 2009 @ 2:00pm: SB 360, SD1

I am writing in regards to the initiative that is on the table relating to extra-curricular activities and home schooled students. I strongly believe that allowing home schooled students to participate in extra-curricular activities, particularly that of the Athletic realm would be a huge mistake. The following are listed reasons as to why I am against passing this initiative:

- 1). Who will fund these home schooled athletes? Currently we are funded by the DOE based on enrollment. These students would not be calculated into the school's enrollment and we would not receive any assistance in funding.
- 2). There would be an uneven playing field. Currently our student-athletes have to follow a stricter regiment of maintaining grades, behavior and athletics. The home schooled student would not be accountable to behavior and grades with the school. Thus, they would have an unfair advantage over the regular educated student.
- 3). It is currently not clear where the home schooled student would be able to participate. Currently our student-athletes are required to present proof of residency for eligibility. Will this be the same for a home schooled student?
- 4). Currently the regular educated students have to maintain a 2.0 GPA and are not allowed to have a failing grade in core classes such as English, math, social studies and science. How are we expected to monitor student academic progress with the home schooled student? Also, the DOE currently does not accept grades or transcripts from home schooled students who then decide to enter regular education. This alone is a huge and unfair advantage to our regular educated students, if the decision was to allow home schooled students to participate in athletics. Again, no accountability.
- 5). Part of our eligibility allows regular educated students to participate in extra-curricular activities such as athletics for a period of (4) four consecutive years from the time they enter their (9th) Freshmen year of high school. Home schooled students do not document this type of entry. Another unfair advantage for the home schooled student.
- 6). Regular educated student-athletes are held to a higher standard than most students. Home schooled students would be receiving the same benefit and privilege

that our regular educated students have had to earn. This is completely unfair. There is absolutely no accountability on the home schooled student.

7). Home schooled students also will lack the ability to bond with the regular educated students causing rifts in team chemistry and productiveness. Relationships are built not only on the fields and courts, but during school hours in the classroom and at recess and lunch breaks. Building school spirit and pride goes beyond the athletic realm and is found during the regular day. Home schooled students won't be there to participate in classroom activities because they only show up afterschool to play. Not a good scenario.

8). It is currently written in a memo dated 10-03-07 by Superintendent Patricia Hamamoto; chapter 12, numeric 6 **"The parents submitting a notice to home school their child shall be responsible for the child's total educational program including athletics and other co-curricular activities. There is no exception to this rule. A home-schooled child cannot enroll in selected courses..."** It is the choice of the parent to take their child and home school them. They must adhere to their decision and live with that choice.

9). Currently Charter schooled students are allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities at the public school in which their school is associated. It does not allow them to pick and choose what school they may play for. This may change if Home schooled students are allowed to pick a school and participate.

10). This initiative would promote more students to enroll in a home schooled situation because it is easier to participate. There would be no accountability and they could just show up to play without the concern or worry of grade checks, behavior checks and accountability. Our public school population would decline.

11). Recruitment would be another issue with home schooled students. It has already shown to be a problem in the highly publicized situations of college recruitment of athletes. The unfair advantage to regular educated students is overwhelming.

12). Athletics is a privilege, an earned privilege. Home schooled students have not earned this privilege and should not be allowed the benefits provided by the DOE. Regular educated students have to follow a much more difficult path than the home schooled student.

I humbly ask that this committee recognize the facts stated in this letter and vote against allowing home schooled students to participate in extra-curricular activities at DOE schools.

Jennifer Wilbur

From: Stacie_Nii/WAIPAHH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 2:08 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: testing

To: Committee on Education
From: Sharon Yoshimura, Waialua High School Athletic Director

DATE: Friday, March 20, 2009
TIME: 2:00 P.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 309
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Measure Number: Senate Bill 360

Position: Opposes the bill.

At the present time, it is a privilege for our students to participate in extracurricular activities and not a right. Our students must follow Board of Education requirements, such as 2.0 grade point average and attend classes daily. Students are graded by qualified educators that have met the State requirements to be a certified teacher.

It would be unfair for a student who meets all the requirements to participate, not be able to make the team due to a home schooler making the team knowing they do not have to follow any requirements.

For these reasons I oppose Senate Bill 360.

Jennifer Wilbur

From: Steve Colflesh [scolflesh@seaburyhall.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 3:58 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: testing

The term extra curricular explains why the DOE should deny youngsters who are home schooled the privilege of participating in sanctioned activities.

Parents are making the choice to home school their children. I recognize that right. However, athletics, or any extra curricular activity, are considered a privilege and should not be given to those who choose to abandon the public school offerings.

Respectfully submitted:

Steve Colflesh
Athletic Administrator
Seabury Hall
Maui, HI

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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SB 360, SD1

(SSCR706)

Status

RELATING TO EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

EDN

Requires the department of education to allow children who are home schooled to participate in extracurricular activities at the public school they would otherwise be required to attend. Effective 01/01/90. (SD1)

Testimony against SB 360 SD1 RELATING TO EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

Gregory S. Van Cantfort

Athletics Director

Kalani High School

As a school administrator I am against SB 360 regarding home schooled students being allowed to participate in extracurricular activities. The major argument for why home schooled students should not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities is the fact that they are not enrolled in the school.

While a parent may have compelling reasons to sign a 4140 to release their child from compulsory education at that school it must be understood that, while waiving compulsory attendance at that school, they also waive any privilege to participate in extracurricular education.

By allowing home schooled students to participate in extracurricular activities at the school it will create a jurisdictional issue. Since the home school student is not enrolled in the school they are not subject to any rule and policies as set by the Board of Education. For example, a home schooled student would not have to comply with Policy 4520 Guidelines for Implementing the Academic Requirements for Participation in Co-curricular Activities also known as the "2.0 Rule" nor be compelled to follow Chapter 19 Disciplinary Policy. These two policies explicitly cover those individuals who are currently enrolled at a DOE school. Passage of this bill would create a double, yet unequal, standard for those properly enrolled and recognized as a DOE student and those who are home schooled.

The passage of this bill would also create a financial inequity. The Legislature approves funding for the DOE and the DOE in turn allocates these to the individual schools in part based on enrollment. As identified in the previous paragraphs home schooled students are not reflected in the school's enrollment count therefore schools may not be adequately funded to provide extra-curricular activities for home schooled students. Home schooled students would then be participating on the regular student's "dime".

As an athletic administrator, I rely on certain information provided to the school to determine eligibility. These documents would not be at my disposal for home schooled students. This would include such things as date of entry into the school to determine the number of years of eligibility. Could a home school parent declare that their eleven year old child is a freshman therefore should be eligible to play football?

Academic eligibility is determined by an official school document; the report card, and may be subsequently followed up on prescribed DOE grade check dates as prescribed by the BOE's policy 4520. The teacher, a neutral third party, issues a grade indicating the student's academic progress based on standards set by the DOE. If this bill were to pass then would it be the parent's responsibility to assess their child's academic progress based on their own prescribed standards? This creates a clear conflict of interest as it is the parent's responsibility to advocate for their child yet follow a rule that they do not even need to comply with as they are not enrolled in a DOE school. It is evident that parents would be subjective in determining their child's academic eligibility providing, yet again, another double standard.

This bill would also create a loop hole that if my child is enrolled at the school and is not academically eligible according to policy 4520 then I can have my child released to be home schooled therefore making them eligible as, yet again, home school students do not have to follow BOE/DOE policies.

Participation in extra-curricular activities is beneficial to the overall experience of being a student by allowing the student to identify with a component of the school this would not be achieved home schooled student. The home schooled student would have no sense of loyalty to the school. Furthermore, there are numerous community activities and sports that home schooled students have the opportunity to participate in. There is no compelling evidence to support that allowing home schooled students the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities at a school serves any greater advantage than participating in similar community activities.

In summary SB 360 should be defeated for the following reasons:

1. The parent freely chooses to release the school from providing compulsory education therefore waive their privilege to participate in extracurricular at that school.
2. The bill would create a double standard.
3. The bill would create a financial inequity.
4. Eligibility requirements would be difficult, if not impossible, to monitor or enforce.
5. Home schooled students clearly have the opportunity to participate in similar activities through various community organizations thus not be denied any opportunity.

6. The bill does not explicitly address the concerns that is outlined in my testimony and any others nor directly addressed in this testimony.

<u>REGULAR ENROLLED STUDENT</u>		<u>HOME SCHOOL STUDENT</u>
STUDENT ENROLLS IN SCHOOL BY A PRESCRIBED DATE.	V.	HOME SCHOOL STUDENT SIGNS 4140 AND IS RELEASED FROM SCHOOL
STUDENT MUST MEET RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS TO ENROLL.	V.	HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS BY VIRTUE OF BEING RELEASED FROM THE SCHOOL HAS NO BOUNDARIES.
STUDENT EARNS CARNEGIE CREDITS.	V.	HOME SCHOOL STUDENT'S CREDITS ARE NOT RECOGNIZED BY THE DOE/BOE.
STUDENT RECEIVES A REPORT CARD THAT ASSESSES THEIR ACADEMIC PROGRESS.	V.	HOME SCHOOL STUDENT RECEIVES NO REPORT CARD.
STUDENT FALLS UNDER CHAPTER 19 RULES REGARDING DISCIPLINARY MATTERS.	V.	HOME SCHOOL STUDENT FALLS UNDER INDIVIDUAL PARENT'S DISCIPLINARY RULES.
STUDENT'S EARN GRADES BASED ON STANDARDS SET BY THE DOE.	V.	HOME SCHOOL STUDENT'S EARN GRADES BASED ON INDIVIDUAL PARENT'S STANDARDS.
STUDENT'S ARE GRADED BY A NEUTRAL THIRD PARTY. (TEACHERS)	V.	HOME SCHOOL STUDENT'S ARE GRADED BY PARENT.
STUDENT'S GRADES ARE MONITORED FOR ELIGIBILITY PURPOSES EVERY TWO WEEKS BY THE SCHOOL.	V.	HOME SCHOOL STUDENT'S GRADES ARE MONITORED FOR ELIBILITY PURPOSES EVERY ??? BY ???
STUDENT PAYS FEE TO PARTICIPATE IN CLASS EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.	V.	HOME SCHOOL STUDENT PAYS NO ACTIVITY FEES.
STUDENT LOSES OR DAMAGES SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND IS BOUND BY POLICY 57 OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS.	V.	HOME SCHOOL STUDENT LOSES OR DAMAGES SCHOOL SUPPLIES IS NOT BOUND BY POLICY 57 OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS
STUDENT RECEIVES A BOE DIPLOMA/CERTIFICATE AT GRADUATION.	V.	HOME SCHOOL STUDENT RECEIVE NO SUCH DOCUMENT NOR HAVE TRANSCRIPTS.
STATE MONEY IS ALLOCATED USING A FORMULA BASED ON ENROLLEMENT. MONEY IS SPENT ON STUDENTS.	V.	SINCE HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS ARE NOT ENROLLED IN A SCHOOL THEY ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE ENROLLMENT FORMULA.

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2009

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2009

2:00 PM

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NUMBER 360 SENATE DRAFT 1 – RELATING TO
EDUCATION**

TO THE HONORABLE ROY TAKUMI, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE,

My name is Lanson Ho'opai, and I am a 14 year old resident of Honolulu in my freshman year. I very strongly support this bill, which would allow homeschoolers to participate in extracurricular activities in public school and private school campuses.

Passage of this bill would grant the homeschooled student the opportunity to participate in activities such as sports, A+, and other activities which would be restricted from him/her as a result of the separation between homeschooling and traditional schooling, by which I mean public and private schooling. Furthermore, the prospect for increased physical and mental activity for the homeschooled student would be made available.

The homeschooled student has standards required of him/her in order for him/her to home school legally, similar to those of a traditionally schooled student, i.e. taking a standardized test and sending a report notifying the district school of yearly progress.

The activities which SB Number 360 mentions are not entirely funded by the government. Taxpayer dollars, including those of homeschooling parents, are used to fund and support these activities. There are no exemptions to taxpayer's dollars, saying that this family's money or that family's money will go to, for example, classroom expenses and not sport expenses. So the question becomes: Why are we required to fund activities that we cannot participate in? In my view, this is equal access discrimination. It seems inconsistent to be supporting activities that we do not and cannot take part in.

I thank this committee for the opportunity to present my opinion and testimony on this matter, and know that with the passage of this bill comes better education for homeschooled students physically and mentally.

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2009

Friday, March 20, 2009

2:00 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 360 SD1– RELATING TO
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

TO THE HONORABLE ROY M. TAKUMI, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

My name is Kristi Fuchikami. I am a homeschool student in my junior year. I wish to express my support of Senate Bill 360 SD1, which would allow homeschoolers to participate in extracurricular activities at a public school.

Homeschoolers would be have to be able to meet the G.P.A. requirement and pay the activity fee, as the public school students already do. I believe that this bill would not only provide homeschoolers with the opportunity to play sports, do cheerleading, and be in clubs or in band, but also provide public school students with the opportunity to meet and interact with homeschoolers.

I thank the committee for the opportunity to present my opinion on this topic and ask that you please pass this bill.

Written Testimony for Senate bill 360 relating to
Extracurricular Activities
House of Representatives Hearing on March 20, 2pm in Conference Rm 309
Committee On Education and Housing
Testimony of Will Cockett-5th grade homeschooler

Thank you for hearing my testimony today.
I believe Senate Bill 360 should be passed in the
State of Hawaii because my homeschool friends and I
love sports and have the ability to go
far with our natural talent. If we can't do sports with
the public schools then our chances to further these
talents are very limited.

I think every kid deserves a chance to try out for
basketball or football within the public school
system. Many other states already have passed
similar bills legalizing homeschoolers access to
sports.

Would it really hurt to do the same in Hawaii?

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Written Testimony for Senate bill 360 relating to
Extracurricular Activities
House of Representatives hearing on March 20, 2pm Conference Room 309
Committee On Education and Housing
Testimony of Gracie Cockett, 8th grade Homeschooler

Regarding Senate Bill 360:

Thank you for hearing my testimony today on Senate Bill 360. I believe homeschoolers should be allowed to participate in public school extracurricular activities, just as they are in various other states in this country. Once we reach high school age, the amount of sports leagues outside of the private school and public school sports leagues are extremely limited. My younger brother loves to play team sports such as basketball and baseball. But if we continue to homeschool through high school, my brother will not have opportunities to play these sports. I love homeschooling with my brother and my younger sister too. I would hate for Will to have to leave homeschooling just so he can play sports.

Mahalo much for your time and consideration.

Jennifer Wilbur

From: Debbie Zimmerman [debbiez@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 2:41 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: SB 360

Hello. My name is Andrew Luke Zimmerman Jr. I'm writing in favor of SB360. I am a 7th grade homeschool student, but for many years I had been mostly a public school student. However, some time later, my academic level crashed. For a long time, I blamed the school, but the school was not the majority of the problem. I had "special needs". So my mom had an idea that would start me homeschooled. I do it and in probably half the time many students go to school, I learn twice as much. My mother is very, very, frank, although the majority of my teachers are several text books and a laptop. Hey, it still works really well.

For a future career, I had always wanted to go into professional film directing. They makes tons of money, they create movies, they get to be the boss, not much competition (When was the last time you saw someone who wanted to be a film director and not an actor?) and directors do not as many personal hang-ups. I finally found the perfect place to work at this. It was a computer center, referred to as MAAC, which was in Palolo. I met some very good friends there, found they had a few bluescreens, and they partnered with OLELO. However, it has been 8 months since the last time they did a filmmaking class. So here, I have two choices

- 1) I could go back to a public school, and not learn as much
- 2) I could stay homeschooled, and just find something else.

Personally, I don't really like either of those. But, should this bill get passed, I will be able to do both, as I know of several technology clubs within my school district. And once I hit a the big time, like a Spielberg level, we all know that means more money will be collected by the government from me in taxes.

Some people may have heard about Queen Mary of England. She married Phillip, who was the king of Spain. Since they worked together, things turned out pretty well, with the exception of the fact Mary was a humongous killer. But Spain prospered, and eventually they began their transatlantic expedition that brought 500 billion dollars in gold to Spain. Now THAT is what I call an economic stimulus package. This is because rather than trying to kill each other, they cooperated, and both countries prospered. Would it be so hard the DOE and homeschool people to work together in the same way?

To close, I would like to thank you for coming up with, and hopefully, signing this bill.

SB 360
2:00 pm
Friday February 20, 2009

My name is Miriam Goldberg and I am a Masters in Social Work student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am here to testify on behalf of SB 360 that home school students should be allowed to participate on an equal basis in extracurricular actives offered by a public school.

Before moving to Oahu I lived on Kauai and worked for Hale Kipa; a program supporting families and youth. While working for Hale Kipa one family sticks out. This family consisted of a mom, a ten year old son, and a sixteen year old daughter. The mom home schooled her two children. Where the family loved and respected one another, there was little to no socialization with peers or the community. The boy lacked the desire to play with other boys his own age or to even go explore (as typical for ten year old boys), without the aide of his mother. The sixteen year old girl spent much of her time alone or with her mother and brother.

Whether your child is the most social of children or he prefers staying to himself, kids need outlets. With both the allowance and acceptance for home schooled children to equally participate in after school programs, children that do not interact with other children throughout the day can be more active within their community. Children will have the opportunity to be more hands on with their peers, resulting in a heightened sense of self and community awareness. Kids can develop appropriate social skills and even new interests. Sports are not only a positive way for children to interact with one another, but they are also a positive way for children to gain exercise while learning team building skills and cooperation. Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Wilbur

From: Emily Smith [emilycaitlinsmith@googlemail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 11:26 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB 360

Emily Smith

Graduate Student

University of Hawaii at Manoa, School of Social Work

Testimony for:

House Committee on Education

Friday, March 20, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

SB 360.

13 committee members

Testimony: I am in support of SB 360.

With concerns about the state of public education in Hawaii, and the high cost of private school, home school is an option for parents who want a different education method for their child. There are many proven advantages to home schooling. Research and case studies have shown that home schooling allows for more flexibility and consideration for the uniqueness of each child. Parents argue that home schooling children can shelter them from the influence of drugs, sex and violence, which are increasingly a part of school life for children.

But there is also the argument that many students do not have appropriate socialization avenues. As a result, many states have provided home school students an opportunity to take part in activities with public school students. For example, Michigan allows home school students to take music, gym and art classes with public school students.

I personally cannot imagine a childhood without extra curricular activities. Sports, drama, music and scholastic activities gave me an opportunity to learn new skills, make new friends and build my self-esteem as a child. For the approximately 1.5 million children in the USA who are home schooled, it seems a shame to exclude them from those opportunities.

The State of Hawaii respects the choice of a parent to home school his or her child, but that decision should not exclude a child from the opportunity to play soccer or join a debate team. These children have a range of gifts to contribute and schools should welcome the enthusiasm inherent in a child who wants to try something new.

Thank you for your time,
Emily C. Smith

From: Lundell [lundellk001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 11:54 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: SB 360 TESTIMONY

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 360

I am Kristi Lundell and I am testifying in favor of SB 360.

My husband homeschools our two boys (11 and 7). We homeschool to most effectively meet the learning style and needs of our children, and to best influence and cultivate their character. It also allows our children to spend a lot of time together, as there is a 10-year age difference that separates the oldest from the youngest.

Currently there are thousands of children who are homeschooled in Hawaii and the number continues to grow.

Homeschool families pay the same taxes as families who send their children to public schools. These taxes fund our public schools, whether homeschoolers elect to use them or not. Just as we have access to public institutions such as libraries, hospitals, and parks, we are respectfully requesting access to public school programs like sports, choir, and clubs.

According to Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA), only 3%-5% of homeschool students take advantage of equal access opportunities in states where it is allowed. In Florida, which has had an equal access law since 1996, and produced Homeschooled Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow, only 1% of homeschooled students participated in 2004-5. In Hawaii that would equate to approximately 10 students statewide. As you can see, the impact would be minimal on the school and DOE, but very meaningful to the student who decides to participate.

Currently 24 states allow homeschooled students access to extra curricular activities at their neighborhood (public) school: *Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming.*

Please pass Senate Bill 360. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us at 396-7418. Aloha!

Jennifer Wilbur

From: Lundell [lundellk001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 11:58 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Written Testimony for SB 360

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 360

My name is Elijah and I am 7 years old. My dad homeschools me. I love basketball and baseball and I am asking you to please pass bill 360. Thank you.

Jennifer Wilbur

From: Lundell [lundellk001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 12:23 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: SB 360 Testimony

My name is Isaiah Lundell and I am an 11-year old homeschooler. I've been playing basketball since I was 5 and baseball since I was 6. I love sports and music.

I hope someday to be able to try out for a highschool sports team or join a band.

Please pass Senate Bill 360 so that homeschoolers like me can participate in extra curricular activities. Thank you.