

To: House Finance Committee
From: Alison M. Grogan, Lana'i City, Hawai'i
Re: HB 2991, Relating to Public Finance

February 17, 2010

Chairperson Oshiro and Members of the Committee,

I am a resident of Lana'i and teacher at Lana'i High and Elementary School. I am in full support of HB2991, though, yes, this bill may raise my taxes.

We can no longer be in denial that we can come out of this deficit with some luck and a whole lot of tourists. Nor does our spending power have any real power when we couple it with money we don't have.

Our government has had to borrow to pay for programs it can't cover with tax revenue; half of this money comes from abroad. These same countries are leading us in rates of literacy and math proficiency. Is it a coincidence that their average total tax revenue (state plus federal) amounts to more than 10% more than ours? (Sachs, 2/15/10, *Time*) So while we shudder at the thought of *taxes*, we choose not to educate our own children--we choose not to invest in our own future because we are fearful of today! We have sent our children home with the message, "You are not our priority." On an isolated island like Lana'i, where school is a child's greatest resource, we have set obstacles in front of already disadvantaged keiki from realizing their potential.

To support this bill would be to make tax equitable, rather than only issue an excise tax increase that hits the lower and middle classes hardest (*Institute on Taxation & Economic Policy--November 2009*).

Both spending cuts **and** broad-based taxes will give us a means to finally having a stable source of funding for our children. It is the investment they are entitled to, though the State of Hawai'i seems to be the last to know.

Please support the passage of this legislation.

Thank you for your time and this opportunity.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 10:17 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: amg324@nyu.edu
Subject: Testimony for HB2991 on 2/17/2010 3:00:00 PM
Attachments: HB2991_Testimony.pages

Testimony for FIN 2/17/2010 3:00:00 PM HB2991

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
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Submitted on: 2/16/2010

Comments: