

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Date: 03/17/2010

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn Matayoshi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HCR 159(HR97) REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ASSIST SCHOOLS TO ESTABLISH WALK + BIKE SCHOOL BUS PROGRAMS STATEWIDE.

Purpose of Resolution: REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ASSIST SCHOOLS TO ESTABLISH WALK + BIKE SCHOOL BUS PROGRAMS STATEWIDE.

Department's Position: The Department of Education supports the school-based development of walk + bike school bus programs but funding at the school level will be needed to develop the program and recruit and support adult volunteers (typically parents) who will be the "drivers" of the walk + bike school bus programs at the schools. The present resources at the schools are not sufficient at most schools to undertake this activity at this time.

berg1-Matthew

From: Pamela Young [pamyco@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2010 12:34 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Support for HCR 159

Dear Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair, and Members of the Education Committee:

I strongly support HCR No. 159 which requests the Department of Education to assist schools to establish Walk + Bike School Bus programs statewide. Living very close to an elementary school, I believe such a program if implemented can greatly reduce traffic congestion around the school especially in the morning before school begins. Also, such programs provide children opportunities for more exercise as they walk, bike, skateboard or rollerblade to and from school. I am hopeful for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Pamela Young
P.O. Box 4444
Honolulu, HI 96812

Sent from my Verizon Wireless mobile phone

TO: Representatives Roy Takumi and Jerry Chang, Chairs
Representatives Lyla Berg and Mark Nakashima, Vice Chairs
Members of the Committees on Education and Higher Education

DATE: Tuesday, March 16, 2010

FROM: Natalie Iwasa
aka Bicycle Mom
1331 Lunalilo Home Road
Honolulu, HI 96825
808-395-3233

HEARING: 2:05 p.m., Wednesday, March 17, 2010

SUBJECT: HCR 159 Request DOE to Establish Bike and Walk School Buses – **Support with suggested change**

Aloha Representatives,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SCR 76, which requests the state Department of Education to establish Bike and Walk School Buses.

In addition to being a healthy choice for students, bicycling and walking to school prepares children for learning. Several studies have shown kids who are more physically activity perform better academically. (*See the Fall 2007 Research Brief for Active Living Research, "Active Education Physical Education, Physical Activity and Academic Performance."*) **Please consider adding this important factor to the to the Whereas clause that starts on line 26 of the resolution.**

As mentioned in the American Bicyclist January/February 2010 issue, examples of successful Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs in other U.S. locations include:

- Boulder, CO – Bear Creek Elementary involved 70% of its students in walking and biking activities;
- Palo Alto, CA – in the fall of 2009, 45% of the total middle school enrollment bicycled to school;
- Tucson & East Pima Region, AZ – under SRTS programs, 74 bike rodeos were held reaching over 2,000 school children in 2009;
- Beaverton, OR – the school district has a SRTS plan for each of its 45 schools; and

- University of Wisconsin, Madison - provides more than 10,000 bike rack stalls on campus, coupons for helmets and lights, multiple bike lanes and paths, PSAs for safe cycling as well as other bicycle programs and boasts 20% of students and 13% of faculty bicycle in good weather (6% of students and 3% of faculty bike in inclement weather).

Hawaii already has successful BikeEd programs for elementary students on Oahu and the Big Island. With encouragement from the DOE, enforcement from law officers, and engineering that embraces all users of our roadways, we are certain to provide an environment in which parents feel comfortable allowing their children to walk and ride to school and that activity will flow through to additional benefits for our children and society in general.

I therefore support this resolution and urge you to adopt it.