

Chairman Takumi, Vice-Chair Berg, honorable members of the committee,

My name is Aaron Kamakawiwoole, resident of Ewa Beach, and dedicated supporter of education in our state. HCR 58, which recognizes September 2010 as “Education and Awareness Month” in Hawaii, as offered by Rep. John Mizuno, wonderfully encapsulates our state’s traditional support for all forms of education, and the opportunities for school choice which parents have traditionally enjoyed.

Children learn in different ways, and thus school choice is critically important to provide every child with the best education possible to suit their learning needs. Setting aside the month of September to recognize the importance of various forms of education would help to bring back into perspective education’s importance to our society and culture.

Regardless of how often they meet, where they meet, and who teaches the class, educating and guiding a child through their formative years has always been prized in our state. Parents love options for their children, and our state boasts an impressive number of options for everyone. Local public schools, highly acclaimed private schools, various faith-based parochial schools, a number of charter schools, and home schools across the state offer individuals the flexibility that is necessary to give each child the best education possible.

I was raised in a single-income home by a loving father and mother. My father is an ordained minister, and my mother has spent the past 23 years of her life investing in her children’s education as their primary teacher. My father filled in as substitute teacher (to give my mother vacation time), and my siblings and I received one-to-one teaching, mentorship, and advice. As a junior in college now, I look back on those years with exceeding joy and satisfaction, in part because my education was tailored to fit my particular learning needs.

The best gift we can give to the next generation is the gift of knowledge. As children grow and take positions of leadership in business, law, politics, management, and education, it is critically important to remember the diversity of educational opportunities that allow children to “think outside the box,” explore their world, and come up with innovative and creative ways to solve current problems. I highly recommend the passage of HCR 58 as an affirmation of our fundamental dedication to the core values of our state.

Mahalo for your time, consideration, and service to our state,
Warmest aloha,

Aaron K. Kamakawiwoole

berg1-Matthew

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 4:45 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: erinann815@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR58 on 2/17/2010 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 2/17/2010 2:00:00 PM HCR58

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: erin rutherford
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: erinann815@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/16/2010

Comments:
let's celebrate our kumu and keiki!

berg1-Matthew

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 1:10 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: jackieb@hmhb-hawaii.org
Subject: Testimony for HCR58 on 2/17/2010 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 2/17/2010 2:00:00 PM HCR58

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jackie Berry
Organization: Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jackieb@hmhb-hawaii.org
Submitted on: 2/16/2010

Comments: