

LATE TESTIMONY

Marguerite Higa
Parent of public school child, Manoa
House Education Committee
3/10/10, 2pm
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2124

I support SB2124 because we must end the furlough friday crisis now, no matter what it takes.

Every day I wake up wondering if it is a horrible dream?
Are we really taking school away from our children to save money?
What society in the world? in **history** has ever done this?
I am ashamed to be a part of the ALOHA state.

This is the worst disaster to our future that Hawaii has ever faced, and where is our leadership? In China drumming up tourists? At governors' conferences? Apparently anywhere but here doing anything but working on a solution to this crisis.

This is an option that should have NEVER BEEN ON THE TABLE.

The governor is not the only one. We have a house and senate leadership who says nothing can be done because they don't have the votes, or the other side won't go along, or they will be vetoed. The simple truth is that nothing can be done when YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING.

I love our teachers, but we have a teacher's union whose leadership leaves a lot to be desired. They come to the table *not ready to negotiate*. They are not banging on the doors of the governor to get negotiations going, instead they are waiting for some kind of invitation that they *know very well will never come*.

But you know what, WE DON'T CARE ANYMORE whose fault it is. **IT HAS GONE ON SO LONG THAT NOW IT IS EVERYBODY'S FAULT.**

WE NEED TO SPEAK UP. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. Kids can't wait, and we need to save this year NOW.

We recently ran a campaign to ask the kids what they think about all this, called the 1000 Student Voices. What they had to say is:

- They are angry and frustrated. **CANCELING SCHOOL DOESN'T SOLVE THIS YEAR'S ECONOMIC DISASTER.**
- GREAT SADNESS as their future is slipping away.
- LESS CONFIDENT... as their brains get mushy. Suffering from anxiety

It is affecting ALL of our keiki... from Waianae to Hawaii Kai, military kids, homeless kids, recent immigrant kids, and ALL of our kids.

It is not too late. Children can't wait. If we were to end furloughs today, we would have 3 wonderful months of a REGULAR school schedule. Take a look at this year's school calendar. What kind of insanity is this, when simply having open schools seems like a dream too good to be true?

End it now!
Marguerite Higa

Save Our Schools Hawaii

Economic Forum Today. Economists demonstrated that use of special funds is least damaging to economy. Cutting services is most damaging!

FROM :

Jo McGarry Curran

HEM

March 10th 2010

SB 2124- SD2

TO:

Chair Rep Takumi .

Vice Chair Lyla Berg

As co founder of Hawaii Education Matters, a mother of a 1st grader at Kahala Elementary I urge you to support this bill.

It's not news to any of you that our children are suffering as a result of furlough Fridays, how badly they are suffering, though, may not become apparent for years.

As a result of the three and a half day weeks, and sometimes two and a half day weeks our children are spending so little time in school they are in permanent vacation mode. Anyone involved with education will tell you how this generation of children are already struggling to keep up with schoolwork and maintain any kind of routine with regard to their schooldays.

We know these are tough economic times, but budgeting the education of young people and denying their right to an adequate education, is no way to cope in a crisis. Just because the youngest citizens in Hawaii have no voice, no union and no spokespeople, does not mean that they have no rights.

Of course there are many reasons to not support this bill, and many more people who have your ears urging you not to. But the people who matter most in this situation are the people you will not hear from. On their behalf, I urge you. Don't budget the future. Stand up and be counted. Give our children the education they deserve . and get them back in school.

March 10, 2010

LATE TESTIMONY

**TO: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair of the Committee on Education and
Vice Chair Representative Lyla Berg**

FROM: Carolyn Vierra, Honolulu, HI 96821

RE: SB 2124 SD2 Relating to the Hawai`i Hurricane Relief Fund
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(Oral TESTIMONY)

I am in strong support of this bill.

I am a parent of public school students, who have been and continue to denied their education, specifically to the instructional days that were taken away aka as Furlough Fridays.

I know that Vice Chair Berg, as an educator, understands the importance to instructional days be given back to the students as it is an essential to their success in their future.

The Children are our future leaders, future educators, future politicians, future voters—do not rob them of their future. Stand up now. Invest in their futures! If we don't, no one else will.

I humbly ask that you support this bill, for the sake of the keiki of Hawai`i.

I Mua!