

## Testimony for SB 2451

By

Richard W. Paul

Principal

I support SB 2451 in terms of Hana High and Elementary only.

Hana High and Elementary School has 350 students in grades K-12. Currently our funding is allocated by Weighted Student Formula.

Hana High School has only 80 high school students but must provide necessary classes in order for our students to meet the Board of Education graduation requirements.

Most courses, required for graduation, require a Highly Qualified teacher per federal guidelines. The following courses must be taught by a Highly-Qualified teacher (math, science, social studies, language arts, foreign language and art). In addition, other non-teaching positions are required such as Registrar, Student Activities Coordinator, Student Services Coordinator and Athletic Director

When a small school is funded on a per pupil basis, a small number of students (80), at Hana High School, do not provide the necessary funding to provide teachers to meet graduation requirements. An example would be the Athletic Director. The per pupil cost for a required Athletic Director for a school of 80 students is several times higher than the per pupil cost for an Athletic Director at a high school of 1500 students.

I support some categorical funding to support small schools.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANA'I HIGH & ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
P.O. BOX 630630  
LANA'I CITY, HAWAII 96763

LATE TESTIMONY

February 8, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for SB 2451.

Since the inception of the Department of Education's Weighted Student Formula (WSF), Lanai High and Elementary School has not been funded at the level necessary to adequately meet the educational needs of students in the Lanai community.

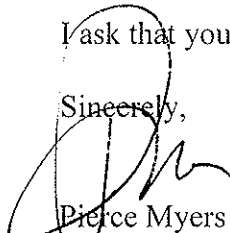
I've provided data to the Board of Education verifying the fact that smaller schools cost more, per student, to operate. Some of these additional costs and relate to travel enabling students and teachers to participate in off-island events to the same extent as their peers in larger population centers.

Other costs relate to our offering enough elective courses at the high school level to meet graduation requirements. Classes in which these electives are offered are most often smaller and costs for the teacher are not addressed when the number of students is the primary factor in a funding formula.

From conversations with my colleagues in rural communities in Hana and on Molokai, I know that my concern extends beyond Lanai. In fact, it appears that as schools get smaller the situation becomes more acute.

I ask that you please support SB 2451 so schools in rural areas receive adequate funding.

Sincerely,



Pierce Myers  
Principal

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
INTERIM  
SUPERINTENDENT

## **Molokai High School**

P O Box 158, Hoolehua, Hawaii 96729  
Phone: 567-6950/Fax: 567-6960

**LATE TESTIMONY**

February 8, 2010

Being the principal at Molokai High School for my first year, I have seen the impact of weighted student formula on the quality and quantity of instruction that can be provided due to the limited funding for small rural schools.

I strongly support Senate Bill 2451.

Thank you,

Denise Kelly  
Acting Principal



**LATE TESTIMONY**

**Molokai High School**

P O Box 158, Hoolehua, Hawaii 96729  
Phone: 567-6950/Fax: 567-6960

February 10, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very appreciative of the opportunity to testify on behalf of Senate Bill 2451 which would allow additional funding to small, rural schools. This is my first year at Molokai High School as principal. I understand that last school year, Molokai High School had to make the difficult decision to cut two teaching positions from our staff. Those two positions were a science teacher and a math teacher. This caused class sizes to skyrocket in these two primary subject areas. This was due to a decrease in the amount of funding that Molokai High School received for Weighted Student Formula. For next school year, in order to add additional sections of math and science, we are trying to fund a half time position with federal funds that we may or may not receive. The unknown is difficult when trying to do what is best for the students.

Students on Molokai need smaller class sizes. When we have only two teachers for math and two teachers for science for 345 students, we do the best that we can, but it is not enough. In addition, it is not in the best interest of student learning. Molokai High School has not been able to meet Adequate Yearly Progress for math, and yet, the school had to make the decision to cut a math position last school year due to funding. It is not logical.

Aside from the math and science content area aspects, there are other aspects that cause difficulties for Molokai High School. We are the only high school on the island, and all of the schools feed into Molokai High. In order to participate in any district competitions, tournaments, or athletic events, we have to pay for our students to travel to Maui or Oahu. To give an example of the cost of that, we just purchased ferry coupons for our spring sports' athletes at a cost of over \$22,000. We had numerous high-quality science fair projects, but were only able to send nine of them to the district competition. Of those nine, two were selected for the state competition. This is a huge success for MHS, but also a great cost! Finally, in looking at other classes, we are attempting to reorganize our courses so that we can offer EVERY student the opportunity to earn the BOE Step Up diploma. That will require additional sections of core content courses as well as elective courses, and we don't have enough teachers due to funding to create those sections.

I would again like to thank you for your consideration and your time in reading my concerns for Molokai High School. I am a new principal this school year, but I have already seen the troubles that lack of funding can cause for smaller high schools in a rural island separated from others by an ocean. I hope that with the help of this bill, smaller schools will have the playing field evened out enough to allow for our students to fully participate in activities and classes like their larger school peers.

Sincerely,

*Denise Kelly*

Denise Kelly  
Acting Principal, Molokai High School