

SB360

Date of Hearing: February 13, 2009

Committee: Senate Education and
Housing

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. No. 360, Relating to Extracurricular Activities

Purpose: Requires the department of education to allow children who are home schooled to participate in extracurricular activities at the public school they would otherwise be required to attend.

Department's Position: At this time, the Department of Education (Department) chooses not to comment on this bill until the Board of Education (Board) has taken an opportunity to review the bill. The Board, at a General Business Meeting will be taking a position on this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDH Testimony](#)
Cc: greenw001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB360 on 2/13/2009 2:30:00 PM
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 9:49:39 AM

Testimony for EDH 2/13/2009 2:30:00 PM SB360

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brenda Green
Organization: Individual
Address: Waipahu, Hawaii
Phone:
E-mail: greenw001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/10/2009

Comments:

Please pass this bill. I have been a home school mom of 2 for the past 8 years here in Hawaii. Since I pay my state and federal taxes just like those parents who have their children in public schools I should have the same access to school activities as they do. The families that send their children to public school do not pay for their children's academia or public school extra curricula activities, except in the same way as I do via their taxes.

Please pass this bill with the exception of home school families having to pay up to 150% more than a fee charged to a public school student. The fee should be equal to each student whether public school student or home schooled student.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2009

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2009

2:30 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NUMBER 360, RELATING TO
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

TO THE HONORABLE NORMAN SAKAMOTO, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE

My name is **Ryan McDonald** and I am a 14-year-old home-educated student, and resident of Honolulu. I **strongly support this bill** and believe that SB 360 would present new options for home school students of Hawaii.

I compete in sailing races and competitions around the island, and having the opportunity to join a public school's sailing team would provide a greater chance for me to expand my knowledge and skill. Not only could I improve my overall ability, I would have more chances to race! This would provide me with incredible new ways to use my God-given talent, and would allow other students from around Hawaii to do the same.

Just imagine where now-famous athletes would have been without this type of law present in other states. Tim Tebow played football in Florida at a public high school, yet was homeschooled at the same time. His experiences put him in the running for the Heisman trophy, and he was the first player to receive that prestigious award as a college sophomore. Legislation like SB360 made the difference for him, and it can do the same for Hawaii.

Testimony on SB 360

Ryan McDonald

February 13th

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Of course, there are more than just sports involved. Included in the bill are such activities as band practice and other clubs. For those who want more hands-on experience and practice with a musical instrument, this provides opportunity for them. If a student wanted to learn more about a certain subject, he or she could join a study group, or maybe even a book club. This bill extends beyond the realm of sports, and into the realm of learning.

In conclusion, the homeschool community would greatly benefit from a bill with intentions such as these. I thank the committee for taking time to consider my testimony on SB 360, and ask that you pass this bill.

From: [Lundell](#)
To: [EDH Testimony](#)
Subject: SB 360
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 4:31:07 PM

SB 360 Relating to Extracurricular Activities
February 13, 2009
2:30pm

Our family has chosen homeschooling as a means of education for our four children. This gives us flexibility to adapt to each child's unique learning style. Our children's ages range from 2-11 so being at home together allows them to bond and enjoy each other's company.

My two older boys are very interested in sports. We are asking the Senate to please **pass SB 360** to allow homeschooled children equal access to after school activities including sports.

Thank you!

Kristi Lundell

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2009

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2009

2:30 PM

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NUMBER 360 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

TO THE HONORABLE NORMAN SAKAMOTO, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Lanson Ho'opai, and I am a 14 year old resident of Honolulu in my freshman year. I very strongly support this bill, which would allow homeschoolers to participate in extracurricular activities in public school and private school campuses.

Passage of this bill would grant the homeschooled student the opportunity to participate in activities such as sports, A+, and other activities which would be restricted from him/her as a result of the separation between homeschooling and traditional schooling, by which I mean public and private schooling. Furthermore, the prospect for increased physical and mental activity for the homeschooled student would be made available.

The homeschooled student has standards required of him/her in order for him/her to home school legally, similar to those of a traditionally schooled student, i.e. taking a standardized test and sending a report notifying the district school of yearly progress.

The activities which SB Number 360 mentions are not entirely funded by the government. Taxpayer dollars, including those of homeschooling parents, are used to fund and support these activities. There are no exemptions to taxpayer's dollars, saying that this family's money or that family's money will go to, for example, classroom expenses and not sport expenses. So the question becomes: Why are we required to fund activities that we cannot participate in? In my view, this is equal access discrimination. It seems inconsistent to be supporting activities that we do not and cannot take part in.

I thank this committee for the opportunity to present my opinion and testimony on this matter, and know that with the passage of this bill comes better education for homeschooled students physically and mentally.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & HOUSING
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2009
Friday, February 13, 2009
2:30 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 360 – RELATING TO EXTRACURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES**

TO THE HONORABLE NORMAN SAKAMOTO, CHAIR, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

My name is **Drake Boyer** and I am a homeschooled student in my freshman year. I am testifying **in support of Senate Bill No. 360**, which would allow homeschooled students to participate in extracurricular activities such as sports, cheerleading, music, etc.

The problem with current law in Hawaii is that homeschooled students are not able to fully pursue their goals at a high school level. Six-time Pro Bowler Jason Taylor was able to compete with his local high school football team in Pennsylvania even though he was homeschooled in his 10th, 11th and 12th grade years. More recently, Tim Tebow of the Florida Gators football team and winner of the 2007 Heisman Trophy, the most prestigious award in college football, was homeschooled his entire life! Just nine years before his freshman year of high school, the state of Florida passed a law to allow homeschooled students to participate in extracurricular activities at their local schools. It took only sixteen years to produce a homeschool Heisman Trophy winner. Imagine what talent Hawaii may be losing out on!

I, too, have been affected by the current law preventing homeschoolers from participating in extracurricular activities. My teammates and I on the Kuikahi Volleyball Club recently returned from a tournament in Anaheim where we earned an open bid to the Junior Olympics in Atlanta in July. However, while my teammates and other players get to improve their skills during the current high school season, I am left to sit in the stands and think, what if...

I thank this committee for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter and ask that this bill be passed.

sakamoto2 - Erin

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 1:17 PM
To: EDH Testimony
Cc: dsmith@k12.hi.us
Subject: Testimony for SB360 on 2/13/2009 2:30:00 PM
Attachments: revised alaysha.doc

Testimony for EDH 2/13/2009 2:30:00 PM SB360

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alaysha Balgas
Organization: Individual
Address: Kapaau, HI
Phone:
E-mail: dsmith@k12.hi.us
Submitted on: 2/11/2009

Comments:
High School Student Testimony
Kohala High School

I support this bill because I feel that home schooled kids should be allowed to attend any type of extra curricular activities sponsored by the public school they would attend. I don't feel that it's fair for the home schooled kids to be denied participation in the sports that they love and enjoy playing just because they don't attend a normal public school with other kids, particularly team sports. This is a benefit to the homeschooled students as well as the public school with extra curricular activities, since it expands the school's programs.

I know of some kids that are home schooled and they still participate in certain extra curricular activities like the rest of the kids in school. For example, these kids attend drivers' education classes on our school campus. It has not been a problem that they attend our school or home school.

Finally, if these home schooled kids are not allowed to attend school extra curricular activities, what are they going to do on their free time? Homeschooled students should at least let them have some sort of opportunity to interact socially with other kids. By allowing participation in sports and other extra curricular activities, they would become better community members.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2009

Friday, February 13, 2009

2:30 PM

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO.360 - RELATING TO EXTRACURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES**

TO THE HONORABLE NORMAN SAKAMOTO, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

My name is Joshua Kakugawa. I am a homeschool senior testifying on behalf of
homeschool athletes in this state. I respectfully support this bill.

I love tennis. I have been playing tennis for over seven years. As a homeschool tennis
competitor I have been privileged to have competed in local, national, and international
tournaments, representing Hawaii through the United States Tennis Association/Hawaii Pacific
Section (USTA/HPS). I have ranked in the top five of the USTA/HPS Boys 18 Open Division,
which is the highest level of competition for my age group, since I was 17 years old.

As an athlete, my goal is to challenge myself to perform well in all competitive arenas.
Unfortunately, that hasn't been possible. The Hawaii State Law currently states that
homeschoolers are not allowed to participate in high school extracurricular activities, which
includes sports. The choice my family and I have made to be homeschooled has limited the
opportunities for me to compete.

Last year the competitor who finished 2nd in the State Tennis Finals was someone I have
beaten consecutively over the last three years. I'll never know how well I would have done in
state competitions, as for my younger brothers and for all the other homeschool children who
aspire to do well in their areas of interests, there is the possibility of doors opening to those
opportunities with this bill.

I thank this Committee for allowing homeschoolers to have a voice in your decision and I
respectfully ask that Senate Bill No. 360 be passed.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2009

Friday, February 13, 2009

2:30 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 360 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

TO THE HONORABLE NORMAN SAKAMOTO CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE

My name is Bree'Ana Vellalos and I am a home-educated high school senior. I strongly support SB360 that would allow home schoolers to participate in extra curricular activities within the public schools.

When some find out that I am home educated, they ask, “What do you do all day?” or “Do you have any friends?” Just because someone is home educated does not mean that person is any more intelligent or any different than someone in the public or private schools. They have a similar education, but are able to receive that education in the comfort of their own home. Why then, should we not allow home schoolers to participate in extra curricular activities?

There are many activities and opportunities for home schoolers to hang out with other kids. Co-ops, debate clubs, and drama clubs allow home schoolers to receive an education and share that education with peers. Rarely do you find, however, home school sports teams. It would take a minimum of 6 or 8 teams to make a softball league just for home schoolers! Having the option for home schoolers to participate in extra curricular activities in the public school system would greatly allow them to expand their knowledge, meet new friends, and sharpen their skills.

I thank the committees for taking the time to consider my testimony. Let’s make Hawaii a place where home schoolers can enjoy the same activities as their peers, by passing this bill today.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2009
Friday, February 13, 2009
2:30 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NUMBER 360, RELATING TO
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

**TO THE HONORABLE NORMAN SAKAMOTO, CHAIR, AND THE MEMBERS
OF THE COMMITTEE**

My name is **Rebecca Espinosa** and I am a 15-year-old home schooled sophomore. I **support this bill**, which allows home school students to participate in extracurricular activities at their local public school.

John Fischer once said, “The essence of our effort to see that every child has a chance must be to assure each an equal opportunity, not to become equal, but to become different - to realize whatever unique potential of body, mind and spirit he or she possesses.” The problem today is that home schooled children are being excluded from extracurricular activities that are offered to public school children.

One of my hobbies is singing. In my district’s public school, there is a choir club, yet because I am a home schooled, I cannot join the choir. I believe that I should have just as much of an opportunity to join choir as the kids who go to that school. My parents pay taxes to fund that program, and I do not have the chance to experience what that particular club has to offer.

SB360 would allow home schooled students to participate in activities that are currently not available to them. We should have the right to participate in these programs, from which we can gain knowledge and enjoy. Passing this bill would give us the chance to contribute to the schools we would be otherwise attending. I support this bill because every child should have equal opportunity in Hawaii.

This bill grants us, the home schooled children of Hawaii, an opportunity that has long been awaited. I thank the committee for allowing me to testify on SB360, and ask that you pass this bill.

From: [Debbie Zimmerman](#)
To: [EDH Testimony](#)
Cc: ["Lundell"](#)
Subject: Testimony for SB302A ?
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:49:35 PM

Hello. My name is Andrew Luke Zimmerman Jr. I am a 7th grade homeschool student, but for many years I had been mostly a public school student. However, some time later, my academic level crashed. For a long time, I blamed the school, but the school was not the majority of the problem. I had "special needs". So my mom had an idea that would start me homeschooled. I do it and in probably half the time many students are at school, I learn twice as much (In case you failed in math, that is a total of 4 times as much). My mother is very, very, frank, although the majority of my teachers are several text books and a laptop. Hey, it still works really well.

For a future career, I had always wanted to go into professional film directing. They makes tons of money, they create movies, they get to be the boss, not much competition (When was the last time you saw someone who wanted to be a film director and not an actor?) and directors don't have as many personal hang-ups. I finally found the perfect place to work at this. It was a computer center, referred to as MAAC, which was in Palolo. I met some very good friends there, found they had a few bluescreens, and they partnered with OLELO. However, it has been 8 months since the last time they did a filmmaking class. So in this situation, I have two choices

- 1) I could go back to a public school, and basically divide my learning ability by 4
- 2) I could stay homeschooled, and just find something else to do.

Personally, I don't really like either of those. But, should this bill get passed, I will be able to do both, as I know of several technology clubs within my school district. And once I hit a Spielberg level, we all know that means more money will be collected by the government from me in taxes.

Some people may have heard about Queen Mary of England. She married Phillip, who was the king of Spain. Since they worked together, things turned out pretty well, with the exception of the fact Mary was a humongous killer. But Spain prospered, and eventually they began their transatlantic expedition that brought 500 billion dollars in gold to Spain. Now THAT is what I call an economic stimulus package. This is because rather than trying to kill each other, they cooperated, and both countries prospered. Would it be so hard the DOE and homeschool people to work together in the same way?

To close, I would like to thank you for coming up with, and hopefully, signing the bill SB302A.

Written Testimony for Senate bill 360 relating to
Extracurricular Activities
Hearing on Feb 13 at 2:30 pm Conference Rm 225
Committee On Education and Housing
Testimony of Gracie Cockett, 8th grade Homeschooler

Regarding Senate Bill 360:

Thank you for hearing my testimony today on Senate Bill 360. I believe homeschoolers should be allowed to participate in public school extracurricular activities, just as they are in various other states in this country. Once we reach high school age, the amount of sports leagues outside of the private school and public school sports leagues are extremely limited. My younger brother loves to play team sports such as basketball and baseball. But if we continue to homeschool through high school, my brother will not have opportunities to play these sports. I love homeschooling with my brother and my younger sister too. I would hate for Will to have to leave homeschooling just so he can play sports.

Mahalo much for your time and consideration.

Written Testimony for Senate bill 360 relating to
Extracurricular Activities
Hearing on Feb 13 at 2:30 pm Conference Rm 225
Committee On Education and Housing
Testimony of Will Cockett-5th grade homeschooler

Thank you for hearing my testimony today.

I believe Senate Bill 360 should be passed in the State of Hawaii because my homeschool friends and I love sports and have the ability to go far with our natural talent. If we can't do sports with the public schools then our chances to further these talents are very limited.

I think every kid deserves a chance to try out for basketball or football within the public school system. Many other states already have passed similar bills legalizing homeschoolers access to sports.
Would it really hurt to do the same in Hawaii?

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2009

Friday, February 13, 2009

2:30 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 360 – RELATING TO EXTRACURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES**

TO THE HONORABLE NORMAN SAKAMOTO, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

My name is Jennifer Fuchikami and I am a homeschool student in my senior year. I support Senate Bill 360, which will give homeschool students the right and the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities at a public school.

As I near my graduation at the end of the school year, like many high school seniors, am looking forward to college and the future, but also reminiscing on my high school years something I will soon leave behind.

I wouldn't trade any of my school experiences, even if I had a chance to go back and "redo" them. I don't think many people would. Those experiences helped shape all of us into the people we are today. However, I think if you talked to every parent, or any person in Hawaii – no matter how great of an education they received – the majority would say they'd want their children (and the future children) of Hawaii to have a better education and opportunities than they did. That is what this bill could do for my younger siblings and the other homeschool students in Hawaii – give them the opportunity, if they wish, to be involved in activities such as high school level sports and drama/theater groups, to name a few. Public school students and homeschoolers participating in such programs will also be able to meet and interact with one another.

My only reservation with this bill is the vagueness of Section 1 (c), on page 2, of which lines 3-7 state: "The department shall adopt rules to effectuate this section and to provide procedures by which a home schooled child may apply to participate in extracurricular activities. The department may also adopt rules setting forth which programs qualify as extracurricular activities under this section."

Testimony of Jennifer Fuchikami
S.B. 360
February 13, 2009
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I'm the type of person who likes to have all the facts and information before I make a decision, so I would feel more comfortable if I knew exactly what the rules and regulations would be for the homeschooled student before I put my 100% support behind this bill.

I would like to thank the committee for the chance to express my opinion on this matter and urge you to consider the area of my concern, and then pass Senate Bill 360.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2009

Friday, February 13, 2009

2:30 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 360 – RELATING TO
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

TO THE HONORABLE NORMAN SAKAMOTO, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

My name is Kristi Fuchikami. I am a homeschool student in my junior year. I wish to express my **support of Senate Bill 360**, which would allow homeschoolers to participate in extracurricular activities at a public school.

Homeschoolers would be have to be able to meet the G.P.A. requirement and pay the activity fee, as the public school students already do. I believe that this bill would not only provide homeschoolers with the opportunity to play sports, do cheerleading, and be in clubs or in band, but also provide public school students with the opportunity to meet and interact with homeschoolers.

I thank the committee for the opportunity to present my opinion on this topic and ask that you please pass this bill.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular session of 2009

Friday, February 13th 2009
2:30 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 360 – RELATING TO
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

TO THE HONORABLE SENATOR SLOM, GREEN, CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF
THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Dana Miyashiro and I am an 8th grade home-schooler. I **strongly support this bill**, which would allow my peers and I to participate in extracurricular activities at public schools.

Because home-schooling families pay taxes that fund public schools, I believe it is only fair that we are allowed to participate in extracurricular activities such as sports. Not only will the passing of this bill benefit home-schoolers, it will also give public schools more options, talent and participation in extracurricular activities such as sports.

If this bill is passed, I would like to try out for the volleyball and swim team next year at Moanalua High School, because it would allow me to play with people I already know. Another reason it would be beneficial for me to play at Moanalua High School is that it is closer to our house than say, club teams like Kamehameha or Oahu Volleyball Club, and it would be more affordable.

There are many talented home-school children who play sports for private clubs and could and probably would build up the public school image even more if they were allowed to participate there.

I thank the committee for taking the time to read my testimony, because this is a very important issue to me. Please know that there are many more personal examples from across the state from my peers and other home-schooled children who would like to participate in public school sports, band and other clubs. If this bill is passed, all of Hawaii's children be greatly benefited.

From: [Roland & Melissa Crisostomo](#)
To: [EDH Testimony](#)
Subject: *****SPAM***** Support SB 360
Date: Friday, February 13, 2009 9:40:30 AM
Importance: High

02-13-09

Senator Sakamoto and Members of the Education and Housing Committee :

I am a Mililani resident and I have been home schooling my two children for the past 4 years. I support SB 360 and I ask you to support it as well.

As a taxpayer, I believe that my two teenage children should have the benefit and opportunity of participating in extracurricular activities that taxpayer-supported public schooled students already benefit from.

Many home schooled children belong to one income families and the ability to attend taxpayer-supported extracurricular activities at the public schools would allow our children to gain valuable educational and social opportunities to grow into proactive citizens of our state and country.

Currently, if our children want to participate in extracurricular activities in the community, we must pay out of pocket fees at a cost that is financially burdensome to our family. As a result of the high financial cost, our children can not participate in these extracurricular activities.

There are also limited or no opportunities for our children to participate in extracurricular activities in our community because of current laws.

Once again, I ask you to support SB 360.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony to you.

Sincerely,
Melissa Crisostomo
Mililani, Hawaii
626-2469