

SB 360

VIA EMAIL ONLY

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2009
Friday, February 27, 2009
9:00 a.m.

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL NO. 360 – RELATING TO
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

TO: THE HONORABLE DONNA MERCADO KIM, CHAIR, SHAN S. TSUTSUI,
VICE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Sandra Tsuruda and I am the mother of two teenaged daughters who attend Moanalua High School. My children were homeschooled for several years prior to my enrolling them in the public school system three years ago. They enjoy the sports that they have participated in. It has been a benefit to both of them for the experiences they have gleaned and they have learned some things about themselves that they wouldn't have discovered had they not had this opportunity. I support this bill because it will give those homeschooling families an option to allow their children to participate in sports and other activities offered to currently enrolled students. It is quite difficult or impossible to find agencies or community sponsored sports that extend into the high school years or give opportunities that ILH, USTA or other nationally recognized leagues and associations offer. There are many wonderful and amazingly talented home-schooled athletes that could excel given the opportunity and training as well as be of great benefit to the public schools sports programs. The benefits work both ways. I can attest to the incredible jobs that parents do to not only educate their children but to raise them with clarity in their moral character and strong foundations as a family unit. These kids are respectful, honoring to authority and as you can see from the other testimonies you have received, they are quite bright. Contrary to popular belief they are very adaptable to new situations and do just fine socially. I doubt that you will see a "run" on the public schools if this is made available to them but undoubtedly there are some families who are looking forward and are hopeful that their children will be afforded this opportunity to participate. In terms of fairness it would be such only if they are allowed to pay the same fees as everyone else and not more nor should any requirements be placed upon them that are not asked of the currently schooled students. The homeschoolers here in Hawaii are a model group of citizens who serve their communities, pay their taxes and deserve the same treatment, the same benefits, the same opportunities as their counterparts

Please pass bill SB 360. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of this bill.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Tsuruda