

SB 360

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2009

FEBRUARY 27, 2009

9:00 A.M.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 360 – RELATING TO EXTRACURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES**

TO THE HONORABLE DONNA MERCADO KIM, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

My name is Jordan Kakugawa. I am a thirteen year old homeschool student. I am in full support of this bill, which will allow homeschoolers to participate in extracurricular activities.

In 1976, three McKinley band students joined together and formed a high school jazz band. Later, they would go on to become great musicians playing with world renowned artists including Carlos Santana and Gabe Baltazar. All three would go on to receive fame and awards. The three alumni are Ben Rietveld, bassist, who plays for Carlos Santana; Noel Okimoto, drummer, who made the award winning album "Ohana" and has performed with Gabe Baltazar; and Alan Won, saxophonist, who composes and performs in his own band.

When I play the piano I think to myself, "How would I turn out if I were around musical geniuses like them?" Well, the only way to be around musical geniuses is when they are playing music together. So, if I were in a jazz band at a high school I might be able to gain knowledge being in the company of inspiring musicians. But, I cannot do that because the state says I can't participate in extracurricular activities because I am homeschooled.

I see only positive benefits to both the homeschool student and to the school which he/she initiates the activity with. Homeschool students are, as a majority, good citizens and positive role models. We have good work ethic, great attitudes, and we never give up!

I thank the committee for allowing me to submit my testimony, and I ask that SB 360 be passed to allow the future musicians of Hawaii to be heard.

1/23

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2009

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2009

2:00 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.

kim4 - Elizabeth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2009 9:54 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: rjlives@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB360 on 2/27/2009 9:00:00 AM



Testimony for WAM 2/27/2009 9:00:00 AM SB360

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rodolfo J Mendoza
Organization: Individual
Address: Hilo, HI
Phone:
E-mail: rjlives@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/26/2009

Comments:

Aloha Esteemed Members of the Legislature,

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to SB360. While the intent of inclusion for students who are homeschooled is a wonderful idea, I believe it should be at the school's discretion, on a case-by-case basis to allow students who are homeschooled to participate in their zoned school activities. Also, I believe that the children in these traditional schools should be served first- and requiring schools to permit the participation of home-schooled students may decrease the opportunities for students who attend the school.

Mahalo for your time.

Best,
Rodolfo J Mendoza
Hilo, HI