

LATE TESTIMONY

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE EDUCATION
COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

REGARDING: HOUSE BILL 941

Wednesday, February 09, 2011

**LEROY SIMMS JR., ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, HILO HIGH SCHOOL,
Board Member Athletic Directors & Coaches Association
Hawaii Government Employees Association, Director At Large, Hawaii**

Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair,
Representative I'aye Hanohano
Members of the Committee

I am submitting testimony, **OPPOSING** the HB 941 Relating to Education, allowing home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school.

While it has been settled in our nations' courts that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege and not a right, to legislate participation for home school at this time will require additional; funding, eligibility and accountability standards, in conjunction to the need for an improved set of DOE policies, Rules, and our Procedures.

In the Big Island Interscholastic Federation League we were involved in a similar matter that found us in the courts that asked us detail our state rules and procedures that were being challenged by an individual and his/her school.

The two days of testimony, legal affairs, time, energy and resources necessary to bring this matter to a closure had been settled by the courts in placing the matter back into the hands of those parties closest to the point of implementation.

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To deviate from that, by having the courts settle outside of that would have more reaching concerns and unforeseen ramifications on all parties, stakeholders and communities.

I submit for your consideration to **OPPOSE** HB 941, allowing home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and I will be available for questions or more at your convenience.

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To: House Education Committee Members
From: Malcolm Kirkpatrick
In re: HB 941 (Homeschooling)
2011-02-09

Please SUPPORT HB 941. Homeschooling generates superior performance and lowers costs to taxpayers. The legislature will serve homeschoolers and the community by encouraging homeschooling. I recommend that the legislature extend the concept that this bill promotes by expanding homeschoolers' access to DOE resources to include enrollment in regular classes as well as extracurricular activities. Teachers love volunteers. Many homeschooling parents feel capable to teach English Literature and US History but not competent with advanced Math or Chemistry. Partial enrollment and partial funding would give the DOE and homeschoolers more flexibility.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

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To: Representative Roy Takumi
Members of the Committee on Education

From: Wren Fukada
Kalaheo High School, Grade 11

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Subject: Opposition of HB 941

Hello, my name is Wren Fukada; I'm currently a junior at Kalaheo High School and I'm also member of the student council (ASK). I am opposing HB941.

Public school students in Hawaii are under the Chapter 19 disciplinary code. A home school student who attends a public school event is not covered under Chapter 19. If a home school student misbehaves and or breaks rules school administrators cannot enforce Chapter 19 disciplinary action. However, public school students in the same situation can be disciplined under the Chapter 19.

It is unfair to public school students to allow home school students to participate in sports. Public school students must follow the 2.0 rule and pay school fees. Home school students don't pay fees and don't have grade checks. Why should home school students be allowed to participate without these requirements?

Please do not pass HB 941. Thank you for your consideration.

TESTIMONY AGAINST ALLOWING HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE
IN ALL CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS

Aloha! My name is Darrel Galera and I have served as the principal of Moanalua High School for the past ten years. I have also served as a principal of an elementary school and a middle school. I am testifying against this proposal to allow home school students to participate in cocurricular activities at our public elementary, middle, and high schools. Such a change would create serious liability and accountability issues and would have a significant impact on our students enrolled in our schools, on our faculty, staff and administrators, and on our limited resources.

The main reasons why school principals are opposed to this proposal are:

- Schools do not receive funding for home schooled students – implementation of this policy will use resources from Weighted Student Formula funds that are earmarked for enrolled students.
- It will be very difficult, if not impossible, to verify whether home school students can meet 2.0 eligibility requirements and any other requirements for participation. This change will create a “double standard” that favors home schooled students over enrolled students.
- There will be significant safety issues and liability issues, For example, what will happen when a home schooled student is injured as a result of participating in an activity? This can make the Department of Education more vulnerable to increased liability and lawsuits.
- There will be serious accountability issues. For example, what happens if a home schooled student violates Chapter 19 behavioral rules? Does Chapter 19 apply to home schooled students? Can a home schooled student be “suspended” from school if the student is already not attending school?
- Allowing home schooled students to participate in cocurricular activities will result in enrolled students having less opportunities to participate in activities where there are limited participation slots / opportunities.
- Such a change will be difficult for school principals to administer at a time when there are more budget cuts and less resources overall.

And these reasons for opposing this proposed policy are shared by Hawaii public school principals as a whole. In a survey of Hawaii school principals (April 29, 2010), ninety-seven percent (97%) of school principals were opposed to this proposed change. This percentage represents 211 school principals from all islands, all districts, and all complex areas from across the state who responded to this survey.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this very important issue. Mahalo!

Darrel Galera
Principal
Moanalua High School