

To: Senate Education Committee  
From: Malcolm Kirkpatrick  
In re: SB 86  
2011-02-11

Please DO NOT support SB 86

The Government of Hawaii is bankrupt. Its current expenses and debt obligations exceed expected income. Raising taxes will drive productive work out of State or off the books, or will prompt productive workers to trade productive work for leisure.

It does not take 12 years at \$16,000 per student-year to teach a normal child to read and compute. Most vocational training occurs more effectively on the job than in a classroom. State (government, generally) provision of History and Civics instruction is a threat to democracy, just as State operation of newspapers and broadcast news media would be, and are in totalitarian countries like Cuba and North Korea.

Each grade level (1-12) costs the DOE more than \$150 million per year. What other State programs will you cut to pay for an additional year of compulsory school attendance?

The benefits that this bill promises will not appear. As the tables that accompany my testimony indicate, US States which compel attendance at age seven or eight have generate higher NAEP 4th and 8th grade Reading and Math scores than states which compel attendance at age five or six. I have used 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996 and 2000 4th and 8th grade Reading and Math tests. I have used proficiency scores, percentile scores, mean scores, and mean scores by parents' race and level of education. Early education may be important. Early compulsory attendance at school is counter-indicated. Studies which show a benefit from early institutionalization compare children of deficient parents who receive enhanced early learning programs to children of deficient parents who do not. No conclusion reasonably applies to the population at large. By analogy, take two groups of 100 individuals and drop them 50 miles apart in the Sahara. Provide one group with shelter and 10,000 gallons of polluted water, a ton of rotten vegetables and a ton of spoiled meat. Supply the other group with shelter and no food or water. Return in two weeks and assess the impact of their diet on overall longevity. Could you then reasonably conclude that polluted water, rotten vegetables, and spoiled meat are good for people with access to a normal diet?

The legislature could greatly enhance overall system performance and greatly reduce costs to taxpayers by expanded use of standardized tests. A legislated requirement that all DOE schools administer tests for course credit at any time of year to any student who applies and administer an exit exam to students of any age would enhance student motivation. Student motivation is the most important policy variable in overall system performance.

The policy which speakers of American English call "public education", which compels attendance at school and restricts parents' options for the use of the taxpayers' pre-college education subsidy to schools operated by government employees, originated in missionary evangelism and anti-Catholic bigotry and has become an employment program for dues-paying members of the HSTA/HGEA/UPW cartel. If this is not so, why cannot any student take, at any age, an exit exam (the GED will do) and apply the taxpayers' age 6-18 education subsidy toward post-secondary tuition at any VA-approved post-secondary institution in the State or toward a wage subsidy at any qualified private-sector employer? If it is fraud for a mechanic to charge for the repair of a functional motor and if it is fraud for a physician to charge for the treatment of a healthy patient, then it is fraud for a teacher, school, or school district to charge for the instruction of a student who does not need our help.

Marvin Minsky

Interview

Communications of the Association for Computing Machinery (1994-July)

**Minsky:** *"...many of our foremost achievers developed under conditions that are not much like those of present-day mass education. Robert Lawler just showed me a paper by Harold Macurdy on the child pattern of genius. Macurdy reviews the early education of many eminent people from the last couple of centuries and concludes (1) that most of them had an enormous amount of attention paid to them by one or both parents and (2) that generally they were relatively isolated from other children. This is very different from what most people today consider an ideal school. It seems to me that much of what we call education is really socialization. Consider what we do to our kids. Is it really a good idea to send your 6-year-old into a room full of 6-year-olds, and then, the next year, to put your 7-year-old in with 7-year-olds, and so on? A simple recursive argument suggests this exposes them to a real danger of all growing up with the minds of 6-year-olds. And, so far as I can see, that's exactly what happens.*

*Our present culture may be largely shaped by this strange idea of isolating children's thought from adult thought. Perhaps the way our culture educates its children better explains why most of us come out as dumb as they do, than it explains how some of us come out as smart as they do."*

Please DO NOT support SB 86.

Erin Conner

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 14, 2011 11:10 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** Lora@cabcmaui.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB86 on 2/14/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 2/14/2011 1:15:00 PM SB86

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Lora Casco  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [Lora@cabcmaui.com](mailto:Lora@cabcmaui.com)  
Submitted on: 2/14/2011

Comments:

As a citizen of the State of Hawaii and mother of 6 children I do have some concerns about this bill.

Lowering the compulsory attendance age puts more pressure on younger and younger children to learn concepts that they may not be capable of learning yet and also will put more burdens on our overcrowded school system. Beginning a child's formal education too early can result in education burn out and poor school performance later on.

There have been numerous studies done that have examined the impact of early childhood education and the impact on test scores in later education. One of these from the Goldwater Institute (Feb. 6, 2007) examined Stanford 9 test scores and found Arizona kindergarten programs initially improved but then had no measurable impact by the fifth grade.

Also, we have to take into account how this is going to impact class size and the need for more classroom space, the need for more teachers, and the burden to the tax payers.

Please take all this into consideration. Keeping our keiki at home, in daycare or Jr. kindergarten programs until they are six is not doing them no harm. Personally I believe the best we can do for our schools is give the keiki that are there our best in terms of teachers, education and standards. Please oppose these bills.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lora Casco

Testimony for SB 86 and 1384 regarding Mandatory Kindergarten

Hearing for Education Committee today, Monday, February 14, 2011 1:15 in room 225

Dear Senator's,

"Please **oppose** Senate Bill 86 and Senate Bill 1384. Lowering the compulsory attendance age will prevent parents from determining when their child is ready for school. Research has also shown that by the 3rd grade there is no academic advantage for mandatory kindergarten programs. Please vote against both bills."

Personally, we entered our son into kindergarten when he was six because as parents we had some concerns about some health issues and how this would impact his first year of school and the overall experience. We are so thankful to this day that we made the right decision in waiting. Our son is very well adjusted, the head of his class in most subjects because he has confidence that he otherwise wouldn't have if he entered school when he wasn't ready physically or mentally. We feel he would have been labeled and made fun of if we had put into an environment that wasn't suitable to his needs at that time in his life.

Our state already has so many issues with prospering the keiki of this island. How could we possibly consider such a measure that these two bills represent when our children are suffering already.

Entering children into school prematurely will **NOT** benefit the children but rather cause further hinderance to their overall well-being and success in school. Entering kindergarten too early can and has affected so many children especially boys who typically are not socially mature or academically mature to withstand a classroom setting. It is when they struggle that they become labeled and may possibly even be put on medication because they can not sit still etc. This is an epidemic problem in our society as a whole and the education department needs to realize that every child is extremely different in their levels of maturation and all other areas of development so we can not create a mold that each child is to fit into and try to force an agenda upon them.

Do we really care about the well-being of each and every child in our state or are we trying to do what is convenient? Please say **NO** to these bills that actually will cause more harm and add more negative impact to an education system that is in need of major fixing. Our government shouldn't be passing any education bills until we can repair this horrific education situation within our state.

Thank you for always keeping the well-being of the Hawaii residence in mind as you consider all that is being proposed at our state capitol. We so appreciate all that you do for the very best interest of our state and those who reside here.

Mahalo nui loa,  
Lissa Cockett  
Oahu

Erin Conner

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 14, 2011 8:02 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** willowhi@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB86 on 2/14/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 2/14/2011 1:15:00 PM SB86

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Willow Aureala  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [willowhi@yahoo.com](mailto:willowhi@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/14/2011

Comments:

I completely disagree with forcing parents to make their children attend kindergarten. There is little evidence to demonstrate that compulsory education, especially at the kindergarten level, results in positive affects for education in later years. I STRONGLY oppose taking away the right of parents to determine whether their children attend kindergarten!