

SB 871

SD 1



**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

P. O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2011
9:20 a.m., Conference Room 211

Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB871 sd1**
Relating to Education: Home School Student Equal Access to Extracurricular Activities

Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for allowing me to testify in my capacity as a member of the Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE); I testify in strong support of SB871 sd1.

Although the BOE has not taken a position on SB871, in February of 2009, the BOE voted to Support HB493, which was the 2009 version of the bill you are hearing now.

As you know the Department of Education (DOE) is NOT mandated to provide extra-curricular activities to ANY student; however, we have determined that the benefits of such programs outweigh the costs. For all the reasons why our public education system supports extra-curricular activities for traditionally enrolled students, I support offering these same opportunities and benefits to home school students.

Opponents to this equal access measure continually cite the burden that will befall their schools: "How will we ensure these home school students are really maintaining a 2.0 grade point average?"

First of all, Hawaii Administrative Rule Chapter 8-12, Compulsory Attendance Exceptions (HAR 8-12), requires principals to monitor, test and evaluate home school student's progress. There is so much oversight provided by the principals that the DOE's Committee on Weights should allocate home school students their own weight so that schools have an incentive to attract more home school student participation.

Secondly, The DOE Guidelines on the 2.0 GPA rule allows each school to establish their separate internal system for academic checks. Whichever system, or forms, the individual school establishes can be checked by the home-school teacher just as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kim Coco Iwamoto, Esq. 
State of Hawaii Board of Education Member, Oahu-at-Large

Date of Hearing: March 1, 2011
Committee: Senate Ways and Means Committee
Person testifying: Neal Takamori, President
ADCA (Athletic Directors and Coaches Association of Hawaii)

Testimony on SB 871

On behalf of the Athletic Directors and Coaches Association of Hawaii (ADCA), we are opposed SB 871 SD1

There are many concerns that are not addressed in the bill that will create tremendous conflicts and problems if not addressed. The following are some of the concerns.

1. **Philosophy:** When parents choose to home school their children, they are making a conscious choice to opt out of the public education experience, which includes extra curricular activities of which athletics are a part of, and provide their children with an alternative educational program. Isn't the participation in athletics a privilege and not a right as established in many court cases around the nation?
2. **Funding:** Public Schools are funded by the Student Weighted Formula. What will be the formula for funding athletics for home schoolers? How will it be determined? Currently, allocation to the DOE is based on per pupil enrollment in schools. Will schools get additional funding? What about the class dues students are required to pay that support extra curricular activities or the costs of participation of a student in a single sport?
3. **Eligibility:** Public school students must abide by the 2.0 GPA rule and other DOE and School standards, rules, and policies. Who will monitor the Home School and the child? Are we creating a double standard with home schooled children as opposed to public schooled children? (example: a child is failing all his courses which renders him ineligible to participate in athletics and extra-curricular activities. The parents decide to home school him to enable him to participate, because under their grading, he can receive all passing grades.) We can foresee a multitude of potential abuses. In Florida, entire golf and tennis tennis teams were comprised of home-schoolers.
Establishing years of participation would be a problem (National Federation rules is 4 consecutive years from entering the 9th grade). We can verify the records of a student in public school but will have problems of accountability in verifying home schoolers.
4. **DOE Standards, Rules, and Policies:** Who monitors this? A public school environment is more accountable for consistency and fairness for all students. The DOE does not accept credits from Home Schoolers. Home schoolers must receive a GED.
5. We have **State transfer rules**. Who will monitor this rule: example... if a home schooler participated at another school?
6. There are many other scenarios that concern the athletic directors across the State, including athletic directors from the private schools that do not allow home schoolers to participate at their schools. A major concern against this bill is the opportunity for illegal recruitment.
7. In addition, there are numerous community leagues and activities that home schoolers can participate in.
8. Yet the bill states that private schools can use "their discretion". Fairness?