

Date: 01/30/2012

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2046 Relating to Adult and Community Education

Purpose of Bill: Clarifies that funding for the adult and community education program shall be from appropriations by the legislature, supplemented by student fees. Establishes the adult and community education program special fund.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2046 as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13.

Supports



STATE OF HAWAII
WAIPAHU COMMUNITY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS
LEEWARD DISTRICT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
94-1211 FARRINGTON HIGHWAY
WAIPAHU, HAWAII 96797
PHONE (808) 528-9577
FAX (808) 675-0259

January 27, 2012

RE: THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Hearing on Monday, January 30, 2012 at 2:00 P.M.

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2046: RELATING TO ADULT AND
COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

TO THE HONORABLE ROY M. TAKUMI, CHAIR; THE HONORABLE DELLA AU
BELATTI, VICE CHAIR; AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION:

I, John Vannatta, Principal of Waipahu Community School for Adults, am testifying on behalf of my school in support of HB 2046. We are in favor of amending the Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Section 302A-435, to establish a special fund for the community schools and adult education. We believe appropriations made by the legislature for the adult and community education program is vital for the survival of the community schools in Hawai'i and the special fund is necessary to ensure the appropriations made are utilized for the purpose of adult and community education. The special fund will also ensure that funds generated from the fees collected by the community schools will remain with the community schools and will be used for the purpose of adult and community education. Thus, the special fund established by HB 2046 will allow the community schools to continue to service our communities.

As you are well aware, the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) is currently facing budget cuts and has not allocated any funds towards the community schools. We believe it is vital that we continue to provide adult and community education throughout the State of Hawai'i to continue to service the people of our community within our communities. The community schools are accredited schools that service a large population of students statewide. During the 2010-11 school year, the community schools serviced 9,055 students in their academic programs; 1,535 students were enrolled in Waipahu Community School. The community schools have helped community members earn a high school diploma in an effort to better their job opportunities and help them become eligible for college and the military. For the 2010-11 school year, 2,035 students received a high school diploma from the community schools; 539 of these students received their diploma from Waipahu Community School. The community schools have also provided classes to help community members improve their English Language skills and, through special interest offerings, improve their job-readiness skills. All services are provided within the community to remain as accessible as possible for our students and within a reasonable cost so that students from all economic backgrounds are able to access the services provided. We would like

for the community schools to continue to provide these services within our communities; however, with a lack of state funds, the services provided will no longer be accessible to all members of the communities. To remain in existence without appropriations by the legislature, the adult and community education program will need to be restructured by closing sites, reducing services, and increasing fees and tuition, which will all, in turn, reduce the accessibility of the program for our students, physically and financially. Restructuring the adult and community education program would deprive many of our communities of an alternative education that many community members have depended on.

In addition to providing adult and community education throughout the State, the community schools also provide value-added services to HIDOE. These services include substitute teacher certification and recertification courses, PRAXIS preparation courses for teachers who are not highly qualified or are currently in a teacher preparation program, credit-recovery courses for high school students, and test-preparation courses for students who plan to enroll in college or enlist in the military.

In addition to serving the DOE, the community schools serve a number of community organizations and state departments. We provide educational services for the National Guard Youth Challenge Program, the Honolulu Community Action Program, Goodwill Industries, Kamehameha Schools, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Alu Like, Hale Kipa, Catholic Charities at Mailland, the Native Nations Education Foundation Pane'e Mua Program, businesses such as Monsanto and Pioneer Hybrid Seed Company, the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Department of Human Services (DHS) First-to-Work program, and the Department of Public Safety at a number of correctional facilities. We support the efforts of DHS to help citizens become self-sufficient, the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board and the University of Hawaii to ensure teachers are highly qualified, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relation to decrease unemployment, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to improve the quality of life for people of Hawaiian ancestry (We currently serve approximately 2400 students of Hawaiian ancestry). We also assist the State's P-20 effort to increase the number of working adults achieving at least a two-year college degree by increasing student access to college through college preparatory courses, college and career counseling, and events that expose students to the postsecondary options available to them. Thus, the community schools are highly active in helping adults become college- and career-ready to better their station in life.

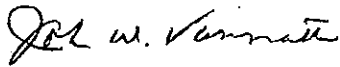
Without State general funds, the community schools and the adult education program may also lose federal funds. Thus, appropriations by the legislature is essential in meeting the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) threshold required to maintain the funds the community schools currently receive through the Adult Education Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) grant. The United States Department of Education (USDOE) determines the MOE threshold by looking at the total dollar amount of state funding and the per-student amount of state funding allocated to the adult education program in relation to the amount allocated through the grant. The community schools rely on the AEFLA grant to fund their courses (instructors, materials, resources).

HB 2046 establishes a special fund that is necessary to ensure the continued existence of the community schools and the adult and community education program in Hawaii'i. I have been a part of Waipahu Community School for Adults for 17 years (4 years as principal) and have seen firsthand the positive impact we have had on our students and our communities. Closing the community schools and drastically

decreasing the adult and community education services provided would have a negative impact on all communities within the State of Hawai'i, which could result in an increase in need for social services. The community schools help students understand how to fulfill their basic needs in society and how to become positively contributing citizens. Thus, the community schools not only provide adults with basic education, they also provide adults with the means to better their station in life.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2046 and thank you for your continued support for the community schools and the adult and community education program. The establishment of a special fund which will include appropriations made by the legislature will ensure the continuation of the adult and community education program in Hawai'i and will allow our community schools to continue to service our communities. Mahalo Nui Loa.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John W. Vannatta".

John Vannatta, Principal

Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair

State of Hawaii Department of Education Community School for Adults

January 27, 2012

Support for H.B. No. 2046, Relating to Adult and Community Education

We strongly support H.B. 2046, Relating to Adult and Community Education, which would help to ensure the future of this vital program by clarifying that financial support for the adult and community education program shall be from appropriations by the legislature, supplemented by student fees and establishes the adult and community education program special fund. The Bill also serves to establish the adult and community education program special fund that shall be administered by the department.

Community schools for adults serves an integral function of the Department of Education. Courses offered include adult basic education, English as a Second Language, Citizenship, Competency Based High School Diploma Program, GED, and family and workplace literacy.

In addition to the services provided to the residents of our state, with the current influx of Pacific Islanders to Hawaii, community schools have partnered with other state agencies to provide English, parenting, and basic literacy skills. As part of the orientation to Hawaii, classes also include basic functioning and survival skills.

Although H.R.S §302A-432 states that the Department of Education shall establish and regulate a program of adult and community education, the program is constantly fighting for its basic existence. The passing of H.B 2046 will help to ensure that a special can be established which is vital the program and that its valuable services will continue to be available to the citizens of the State of Hawaii.

We urge the committee to pass H.B. 2046. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Helen H. Sanpei

Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Della Au Bellati, Vice Chair

State of Hawaii Department of Education Community School for Adults

Support for H.B. No. 2046, Relating to Adult and Community Education
Hearing: Monday, January 30, 2012
2:00 p.m. State Capitol Conference Room 309

My name is Ann Antal and I am a teacher and the accreditation coordinator at McKinley Community School for Adults. I am writing to urge the committee to pass H.B. 2046.

According to the report, "The High Cost of High School Dropouts: What the Nation Pays for Inadequate High Schools", if the high school students who dropped out of the Class of 2011 had graduated, the nation's economy would likely have benefited from nearly \$154 billion in additional income over the course of their lifetimes. The average annual income for a high school dropout in 2009 was \$19,540, compared to \$27,380 for a high school graduate, a difference of \$7,840.2. Almost \$8000 a year – that's a big difference!

Without English language skills, our immigrants are even more hampered, since their job outlook is bleak, at best, especially in a weak economy.

The first point I would like to make is that the GED Program:

- Enables high school dropouts to complete high school and enter the workforce at a "living wage" level
- Decreases the probability that citizens lacking a high school degree and the ability to earn a living wage will become dependent upon welfare and social services

The second point I would like to make is that the ESL (English as a Second Language) program:

- Provides speakers of other languages the opportunity to learn English and enter the workforce in Hawaii
- Equips immigrants with life skills so that they can become self-reliant and productive citizens

Thank you.

Ann Antal

belatti2 - Kate

From: rvansant@juno.com
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 12:40 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: RVANSANT@juno.com
Subject: HB 2046 Relating to adult and communiity education

Chair: Rep.Roy M. Takkumi
HB 2046 Relating to adult and community education Monday, January 30, 2012 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309
State Capitol

I am Veronica Vansant, teacher of ABE Intermediate, at McKinley Community School for Adults. I am in favor of supporting HB 2046 Relating to adult and community education. A special fund should be established for the adult and community education program. The money our school and students earn for our school should not be put in the general fund, but should stay at the school where it has been earned. Please vote for HB 2046. Sincerely, Veronica Vansant rvansant@juno.com

Committee on Education
January 30, 2012
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 309

RE: HB 2046

Chair Roy Takumi, Vice-Chair Della Au Belatti, and Committee on Education Members:

I am Lauren Shimizu, Transition Counselor, at McKinley Community School for Adults. I am testifying in support of HB 2046 so that the Community Schools for Adults can continue to provide services.

The Community Schools for Adults provide General Education Development (GED) prep classes, Competency Based High School Diploma classes, and GED testing as options for people who have dropped out of high school. Community Schools also offer English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for adult immigrants who have recently arrived in Hawai'i and have little or no English skills.

My position as Transition Counselor is being funded through a federal grant that was awarded to Kapi'olani Community College. The grant funds KCC's Ulu Pono Project. The Ulu Pono Project creates a partnership between Kapi'olani Community College and McKinley Community School for Adults. Other participants in the Ulu Pono Project are Moanalua Community School, Waipahu Community School, Wahiawa Community School, Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Hawai'i State Office for Veteran's Services, Volunteers Resource Center of Hawaii, Good Will Industries, Catholic Charities Hawai'i, Palolo Valley Homes, Micronesian Community Network, and Hawai'i Technology Institute. Introductory health classes, such as Medical Terminology, were offered exclusively to Ulu Pono students. These KCC courses were offered at McKinley Community School from Fall 2009 through Fall 2011. The Ulu Pono Project and KCC Health Sciences counselors monitored the progress of students as they transitioned into Health Sciences Programs at Kapiolani Community College.

As the Transition Counselor, I have had the pleasure of working with ESL, GED, and Competency Based High School Diploma students with their plans to continue their education beyond McKinley Community School. I assist students with college applications and financial aid applications. Some ESL students have graduate degrees and extensive work experience from their countries of origin. I help them to find an appropriate major or career to pursue so that they can earn more than their current low wages.

At the age of 24, Brandi, spoke with our GED Counselor, Mr. Won. She took a GED prep class and passed the GED. She took KCC Health classes at our school. She completed a Certified Nurse Aide Course at KCC. She is currently enrolled in pre-requisite courses for KCC's Licensed Practical Nursing Program. I assisted her with applications for KCC, Federal financial aid, and financial assistance with Alu Like, Inc. and Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate. In less than a year, Brandi went from high school drop out to college student. She is well on her way to achieving her goal of becoming a registered nurse.

Two years ago, I worked with a different Brandi who received her Competency Based High School Diploma at Wahiawa Community School. She is currently in her 4th semester at Kapi`olani Community College in their Paralegal Associate Degree Program. She is in her mid-twenties. She plans to earn her Bachelor Degree in Criminal Justice, then attend law school. Brandi was a high school drop out who is taking classes from attorneys who are encouraging her to become an attorney. She also applied for Federal financial aid, Kamehameha Schools financial aid and scholarships through Hawai`i Community Foundation.

Angie and Nikki were enrolled in an ESL class at McKinley Community School in Fall 2010. Nikki was unemployed. Angie was employed part-time as a Certified Nurse Aide. They took KCC Health classes through the Ulu Pono Project, then completed KCC's Dental Assisting Program. Currently, Nikki is a massage therapist. Angie is working part time as a Certified Nurse Aide and part time as a dental assistant. Angie is also enrolled in KCC's Adult Residential Care Home Operator Program this semester.

These are a sampling of the stories of our students. Without the Community Schools for Adults, Hawai`i taxpayers would be faced with a greater financial burden. The rate of unemployment for high school dropouts is significantly higher than for high school graduates.

Below is a chart from the US Dept. of Labor showing that more education translates to lower rates unemployment and higher wages.

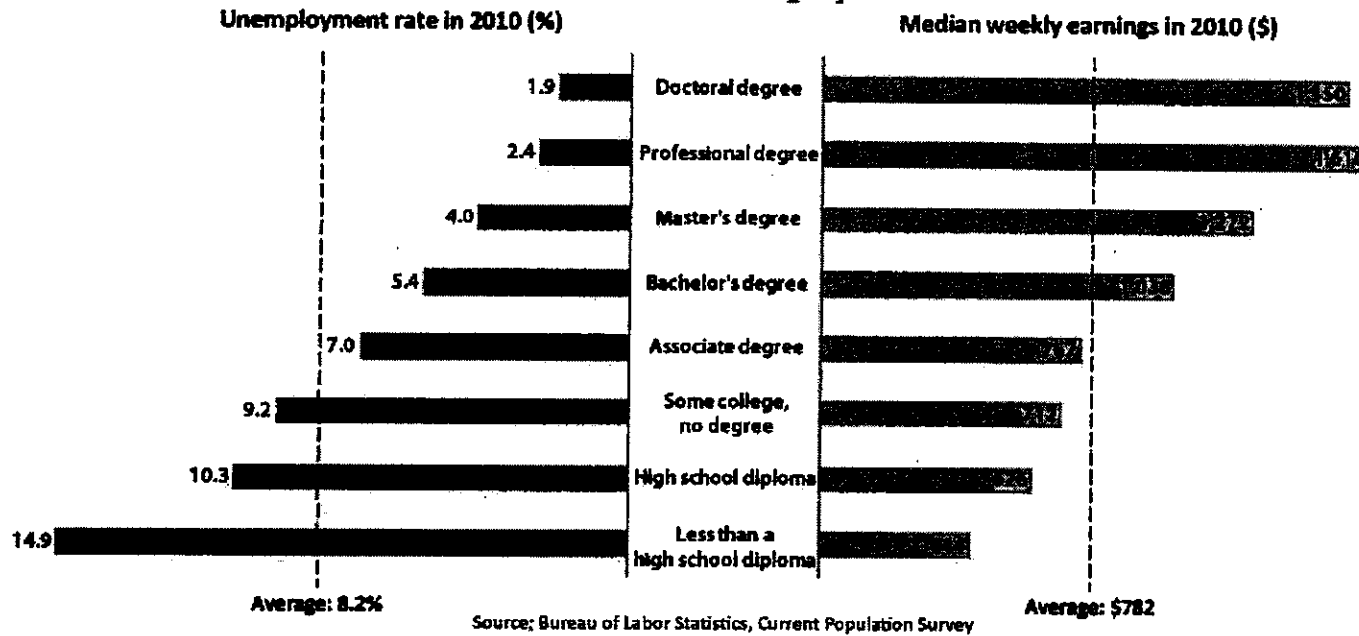
I hope that the House Education Committee agrees that the Community School for Adults provide valuable services to the people of Hawai`i.

Yours truly



Lauren Shimizu lauren_shimizu@yahoo.com
94-180 Anania Drive, #356; Mililani, HI 96789

Education pays:



Note: Data are 2010 annual averages for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

To: House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Bill: HB 2046 - Relating to Adult and
Community Education

Hearing Date: January 30, 2012
Time: 2:06pm Place: Conference Room 30
State Capitol

January 27, 2012

Dear Committee on Education

I want go to Adult school. I like
Study English. I need keep the school
open. Hope that there is a lot of fund in
the school. Thank you.

Xuling Ruan
McKinley Community School
for Adults 634 Pensacola
St Honolulu HI 96814

Honolulu, HI 96814
634 Pensacola St
for Adults
Mekinley Community School

Name: Zhou Xu Zeng

Thank you.

The money is needed to keep the school open.

I want to study English.

Mekinley community school for adult.

adult and community educator program. I attend

I am writing to ask that you continue to fund the

Dear Committee on Education:

January 27, 2012

State Capitol

Time: 2:06pm Place: Conference Room 30

Hearing Date - January 30, 2012

Community Education

Bill: HB 2046 - Relating to Adult and

Committee on Education

To: House of Representatives

To: House of Representatives

Committee on Education

Bill: HB 2046 - Relating to Adult and

Community Education

Hearing Date - January 30, 2012

Time: 2:00pm

Place: Conference Room 30

State Capitol

I am writing to ask that you continue

to fund the adult community education

program. I attend Makini Community

school for adults. I want to study English

very good. Community education very rescue

The money is need to keep school open.

Thank you

Makini Community school for Adults

Student

Won Suk Lee

641 Peasacala St

Honolulu, HI 96814

To: House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Bill: HB 2046 - Relating to Adult and
Community Education

Hearing Date - January 30, 2012

Time: 2:00pm Place: Conference Room 309
State Capitol

I want to study English.

I want to school open.

Please continue McKinley community school
for Adults.

Thank you.

TAKA ISHIMARU, *Shm*

McKinley Community
School for Adults
634 Pensacola St
Honolulu HI 96814

To: House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Bill: HB 2046 - Relating to Adult and
Community Education

Hearing Date: January 30, 2012

Time: 2:00pm Place: Conference Room 30
State Capitol

Dear Committee on Education

I am writing to ask that you continue to

fund the adult and community education

program. I attend McKinley Community School

for Adults:

I want to study more English.

Because the money is needed to keep the school

Open.

I will be ~~at~~ come every time for school

Thank you.

Has Tim - Han

To: House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Bill: HB 2046 - Relating to Adult and
Community Education

Hearing Date = January 30, 2012

Time: 2:06pm Place: Conference Room 301
State Capitol

I am writing to ask that you continue
to fund the adult and community education
program. I attend McKinley Community School for
Adults.

I want to study English. I can work.
So need money to keep the school open
Thank you.

zhong Gui cao

McKinley Community School for Adults

634 Pensacola St
Honolulu, HI 96814

To: House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Bill: HB 2046 - Relating to Adult and
Community Education

Hearing Date - January 30, 2012

Time: 2:00pm Place: Conference Room 301

State Capitol

January 27, 2012

Dear Committee on Education

I am Committee Student want do

School if school close were go to the school

I don no because find litter high

every body need school community education

the school education

Thank you Mckinley Community
School for Adults

SUN AZ YAN

Mckinley Community
School for Adults

634 Pensacola St

Honolulu HI 96814

To: House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Bill: HB 2046 - Relating to Adult and
Community Education

Hearing Date - January 30, 2012

Time: 2:06pm Place: Conference Room 30

State Capitol

I can't speak english and write so I came to
the adults school I learn read write
please keep open adult school ~~principal~~

thank you

CHONG H. KIM

MCKINLEY COMMUNITY
SCHOOL FOR ADULTS
631 PENSACOLA ST
HONOLULU HI 96814

To: House of Representatives

Committee on Education

Bill: HB 2046 - Relating to Adult and

Community Education

Hearing Date - January 30, 2012

Time: 2:00pm Place: Conference Room 309

State Capitol

I am writing to ask the McKinley Community

school for study English.

I want continue to the Adult Community

education program.

I want learn English.

Because I can't speak English and I like

very much learn English

I want continue to the adult community education

I need to keep the school open.

The money is needed to keep the school open.

Thank you Song Cha Lam

McKinley Community School for Adults

634 Pensacola St

Honolulu, HI 96814

To: House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Bill: HB 2046 - Relating to Adult and
Community Education

Hearing Date - January 30, 2012

Time: 2:00pm Place: Conference Room 30,
State Capitol

Dear: Committee on Education

I am writing to ask that you continue
to fund the adult and community education
program I attend McKinley Community
School for Adults, I want to study English
the money is needed to keep the school open

Thank you

McKinley Community
School for Adults
James Young

634 Pensacola st
Honolulu, HI 96814

Date: January 27, 2012

To: Hon Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Committee on Education

Title of Bill: HB 2046 Relating of Adult and Community Education

Hearing: Monday, January 30, 2012
2:00p.m. State Capitol, Conference Room 306

Purpose of Bill: Clarifies that funding for the adult and community education program shall be from appropriations by the legislature, supplemented by student fees. Establishes the adult and community education program special fund.

My name is Nathan Pinnow, and I am the Registrar of the Wahiawa Community School for Adults. I am writing in support of SB 2046. Adult education has been a part of the Hawaii Department of Education for over fifty years and enrolls about 9,000 students per year statewide. During that time many thousands of Hawaii residents have earned their High School diplomas, GEDs, certificates of completion, and acquired basic skills in computing, languages, health and fitness.

My school services central Oahu and we operate classes on the campuses of Leilehua High School, Mililani High School, Waialua High and Intermediate School, Helemano Elementary School, and Schofield Barracks. Although the majority of our students reside in central Oahu, we have had students attend our classes from windward and leeward Oahu, and town. Our students travel because they value the importance of an affordable education. This is more important in today's economy than ever before. Many of our students cannot afford the higher costs of post-secondary institutions even with the possibility of student aid.

Wahiawa Community School enrolls nearly two thousand students per academic year and issues nearly two hundred high school diplomas. Our students are primarily seeking high school completion (Adult Secondary Education) and develop English language skills (ESL). We also serve enlisted military personnel (Workplace Literacy) who are enhancing their academic skills in order to earn promotions in their rank and attain skills necessary to obtain further employment upon discharge. Senior citizens enroll to maintain their health and wellness while other students enroll to review reading, writing, and mathematic skills (Adult Basic Education). The adult and community education section also provides the certification and re-certification for substitute teachers for the Hawaii Department of Education. These services are also provided at the other community school sites throughout the state.

Our students, which range from 16 to 91 years of age, have willingly shared their experiences in adult education with our faculty and staff. Many have acknowledged that

they made poor choices when they were younger and sincerely appreciate the opportunity afforded to them to be able to complete their educational goals. Our work has allowed teen parents the ability to enter college, retrained adult learners to attain new skills to enter and re-enter employment, immigrant students the ability to gain language skills and work to attain citizenship, and other students' desire to acquire new skills to open new opportunities for themselves.

Funding adult and community education is important as it allows for the continuation of opportunities for our students to become contributing members of society. Adult and community education provides a valuable and cost effective alternative to our citizens, many of whom are not prepared for the transition to post-secondary education or employment.

January 27, 2012

To: Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Committee on Education

Title of Bill: H.B. 2046, Relating To Adult and Community Education

Hearing: Monday, January 30, 2012
2:00 p.m. State Capitol, Conference Room 306

Status: Clarifies that funding for the adult and community education program shall be from appropriations by the legislature, supplemented by student fees. Establishes the adult and community education program special funds.

Bruce Naguwa, Principal, Wahiawa Community School.

I am writing in support of H.B. 2046, financing adult and community education programs from appropriations by the legislature, supplemented by fees collected from students. I am supporting the H.B. 2046 because funding community schools is an investment in human resources. Our programs promote the intellectual, economic and cultural development of adults, leading to a higher quality of life for all the people of Hawaii. The community schools are designed to assist undereducated adults over-come deficiencies in their formal grade school education, affording them the opportunity to attain a high school diploma or up-date their skills to become gainfully employed.

As principal of Wahiawa Community School, I have the privilege to serve a very diverse group of students. These students have met adversity during the course of their lives, and are now taking responsibility to remediate deficiencies in their educational levels. Through life experiences, these individuals have experienced the harsh realities of adulthood, and are now ready to pursue educational opportunities afforded them. Many of our students are single mothers or fathers who are unable to support their families due to a lack of education. They did not acquire the requisite skills to compete for entry level positions, instead, becoming dependent on Hawaii's social service agencies.

I had a conversation with a recent competency-based high school diploma graduate. When she entered our program, she was a young single mother of three children. She was unemployed and staying home to take care of her children. She depended on various social service agencies to sustain herself and her three children, not able to secure a job that would pay her enough to support her family. She made a conscience decision that she wanted a better future for her children and that the first step to her recovery was to obtain a high school diploma. She made a commitment that she would care for her children during the day, and attend evening classes four nights during the week. Although it was a difficult process, she persevered and graduated with a high school diploma. Upon graduation, she enrolled and was accepted to a certification program at Leeward Community College. She was very grateful for the opportunities afforded her, and

was very happy with her new found confidence. While community college seemed like a dream, the foundation created by the community school afforded her the skills to pursue a career choice that seem impossible just a few months earlier. Her goal is to get off public assistance and to support her children on her own. There are many similar stories that can be told, this is just one example of how the community schools are affecting the lives of citizens in our community.

The community schools are a viable alternative for those students who did not receive their high school diplomas or for those students wishing to remediate what they learned through the traditional educational experiences. Unfortunately, not everyone matures at the same time, nor are they able to grasp educational concepts at the same levels. For the non-traditional student, community schools offer a viable alternative to the traditional school model.

In closing, I would like to support H.B. 2046, legislatively financing adult and community education programs. Eliminating community schools would create a serious void in providing alternative learning opportunities for our non-traditional student population. Although eliminating community schools would initially save money for the State of Hawaii, the financial burden would shift from the Department of Education to the Department of Health and Department of Social Services. It is my sincere belief that the money saved today by eliminating community school, will eventually cost the State substantially more in Health and Social Services. Instead of putting our citizens on the streets, let's prepare them educationally to become productive, gainfully employed citizens.

belatti2 - Kate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2012 4:36 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: randyh1117@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2046 on 1/30/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 1/30/2012 2:00:00 PM HB2046

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Randall Higa
Organization: Individual
E-mail: randyh1117@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/29/2012

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB 2046, which establishes the adult and community education program special fund to allow fees to be used to supplement the school's budget. This will enable the Community School for Adults program to continue to provide education to the adult population seeking to become career and college ready, as identified in the Superintendent's State Strategic Plan.

belatti2 - Kate

From: k h [kndi_h@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:36 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: HB 2046 testimonial support

Chair of Committee of Education: Representative Roy M. Takumi
Vice-Chair of Committee of Education: Representative Della Au Belatti

HB 2046 Relating to Adult and Community Education

Date: Monday, January 30, 2012
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Conference Room 309
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.

I am currently an English as a Second Language (ESL) Teacher at McKinley Community School for Adults (MCSA). I have also been a Bridge Instructor to help our immigrant and GED students start entry-level health careers. I am testifying in support of HB 2046 to clarify that the Adults Schools should be able to retain funds collected to offset current budget cuts.

Since I started teaching at MCSA, our budget has been cut from teaching 5 days a week to 4 and from teaching less and less hours over the years. Now our budget has been cut in half and we have been instructed to be sustainable. The survival of the school depends upon if we can keep the funds collected to offset our rising costs. Community Adult Schools need to survive in order to provide necessary educational support to our immigrant and GED populations. As you know, the USA has begun to see the wave of aging baby boomers. Our lower population increases (as the current Census will show) cannot support the services this new wave of aged will need. We need to leverage our current population to become more productive and if possible target them into healthcare.

Your continued support of Community Adult Schools is continued support for your constituency and the future of Hawaii. Please support HB 2046 in allowing the Community Adult Schools to keep any collect funds for use within the Community Schools.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Kendi Ho
McKinley Community School for Adults
634 Pensacola Street, Rm. 216
Honolulu, HI 96814