

**Date:** 02/09/2011

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 0941 Relating to Education

**Purpose of Bill:** Allows home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school. Requires home school students to pay applicable activity-participation fees.

**Department's Position:** At this time, the Department of Education (Department) chooses not to comment on HB 0941 until the Board of Education (Board) is given an opportunity to review the Bill. Bills relating to public education with policy implications are scheduled to be reviewed by the Board at the March 3, 2011 General Business Meeting. Positions taken will be subsequently shared with the appropriate legislative committees.



**STATE OF HAWAII  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

P. O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

House Comm. on Education  
Hearing: Wed., Feb. 9, 2011  
2:05 p.m., Conference Room 309

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB941 with Amendment  
Relating to Education: Home School Student Equal Access to Extracurricular Activities

Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee on Education:

Thank you for allowing me to testify in my capacity as a member of the Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE); I testify in support of HB941.

Although the BOE has not taken a position on HB941, in February 2009, the BOE voted to Support HB493, which was the 2009 version of the bill you are hearing now.

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

HB941 directs DOE schools to include the numbers of home school students participating in extracurricular activities within their enrollment numbers. This detail will allow school to increase their school managed funding and address one of the concerns some principals have expressed.

Given the fact that the school would be eligible for more funding with this increased enrollment numbers, I do not think there is any reason to collect up to 50% more in student participation fees from home school students. Therefore, I would like to suggest is that § 302A(g) be amended as follows:

A public school may charge a home school student a participation fee as a prerequisite to participation in an extracurricular activity. The fee shall not exceed one hundred fifty per cent of the fee be the same amount the school would charge an enrolled student to participate in the extracurricular activity; provided that any fee collected pursuant to this subsection shall be used to fund the particular extracurricular activity for which it is charged and shall not be expended for any other purpose.

Thank you for your consideration.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
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Testimony submitted by Mr. Meredith Maeda, Principal, James B. Castle High School

I would like to state my strong opposition to HB 941, allowing home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school. On 26 April 2010, of the twenty-three (23) Oahu high schools, twenty-one (21) administrators (two were not present) opposed allowing home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities—list available upon request. Statewide, 98% of all school administrators responding to a survey (180 Principals responded as of 05.01.2010) also oppose participation for similar reasons. Since then, 211 principals responded to the survey with 3.2% in favor and 96.8% opposing participation of home school students. There are several reasons that this measure should not be passed:

1. **Beliefs:** Historically and presently, there is a major philosophical difference in students who are home schooled and the public school attendees. Parents chose to provide the education best fit for their child that was other than that for the general population. This was a conscious choice to exclude their child from the public school environment and we have honored their decision over the years to facilitate that exception from compulsory school attendance.

A fair, expeditious, and uniform procedure that could legally challenge questionable reasons for a parent home schooling their child would have to be implemented statewide. Reasons may include, but are not limited to, avoiding mandatory attendance procedures or other disciplinary reasons, leaving to preserve the student's opportunity to participate in co-curricular activities by circumventing the 2.0 GPA Policy, or not able to meet or in some cases does not agree with the financial obligations incurred by the student.

2. **Eligibility:** Participation in co-curricular activities by a public school attendee requires meeting prerequisites before and during the period of the activity—course and grade requirements based on the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards, obligation-free, behavioral expectations according to Chapter 19, and in certain activities to ensure fair competition, residency requirements. There is no fair, unbiased, and equivalent method of gathering information to determine or monitor the eligibility of a home-schooled child.

Home-schooled students have many opportunities to participate in voluntary community activities that do not require external controls and monitoring, other

**Testimony submitted by Mr. Meredith Maeda, Principal, Castle High School**  
***Opposition to HB 941 to allow for homeschoolers to participate in any extracurricular activities.***

than those that are self imposed, for children from elementary through high school—Honolulu Youth Symphony, Theatre for Youth, Little/Big League baseball and softball, football, year round clubs for volleyball, basketball, soccer, swimming, track and field, and bowling, USTA for tennis, Junior Golf, online advanced courses, and many more.

- 3. Resources:** Schools are allocated general funds to secure the necessary resources to operate school activities by the Weighted Student Formula and vary from school to school depending on their characteristics. These funds are based on only those students that enroll and attend the school from the official enrollment count date in August. Schools must secure supplemental finances in order to operate programs that are not adequately funded by the system. Additionally, students attending public school have mandatory dues to support their class activities and in most cases must fund-raise for their class or specific activity to minimize their expenses. There is no viable fee structure and accounting system for non-attendees that would be fair and equitable without additional resources and/or strain on school personnel to monitor and hold participants accountable.

As it is presently, resources at the high school are being used to implement additional graduation credit requirements, the Personal Transition Plan, Senior Project, Hawaii State Assessment, systemic computer applications such as eSIS, eCSSS, Chapter 19 implementation, Special Education Progress Monitoring, LDS, and DSI, FMS, eHR, HQT, and Lotus Notes without additional funding. In fact, schools will have to find its own sources to fund the mission critical operations in order to have all classroom teachers function minimally.

There would be major negative impact on public schools, a strain on our limited resources and funds, and inequitable requirements for our attending students, should this bill pass. To add another responsibility to the school level—the implementation of this provision is unquestionably at our level—that clearly does not fit the public school vision may be the tipping point. Why are you considering providing access to activities for non-public school students when we are already minimizing co-curricular activities for those students for whom we have a legal responsibility because of a lack of resources? Participation in CTE Student Organizations has been reduced because the State cannot afford to subsidize as they have in the past (DOE memo dated 10.22.2009). Most recently is that some CTE delegates who won the right to represent their school and Hawaii at the National level cannot afford the trip because of their own personal situation and the diminishing support funds over the past several years. Another is the limited recognition of State and National winners in co-curricular activities throughout the year—again because of diminishing funds and the need to prioritize the use of our limited resources, recognition of State winners were eliminated (DOE memo dated 04.19.2010). For increasing costs and lack of transportation funds, students who were provided the opportunity for bus service must now find their own way to school on a daily basis (DOE memos dated 11.25.2009 & 01.22.2010) and for those who participate in co-curricular activities to off-campus events. Now the Department of Education is faced with implementing Act 167 without additional funds.

What is most evident at the school level is eliminating programs because of necessary budget cuts and declaring that these former categorical programs can be funded through the WSF distribution. However, only a portion of the total allocations were distributed by formula to the schools under WSF (DOE memos dated 07.28.2009 & 12.07.2009) to “allow” schools to choose which of the many activities we find to be most beneficial to our population and then are asked to restrict funds in anticipation of fiscal shortfalls in the State—funding homeschoolers over regular attendees would not be a priority. Similar to the Board’s recent decisions, like additional graduation requirements and multiple diplomas that we must implement, allowing homeschoolers to participate in athletics and co-curricular activities would fall in this category (which we term “unfunded mandates”). These are programs that now require funds that would probably have been used for core academics or for the categorical programs that were put in WSF for schools to have “choice” in maintaining what is beneficial for our unique population. We all pay taxes for government services. But, we do not choose what our individual contributions support. If we were to calculate which portion of our individual taxes pays for public education, the figures would be insignificant. It is our collective funds that decision makers, like you, determine to which service has the priority. Therefore, the task at the individual school to calculate how much home-schooled children should pay to participate in any one activity is analogous and would be enormous.

Should you choose to pass this legislation, please consider: Can the Board of Education or the Legislature secure the resources, including funding, in the manner in which other States have, to allow homeschoolers to participate in school activities or add another unfunded mandate? These include:

- Creating an entity within the Board to secure bond funding to cover additional expenses for co-curricular activities.
- Requiring dual enrollment of homeschoolers specifically for funding purposes; most State’s school districts get credited for the enrollment count and receive their appropriate allocation. In Hawaii, individual schools would receive that funding directly from the Legislature as line item beyond that which is allocated to the Department of Education.
- Requiring tuition payments set by statute to the school homeschooled student attends (whether public or private) or pays schools a differential for each homeschooled student participating.
- Individual homeschoolers pay for the additional insurance coverage.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony for your consideration.

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Testimony submitted by Mr. Robert Dircks, Principal, Hilo High School

I would like to state my opposition to HB 941, allowing home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school. On 26 April 2010, of the twenty-three (23) Oahu high schools, twenty-one (21) administrators (two were not present) opposed allowing home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities—list available upon request. Statewide, 98% of all school administrators responding to a survey (180 Principals responded as of 05.01.2010) also oppose participation for similar reasons. Since then, 211 principals responded to the survey with 3.2% in favor and 96.8% opposing participation of home school students. There are several reasons that this measure should not be passed:

1. **Beliefs:** Historically and presently, there is a major philosophical difference in students who are home schooled and the public school attendees. Parents chose to provide the education best fit for their child that was other than that for the general population. This was a conscious choice to exclude their child from the public school environment and we have honored their decision over the years to facilitate that exception from compulsory school attendance.

A fair, expeditious, and uniform procedure that could legally challenge questionable reasons for a parent home schooling their child would have to be implemented statewide. Reasons may include, but are not limited to, avoiding mandatory attendance procedures or other disciplinary reasons, leaving to preserve the student's opportunity to participate in co-curricular activities by circumventing the 2.0 GPA Policy, or not able to meet or in some cases does not agree with the financial obligations incurred by the student.

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Home-schooled students have many opportunities to participate in voluntary community activities that do not require external controls and monitoring, other than those that are self imposed, for children from elementary through high

school—Hilo Community Theater, Little/Big League baseball and softball, football, year round clubs for volleyball, basketball, soccer, swimming, track and field, and bowling, USTA for tennis, Junior Golf, online advanced courses, and many more.

3. **Resources:** Schools are allocated general funds to secure the necessary resources to operate school activities by the Weighted Student Formula and vary from school to school depending on their characteristics. These funds are based on only those students that enroll and attend the school from the official enrollment count date in August. Schools must secure supplemental finances in order to operate programs that are not adequately funded by the system. Additionally, students attending public school have mandatory dues to support their class activities and in most cases must fund-raise for their class or specific activity to minimize their expenses. There is no viable fee structure and accounting system for non-attendees that would be fair and equitable without additional resources and/or strain on school personnel to monitor and hold participants accountable.

As it is presently, resources at the high school are being used to implement additional graduation credit requirements, the Personal Transition Plan, Senior Project, Hawaii State Assessment, systemic computer applications such as eSIS, eCSSS, Chapter 19 implementation, Special Education Progress Monitoring, LDS, and DSI, FMS, eHR, HQT, and Lotus Notes without additional funding. In fact, schools will have to find its own sources to fund the mission critical operations in order to have all classroom teachers function minimally.

There would be major negative impact on public schools, a strain on our limited resources and funds, and inequitable requirements for our attending students, should this bill pass. To add another responsibility to the school level—the implementation of this provision is unquestionably at our level—that clearly does not fit the public school vision may be the tipping point. Why are you considering providing access to activities for non-public school students when we are already minimizing co-curricular activities for those students for whom we have a legal responsibility because of a lack of resources? Participation in CTE Student Organizations has been reduced because the State cannot afford to subsidize as they have in the past (DOE memo dated 10.22.2009). Most recently is that some CTE delegates who won the right to represent their school and Hawaii at the National level cannot afford the trip because of their own personal situation and the diminishing support funds over the past several years. Another is the limited recognition of State and National winners in co-curricular activities throughout the year—again because of diminishing funds and the need to prioritize the use of our limited resources, recognition of State winners were eliminated (DOE memo dated 04.19.2010). For increasing costs and lack of transportation funds, students who were provided the opportunity for bus service must now find their own way to school on a daily basis (DOE memos dated 11.25.2009 & 01.22.2010) and for those who participate in co-curricular activities to off-campus events. Now the Department of Education is faced with implementing Act 167 without additional funds.

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distribution. However, only a portion of the total allocations were distributed by formula to the schools under WSF (DOE memos dated 07.28.2009 & 12.07.2009) to “allow” schools to choose which of the many activities we find to be most beneficial to our population and then are asked to restrict funds in anticipation of fiscal shortfalls in the State—funding homeschoolers over regular attendees would not be a priority. Similar to the Board’s recent decisions, like additional graduation requirements and multiple diplomas that we must implement, allowing homeschoolers to participate in athletics and co-curricular activities would fall in this category (which we term “unfunded mandates”). These are programs that now require funds that would probably have been used for core academics or for the categorical programs that were put in WSF for schools to have “choice” in maintaining what is beneficial for our unique population. We all pay taxes for government services. But, we do not choose what our individual contributions support. If we were to calculate which portion of our individual taxes pays for public education, the figures would be insignificant. It is our collective funds that decision makers, like you, determine to which service has the priority. Therefore, the task at the individual school to calculate how much home-schooled children should pay to participate in any one activity is analogous and would be enormous.

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- Individual homeschoolers pay for the additional insurance coverage.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony for your consideration.



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Rep. Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair

Testimony submitted by Regina Yoshimori, Student Activities Coordinator, James B. Castle High School

I would like submit my testimony **AGAINST** HB 941, allowing home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school. I believe that when families chose to leave the public school system, they should not be allowed to “pick and choose” the part of the system that they want to participate in. It’s all or nothing. Our students are expected to be at school by 8:00 am, regularly attend class, pay student dues and fees, abide by Chapter 19, etc. Home-schooled students have flexible “class” hours and are graded and disciplined by their parents/guardians. The two systems are neither identical nor similar. Students of each group are held to different expectations and requirements.

Parents will almost always do anything for their children if it means that they (the children) will be allowed to attend a prom or play in a game. By allowing home-schooled students to “participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school” is saying that these students are allowed to conduct themselves in any manner **AND** be allowed to participate. **WHEREAS**, our students are required to meet a list of prerequisites before and during the period of the activity in order to participate.

Again, they chose to home school, they choose to be schooled in the community...their extracurricular activities should be those activities provided by the community. It’s an all or nothing decision. If they want to participate in our activities, they need to choose to return to our school system.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony for your consideration.

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THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
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COMMITTEE OF EDUCATION

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair

Testimony submitted by Shea Tatsumi, Student, Knights Executive Board President (Student Government), James B. Castle High School

I would like to submit my testimony against HB 941, allowing home school students to participate in extra-curricular activities offered by a public school. For students, it is a privilege to participate in extra-curricular activities such as sports or clubs, one that is allowed to students at each school. It is not fair that a home school student is allowed to pick and choose which events that they want to go to. Students work hard to be able to attend a school event like prom, making sure that they are in good academic standing. It is their choice to not be a part of the public school system. There are consequences of every action, choosing to be home schooled results in being exempt from public school activities.

Public school activities are meant for students that attend that particular school. There are other options out there for home schooled students. There are sports teams and clubs, theater, bands, dances, and various organizations to join.

Once again, home school students choose to not be a part of the public school system. They cannot choose when they want to be a part of it and when they want to be out of it.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony for your consideration.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE OF EDUCATION

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair

Testimony submitted by Gaylen Pasion, Parent and School Counselor at Kailua High School

I would like submit my testimony **AGAINST** HB 941, allowing home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school. There are several reasons why I feel it is inappropriate for home school students to participate in extracurricular activities in public schools not only because I work in a public school but also because I am a parent myself.

When a parent decides to home school a student, I believe they should be viewed as a drop out. These parents have made a conscious decision to withdraw their child for whatever reason, in doing so they have lost all privileges that come with attending a public school such as participation in sports, leadership activities, and prom. Parents should not have the right to manipulate the education system by picking and choosing those things that are favorable from those that are unfavorable.

Moreover, passing this bill will bring about many questions in regards to funding, who is going to pay for these students to participate in these activities and how will these students meet the same requirements as those who are in the public school system? In order to be involved in these types of activities, students are required to meet a certain grade point average who is going to monitor this? Public school students are also required to behave a certain way in order to be a part of these events, who is going to monitor their behavior? Why should a home school student have the right to a spot on a sports team when they do not attend the school and have no connection to it?

As it is, the public education system is lacking funding and resources to support the students that are currently in the system and now we will be asked to stretch ourselves that much more by providing extra resources, time and effort in order to support the extracurricular activities of home school students who have voluntarily chosen to not be a part of the public school system. I simply do not think that it is fair! If students would like to participate in activities in the public school system then they need to be a public school student plain and simple!

Sincerely,  
Gaylen MK Pasion  
School Counselor  
Kailua High School  
(808)-266-7900

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** Samantha\_Silva/KAILUAH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 08, 2011 5:01 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony HB 941

Testifier's name with position/title and organization;  
-Samantha Silva, High School Counselor, Kailua High School  
The Committee the comments are directed to;

-Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair

-Rep. Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair

The date and time of the hearing;

-Wednesday, February 09, 2011, 2:05 p.m.

Measure number;

-HB 941

The number of copies the Committee is requesting.

-11 copies

This testify is in opposition on HB 941 to allow Home Schoolers to participate in extra curricular activities. As a high school counselor I have worked with about a dozen home school students over the past few years. I believe there are a number a legitimate requests to home school children, but there are requests by which parents are avoiding the negative consequences of their child attending school. Such as regular school attendance and participation, behaviors that often result in suspensions, and failing grades which may lead to grade retention. All parents of home school children are required to submit a progress report at the end of the school year that determines their child's progress. Most parent submit this report, but some do not despite the school's efforts. For the parents who do not submit the report there have been no consequences to the failure of submitting that report of progress to the school, nor is there any accountability for these groups of children as far as ensuring they are receiving proper education. I see extra curricular activities as a privilege for students who meet requirements to participate. The bottom line is that there is no accountability for home school students as far as meeting the requirements for submitting an annual progress report to the school, what makes us believe there will be any accountability when it comes to fulfilling the requirements to participate in extra curricular activities, much less who is going to follow up on these students since significant budget cuts have already reduced school staff. My belief is that there are too many loop holes to the home schooling system and we are opening up the 'can of worms' when it comes to opening up extra curricular activities to home schooled students.

## LETTER OF TESTIMONY AGAINST HOUSE BILL 941

TO: The Honorable Roy Takumi, Chair, House Education Committee  
The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair, House Education Committee

HEARING: February 9, 2011                      2:05 PM                      Room 309

My name is Trisha Grimley and I am the Student Activities Coordinator at King Kekaulike High School on Maui. I am **NOT in favor** of House Bill 941, Home School Students; Extracurricular Activities

This bill would allow home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school. Requires home school students to pay applicable activity-participation fees.

To begin with, Hawaii public high school student activities and athletics do not offer **EXTRA**-curricular activities in their student activities programs, which is what allowing a home school student to participate in after school athletics and social events would be. We offer **CO**-curricular activities because as the Breaking Ranks: Changing an American Institution Report states: co-curricular activities are an integral part of a high school education by providing opportunities for students to extend academic learning. Teachers who advise a club or plan a prom or coach a team also teach those same students in their academic classes, and that creates a connection that is meaningful.

1. **Philosophy:** When parents choose to home school their children, are they not making a conscious choice to opt out of the public education experience, which includes co curricular activities of which student activities and athletics are a part of, and provide their children with an alternative academic program? Isn't the participation in student activities and 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 student activities and 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 co curricular activities or the costs of participation of a student in a single event/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 co-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 teams were comprised of home-schoolers. Establishing years of participation would be a problem (National Federation rules is 4 consecutive years from entering the 9<sup>th</sup> 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, largely due to the lack of accountability with academic standards.
5. In addition, there are numerous community organizations, activities, and leagues that home schoolers can participate in....they should not be allowed to pick and choose what they want to participate in at the public school. They should be held accountable for everything that our students are accountable for.

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** Holly\_Soria/KAIMUKH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 09, 2011 8:51 AM  
**To:** Rep. Scott Nishimoto  
**Cc:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB No. 941

DATE: Wednesday, February 09, 2011  
TIME: 2:05 p.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 309  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Rep. Nishimoto:

### **I do not support HB 941.**

When parents make a conscious choice to home school their children, they choose to opt out of the public education experience, which includes co-curricular activities. Co-curricular activities in the public school include student activities and athletics, which support the public school academic experience. Parents who choose to home school their children choose an alternative to the public school academic program, and also choose an alternative to the privileges (student activities and athletics) provided in the public school system. There are many activities/organizations available in the community for the home-schooled child.

Parents should be held accountable for their decisions. Opting out of the public school experience includes both academic **and** co-curricular activities. Parents of home-schooled children should not be permitted to pick and choose components of systems at their whim. Public school personnel should not be responsible for home-schooled children.

I respectfully ask that you do **not** support HB 941.  
Best regards,  
Holly Honbo

Student Activities Coordinator  
Kaimuki High School  
2705 Kaimuki Ave.  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
(808) 733-4900 ext. 243

# Hawaii Student Activities Association

Kalaheo High School  
730 Iliaina Street  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

February 9, 2011

President  
**Richard Lau**  
Kalaheo High School  
Windward District

TO: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Education

Vice President  
**Angella Brandt**  
Honokaa High School  
Hawaii District

FROM: Richard Lau, President  
Hawaii Student Activities Association

SUBJECT: Testimony in Opposition of HB941

Secretary  
**Art Fillazar**  
Lahainaluna High School  
Maui District

The Hawaii Student Activities Association that represents all Student Activities Coordinators in secondary schools in Hawaii **OPPOSE HB941**.

Treasurer  
**Donna Vierra**  
Baldwin High School  
Maui District

Parents choosing to pull their children out of public schools submit Form 4140, withdrawing them from the school. By opting out of public education, they are also opting out of all activities sponsored by the school. Home school students should not receive the same privilege of participating in extracurricular and co-curricular activities as public school students receive.

**Sherwin Pang**  
Moanalua High School  
Central District

All public school students are subject to Chapter 19 regarding student misconduct, discipline, and other behavioral issues. Home school students are exempt from Chapter 19. How will home school students be accountable for their misbehavior? What disciplinary guidelines are they subject to? This is a huge concern in ensuring that all students are disciplined fairly. School administrators have no control over disciplinary action for home school students.

**Rinda Fernandes**  
Kaiser High School  
Honolulu District

**Mike Ishihara**  
Pearl City High School  
Leeward District

Participation in extracurricular and co-curricular activities requires a 2.0 grade point average. The process of monitoring student's GPA and administering academic review status is clearly defined in public schools. Home school students do not have a process to monitor academic progress that is consistent with public schools.

**Harriet Watanabe**  
Kauai High School  
Kauai District

Public school students are required to pay student fees to participate in extracurricular and co-curricular activities. These fees are often used to fund leadership training, activity planning and purchase of supplies and services. Home school students who do not pay school fees should not receive any benefits from this including participation in activities. Even if home school students pay to participate, some activity fees would be too

difficult to calculate fairly. Some co-curricular activities are funded through weighted student formula. How can we fairly assess activity fees for WSA funded activities?

It is clear that allowing home school students to participate in extracurricular and co-curricular activities is unfair public school students. The Hawaii Student Activities Association **STRONGLY OPPOSE HB941.**



## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 08, 2011 1:51 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** linda\_estrella@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB941 on 2/9/2011 2:05:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 2/9/2011 2:05:00 PM HB941

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Linda Estrella  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 4111 Hana Hwy Hana, HI 96713  
Phone: 248.4823  
E-mail: [linda\\_estrella@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:linda_estrella@notes.k12.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 2/8/2011

### Comments:

1. Philosophy: When parents choose to home school their children, are they not making a conscious choice to opt out of the public education experience, which includes extra curricular activities of which student activities and athletics are a part of, and provide their children with an alternative academic program? Isn't the participation in student activities and 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 student activities and 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 event/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. I believe largely due to the lack of accountability with academic standards.
5. In addition, there are numerous community organizations, activities, and leagues that home schoolers can participate in...they should not be allowed to pick and choose what they want to participate in at the public school. They should be held accountable for everything that our students are accountable for.

February 9, 2011

To: Representative Roy Takumi  
Members of the Committee on Education

From: Kayla Avega  
Kalaheo High School, Grade 11

Subject: Opposition of HB 941

Hi, my name is Kayla Avega; I'm currently a junior of Kalaheo High School and I'm a member of the student council (ASK). I don't believe in home school students participating in public school extracurricular activities.

Public school students in Hawaii are under the Chapter 19 disciplinary code. If a home school student attends an activity at the school they are supposed to go to, the school is responsible for his/her actions but he/she is not covered under Chapter 19. For example, if a home school student attends to prom and he/she is drunk, the school administrators can't do anything because this student is not under Chapter 19. However, public school students in the same situation can be suspended under the Chapter 19 disciplinary code.

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. Home school students need to follow the same requirements.

Thank you so much for your time. I hope that you'll take action and oppose HB 941.

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** John\_Goto/RADFORD/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 09, 2011 9:13 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** testimony for HB941

Sending in testimony on HB 941. I have been a teacher, advisor, coach, and administrator for over 20 plus years now. I feel that if a family wants to home school their child, that is their right and priveledge. At the same time, they choose to take their child out of school, they do not have the right to participate in a schools activities. That child does not have to pay school dues, mandatory 2.0 gpa, and other rules and things that a student at that school has to. Their would be no accountability, and that would open the door for all types of families that the child does not do well, grades wise to pull them out of school and just let them play sports. I feel strongly about that and co curricular acitivites like proms, or any activities that they would other wise be allowed to participate in. Students need to be accountable for their actions, and if they do not attend that school, they can and might make decisions that could have a negative decision to that event, with no accountability like the rest of the students. I am not in favor of this bill

Sincerely,  
John Goto  
Radford High School (SAC, Coach)