

SB1374



**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

P. O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Senate Comm. on Education
Hearing: Fri., Feb. 11, 2011
1:15 p.m., Conf. Room 225

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1374 with Amendments
Relating to Education: Home School Student Equal Access to Extracurricular Activities

Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kidani 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 SB1374.

Although the BOE has not taken a position on SB1374, 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 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. SB1374 would provide host schools with additional funding for home school student participants; SB1374 directs DOE schools to include home school students participating in extracurricular activities within their enrollment numbers. This detail would allow host schools to receive additional funding through both weighted student funding and the per-participant allocation of special categorical funds.

Given the fact that the schools would be eligible for greater funding with their increased enrollment numbers, I do not think there is any reason to collect an additional 50% more in student participation fees from home school students. Therefore, I urge the Committee to amend § 302A(g) to state: "home school students shall pay the same participation fees as traditional DOE students."

Please note that Hawaii Administrative Rule Chapter 8-12, Compulsory Attendance Exceptions (HAR 8-12), already requires principals to monitor home school student's progress and provide specific educational services, such as: administer Statewide Testing Programs or approve other means of evaluation, collect annual report of home school students progress, review the adequacy of the progress, help establish a plan for improvement if progress is not adequate, provide access to college entrance examinations offered to traditionally enrolled students and the principal is required to provide written acknowledgment that a child has been home schooled in compliance with HAR 8-12.

Thank you for your consideration.

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

Date: 02/11/2011

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 1374 Relating to Education

Purpose of Bill: To allow home school students, who would otherwise be denied the opportunity to do so, to participate on an equal basis in extracurricular activities offered at schools.

Department's Position: At this time, the Department of Education (Department) chooses not to comment on SB 1374 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.

Date of Hearing: February 11, 2011

Committee: Senate Committee on Education

Person testifying: Neal Takamori, President
ADCA (Athletic Directors and Coaches Association of Hawaii)

Testimony on SB 1374

On behalf of the Athletic Directors and Coaches Association of Hawaii (ADCA), we are opposed SB 1374

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 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?

Hawaii Student Activities Association

Kalaheo High School

730 Iliaina Street

Kailua, Hawaii 96734

February 11, 2011

President
Richard Lau
Kalaheo High School
Windward District

TO: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Education Committee

Vice President
Angella Brandt
Honokaa High School
Hawaii District

FROM: Richard Lau, President
Hawaii Student Activities Association

SUBJECT: Testimony in Opposition of SB1374

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 SB1374.**

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
Kapaa 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 OPPOSES SB1374.**



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Henry J. Kaiser High School
International Baccalaureate
Authorized World School
Middle Years & Diploma Programmes
511 LUNALILO HOME ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96825-1799
Ph. (808) 394-1200, Fax (808) 394-1201

February 09, 2011

To: Jill Tokuda Chair, Committee on Education
From: John P. Sosa, Principal, Kaiser High School
Subject: Home School Children Participating in Co-curricular Activities, S. B. 1374,

S.B 1374 creates an unequal playing field for students enrolled in public schools vs. those who choose home-schooling relative to participation in co-curricular activities.

Traditional public school students and charter public school students have to maintain a 2.0 grade point average to participate in co-curricular activities. This requirement is monitored by school personnel and holds students and parents accountable. In addition students need to adhere to Chapter 19 misconduct rules while in school and attending or participating in school sponsored activities. If we allow home school students to participate in activities without a third party method of monitoring academic standing/progress and behavior it will place the enrolled students at a distinct disadvantage. In effect the home-schooled parents will likely be the only person to determine academic eligibility and it is not clear who would determine and apply disciplinary consequences for misbehavior. This opens a huge loophole for abuse of academic eligibility and misconduct rules to participate in co-curricular activities. An enrolled student could potentially be denied the opportunity to participate by a home school student that does not have to demonstrate adherence to the academic and behavioral guidelines established by the school and BOE/DOE. This bill is unfair because we would end up establishing a set of rules for a special class of participants.

While participation in athletics is the most sought after exception, we have many more activities such as Proms, Winter Balls, Senior Luaus, Class Dinners, School dances, and numerous on campus class and club activities that fall under the co-curricular umbrella. These activities require advance planning and have participation guidelines. These events are communicated to students via our normal school communication channels. Reaching out to home school students would create another layer of responsibility fraught with potential flaws. We could easily get into issues around notification that takes valuable time away from our core function of providing quality education to students.

The potential for abuse and scenarios that create conflict are endless and too numerous to mention here. The additional demands placed on the school principals and advisors/coaches as well as negative effects to enrolled students far outweigh the benefits that would be provided by allowing outside participation for non enrolled students. Through experience allowing participation by home school students in school activities will create fairness issues and lead to conflict situations. Years ago while I was the administrator in a small rural high school on the Big Island I tried working with a home schooled family

to allow some participation in school activities. We did this on our own. Since we were small and in an isolated area I felt it would be in the best interest of the student and not impact us. While it worked initially, what emerged was a pattern of more and more demands by the parents that eventually led to us simply discontinuing the practice.

Here at Kaiser we are making improvements to our academic and co-curricular programs for the benefit of those that choose to send their students to our school. Quite frankly we compete for students with private schools and those who choose the home-schooling option. I want Kaiser to be on the parents radar screen as they make their choice, but once the choice is made we all need to live with the effects of the choice. Allowing for this option is unfair to those students and parents who chose to enroll here at Kaiser High.

We must be mindful that co-curricular activities and programs are a *privilege* for our enrolled students, and these programs were never meant to be activities for students whose parents have chosen alternate forms of education. While I understand the motivation behind this bill it is ill advised and I urge you to not advance this bill out of committee.

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony submitted by Mr. Meredith Maeda, Principal, James B. Castle High School

I would like to state my strong opposition to SB 871 and SB 1374, 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 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

Testimony submitted by Mr. Meredith Maeda, Principal, Castle High School

Opposition to SB 871 and SB 1374 to allow for homeschoolers to participate in any extracurricular activities.

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.

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
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COMMITTEE OF EDUCATION
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

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

I would like submit my testimony **AGAINST** SB 1374, 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.

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

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

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

I would like to state my opposition to SB 1374, 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:

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Opposition to SB 1374 to allow for homeschoolers to participate in any extracurricular activities.

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Opposition to SB 1374 to allow for homeschoolers to participate in any extracurricular activities.

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- 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.

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 8:28 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: stt3002@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1374 on 2/11/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 2/11/2011 1:15:00 PM SB1374

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: S. Onishi
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: stt3002@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

Comments:

I am opposed to allowing home schooled students participate in extracurricular activities in our public schools. It would be hard to monitor this. Our current public school kids have to adhere to strict standards as far as gpa minimums to participate in sports. Home schooled kids are held to a different standard. Also, I don't agree with them taking our kids' slots in what is already a very limited sized athletic dept. Current advisors and coaches already have to monitor grades as well as financial obligations of our kids. How will they monitor home schooled kids? I believe if the parents of home schooled kids made a decision to keep them at home for education, then they should also be kept out of the public school system all together. I don't agree with them picking and choosing which aspect of our education system to participate in, be it sports, proms, dances, other extra curricular activities, etc.
Thank you.

Erin Conner

From: Holly_Soria/KAIMUKH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 5:23 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: SB 1374

Friday, 2/11/2011
Senate Education Committee
1:15 p.m.
Room 225

I do not support SB 1374.

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 **SB 1374**.

Best regards,
Holly Honbo

Student Activities Coordinator
Kaimuki HS
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Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 10:45 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: Randiann_Porras-Tang@notes.k12.hi.us
Subject: Testimony for SB1374 on 2/11/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 2/11/2011 1:15:00 PM SB1374

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Randiann Porras-Tang
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Submitted on: 2/8/2011

Comments:

Erin Conner

From: Cynthia_Tong/MILILANH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 12:30 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony Against SB871 and SB1374

Legislators,

I am a public school teachers with 16 years of service in the Hawaii DOE and currently teach at Mililani High School. I went to Hawaii public schools and graduated from Aiea High School, I have taught in four public secondary schools and three private secondary schools on Oahu. SB 871 and SB1374 should NOT be passed for the following reasons:

1) Philosophy: When parents choose to homeschool their children, they make a specific choice to opt out of the public education experience, which includes co-curricular activities such as student activities, clubs, and athletics. The Hawaii DOE has already recognized that participation in student activities and athletics is a privilege and not a right and public school students and their parents know and recognize this premise. We teachers are reminded of this every week as we sign dozens of grade checks (based on state-mandated standards) over the course of a year and these weekly grade checks determine a student's eligibility to participate. Additionally, at Mililani High School, we hold our students to certain codes of behavior such as the Character Counts program. As a Honors and Advanced Placement teacher, I have had several students who returned to public school from homeschooling and they were, overwhelmingly, not prepared to participate in the social mores and accepted behaviors expected in or out of the classroom. By and large, they were slow to acclimate and largely unsuccessful in both the academic and social realms of public school. Will these homeschooled students be ready to follow the social rules and mores of a educational setting from which their parents chose to exclude them? I have already seen cases where previously homeschooled students behaved poorly in a co-curricular activity because they were not accustomed to the unspoken social rules which occur in student interest groups and athletics.

2) Funding: SB871 and SB1374 state that homeschooled students will pay any applicable fees for co-curricular activities. Most co-curricular activities are partially funded or supported by student government dues (both class and school) and the Parent Teacher Student Organizations (PTSO). For example, Mililani High School students in several co-curricular programs receive support from the Associated Students of Mililani High School student government and from the PTSO for meetings, outings, and travel. Sophomore Banquets, Junior Proms, and Senior Proms are all partially underwritten by class dues to the tune of tens of thousands of dollars each year because for such events, costs must be paid in advance. Will homeschooled students pay those class and student association dues and will their parents also join the PTSO? Will homeschooled students also participate in fundraising efforts required by most of the clubs and athletics, the funds of which go to support all of the club and athletic members?

3) Accepting homeschooled students into student interest clubs and activities places an unfair burden on teachers who are club advisors and chaperones. Virtually all teachers who are club advisors volunteer their services and dedicate many extra hours (including weekends and school breaks) to guiding and supervising students in these clubs. When a homeschooled student comes in who is unfamiliar with school procedures and rules, it is a burden for the teacher advisor to instruct them and furthermore, the customary modes of communication are not available to the teacher advisor. Most club advisors utilize the school daily bulletin (audio and/or hardcopy) or school webpage to alert and inform their club members. Because homeschoolers will not have access to these (as unregistered students), the teacher/advisor must take additional time and use additional resources to alert and inform them. Whenever there are school social functions such as Homecoming or prom, teacher chaperones are recruited and used primarily because they recognize their students on sight,

have rapport with them, and such students are much less likely to misbehave because they know the teachers. For these reasons, our school does not permit unregistered student guests at specific events. If a homeschooled student attends a Homecoming or prom, they are not recognizable to the school's teacher chaperones and the level of authority and safety for the event is hampered.

It seems unfair and unjust to require public schools to accept homeschooled students into co-curricular activities when the public school must shoulder all the responsibility and burden of hidden costs, safety, socialization and due process.

Cynthia Tong
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THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

COMMITTEE OF EDUCATION

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, 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 SB 1374, 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.

The Senate
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

Committee on Evaluation
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony submitted by Chere Ing, Senior Class President, James B. Castle High School

I would like to submit my testimony in opposition of SB 1374, allowing homeschooled students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school. I am against this bill simply because it is unfair. Homeschooled students aren't part of any structured school program. This means that they could practice a sport all day getting better and better as opposed to a student in public school that simply doesn't have the time to practice as much because they are in school from 8-3 everyday. Obviously the better player would get chosen but if a homeschooled student is chosen then they are representing a school that they aren't technically a part of. Charter schools abide by the 2.0 rule. There's no one to monitor whether these homeschooled students are going to adhere to that.

If homeschooled kids are allowed to participate in student government, then they would have to take part in the leadership class itself, however can a student who is homeschooled, be put in charge of leading a class that they aren't a part of? They wouldn't know the problems and issues that the class has because they aren't there to witness it.

To allow them to attend proms and banquets would be unfair because the class itself raises money for them. They pay student dues that are put towards these functions. Homeschooled kids don't pay that and they don't participate in fundraisers so allowing them to attend would be unfair.

This bill would allow homeschooled kids to participate in the graduation ceremony even though they didn't actually graduate from the institution that the ceremony is held for. Because they didn't attend the school, it would be unfair to the students who did for them to be recognized as someone who put in time and work at the school.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

The Senate
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony sent by Emily Otsuka, Senior Class Vice President, James B. Castle High School.

I would like to submit my testimony in opposition of SB 1374, allowing home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school. If home school students decide to practice basketball all morning at and start school at 1 p.m., then they have an advantage of making the team over public school students who are in school.

The home school student chose to be home schooled knowing they would be missing the opportunities of being at a public school. Participating in extra curricular activities is a privilege earned by students. The home school student does not pay for school dues like public schooled students. The home schooled student does not have grade checks and maintain a GPA of 2.0 where as a public schooled child does. Therefore the home schooled child would not be monitored in the same way. Home schooled children have an unfair advantage.

This bill should not be passed; thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

The Senate
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

Committee of Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony submitted by Aaron Oue Senior Class Senator, James B. Castle High School

I would like to submit my testimony in opposition of Senate Bill 1374, allowing home school students to participate in any extra curricular activities offered by a public school. I appeal to the honorable Representatives of the State of Hawai'i Senate and House of Representatives to not support this bill for the following reasons. First home-schooled students do not have to meet the rigorous criteria to participate in co-curricular activities that a full-time enrolled student does. A full time student must be part of a learning and caring community that works together for the benefit of its students, where all are committed to excellence, meet a minimum grade point average, follow appropriate behaviors while on campus and be part of citizenry of life-long learners.

Another reason is home school students have numerous activities out in the community to join for a co curricular activity such as AYSO, Pop Warner or HYSA. There should not be any excuse stating a home school student is not allowed to join any activity at all.

These are the reasons why I don't support the SB 1374 Thank you for taking the time to review my testimony.

The Senate
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

Committee on Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony submitted by Kayla Kamisato,
Junior Class Vice President, James B. Castle High School

I would like to submit my testimony in opposition of SB 1374, allowing home school students to participate in any extra curricular activities offered by a public school. In a home school program, there aren't any teachers to monitor the student, whereas their parent is in charge of their education and rules. This point relates to the 2.0 GPA needed and the DOE standards. It isn't certain that home school students are abiding by the rules and policies regarding the extra curricular eligibility.

I believe that the public school student should get a better chance at a position (on a team, in a club, etc.) for they belong to the school providing the extra curricular activity. For the public school students to have to compete with home school student for rights to participate in an extra curricular activity would not be fair.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

The Senate
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

Committee on Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony submitted by Gavin Ijima, Junior Class Treasurer, James B. Castle High School.

I would like to submit my testimony against SB 1374, allowing home school students to participate in any extra curricular activities offered by a public school. When a student chooses to enroll in home schooling this means that they are choosing to not be a part of public schools... including extra curricular activities and any other public school event. If home-schooled students are allowed to participate in public school events, they will be representing the school even though they are not even a student there. This could become a problem because if the home-schooled student gets in trouble or does something wrong, it will be the school that gets in trouble not the student as an individual.

I also believe that if home schooled students are allowed to participate in school activities such as sports that would be unfair to students who actually attend the school. Students have to keep a 2.0 GPA and not have any F's to participate in extra curricular school activities where as it might be easier to do this if the student was home schooled. Public schools' funds for extra curricular activities is not really that much so I think that it would also be unfair for the public schools to also have to pay for the home-schooled students to participate.

These are the reasons why I believe that SB 1374 should not be passed. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

The Senate
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

Committee on Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony submitted by Maile Garrett, Junior Class Secretary, James B. Castle High School.

I would like to submit my testimony against SB 1374, allowing home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school. Home school students will need to pay an amount of money for their uniforms if they were to play a sport. But there is a question of how much money they will need to pay. The Athletic Department has a limited amount of money already. Adding home school students will increase the need for more funding, causing each sport to receive less funding.

There are many sport leagues outside of school that these home school students could participate in. If the home school student and parents don't want them to participate in the public school experience, why would they want them to participate in public school sponsored activities? Also, many extracurricular activities are during school hours, like student council and clubs. It will inconvenience everyone if the home school student only comes for certain hours of the school day.

Thank you for taking the time to read over my testimony.

The Senate
The twenty-sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony submitted by Arisa Liss, Junior Class Senator, James B. Castle High School.

I would like to submit my testimony in opposition of SB 1374, allowing home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school. Some benefits to the extracurricular activities are for team building for the school. If the home school students were to participate, not only are they not from the school but they will not benefit from the team building because they will only come for that extracurricular activity.

For some extracurricular activities, students work very hard to raise the funds to subsidize these events, much of the fundraising are done in the schools. It would be unfair for the students in the school to fundraise for their school when some of the profit is used by the home school students who do not go to the school. If the home school students were to help out in the fundraisers, it would be pointless for them to fundraise for a school/class they don't attend.

I am opposed to SB 1374. Thank you for taking your time to read this testimony.

The Senate

The twenty-sixth Legislative regular session of 2011

Committee On Education

Senator Jill A. Tokuda, Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony submitted by Dustin Telefoni Junior Class Senator, James B. Castle High School. I would like to submit my testimony in opposition of SB 1374, allowing home school students to participate in any extra-curricular activities offered by public high schools. I believe that allowing this bill to pass is unfair to public high school students. With all the funding for public high school extra-curricular activities, which are budgeted for enrolled pupils, will be spent inadequately. This bill is also unfair because public high school students encounter everyday social and academic challenges that home school students don't experience. This means that home school students have easier entry requirements of eligibility.

With all that said the Senate Bill 1374 is unfair to public high school students because of inadequate spending of budgets and the challenges public high school students face versus a home school student. Therefore Senate Bill 1374 should not be passed.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony.

The Senate
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

Committee on Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony Submitted by Peter Reidy, Class of 2013 Class President, James B.
Castle High School

I would like to submit my testimony, in opposition of SB 1374, allowing home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school. I believe that when a student enrolls him/her self in a home schooling system, they actively dismiss themselves from the extracurricular opportunities a public school provides. Public school system regulations must be abided by each student requesting to take part in an extracurricular activity. A public school has no influence on the standards and regulations enforced by any given home school; therefore a home schooled student should not be permitted to attend extracurricular activities in which a public school student gains as a member of a D.O.E sanctioned school. Therefore I am against SB 1374; thank you for hearing my testimony.

The Senate
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony submitted by Jacob Fong, Sophomore Class Vice President, James B. Castle High School

I would like to submit my testimony in opposition of SB 1374, allowing home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school. Public students need to follow a strict 2.0 GPA with no F's grading system and have no Chapter 19 offenses to participate in extracurricular activities. The home school grading system is determined by the parents and Chapter 19 rules are not enforced therefore the student could not be considered for extracurricular activities by the Department of Education.

Extracurricular activities such as band, music, DECA, and student government require a student to participate in a public school class to be able to participate in the extracurricular activity. Therefore not participating in the DOE run class would not allow the home school student to participate in that activity.

Students that are enrolled at a public school are required to pay dues and obligations to be eligible for extracurricular activities. So if home school students pay the same dues as public school students, the home school student should be considered.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

The Senate
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony sent by Amber Hakkei-Nagaoka, Sophomore Class Treasurer, James B. Castle High School.

I would like to submit my testimony in opposition of SB 1374, allowing home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school. Students enrolled in a public school must abide by strict rules to be eligible for participation in an extracurricular activity. Students must maintain a 2.0 G.P.A, receive no F's in a required course, and have no Chapter 19 offenses. Monitoring a home school student's behavior would be difficult because it would be up the student's parent rather than the teachers of the public school.

The Department of Education states that because of a schools financial status, students must pay all dues and obligations before being eligible to participate in athletic events. Home schooled children would not be held to the same standard because they have no dues or obligations that need to be paid.

Again, I am in opposition of SB 1374. Thank you for allowing me to send in my testimony.

The Senate
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

Committee of Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony submitted by Sina-Ann Haimoto-McShane Sophomore Council Senator, James B.
Castle High School

I would like to submit my testimony in opposition of SB 1374, allowing home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school. If they want to participate in extracurricular activities then they should transfer to the school. Athletics already having low funding, so, adding more people to the team would burden the both the school and the parents of the home-schooled child.

Most extracurricular activities occur during school hours, including but not limited to, Leadership a required class at castle to participate in Student Council and club meetings (which occur during school lunch and recess).

One home schooling requirement listed in SB 1374 states that, "It is not under the supervision and control of a public school." If they come to a public school to participate in on-campus activities, then they would have to be under public school supervision.

Thank you for taking the time to read over my testimony.

The Senate
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

Committee on Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony submitted by Simone Terstegge, Sophomore Class Senator, James B. Castle High School.

I would like to submit my testimony in opposition of SB1374, allowing home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school. I am against this bill because home-school students have given up the right to participate in public school activities and sports. By knowingly enrolling in home-school programs, the parent and the student both agree to participate solely in activities offered by the community. If a student wishes to participate in a school sport, they can participate through community leagues at their discretion.

Home-school students are not held to the same standard as public school students. Their classes and grades are monitored by parents, not teachers. Home-school students also do not pay class dues, which are largely responsible for making student activities and sports possible.

This is why I am against SB1374. Thank you for allowing me to testify.

The Senate
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session

COMMIITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony Submitted By: Elilynn Chun Fat-Ardren Sophomore Class Senator, James B. Castle
High School

I would like to submit my testimony for in opposition of SB 1374, allowing home school students to participate in any extra-curricular activities offered by a public school. I am in opposition of this because they don't have to abide by the school rules and the students of the school must follow the rules. For sports wise, we won't be able to know if the home schooled student has the minimum GPA to do sports because it depends on how the parents grade them. The parent could say that his or her child is passing all of his or her classes so he or she could play the sport but their grades may not be accurate. If one of our students didn't have the minimum GPA, they wouldn't be able to play and they could be replaced by the home schooled student. The home schooled student would have a great amount of time to improve his or her skills, unlike our students who's only time they will be able to improve their skills are when they have practices and when they are not doing their homework.

I am also in opposition of this because for their standards may not be as high as our standards. They could be learning certain things but not in the proper way and it may be in an easy way. Their grading policies differ compare to ours because their teacher is their own parent and the parent could be going easy on them and just give them an easy A. It isn't fair to our students that they have a teacher that gives them a great amount of work and they don't have their parent as a teacher that could just give them an easy A; their teachers are hardworking and give them a real grade.

These are the reasons why I am in opposition of having home schooled students to be able to participate in extra curricular activities at a public school. Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony.

The Senate
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

Committee on Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony submitted by Simone Terstegge, Sophomore Class Senator, James B. Castle High School.

I would like to submit my testimony in opposition of SB1374, allowing home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school. I am against this bill because home-school students have given up the right to participate in public school activities and sports. By knowingly enrolling in home-school programs, the parent and the student both agree to participate solely in activities offered by the community. If a student wishes to participate in a school sport, they can participate through community leagues at their discretion.

Home-school students are not held to the same standard as public school students. Their classes and grades are monitored by parents, not teachers. Home-school students also do not pay class dues, which are largely responsible for making student activities and sports possible.

This is why I am against SB1374. Thank you for allowing me to testify.

The Senate
The twenty- sixth legislator
Regular of session of 2011

Committee on education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony submitted by Duke Gima
Freshmen Class President, James B. Castle High School

I would like to submit my testimony in opposition of SB 1374, allowing home schooled students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school. The reason why I am against the SB 1374 is because, if home school students join something important (for example, student government) and they have no experience at all and have no knowledge of the students in their respected class, then it can bring the entire student council down. Even if they join one of our sports, they have all the time in the world to practice and not have to worry about grades and other rules.

I am against having home-schooled children participate in extracurricular activities because it is unfair to the other students in the activity. The home schooled children do not need to follow the school eligibility standards or have to keep up on their grades. It's not fair to the school students because they need to keep up on their grades and follow the rules of eligibility. If the public school students need to keep up on school and be able to play in the sport or participate in the activity, why should the home-schooled children be able to play the sport and not have to worry about keeping up in school? So if the students have a lot of pressure just to participate, then I believe that it is not fair that the home-schooled children have no pressure at all.

Another reason why I oppose SB 1374 is because it can also bring down the school itself. If the home schooled children participate in student government and they have no experience and no knowledge of their respective class, then they can bring down the class due to there lack of knowledge of the school. If they make the student government bad then it would also make the entire school look bad.

Thank you for letting me send in my testimony.

The Senate
The Twenty-Six Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

Committee on Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony submitted by Kristin Hasegawa, Freshmen Class Vice President, James B. Castle High School.

I would like to submit my testimony against SB 1374, allowing home school students to participate in any extra curricular activities offered by a public school. As I read through this SB, I thought about how that would effect not only the students that are home schooled, but the school too. From my point of view, the home-schooled student would have more advantages than other students. Advisors would have a hard time keeping track of their grades and how well they are doing on their academics.

If the home-schooled student wanted to be involved with extra curricular activities at a public school, then why not just be enrolled in a public school. It's around the same thing and you don't need to worry about going back and forth. One thing that caught my attention was that they aren't even a part of. The better thing to do is be enrolled in the school. Then you could help support a class that you are a part of and do things with. Other people would find it confusing and thing that someone who is enrolled in the school would be better for the position. These are my reasons why I am against the SB 1374. Thank you for taking the time to look over my testimony.

The Senate
The Twenty- Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

Committee on Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony submitted by Erin Kanda, Freshmen Class Treasurer, James B. Castle High School

I would like to submit my testimony in opposition of SB 1374, allowing home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school. I am against this bill because in order for the public school students to participate in extracurricular activities, they must maintain a grade point average of 2.0 or higher. It would not be fair if we allow home-schooled students to participate because their grades could be more flexible than ours. The home-school students grading standards are different from ours.

Another reason why I am against this bill is because if the homeschooled students play a kind of rough sport, like soccer or water polo, they could get hurt. If the homeschooled student gets hurt during the season and in the game, the school would be liable. Not only would we be liable, if they get hurt they get the services of the athletic trainer which they did not contribute to via weighted student formula calculations.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony.

The Senate
The twenty-sixth Legislature

Committee on Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice- Chair

Testimony submitted by Connor Meers, Freshmen Class Secretary, James B. Castles High School.

I would like to submit my testimony in opposition of SB 1374, allowing home school students to participate in any extra curricular activities offered at a public school. This would not be fair to all students who attend a public school and abide by the public school system rules. Public school students have to follow many guidelines given pertaining to all extra curricular activities. For instance, all students who play sports are required to maintain a Grade Point Average of a 2.0 or higher, have no failing grades, and attend a tutorial session every day after school in order to participate in the students chosen sport. Home school students should not be eligible to participate because their grading system may not be the same and they will not be able to attend a tutorial period after school every day.

In addition, students who are schooled at home would not be able to meet and follow the student council constitution. Each school has their own constitution which their student council must follow. At Castle High School, our constitution states that each student must maintain a GPA of a 2.0 and be a full time student. This would exclude students who are educated within their own homes during the day because they are not going to school at James B. Castle High School as a full time student. They also may not have the same structured grading system that public schools do. This would not be fair to public school students who are full time students. They have to attend seven classes and make sure they are passing all seven classes. They have to keep up their grades whereas home schooled students do not have to take care of a number of seven total classes.

In conclusion, I am strongly against SB 1374 because of many reasons including equality within extra curricular activities pertaining to home schooled and public schooled students in Hawaii.

Thank you very much for reading and allowing me to testify. I appreciate your time.

The Senate
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony submitted by Katylynn Chun Fat-Ardren, Freshmen Class Senator, James B, Castle High School

I would like to submit my testimony against SB 1374, allowing home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school. I am against this because they do not have to follow school rules to get on an athletic sports team. They will have more time to practice on that sport while we are in school. Our public school students might not make the team, even when they followed the school rules, and the home school student makes the team without having to follow school rules and had more time to practice. It is not fair for our public school students that they do not get to be playing and the home school student is playing on the team.

I am also against this because they should not be able to join any co-curricular activities. An example of a co-curricular activity is student government. Home school students should not be able to join student government because if they somehow became president for student government, they will not be able to be in any meetings since they are at home learning. They will also not be able to help and participate in any activities that the student government holds during school.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony.

The Senate
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

Committee of Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony Submitted by Katherine Noborikawa, Freshman Class Senator, James B. Castle
High School

I would like to submit my testimony in opposition of SB 1374, allowing home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school. I'm against this Bill because if they joined a sport team, they wouldn't have to stay in school and work; they could practice and get better. They could get so much better that they would take place of public school students. If they wanted to be in an extra-curricular activity then they should have gone to public school, plus the safety issues.

They would disrupt the order of the school. If they come on to campus with no Castle ID, how would we know the difference between a home school and a drug dealer? Add the fact that their curriculum is different from ours so it could be easier so when we have a D they could have a B. Their parents could lie and say they have a good grade but they really might not.

For these reasons, I oppose the Bill SB 1374. Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony.

The Senate
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular session of 2011

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony submitted by Shelly Nishimura Freshmen Class Senator, James B. Castle High School

I would like to submit my testimony in opposition of SB 1374 allowing home school students to participate in any extra curricular activities offered by a public school. I am in opposition of this because one, if a home schooled student wanted to participate in a athletic sports activity but not go to the school then they would have more time to practice and get better verses a public school student who has to go to school most of the day. That would not be fair. Especially if the public school student would be better if he had the same practice time as the home school student. Plus, the home school student would have different school standards so getting an A in one class could be equal to a C in our standards. Also, their parents could be saying they have all A's but in our standards that could be all C's or possibly even lower which shows that they could possibly not have the grades to participate at all.

Another reason why I am in opposition of this because if somehow a home school student became president of a co-curricular activity like student government, they wouldn't be able to keep up with any activities that happen during school hours. They wouldn't know the results or how to help it because they will simply not be there. Plus they will not be able to communicate with the student body if they hardly know them or see them at all.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

The Senate
The twenty-sixth legislature
Regular Session of 2011

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony submitted by Kaili Kinoshita, student, James B. Castle High School

I would like to submit my testimony in opposition of SB1374, allowing home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school.

Home-schooled students are offered many opportunities through the community. If I were a home schooled student wanting to participate in sports, I could easily find a community program to meet my needs. There are opportunities to play sports, take dance classes, do performing arts, and even attend social events such as dances.

Because home-schooled students would not be enrolled in the school they represent, they will have less school pride. High school sports are vital in the balance of the high school environment. High school sports motivate students to reach a 2.0 GPA in order to participate in those activities. If home-schooled students take the place of school students, the public school student will have lost their motivation to strive for their best.

Home-schooled students who are striving to attend a prestigious college may argue that having school involvement would increase their chances of acceptance. Community involvement is just as valuable for college and job applications. In this aspect, home-schooled students have equal opportunities thanks to the community. Because home-schooled students have equal opportunities outside of public school programs, I feel allowing them to participate in our extracurricular activities would be unfair.

To reiterate, I am opposed to SB 1374. Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony.

The Senate
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

Committee on Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, vice chair

Testimony submitted by Cheyenne Lawes, student, James B. Castle High School

I would like to submit my testimony against SB 1374, allowing home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school. There are many community groups and organizations that offer activities for any one who is interested. The school doesn't need to open up their services when they have other viable options. It adds more stress on parents, students, and coordinators.

The fees involved with allowing home schooled students into extracurricular activities are difficult to determine. How would you find a fair amount to pay? Also, opening the school up at random times for random people would be stressful to the administrators and teachers. Additionally, it would add stress on the parents to get them back and forth to school. All those complications support the fact that home schooled students should not attend extracurricular activities at public schools because the payments would not be fair and the scheduling would be too difficult, instead they should enter community programs.

Thank you for taking the time to look at my testimony.

The Senate
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011
Committee on Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony submitted by Tamlyn Nakasaki, student, James B. Castle High School.

I would like to submit my testimony in opposition of SB 1374, allowing home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school. Once a parent decides to home school their child, they are agreeing to exclude their child from anything pertaining to the curricular or extracurricular aspects of the public school system. Schools, such as Castle High School, follow the Chapter 19 Discipline Policy whereas the home school students do not. Public school students are required to follow the 2.0 GPA rule and abide by DOE and other school standards, regulations and expectations.

Furthermore, schools would struggle to regulate the home school students. Dues and obligations must be taken care of in order to take part in clubs and proms. If enrolled in the student government, they would not be fully supporting a certain class level unlike full time public school students that are officers of the student government. If on a sports team, they would have to abide by the 2.0 GPA rule. However they are graded based on different standards and requirements making it unfair to public school students. Also, home school students could possibly be taking positions on the team that could have been given to a full time student of that school.

Various community alternatives are available for students who choose to be home schooled. Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony.

February 9, 2011

To: Senator Jill Tokuda
Members of the Committee on Education

From: Kayla Avega
Kalaheo High School, Grade 11

Subject: Opposition of SB1374

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 SB1374.

February 9, 2011

To: Representative Roy Takumi
Members of the Committee on Education

From: Wren Fukada
Kalaheo High School, Grade 11

Subject: Opposition of SB1374

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 HB1374.

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 SB1374. Thank you for your consideration.