

SCR32

Cheerleading Task Force
EDU

Date: 03/16/2012

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 032 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE ON CHEERLEADING TO DETERMINE IF CHEERLEADING SHOULD BE CLASSIFIED AS AN INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORT IN PUBLIC SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Purpose of Resolution: Requests the Department of Education to establish a task force on cheerleading to determine if cheerleading should be classified as an interscholastic sport in public school athletic programs.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) does not support SCR 032, requesting the Department establish a task force on cheerleading to determine if it should be classified as an intramural sport.

In July of 2010, a federal court judge in Connecticut ruled that "Competitive cheer, may sometime in the future, qualify as a sport under Title IX; today, however, the activity is still too underdeveloped and disorganized to be treated as offering genuine varsity athletic opportunities for students."

in Hawaii, cheerleading is offered as an interscholastic sport statewide but the student-athletes who participate in cheerleading are not counted towards the schools' variance rates under Title IX.

Therefore, the establishment of a task force is not needed to implement cheerleading as an interscholastic sport.

Senate Education Committee hearing on Friday, March 16, at 1:15 P.M.

Senate Concurrent Resolution: No. SCR 32

Title: Cheerleading Task Force

Good afternoon, Senators. My name is Cody Porter and I am a sophomore and student secretary at American Renaissance Academy. I am testifying on SCR No. 32, Cheerleading Task Force. I strongly agree with this bill for the following reasons: First, I strongly believe that cheerleading is an underrated athletic pursuit that takes a great deal of time, dedication, effort, skill, and strength. In many ways cheerleading possesses many of these attributes found in athletes in other sports like football and basketball. So with that said, I think cheerleading deserves the same attention, recognition, opportunities, and even financial support that all other sports receive.

A second reason I am in strong agreement with this Bill is because this will enable youth with other skills and talents the opportunity to stay active and fit as much as the athletes in the sports that receive so much more recognition.

Finally, I support this bill because I believe that Hawaiian youth possess potentially great talents in cheerleading and will in the future represent the Islands very well with their skills and performances.

I thank you for your service, time and attention.

Senate Education Committee hearing on Friday, March 16, at 1:15 P.M.

Senate Concurrent Resolution: No. SCR 32

Title: Cheerleading Task Force

Good afternoon, Senators. My name is Samantha Beck and I am a freshman at American Renaissance Academy. I am testifying on SCR 32, Cheerleading Task Force. Although its' name is atrocious, I am supportive of this bill because I agree with all its points and see no harm that can be done from not passing this bill.

Cheerleading is as difficult as any other athletic pursuit, if not more. And as the proposed bill states, cheerleading requires training, skills, stamina, flexibility, and strength and practice sessions that are as demanding and active as officially recognized sports.

However, I do see harm if we do not pass this bill. It could prevent future students from getting involved in this sport and even possible future scholarships for college. This debate rings home with me because my school is a small private one and which is unable to presently participate in interscholastic athletics. My classmates and I are missing out on athletic opportunities. So I empathize with those athletes who are cheerleaders who cannot be officially recognized as interscholastic athletes.

Furthermore, if sports such as ping pong or table tennis are considered a interscholastic sport, then I feel certain that cheerleading should be one, too.

Thank you for your time and attention.

March 14, 2012

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, vice chair
Members of the Education committee

From: Peyton Walker
Kailua, Hawaii

Subject: Support of Senate Resolution 32, requesting the department of education to establish a task force on cheerleading to determine if cheerleading should be classified as an interscholastic sport in public school athletic programs.

Aloha! My name is Peyton Walker and I am a junior at Kalaheo high school. I am testifying on SCR 32. I support this bill because; well I'm a cheerleader and would like to see cheerleading finally be classified as a sport.

According to the National Center for Catastrophic Sport Injury Research, cheerleading is the number-one cause of serious sports injuries. Emergency room visits for cheerleading are five times the number than for any other sport, partially because they do not wear protective gear. Because cheerleading is not yet recognized as a sport by many schools, neither proper matting nor high enough ceilings are provided to ensure safety. Cheerleaders use whatever is available to them. If cheerleading was a recognized sport we may have fewer injuries because cheerleaders would have the correct equipment needed to practice safely.

Establishing a task force on cheerleading to classify cheerleading as an interscholastic sport in public schools could help decrease the amount of injuries acquired by participating in cheerleading. Thank you for your time! I hope that you will support resolution 32.

House Bill Number: S.C.R NO32

Title: Cheerleading Task Force

Good Afternoon. My name is Rachel Murakami and I am a sophomore at Moanalua High School. I am testifying on House Bill number S.C.R NO32, Cheerleading Task Force.

I strongly support this bill because cheerleading should be recognized as an interscholastic sport as well as it deserves a task force. A sport is defined as an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others for entertainment. Cheerleading fits every specification of the definition. Cheerleading definitely requires a high level of physical exertion and skill, including vigorous dance moves, stunting and jumps. During competition season there are cheerleading competitions in which there a several teams are trying to impress the judges.

Another reason I support this bill is because cheerleading practices more than most regular season sports. Practices tend to be vigorous and require physical strength and endurance. The fact that cheerleading shares many similarities with most regular season sports is often overlooked. Cheerleading a sport that requires hours of training and practice like other sports do. It's evident that strength, flexibility, speed and endurance are also present during cheer competitions as well as practices.

Although many people don't see cheerleading as a sport, it fits all of the qualifications of a sport, as well as it requires a large range of skills and training including strength, flexibility, endurance and speed. It also has vigorous practices and competitions like other sports do. Cheerleading should be classified as an interscholastic sport in all public schools.