

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2013 8:34 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: seaclifffitness@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB906 on Feb 8, 2013 08:30AM

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HB906

Submitted on: 2/7/2013

Testimony for HLT on Feb 8, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Spurrier	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I volunteer my time to help with the vision and hearing screenings at our local elementary schools. I have seen the hard work that volunteers put into this incredibly important effort. At the same time, not all of Hawaii's children are being screened. Not every school participates and not every student is at school on the days that screenings are conducted. There are keiki in this state who are at risk for irreversible vision problems if not identified and treated early on. I would say the "no public impact" statement is not true. The Department of Health has had insufficient resources to provide this important public health service for 17 years. That does not mean there will be no impact on our community to "put the nail in this coffin". Although merely symbolic, I am eager to share my professional disappointment that Public Health is not a higher priority for our community. What happens if or when the volunteers stop coming? Who will care for our kids then? Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments.

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