

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [kamakawiwoole7@gmail.com](mailto:kamakawiwoole7@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB922 on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 10:37:26 AM  
**Attachments:** [SB 922.doc](#)

---

SB922

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rhonda Kamakawiwoole	Christian Homeschoolers of Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments: Christian Homeschoolers of Hawaii (CHOH) strongly opposes SB 922. Hawaii's current notice requirements for homeschoolers were the result of many dialogues between homeschooling families and state officials. While families send an annual notice of intent to their local public school superintendent, homeschooling children do not fall under the auspices of the public school, and parents retain complete autonomy to direct the education of their child as they see fit. If passed, SB 922 will dramatically redefine the relationship between homeschooling families and the public schools, from one of notice and co-existence to one of enrollment and oversight. Parents, not the government, have the fundamental right to direct the education of their children. Please do not go forward with this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [toddj003@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:toddj003@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB922 on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 10:48:56 AM

---

**SB922**

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda A. Todd	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I have homeschooled all 7 of my children here in Hawaii and have been grateful for the freedom I had to choose for my childrens' education, without having to involve the public schools. We, as families, have the right to make these decisions for our families without the interference of the government. For many, public schools are a wonderful option. But others, the choice to homeschool is a decision we cherish. Please leave these family choices FREE and do not make it a requirement that ALL must enroll their children. Thank you for listening to my testimony.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [drewjernigan@earthlink.net](mailto:drewjernigan@earthlink.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB922 on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 10:58:29 AM

---

SB922

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Drew Jernigan	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: AS a homeschooling parent, I strongly oppose SB 922. Hawaii's current notice requirements for homeschoolers were the result of many dialogues between homeschooling families and state officials. While families send an annual notice of intent to their local public school superintendent, homeschooling children do not fall under the auspices of the public school, and parents retain complete autonomy to direct the education of their child as they see fit. If passed, SB 922 will dramatically redefine the relationship between homeschooling families and the public schools, from one of notice and co-existence to one of enrollment and oversight. Parents, not the government, have the fundamental right to direct the education of their children.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [Brady Jernigan](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose SB 922  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 11:23:12 AM

---

As a homeschooling student, I strongly oppose SB 922. Hawaii's current notice requirements for homeschoolers were the result of many dialogues between homeschooling families and state officials. While families send an annual notice of intent to their local public school superintendent, homeschooling children do not fall under the auspices of the public school, and parents retain complete autonomy to direct the education of their child as they see fit. If passed, SB 922 will dramatically redefine the relationship between homeschooling families and the public schools, from one of notice and co-existence to one of enrollment and oversight. Parents, not the government, have the fundamental right to direct the education of their children.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

-Brady Jernigan

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [kathyhashimoto@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kathyhashimoto@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB922 on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 11:24:10 AM

---

SB922

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen Hashimoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: In regard to SB922, our family is strongly opposed. We tolerate the co-existence with the government schools we now share. Our notice of intent every school year and annual grade reporting is sufficient contact. Dedicated homeschoolers of Hawaii benefit from the freedom in choosing curricula best for their families. We resent any further intrusion or oversight in their education. Please oppose this bill. Sincerely, Kathleen M. Hashimoto 261-9677

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [jnlpinlove@gmail.com](mailto:jnlpinlove@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB922 on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 11:29:02 AM

---

SB922

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leigh Ann Phillips	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: If passed, SB 922 will dramatically redefine the relationship between homeschooling families and the public schools, from one of notice and co-existence to one of enrollment and oversight. Parents, not the government, have the fundamental right to direct the education of their children.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Wednesday, January 30, 2013

To: Senate Committee

Re: SB 922

Dear Committee Members:

I strongly oppose SB 922!

As a homeschooling parent, I only see this bill as a step to decrease the freedom of homeschoolers. This bill would be a starter tool to further decrease freedoms when the next legislative session begins. A study by Dr. Lawrence Rudner of 20,760 homeschooled students found that homeschoolers who have homeschooled all their school aged years had the highest academic achievement. This was especially apparent in the higher grades. It's no wonder Hawaii would like to have these students enrolled in public school! It would definitely make Hawaii look like it's public education system had improved!

Hawaii's current notice requirements for homeschoolers were the result of many discussions between homeschooling families and state officials. While families send an annual notice of intent to their local public school superintendent, homeschooling children do not fall under the authority of the public school, and parents have complete autonomy to direct the education of their child as they see fit.

If passed, SB 922 will dramatically redefine the relationship between homeschooling families and the public schools, from one of notice and co-existence to one of enrollment and oversight. Parents, not the government, have the fundamental right to direct the education of their children.

Please vote "NO!" on this bill!

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Baker  
Homeschooling Mother

Senate Committee,

I oppose SB922. Homeschoolers should not be required to enroll in a public school. I believe that if this bill passes, more bills like it will follow. More freedoms will be taken away from homeschoolers.

Also, it seems wrong to include homeschoolers grades with public school students' grades (to bring up the average??). The homeschooled student would not be attending that public school.

I was homeschooled for the majority of my education, and I have a sister who is still homeschooled. I would hate to see the privilege of (true) homeschooling taken away from my sister, and from future homeschooled students.

Please, do not allow SB922 to pass.

Respectfully,  
Casey Baker



**From:** [Sandra Oda](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** oppose SB 922  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 11:49:41 AM

---

AS a homeschooling parent, I strongly oppose SB 922. Hawaii's current notice requirements for homeschoolers were the result of many dialogues between homeschooling families and state officials. While families send an annual notice of intent to their local public school superintendent, homeschooling children do not fall under the auspices of the public school, and parents retain complete autonomy to direct the education of their child as they see fit. If passed, SB 922 will dramatically redefine the relationship between homeschooling families and the public schools, from one of notice and co-existence to one of enrollment and oversight. Parents, not the government, have the fundamental right to direct the education of their children.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Prov31mami@gmail.com](mailto:Prov31mami@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB922 on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 12:25:28 PM

---

### SB922

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amie Torralva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please take notice that we oppose this bill. If passed, SB 922 will dramatically redefine the relationship between homeschooling families and the public schools, from one of notice and co-existence to one of enrollment and oversight. Parents, not the government, have the fundamental right to direct the education of their children. Please oppose SB 922.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [rabakerhawaii@msn.com](mailto:rabakerhawaii@msn.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB922 on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 12:27:41 PM

---

SB922

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
RICKY BAKER	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a homeschooling parent of two children, I see this bill as a step to remove the freedoms of homeschooling parents and oppose it in its entirety. This measure would be a tool to further decrease freedoms during the next legislative session. Studies have shown that homeschoolers who have homeschooled all their school aged years had the highest academic achievement. This was especially true of students in the higher grades. I see this requirement to enroll homeschoolers as a way to make the Hawaii school system look like its education programs have improved. Hawaii's current notice requirements for homeschoolers were the result of many discussions between homeschooling families and state officials. While families send an annual notice of intent to their local public school superintendent, homeschooling children do not fall under the authority of the public school, and parents have complete autonomy to direct the education of their child as they see fit. If passed, SB 922 would drastically change the relationship between homeschooling families and the public schools, from one of notice and co-existence to one of enrollment and oversight. As parents we have the fundamental right to direct the education of their children, not the government. Respectfully, Ricky A. Baker  
 Homeschooling Parent

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [nolenb@yahoo.com](mailto:nolenb@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB922 on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM\*  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 12:29:03 PM

---

**SB922**

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandi Nolen	Individual	Oppose	No

**Comments:**

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [tropexs@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:tropexs@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB922 on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 12:40:52 PM

---

SB922

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra J. Barton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: 1/30/13 The Honorable Ms. Kathryn Matayoshi Department of Education  
 Re: Opposition to SB 922-Relating Education Ms. Kathryn Matayoshi and Members  
 of the Committee: Thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition to Bill SB922.  
 While I agree that homeschooled children should be allow to participate in  
 extracurricular activities, I do not agree it should be required for them to enroll in  
 public school in order to accomplish a respectful working relationship. Most  
 homeschooling parents I know take their role as teacher very seriously and do an  
 excellent job in providing well rounded and high quality curriculum for subjects such  
 as writing, math, science, foreign language, literature, and much more. However,  
 extracurricular activities are just that: outside the regular curriculum or program of  
 courses and often require a team to play with or against. I strongly believe these  
 activities should be open and available to a homeschool child without the need to  
 enroll them in the public school as long as they continue to abide by the current  
 regulations of sending in an annual report or list of curriculum. Thank you for your  
 time.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing,  
 improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or  
 distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email  
[webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [erickwallman@yahoo.com](mailto:erickwallman@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB922 on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 12:43:54 PM

---

SB922

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erick	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am concerned that this bill will bring additional oversight from failing public schools over my children's education. My children are doing just fine on standardized tests and require no oversight from public schools. Additionally, it seems the poor performance of public schools may be hidden by including my children's above average test scores in evaluating how the public school system is performing. I strongly oppose this bill. As a military family, we may even consider moving our children out of state if the state becomes overbearing in dictating what we teach our children in our home.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [Newhouse, Leslie A Ms DoD Ben USA](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#); [Sen. Sam Slom](#)  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* I oppose SB 922  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 12:45:38 PM

---

Dear Senator Slom,

We are a new family here in Hawaii. However, we are strongly opposed to the SB 922. Hawaii's current notice requirements for homeschoolers were the result of many dialogues between homeschooling families and state officials. While families send an annual notice of intent to their local public school superintendent, homeschooling children do not fall under the auspices of the public school, and parents retain complete autonomy to direct the education of their child as they see fit. If passed, SB 922 will dramatically redefine the relationship between homeschooling families and the public schools, from one of notice and co-existence to one of enrollment and oversight. Parents, not the government, have the fundamental right to direct the education of their children.

Thank you for your time,

Leslie Newhouse

**From:** [Michele](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB922  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 1:14:58 PM

---

Michele Brown  
335 Lewa Mawaho Loop  
Honolulu, HI 96818

30 January 2013

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda  
Hawaii State Capital  
415 Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI

Dear Senator,

As a homeschooling parent, I strongly disagree with SB922. Currently, families send an annual notice of intent to the public schools and then follow up with a yearly progress report, test score, or teacher evaluation. Homeschooling children do not fall under public school guidelines and directives. One of the pleasures of living in the Aloha State is the freedom of parents to direct and choose the education of their children.

If SB922 passes, it will redefine the relationship and guidelines homeschooling families have with the public schools. It is also a way of making homeschoolers part of the public school system, something we chose not to take part in. Parents have the right to make the best educational choices for their children, not government.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my point of view and for your service to our State.

Respectfully,

Michele L Brown



Testimony opposing SB 922 : EDU 414 January 30, 2013, 1:20pm

Please accept my late testimony

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration in my testimony opposing this bill.

I have homeschooled my three teenagers through most of elementary school and now am embarking on one young adult graduating this year, another entering highschool and my middle young adult was just accepted to Kamehameha Schools.

My greatest concerns are with the current department of education here in Hawaii. There have been obvious struggles within this school system for a long time. These problems still have yet been worked out. I see high levels of suicide among teens within our school system, low graduating percentages, poor attendance, poor attitude towards learning and applying oneself as well as a huge lack in our educational system to do everything possible for those at risk, those with special needs to have success, to be fully empowered to the fullest capacity.

The homeschool lifestyle offers hands-on, specialized training and nurturing that I can see that my children have thrived on. My oldest daughter desires to go to an Ivy League college and has been an outstanding student in her community, her school, church etc. It is only because of the individualized plan and timing of her education that her dreams, giftings and talents have been fanned. I don't see this happening in a public school setting. My daughter also has Type 1 diabetes, being at home has afforded her and our family the opportunity to assure really great management of this disease. I know for a fact that public schools cant offer this type of support and often times are not sympathetic to these types of special needs. I have heard first hand testimonies of diabetics who attend schools on Oahu that have been prejudiced against by teachers, health staff and students. Again, this is another unknown symptom that shows the poor state of Hawaii's school system.

I would also like to share that my son is now at Kamehameha School as a ninth grade HONORS student. This is evidence of the fruit that comes from schooling at home! My son, in his early elementary years, then at a private school, had some anxiety issues among other things and we worked hard by bringing him home for school so as a family we could work to empower him. My son persevered, learned alongside his family how to press through these areas. I know that the school system here in Hawaii is not equipped to do the same or would offer the same results. My son stands out in the classroom and in the sports he has participated in, he is well liked, elected to lead at school and has a 4.167 gpa. This is evidence that can not be denied to verify that homeschooling is highly beneficial for Hawaii youth. I also would like to say that we didn't do anything out of the ordinary for school, but it was that one on one nurturing that really made a difference. Many youth, especially young men do better in smaller settings without too much stimulation from outside sources. My son is well adjusted, he is not "quirky" as many think homeschool youth are, he has a great sense of humor and is confident in who he is. If he were in a public school system growing up I know he would have been teased among other things and would not be the wonderful young man he is today.

I am concerned that Hawaii's school system would take on more students by mandating homeschoolers be enrolled and offer nothing but disservice to each homeschooled student even though all was working just fine, even better than the current public school in many cases. Over 25 other states offer extra curricular activities to their youth no matter where they go to school, this doesn't have to be complicated! The youth that would like to participate in extra- curricular activities would be there because they want to and typically would steward it well.

I wish I had more time to share testimony. Unfortunately, this bill came up under the radar so naturally it would show up on hearing day literally unopposed since those who homeschool didn't know anything about it! These are only some of my concerns. Mahalo much for hearing my testimony.

Signed, Lissa Cockett Hawaii Kai

Carmen Stevens

1630 Makiki St. Apt B304

Honolulu, Hi 96822

Testimony to OPPOSE SB 922

I oppose SB922 for the following many reasons, the first and foremost this bill is in violation of Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary rights, which includes the cultural practice of our families educating our children. The State is charged with upholding Native Hawaiian rights, not introducing clumsy, not well thought out Bills that not only take away Native Hawaiian traditional practices but rudely expresses the Haole mindset that tramples over and completely disregards Native Hawaiian values.

On page 5, number 1, subset (2), the State attempts a non-standard and illogical definition of home school partly as “provided by a relative or guardian.”

Not only is there no reason a parent or guardian can't hire help, the State does not have the right to define what a “relative” is. This Bill unconstitutionally attempts to take away the Native Hawaii cultural practice of “Hanai”. We adopt non-relatives into our families as if they were our blood. The State role is to uphold Native Hawaiian and all peoples rights to educate our children by ourselves, a relative, a hanai relative, a friend, partner or anyone else we deem fit to assist.

I have kept this testimony brief because of the short notice provided by the Senate Committees.

Carmen Stevens

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [kdkoch1003@yahoo.com](mailto:kdkoch1003@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB922 on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 12:54:47 PM

---

SB922

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberly Koch	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am a home schooling parent, and strongly oppose SB 922. The current home school laws were carefully crafted with input from both the Hawaii home school community and lawmakers, and represent the best from both opinions. SB 922 stands to completely change the current relationship between home schooling families and the public school system by giving the school direct oversight of a home school family in their home school decisions. There is no reason for this change, other than the public schools "receiving funds" for these 'enrolled students' who will not actually attend the school. These home school decisions should be the sole responsibility of the family, not the school system, as parents, not the public school, retain the fundamental right to direct the education of their children.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Rebecca Espinosa  
Homeschool Graduate  
Now Attending Regent University School of Government  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 922, RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Before the Senate Committee of Education  
January 30, 2012

Dear Honorable Jill N. Tokuda,

I would like to testify in strong opposition to SB922, which requires homeschooled students to enroll in public school.

As a former homeschooled student and resident of Hawaii, I can honestly say that the education provided by my parents has benefitted me in innumerable ways. The love, support, and wisdom I received from my parents has prepared me for life at college and in the professional field. Currently, I am a junior student at Regent University school of Government. I am graduating a year early due to college classes I took during my high school years. Moreover, I serve as a Resident Assistant at my university and recently received a promotion to be Resident Director at the Regent University. Without the education my parents gave me, the blessing I am experiencing at school would not have come to fruition. As a homeschooler, I had the liberty to explore many different extra-curricular activities outside of the public school realm. Today, these experiences have resulted in a well-rounded, balanced adolescence that prepared me for the challenges of college. While this bill allows for homeschoolers to participate in public school extracurricular, the deeper intent is quite clear. This legislation places homeschoolers under the supervision and regulation of Hawaii's public schools. Government oversight of the homeschool community is not desired or called for by the residents of Hawaii. Just as parents have to option to place their children in government-funded schools, they should also have the choice to facilitate their kids' education without the involvement of government. Raising children is a tough, time-consuming, important task, and the government should not infringe on a parents decision to educate their child at home.

Therefore, I humbly ask the members of the committee to oppose SB 922.

**From:** [Trudy Sage](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB922 oppose  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 1:19:31 PM

---

To whom it may concern,

I great urge you to oppose the SB922 bill. I have been homeschooling for the last 15 years. Looking back, the freedom to be home with my girls has been the strength to our strong family bond. No doubt the homeschool community is alive in Hawaii that there is no lack of academics, arts, and other enrichment opportunities.

I ask you to oppose the SB922 to give others the freedom to have the choice.

Mahalo,

**Trudy Sage, President**

Federal Maintenance Hawaii, Inc.

Office: [823 Olive Ave., Wahiawa, HI 96786](#)

Mailing: [PO Box 861599, Wahiawa, HI 96786](#)

Cell: [\(808\) 223-7262](#)

**Direct Line: (808) 853-3371**

Office: [\(808\) 622-2100 x3371](#)

Direct Fax: [\(808\) 853-3381](#)

E-mail: [trudy@fmhawaii.com](mailto:trudy@fmhawaii.com)

[www.fmhawaii.com](http://www.fmhawaii.com)

- Sent from my mobile, please pardon brevity & typos, thanks.

Dear Committee Members:

I strongly oppose SB 922!

Forcing homeschool students to register with public schools is taking away my rights as a homeschooler and a citizen of the Hawaii. As a homeschooling student, I appreciate your attempt at involving homeschoolers in extracurricular activities in public schools but the bad out-ways the good in this instance.

I'm sure that this bill was introduced with good intentions but I believe SB 922 is just a step in taking away the freedom that we have as homeschoolers such as: Freedom for my parents and I to choose curriculum that suits my needs and interests, freedom to do school work at any chosen hours or taking school breaks at times not decided by public schools.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Baker-Homeschool Student

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [kjsanta@gmail.com](mailto:kjsanta@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB922 on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 1:46:16 PM

---

SB922

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karl & Jonelle Santa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I learned of the Education Committee's hearing on SB 922 just today; hours before the hearing, and after the deadline to submit testimony. But I hope that you will consider my thoughts. I have 3 small children (ages 7, 4, 2) and am 7 months pregnant, so unable to make it to the hearing at 1:20 p.m. today (it's naptime for us - a truly sacred institution :-). We homeschool our eldest child, and intend to continue homeschooling our other children as they reach school-age. My husband and I are so grateful for the support and encouragement we receive from the State in our homeschooling endeavor. We maintain annual contact with our local school (Kipapa Elementary), and submit progress reports as required. We rest easy knowing that should we ever need support or assistance that the public education system is available. We are happy to support public education for other children through our taxes despite not taking advantage of the service - it is our civic duty and we take it very, very seriously. However, we are very concerned at the potential change to the relationship between parents and the State that is contained in SB922. As I understand, the bill would require all homeschool children to be enrolled in public school. This is a drastic, hazardous, and unnecessary change to a long-standing, good relationship. We vehemently oppose it. This bill would bring a heavy-handed approach to education - it would be a betrayal of the trust-filled, open relationship we now have with our State and local public school. Thank you for your time and service.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**SB922**

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brenda Jiannino	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Brenda Jiannino, and I Home School my son, Aulama. I undertook this endeavor three years ago, and am thrilled with his progress. I oppose bill SP922, as it would defeat the whole purpose of home schooling my child with chosen curriculum, which far exceeds the public education curriculum.

I regret not being able to attend this hearing in person, and hope that my testimony will make a difference in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Brenda Jiannino



January 30, 2013

Dear Senators Tokuda, Slom, Ruderman, Shimabukuro, and Kidani,

I am a homeschooling parent who opposes SB 922. Parents of homeschooled children in Hawaii enjoy the freedom to educate their child, and are empowered to choose curriculum and experiences best suited to their child.

Up to now, homeschooled students have not had the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities through the Department of Education. Several times parents have proposed legislation which would allow students to play sports or other extracurricular activities; these measures have been rejected by the legislature.

If SB 922 passes, it would force all homeschooled children to enroll at their local school, thus drastically changing the relationship between homeschooling families and their public schools. No longer would parents have the right to steer the direction of their child's education, leaving it, instead, to the government. Currently, parents need only send a letter of intent to their local school.

I strongly urge you to vote against SB 922 and continue to protect the rights of all students, including those home educated by their parents.

Sincerely,

Pattie Ceci

**From:** [Timothy Kimbrough](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#); [Sen. Sam Slom](#)  
**Subject:** Opposing SB 922  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 1:32:04 PM

---

We strongly oppose SB 922. As a homeschooling family, we are against having to enroll our children with the local public school for several reasons.

It is our intent as a family, to create a home learning environment that allows our children to grow and develop to their best abilities. We are able to educate the whole child. We daily see their strengths and weaknesses and can focus on them individually to allow them to excel in their learning. Their work is tailored to them and does not focus on a full class or state tests.

We are also able to allow our children to work at their ability level and not grade level. Both of our children work well above grade level.

We homeschool because of consistency. As a military family, homeschooling allows us to continue our children's education no matter where we live in the world.

My children are not NUMBERS so that a local school can receive more money. My children are individuals who deserve the right to be educated in their home, in an environment that allows them to thrive both educationally and individually, without influence of the local school or government.

It is a choice we have made as a family and deserve the right to be able to continue to homeschool our children in our home.

Regards,

Kristie Kimbrough  
Proud Mother of Two Excelling Homeschool Children

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Mrardin1@yahoo.vcom](mailto:Mrardin1@yahoo.vcom)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB922 on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 1:28:24 PM

---

SB922

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Rardin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a homeschooling parent I believe it is my right to decide what is right as far as what my children are learning, as long as we meet or exceed national standards that right should be reinforced and not left to the government. I have taken a vital role in my children's education since beginning homeschooling and for my children it has been very beneficial. Please appose this piece of legislation on behalf of the parents and children we educate.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**SB922**

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Beth Brown	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Thank you for your careful consideration of this bill. I realize my comments in opposition are being submitted after the hearing. Unfortunately, I did not learn of the bill and the hearing until 2:30 pm. I hope that you were able to hear the concerns of others in person. Mahalo! Beth Brown

## Comments RE: SB922

As a homeschooling parent, I strongly oppose SB 922. Hawaii's current Notice of Intent to Homeschool and Annual Progress Report requirements for homeschoolers were the result of lengthy and profitable dialogue between homeschooling families and state officials. Our current law allows parents to direct their child's education in complete autonomy, yet assures the state that adequate education is being provided to the students. If passed, SB 922 will dramatically redefine the relationship between homeschooling families and the public schools, from one of notice and co-existence to one of enrollment and oversight. The requirements of the bill are also being applied to all homeschool families, not just those who wish to participate in public school extracurricular activities. Parents, not the government, have the fundamental right to direct the education of their children and parents only should determine whether or not to enroll their child into a public school in order to gain access to extracurricular activities.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

LATE

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Wednesday, January 30, 2013  
Conference Room 414

SB 789 Relating To Extracurricular Activities.

Allows home schooled students to participate on an equal basis in extracurricular activities offered at the public school they would otherwise be required to attend.

SB 922 Relating To Education.

Requires all home school students to enroll at the public school in the student's service area. Requires home school students who are enrolled at the school in their service area to be calculated as an unspecified per cent of a non-home school student at that public school under the weighted student formula. Allows home school students to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by a public school. Amends section 302A-101, HRS, to add definitions for "enroll" and "home school".

I, Robin Spencer, have no opinion for or against SB789. I understand students may want to participate in public school sports or other activities, and I understand that the schools would want to get some monies for the extra time and expense of managing these students.

However, I am strongly opposed to SB 922. The bill allows for some homeschool participation in public school sports, but there is an important catch: all homeschool families will now be required to enroll their children as students in the local public school, even if they have no intention of ever participating in extracurricular sports. I am opposed to a bill that requires ALL students to do something that only a few would benefit from.

I, Robin Spencer, strongly oppose SB 922. Hawaii's current notice requirements for homeschoolers were the result of many dialogues between homeschooling families and state officials. While families send an annual notice of intent to their local public school superintendent, homeschooling children do not fall under the auspices of the public school, and parents retain complete autonomy to direct the education of their child as they see fit.

If passed, SB 922 will dramatically redefine the relationship between homeschooling families and the public schools, from one of notice and co-existence to one of enrollment and oversight. Parents, not the government, have the fundamental right to direct the education of their children.

Therefore, I want to strongly voice my opposition to the bill.

Sincerely,



Robin Spencer, science teacher

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [huhomeschool@yahoo.com](mailto:huhomeschool@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB922 on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 9:07:48 PM

---

SB922

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alice Hu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a homeschooling family, we strongly oppose S.B. No. 922 since we feel that it would lead to limiting the rights of parents to make educational choices their children. Our children have benefited so much from being homeschooled in that we can taylor their curriculum to meet not only national testing standards, but to meet their individual needs and learning styles. Because of homeschooling, we have been able to teach our children math at a higher grade level than their current grade level. In addition, we have been able to teach our children about the government through programs such as Teen Pact. It was our homeschooled eldest son who directed me to the Hawaii State Legislature website to look up the current bill. He taught me how to navigate the website, and explained to me what has happened to the bill thus far. As a parent, to have your child teach you something he learned in 7th grade, and use it in the "real world" is very rewarding. The above examples show a very small glimpse of what homeschooling has allowed my children to learn. Although the possibility of being able to participate in extra-curricular activities may be beneficial to some, having all homeschoolers register with the public school imposes on a parents' right to not be a part of the public school system. Once registered as a public school student, will homeschooled children have to comply with curriculum, testing, and other standards set by the Department of Education? If yes, no benefit should outweigh parents' right to make educational decisions on behalf of their children.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**SB922**

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Sweet	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Please contact me if need more details concerning a proposed solution. Thank you!

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and Senator Slom.

I am honored to be here and thank you for your service. I am Joshua Sweet, a Senior in High School, Homeschooled, and I live in Kapahulu .

What are the issues-the proposed changes, the status quo and why the current policy is better.

1-SB 922: Relating to Education

This bill does several things-

1)Requires homeschoolers to enroll in public schools

and

2) Allows homeschoolers to participate in public school sports

My opposition to this bill is due to the requirement of ALL homeschoolers to “enroll” in the respective public school. Not all homeschoolers want to play sports or participate in extra-curricular activities, like myself. I play lacrosse, which is a club sport, so I have no need to go to a public school.

2-Current Policy

Right now-homeschooling parents just need to notify the respective school that they intend on homeschooling their kids and only need to send a progress report every year.

Changes-no longer communication between the parent and school, it now becomes all under the school.

### 3- Why current policy is better

This current policy has been around for 25-26 years. It has worked. There is no need for change.

In fact, this change now infringes on the parents right to educate their children how they see fit. If this proposal, homeschooling parents must enroll in a public school and is subject to their oversight. This is intrusive on parental rights.

A possible solution is to be able to find a policy which allows homeschoolers that want to participate in public school activities-i.e they sign the forms, try out for the team, pay a user fee, etc but there is no law that requires all homeschoolers, or any homeschoolers to enroll. We already send letters of intent to the schools, so keep that policy and allow homeschoolers to participate, just have a specific process to allow those who wish to participate and for them only.

As an American, our countries foundational values of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness guide us. Through this light, and the record of 26 years of working policy, the current policy is the best policy-one that requires accountability yet does not infringe on the liberty and freedom of the parent and children.



