

February 9, 2014

RE: SB 3083

Dear Senators:

I am writing in conditional opposition of this measure, so long as everything can be done to first fund education for all of Hawaii's 4-year-old's first and all of the hottest ten schools on the DOE's top-priority list receive air conditioning first, then perhaps some additional funds for sports *might* be worth consideration.

While athletics can be valuable for some students it does not and should not even begin to rank in a budget consideration when compared to current lack of budgeting and fundamental uncertainties regarding early childhood education in this state.

It is especially disconcerting that this is being proposed in the aftermath of the State dismantling state run Junior K and forcing 5,000 Hawaii families of late born 4-year-olds to enroll their child into what will be for many of us a third unnecessary year of preschool without any state support whatsoever. Not only has the government failed to fully fund this mandated pre-school, it has not even spent a dime to set up the option for children who are clearly ready for kindergarten to enroll in kindergarten this coming year, even though they are late born four year olds.

Many of these children and their families have spent their entire short lives being educated so they are ready for kindergarten this coming year, but the state changed the rules without adequate warning and did so in a way that undermined even the most basic family planning for many of our families. My wife and I, for example, spaced our children perfectly so that our first-born would be entering kindergarten when our second born one would need to enter day care. Without this simple, but essential planning we would not have been able to afford to have a second child. But the state pulled the rug out from under us when they announced that our first born would not be allowed to enter kindergarten this coming year – even though her teachers place her at levels above some kindergartener skills already.

We know our child and our family are not alone. 5,000 other families were not given enough time to plan for these changes and now no financial assistance is forthcoming from the state for over 80% of these families. We will not qualify for the pittance of money designated to help a small number of families to pay for preschool, but having to finance another full year is *mathematically impossible* for us – that is why we planned our family the way that we did in the first place. That is why you have a responsibility to fully fund the 4-year-old education that you have mandated and fund the testing for those who are ready to enroll in kindergarten.

If you fail to fund the relatively small amount needed to test kids ready to enroll in kindergarten and if you fail to fund the mandate your leadership implemented, then you are doing nothing less than attacking the financial stability of families with

children who just happened to have been born in the second half of the year. It is shortsighted, thoughtless planning like this that makes raising a family in Hawaii less and less of a viable option for middle-class families. We are already at the breaking point and adding \$8,000 bill to those of us who already live paycheck to paycheck is a slap in the face.

To ignore us and say that your going to spend money on sports instead is frankly immoral. To make children to continue to suffer in 90 degree heat – wherein educational experiences are no longer even possible, and in which it would be illegal to force adults to work in an office building – is just plain shameful.

Your choice is very simple, you can fulfill your duties to fund what you mandate and which our families have absolutely no control over and even less of ability to pay for or you can fund a misguided athletics initiative that will allegedly help students to “stay motivated and succeed in the classroom” when the current reality is that 5,000 extra kids either won’t be allowed in a state classroom, while tens of thousands more are dehydrated, soaked with sweat and half-asleep. You cannot succeed in a classroom if you are not allowed in one, and you certainly cannot “stay motivated” if all of your energy and strength are drained just trying to keep your body heat down while in a classroom.

The sad reality is that the framers of this bill know all of this is true already and by encouraging our community’s excellent coaches and dedicated athletics parents to come and testify you are automatically pitting parents who lack even basic infrastructure for their children’s education against those who surely would like to have, but in no similar way need these resources in a way that comes even remotely near the importance as those who don’t even have room for them in schools, or those who don’t even have rooms where their children can learn in schools.

Fund universal preschool. Fund tests so the state doesn’t delay the educational lives of those who are ready. Fund reasonable learning environments. Do these first, and then, sure, if there is money left over we can talk about extra-curricular activities, but not before. Not if you are serious about our children’s future. I am serious about my children’s future and my neighbors and friends are serious about their children’s future. We deserve lawmakers who represent this seriousness with the care it deserves.

Respectfully,

Matt LoPresti, Ph.D.
Ewa Beach

LATE TESTIMONY

P

To: Budget Committee
Senate and House of Representatives

From: Rodney Iwasaki
Kaiser High School Athletic Director

To Legislators of Hawaii

I would like to introduce myself to everyone in the Budget and Finance Committee, I am Rodney Iwasaki the Athletic Director of Kaiser High School for the past six (6) years and former Roosevelt High School's Athletic Director for 25 (twenty five) years.

Over these many years I've seen many changes due to the budget cuts and the adding on of sports due to Gender Equity Title IX and the addition of new schools built on the Leeward and Central District of Oahu. With growth comes needs to support the many student/athletes that have a strong interest in representing their schools. School Pride is a wonderful little gem for all students across our Hawaiian Islands. The testimony is not only for schools and programs on Oahu but for the many students that participate in athletics in the MIL, KIIF, BIIF and OIA.

Over the years, Due to budget cuts, Athletics has had to cutback on transportation, equipment, supplies, and coaches. Most schools have reduced their coaching staff by thirty (30) to thirty eight (38) coaching lines. Schools have had to cutback on preseason games and cut numbers of participants entering the HHSAA STATE TOURNAMENTS.

These are a few examples that I have had to enforce at Kaiser High School::

Athletics will only pay for bus transportation for OIA Season, OIA Playoff and State transportation request. Preseason the coaches are asked to do one of the following: fundraise for buses, meet at the site, parents drop off and pickup, carpool or coaches personal cars.

Equipment and Supplies are down to the Safety Items that are needed for Softball, Baseball, Soccer, and Football then the other sports can submit their request for the equipment needed to play the game.

Most of the teams have loyal volunteers (once paid coaches) that have stuck around to assist with the program without any monetary compensation. Whether they are paid or volunteer type coaches they are mandated to attend seminars or education classes to be considered as a paid coach. Coaches are asked to get their concussion, first aide, drug awareness certificates which they pay from their own pockets.

It was once mentioned to our coaches not to do the extras because people will see/say that they do not need the money because they are doing the coaching for Love. That could be a reason why our coaches are slowly drifting over to our private league. I hate to remind people when they say this but I do, I tell them that many of our coaches have two jobs, they sacrifice family time, they find ways to make things work for the students in the program. Yes they do many

things even when transportation, equipment/supplies, and coaches pay have been taken away or reduced.

This letter is to ask all in our STATE LEGISLATION to see the impact that Athletics has for our Student/Athletes.. The programs in our schools have opened many doors for our student/athletes while building character, perseverance, attitude, health lifestyle, teamwork, drive, desire, and caring for our fellow person. .

Rodney A. Iwasaki
Athletic Director
Kaiser High School

LATE TESTIMONY

From: [Ramona Takahashi/KAILUAH/HIDOF@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:Ramona_Takahashi/KAILUAH/HIDOF@notes.k12.hi.us)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: SB 3083
Date: Monday, February 10, 2014 7:17:55 PM

Thank you for allowing me to re-send written testimony.

I am in support of SB 3083.

As it relates to coaching salaries. Many schools have coaches that are not paid. We currently have 100 coaches at our school and only 53 are paid. For us, this gets real challenging because we hold our non paid coaches to the same standards, training, expectations, rules and so forth as any other DOE member, except they don't get paid. These coaches put in the same amount of time as paid coaches, which ranges from 15-25 hours or more per week, depending on the sport. It's almost like a part time job. The one rule that we do have for our volunteer coaches is that a paid coach must always be present to run practice or supervise our students, so while we have a lot of volunteers, our paid coaches are being taxed as they need to be everywhere.

As it relates to transportation, if we are restored back to the amounts before the 2008-2009 school year, this would allow teams to get back on buses and attend games together as a team. Many of us have resorted to having teams meet at the site. Meeting at the site does come with concerns, one being proper supervision upon arrival, should a student have to meet early or stay late due to their ride. In addition, this reduces the 'team concept' and all that comes with being on a team. However, an area that really can put a burden on a student/family is post season play. Many schools are not able to fund the travel expenses for travel to another island. So after working hard all season and earning a spot in the HHSAA State Tourney, the student/family has to incur the cost or part of the cost to represent their school.

As it relates to equipment and supplies, while uniforms we can stretch to last a little longer, it's the equipment and supplies that relates to safety that concerns me. We must make sure that we have the proper, up to date, equipment and supplies necessary for each sport. These items can get costly. For example: one baseball bat that meets the requirements can cost \$200-300. A helmet can cost \$200-\$250 and schools have to replace helmets yearly. Some of us replace anywhere from 15-40 year.

Restoring the funds will still mean Athletic Departments still have to fundraise but the shortfall is much less in all areas. What other department in our education system has to fundraise so much to keep alive? Athletic Departments are working nights and weekends when school offices, state offices, etc are closed... for our student-athletes. At these events you will see fundraising going on, sometimes coaches, volunteers and AD's leave a site at 1am, putting in 15-16 hour days so we can fundraise to lessen the burden on our students/families and to put a quality program together that represents our school-community with respect and pride.

While there are many areas that could be afforded funding, athletics is no different and has proven to have value in education, both measurable and immeasurable.

Thank you for your consideration to restore the budget.

Sincerely,
Ramona Takahashi



Ramona Takahashi, CAA
Athletic Director
451 Ulumanu Drive
Kailua, Hawaii 96734
Ph: 808-266-7910
Fax: 808-263-1444

LATE TESTIMONY

To: Senator Ige
From: Patrick Higa, King Kekaulike High School
Regarding: Senate Bill 3083

Aloha Senator Ige and Committee –

As an Athletic Administrator here in the DOE, I have had along with my colleagues, the responsibilities of trying to find ways to continue to service our student athletes with less funding from the nearly 25% of cuts which we agreed to because of the necessity of our State. I am in full support of SB 3083, not for the sake of just having funding restored, but to give back to our student athletes who have gone on too long without.

We hear how much we, in athletics can make so much of the difference in our student athlete's lives. We hear how athletics plays such a tremendous role in having a positive impact in the lives of all of our student athletes. We create and live the "team first" attitude everyday as stewards of athletics and sportsmanship. Honestly, we do all of these selflessly and without any need for recognition because we put the kids first. We do this everyday because we have made a commitment to our student athletes and our programs. We do this for our schools, communities, and for our State.

Please consider your commitment to our students and future leaders of our communities by continuing to support and passing SB 3083 and help us to continue making positive differences in the lives of the youth of our State.

In strength and sport,
Patrick Higa, CAA
Director of Athletics
King Kekaulike High School

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Joseph_Balangitao/MAUIDO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: Raymond_Fujino/SSB/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Subject: SB3083
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 3:05:26 PM

My name is Joe Balangitao Jr., I am the Executive Director of the Maui Interscholastic League. I am writing in support of SB3083 to reinstate funds that were cut 2009-10. Since then we have been operating on a budget that has been cut by 25% for supply and equipment, transportation and coaches pay. The MIL is a unique league because we have 13 schools on 3 Islands. You can either catch the ferry or fly from Lanai and Molokai to Maui to play league games. It costs Lanai and Molokai over \$100,000 a year for travel not including the teams from Maui when they go over there to play. When fuel prices go up so do the ticket prices for travel. Bus travel to Lahaina and Up Country is \$400, more coming out of Lahaina.

Contact sports like football needs their equipment certified and reconditioned each year. Concussion safety is a big concern and teams need good equipment for health and safety reasons, Teams have used the same uniforms for over five years and you need to buy balls, nets, bats etc. to field teams. Our Transportation and Supply and Equipment money is used up by the end of Fall sports. We rely on fundraising during the year to carry us through. If your school is fortunate to make it to the state tournament that's more money you need for travel, hotel, vans, food etc.

When the coaches pay was cut many schools could only pay the head coach. A lot of the coaches volunteered their time. Unfortunately, a lot of volunteer coaches may not be able to be there every day and supervision may become a problem with teams with a lot of players like football and that may present a liability problem as far as safety is concerned.

These are just some of the challenges we've been facing over the last 5 years. I urge you to please restore the funds that were cut 5 years ago. Mahalo!

Joseph Balangitao Jr. : MIL Executive Director
54 High Street, 4th Floor Wailuku, HI 808-984-8000 x 1235
"Leaders make the tough decisions...they do what is right not what is easy"



LATE TESTIMONY

From: Kahai_Shishido/BALDWIN/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: Joseph_Balangitao/MAUIDO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Subject: ACT SB3083 TESTIMONY
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 3:27:30 PM

SB3083

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for EDU on Feb 10, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kahai Shishido	Baldwin High School	Support	No

Comments: I am testifying in support of act 3083 to restore High School athletic funding. Having a 25%-30% cut in transportation, supplies/equipment and coaches pay has made it very taxing on our school and community. On behalf of our student athletes, school and community, I humbly ask for your support in making act 3083 a reality. Mahalo, Kahai Shishido Athletic Director at Baldwin High School

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*****

This email was scanned by the Cisco IronPort Email Security System contracted by the Hawaii Dept of Education. If you receive suspicious/phish email, forward a copy to spamreport@k12.hi.us. This helps us monitor suspicious/phish email getting thru. You will not receive a response, but rest assured the information received will help to build additional protection. If you need a response regarding spam/phish emails received, send an email to nssb@k12.hi.us. For more info about the filtering service, go to http://nssb.k12.hi.us/internal/spam_pages/index.html

LATE TESTIMONY

From: [Keenan Reader](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: SB3083
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 3:30:27 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Keenan Reader, and I am the Athletic Director for Maui Preparatory Academy (Maui Prep), an independent college preparatory high school on Maui. I am writing in support of SB3083 to reinstate funds that were cut 2009-10. Although Maui Prep does not directly receive any state funding our community has been impacted as we are part of the Maui Interscholastic League. I have personally witnessed how the cuts have impacted our local community as many public school teams have had to decrease student participation due to reductions in coaching staff. As a coach, I have specifically seen the participation levels in cross country and track dramatically decrease in the last 4 years. In addition, many coaches accepted pay cuts and even as volunteers for the betterment of our kieki. However, volunteers often propose a liability for the state as many of them cannot make the consistent commitment to be at practices consistently as a paid coach would be required to. These results in practices being inappropriately supervised. In addition, to save funds, schools are making use of aging equipment that may not be up to appropriate safety standards.

Please support our states kieki and education in Hawaii by reinstating funds to high school athletics.

Mahalo,

Keenan Reader
College Counselor / Athletic Director
Maui Preparatory Academy

LATE TESTIMONY

RE: Support Bill SB3083

FROM: Blake Moritsugu, Aiea High School Athletic Director

I am in support of SB 3083, the restoration of funding to Public High School Athletics which was reduced in 2008-2009. Over the course of the last few years, Aiea High School has been forced reduce the number of coaching positions in all sports, cutback on getting quality equipment, and force student athletes to find their own way to sporting events. This has created a hardship on student athletes, parents, and school staff.

A total of 24 coaching positions have been lost during the budget reduction. At Aiea High School, this is a problem as many of our teams use facilities which are off campus. We need those positions to ensure adequate supervision is provided at sites which are shared with the general public.

Transportation has been a problem for many of our student athletes. Many times when the school does not provide transportation to a venue, student athletes do not show up. They claim they could not find a way down. There are situations which require students to meet at the visiting playing sites and parents have called after the contest to ask the whereabouts of their child. It is difficult to answer since the student is required to find his own transportation to the site. If the school provides the transportation, it is easier for our coaches to supervise and monitor the student athlete's behavior after and before games.

Finally, in order to keep up with the most technological sound equipment, funding for supplies should be restored. With the recent information learned about concussions, it is obvious that head protection is of most importance. At Aiea, we have concussed football players and often spend monies to get a higher quality helmet for that individual. If funding can be restored, all athletes can benefit from a higher quality helmet. This is an example which can be applied to any sport. Funding allows you get the most updated equipment to improve the playing situation for the student athlete.

These are just some examples of the importance of restoring the funds to athletics as proposed by SB 3083

Sincerely

Blake Moritsugu
Aiea High School Athletic Director

From: [CA2012-019](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: SB3083
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 5:56:46 PM

Aloha Kakou,

I am submitting testimony in support of Bill SB3083, for adequate funding for our athletic programs. Our young athletes endure hardships both physically and financially along with their coaches, parents, and community who support their efforts based on location. It seems only logical in an "Island State" that this would already be worked into the budget. Geographic isolation is the reality and given the opportunity any of these young athletes, not to mention students talented in science or the arts, may be the shining star that brings recognition to the State; and at that point when the media asks "how did you get here?" wouldn't you want their answer to reflect positively. I trust you will make your best decision based on the needs of the students.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,
Mr. Perry S. Buchalter

LATE TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 3083:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 3083. I am the current Athletic Administrator at Keaau High School on Hawaii Island. The budget cuts that began in 2008 has severely impacted our program in the following ways:

- numerous coaching positions were cut due to the lack of funding. This required me to minimize the student-athlete participation for safety reasons due to coach-player ratio.
- I was unable to add other sports to our program due to the lack of funding, thus eliminating participation from potential student-athletes.
- I had to put off purchasing equipment for the current student-athletes to maintain the programs we already have. The rotation for purchasing has gone from a 3yr rotation to a 4-5yr rotation. I have cut the size of our football program because we could not afford to purchase required equipment such as helmets and pads.
- Currently we are struggling with many maintenance issues involving field design problems, broken equipment (scoreboards, pads, mats, etc) I have had to cancel games and practices due to the lack of financial support to maintain our facilities.
- I am unable to tax my community with fundraising as our school is the center of the Puna District of Hawaii Island, one of the lowest income in the state.
- The majority of our student body is on free-reduced lunch and many rely on the Athletic program to help them get to the next level in their education. Budget cuts have limited their access.
- Our students are made to cover the slack in budget and many no longer participate because they can't afford the additional costs.

The budget cuts came without real notice and stayed longer than expected. Everyone is trying to help the situation. Athletics is crucial in the lives of many student-athletes, to include managers and student supporters. Continued cuts and the current financial status of our Athletic Dept will lead us to eliminate more non-revenue sports, such as track, cross country, wrestling, softball, baseball, tennis, etc.

I would like to conclude that I am in complete support of SB3083 and hope that it will pass. I wish I had the funding to participate in person, but I rather buy a piece of equipment for our student-athletes.

Aloha,

Iris McGuire, CMAA
Keaau High School

LATE TESTIMONY

To: Senator Ige
From Malofou A. Moeai TA Athletic Director, Hana High School
Subject: SB 3083

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Malofou A. Moeai. I have temporarily taken over as Athletic Director for Hana High School. Before I took this position I was a teacher at the elementary school level for 6 years, and a basketball coach over ten years at almost every intermediate and high school level.

I am writing in support of SB 3083. As we know, these youth are our future. We need to provide for them the best opportunities possible to make sure they can achieve their dreams and goals.

I do not only speak for the youth here in Hana, who do have it hard when it comes to certain situations, but for all of our youth who devote their entire lives to being successful student athletes. We know the benefits of providing an athletic environment that promotes progress, teamwork, and a healthy lifestyle. We have seen the rewards of it when students can move on to the next level and apply the lessons they have learned in high school, to their college, and work lifestyles. Let us not be an extra obstacle in their lives, yet, let us be in continued support of their academic and athletic careers.

Please consider passing SB 3083. Let's continue to support them as they grow to be successful in whatever they strive to be.

For our youth,
Malofou A. Moeai
TA Athletic Director
Hana High & Elementary School