



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/03/2016
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309
Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2135 RELATING TO EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

Purpose of Bill: 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.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HB 2135.

In 2014, the Board submitted its report in response to the 2013 Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR)76 on this subject to the Legislature. The Board convened a stakeholder group to research models and best practices on home schooled student participation in public school extracurricular activities and sports and explore implementation of such a program in Hawaii.

In its report, the Board concluded:

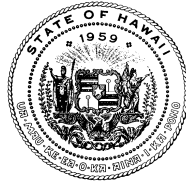
- In light of the discussion at the stakeholder meeting wherein the issues and questions surrounding the particular seven items related to best practices were discussed but remained unsolved and the apparent lack of strong support of this initiative at this time, the Board was unable to recommend policy changes.
- The responses to the questions raised, particularly about the ongoing monitoring of the academic progress of homeschooled students and requisite funding for administration were paramount and require further examination before any policy decision and implementation can be considered.
- It is important to note that the principal stakeholders explained that their administrative responsibilities are tremendous and oversight and monitoring of the variety of curriculum that homeschoolers utilized would put a particular strain on their workload.
- The Homeschool representatives also noted that indicative of a parent's choice to homeschool is the desire to individually select curriculum, thus, determining a means to evaluate progress will be difficult.
- The Board is willing to relook at this issue at any time in the future should the need to arise.
- The stakeholder input was extremely valuable to identifying the salient issues that impact

Hawaii's schools and Hawaii's homeschoolers. The Homeschool community is an important part of Hawaii's student population.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Report to the 2014 Legislature on 2013 Senate Concurrent Resolution 76:

http://www.hawaiiboe.net/reports/Documents/2014%20Legislative%20Reports/SCR%2076_Complete%20Rpt_Final.pdf



STATE OF HAWAII
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**Testimony COMMENTING on HB 2135
RELATING TO EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

REPRESENTATIVE ROY M. TAKUMI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Hearing Date: February 3, 2016

Room Number: 2:00 pm

1 **Fiscal Implications:** If a disease outbreak were to occur in a school setting, the Department of
2 Health would be responsible for costs associated with the outbreak investigation as well as the
3 costs of any vaccines administered with the intent of preventing further disease transmission.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department is providing comment on HB 2135. The Department
5 strongly recommends that any home schooled child who wishes to participate in an
6 extracurricular activity meet the same health requirements required of any student attending
7 school in Hawaii, outlined in HRS §§302A-1154 through 1157. Unprotected individuals risk
8 their own health as well as the health of the school and community. Introduction of an infectious
9 disease such as measles or pertussis (whooping cough) into an environment where many children
10 are closely congregated could lead to outbreaks, jeopardizing the health of the students, school
11 faculty/staff, and the community should transmission occur.

12 **Offered Amendments:** The Department respectfully suggests the following amendment to HB
13 2135, "A home schooled child who wishes to participate in an extracurricular activity shall meet
14 the health requirements for school entrance as delineated in HRS §§302A-1154 through 1157
15 prior to participation in school-based activities as well as the participation requirements and
16 restrictions for that activity, including maintaining appropriate grade point averages and paying
17 appropriate fees; provided that the requirements or restrictions shall not be inconsistent with this
18 section. "

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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February 3, 2016

2:00 PM

Conference Room 309

To: House Committee on Education

Rep. Roy Takumi, Chair

Rep. Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

President Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.

RE: HB 2135 -- RELATING TO EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Comments Only

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its comments on HB 2135, which would allow home schooled students to participate on an equal basis in extracurricular activities offered at the public school they would otherwise be required to attend.

With this bill, Hawaii would join the increasing number of states that are working to grant equal access to extracurricular and enriching activities to home schooled students. This is a question of fairness, offering education options to parents while ensuring that children still have the opportunity to grow their talents and abilities to the utmost.

According to the Homeschool Legal Defense Association, twenty-two states currently require public schools to allow homeschooled students some form of access to classes or sports.¹ While the specific provisions of these laws vary, the state interest is generally served by requiring participating home school students to be in compliance with state homeschooling law and to meet the same requirements (age, academic record, etc.) that a public school student would in order to participate.² Because the absence of a state law leaves the decision to allow

¹ States with equal access laws include Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and Wyoming.

² "Issue Analysis: Equal Access." Home School Legal Defense Association. (April 1, 2011) Available at <http://www.hslda.org/docs/nche/000000/00000049.asp>

participation up to individual principals or school districts, an equal access law serves a secondary benefit of creating a fair and equitable approach throughout the state.

It is worth remembering that homeschooling families pay the same taxes to support public education as everyone else and should therefore be able to make use of the public facilities and services that they would otherwise be entitled to. For those who are concerned about the possible effect of an influx of homeschooled students in public school extracurricular activities, it has been found that in states granting equal access, only 3-5% of homeschoolers participate. In short, this is a chance to do something that encourages inclusiveness in the local school community, and is unlikely to include significant costs for the school.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.

Sincerely,
Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.
President, Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

HB2135

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for EDN on Feb 3, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacqueline Cobeen	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: February 2, 2016 To: Chairperson Roy M. Takumi Vice Chair Takashi Ohno Members of the House Committee on Education From: Jacqueline Cobeen Subject: Support for HB 2135, relating to extracurricular activities I am in support for HB 2135. This bill is proposing to allow home schooled students to have equal participation in extracurricular activities offered at the public school they would otherwise be required to attend. As of 2009 at least 7000 students were homeschooled by their parents. Their parents teach them and they do not attend a public school but so far there has been little push to help give them extracurricular activities or the necessary social skills for life as an adult. Through participating in extracurricular activities students learn to work together with many different personality types which is necessary to coexisting in a job when they become adults. The DOE's policy 4140 restricts homeschool students to participate in extracurricular activities in public schools. In Hawaii, the parent who submits a Notice of Intent to homeschool is responsible for the child's total educational program, including athletics and all extra-curricular activities. The thing about this is homeschooled kids could possibly have 3 classmates at most considering the rate of siblings students have, and many would be different age groups. This is not the right environment because all of them were raised the same way with the same ordeals allowing for little variety in actions and sociability. This bill has the ability to increase the student's future success rate for jobs social interaction and everyday life Please support and pass this bill to allow home school students to participate in extracurricular activities. 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.

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