


KUMU KAHUA
T H E A T R E

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Thursday, February 25, 2016

The Honorable Jill Tokuda
The Honorable Brian Taniguchi
The Honorable J. Kalani English
Hawaii State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Senate Bill 83 SD1 – Relating to Appropriations; Hearing on February 26th at 9:30AM

Aloha Senators Tokuda, Taniguchi, English and members of the Committee:

Kumu Kahua Theater respectfully asks your committees' to restore funding amounts to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority – Tourism Marketing, Community Programs. Support from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority has enabled us to grow our audience to include more locals, Native Hawaiians, tourists and temporary residents (students and military personnel). It's vital that we not only continue to tell the stories of people here through the powerful art form of world-class theatre, but that we tell those stories to as wide a swath of people as possible. We need Hawai'i Tourism Authority support to do that.

As we are the only theatre solely devoted to the work of telling the stories of Hawai'i's people, we are integral in the landscape of downtown Honolulu. With the help of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, we're successfully exploring innovative ways to bring a new audience to experience these stories with us.

Our theatre offers a very unique device to the Hawaiian community: for 45 years, we have been able to relay stories, ideas and feelings in a safe, yet emotionally powerful way. Theatre itself is not a Hawaiian tradition, but it is a European, Australian, Asian and North American tradition. By bringing our stories to the stage and script, we become an effective conduit to the rest of the world. The challenge is, we've got to bring the rest of the world to Kumu Kahua Theatre.

We urge you to remember the importance of Kumu Kahua Theatre's work as you consider bill, SB83.

Thank for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue.

Mahalo,

Donna Blanchard
Managing Director
Kumu Kahua Theatre

Testimony Presented Before
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Senate Higher Education and the Arts Committee
Senate Tourism and International Affairs Committee

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

February 26, 2016; 9:30am

by



Cindy Rote

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairs Tokuda, Taniguchi and English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee:

My name is Cindy Rote and I am a resident of Kuliouou Valley. I am submitting this testimony as an individual in support of the funding provided to the UH Athletics Department via SB 83 SD1 to offset travel expenses and subsidies costs.

In 1996 I graduated from the University of California at Davis with a double major as an All American Women's Water Polo student-athlete. I was a member of the United States Women' Water Polo National "B" team and had the opportunity to represent our country internationally. In 1997, I was hired by the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UH) as the first assistant women's water polo coach to recruit and start the varsity Wahine Water Polo team, which has been nationally ranked in the top 10 from day one. I have been a resident of Hawaii for the past 19 years and I have worked with college students, as a lecturer and with student-athletes as an assistant coach and as the Director of Student-Athlete Development, my current position.

I fully support intercollegiate athletics for every positive developmental opportunity it provides. I am living proof of how athletics can impact and improve a life through education. Growing up in the school district portrayed in the movie Coach Carter may be the easiest way to explain, that higher education was not always a goal in my life. My father was a high school dropout who did not value education. He valued hard work and instilled a tenacious work ethic in me. My Peruvian mother spoke English as a second language and even though she knew nothing of the American education system, she always was encouraging me to "get my educacion (education)". Through high school sports, the coaches who served as mentors and the structure of a team environment, provided me with the opportunity to learn about college and then go to college.

Without sports, I can confidently say, I would have not gone to college. Through my collegiate experience, I built the academic confidence to excel in and out of the classroom. I continued my education beyond my undergraduate degrees, serving as a research assistant for the John Burns School of Medicine while completing a master of science in Kinesiology. I am currently completing my doctorate degree in Educational Leadership and Management, with an emphasis on Human Resource Development. Without the opportunity to play sports in high school and in college, I would not be where I am today, an active member of our local community who volunteers regularly to help others.

I have seen the challenges and personally experienced the difficulties faced by limitations of the department budget. Becoming resourceful with what we are given to serve our student-athletes, would be an understatement. As a coach, I used car rental coupons on the majority of our road trips just to save money out of our budget. Like many other staff members and coaches, we are very aware of every dollar spent and are as creative as possible to stretch the value of our budgets.

Even with our creative and resourceful ways, there are things that are completely out of our control, specifically travel expenses. For Hawaii to continue to excel at the level they are currently at, or to even do better, we need your help with the passage of SB 83 SD1 to assist in offsetting travel expenses and subsidies costs. When our current student-athletes learn of what its costs to travel and how we must pay other institutions to fly to Hawaii to compete against our teams, they are always bewildered and believe it is unfair.

The benefits athletics has for our young adults are immeasurable. I can recount story after story of how athletics has impacted our student-athletes, far beyond the playing fields, in a similar manner that it has impacted my life. From our local students, inter-island students, mainland students and international students, athletics has a positive impact on their lives. One the best things I get to do regularly is take our student-athletes into the community to do community service. Each month I provide learning tours, "Rainbows for a Day", for local elementary schools. When a young child goes up to a UH student-athlete, they do not care about what sport they play, they are enamored with the fact they are looking up to their hero. These children are inspired to go to college one day and be just like their heroes. Our student-athletes understand their role and know their time is limited as a Rainbow Warrior and Rainbow Wahine. When they connect with children, the moment is priceless for both the child and the student-athlete.

This month, the student-athletes have been taking part of the Big West Charity Coin Drive. The funds they raise will benefit the Hawaii Pacific Chapter of the American Cancer Society (ACS) through the UH Relay for Life event held annually in April. Eleven years ago, the UH Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, decided to organize the first ever UH Relay for Life as their main community service project. The event was completely run by UH student-athletes and athletic department staff and coaches. UH Relay for Life has now evolved into a major campus event run by the Colleges Against Cancer Student group, which I have advised for the past 8 years. Over one million dollars has been raised through UH Relay for Life. An event started by our student-athletes has made a lasting impact for our local family and friends who benefit from services provided by ACS, like the Hope House, that provides lodging for outer island residents in town for treatment. Our student-athletes are excelling at every level possible while learning and giving back to their community.

The support of the state is needed to continue to provide the athletic and development opportunities for current and future generations of student-athletes to excel on and off the fields and to make a difference in each of their lives. SB 83 SD1 provides funds to UH in recognition of the higher travel expenses and subsidies costs faced by the school compared to our peers. SB 83 SD1 will help us to compete more equally and effectively with the leading institutions of higher education who do not have the travel costs that we have.

I support the funding in SB 83 SD1 for the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Respectfully, I request that you approve SB 83 SD1. Thank you for your time and commitment to our UH student-athletes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB83 on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM*
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 8:44:06 PM

SB83

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for WAM/HEA/TSI on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	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.

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