



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

Date: 02/15/2017
Time: 02:45 PM
Location: 211
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0318 RELATING TO EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

Purpose of Bill: Allows home schooled students to participate in extracurricular activities offered at the public school that they would otherwise be required to attend.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) recognizes the intent of SB 318. The Department respectfully offers its comments and concerns.

At this time, parents of home schooled children are not required to officially enroll and un-enroll students in order to home school their child; therefore, no birth certificate or proof of residency is required. Failure to provide a birth certificate and proof of residency will be particularly problematic as it pertains to high school athletics. This could also impact league competition based on the rules of each interscholastic league.

Further, as proposed in Section 1(c), "extracurricular activity" means a school-authorized or education-related activity occurring during or outside the regular instructional school day, including sports, cheerleading, clubs, and other programs.

Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) and Board of Education (Board) policy. Notwithstanding HAR, Title 8, Chapter 12, Compulsory Attendance Exceptions, <http://boe.hawaii.gov/policies/AdminRules/Pages/AdminRule12.aspx>, there are no Board policies governing home school students' access to public school activities.

Pursuant to HAR §8-12-2, "Home schooling' means a viable educational option where a parent instructs the parent's own child" and pursuant to HAR §8-12-13, when a parent submits an intent to home school, the parent is responsible for "the child's total educational program including athletics and other co-curricular activities."

Should this measure move forward, the Department will need to review and propose a new policy and changes to current Board policies, as needed, for the Board's consideration.

Further, the additional administrative oversight necessary to monitor varied home school curriculum will add to the principal's responsibilities and already heavy workload.

In the Board of Education's report to the 2014 Legislature, home school representatives noted that indicative of a parent's choice to home school is the desire to individually select curriculum. As such, determining a means to evaluate progress will be difficult, and is dependent on the cooperation of the home schooled student's parent.

2014 Legislative Report. 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 explores implementation of such a program in Hawaii.

The Board reported:

- All appeared to agree that academic eligibility was important, but measures, monitoring and funding still need to be addressed. Currently, public school students are required to maintain a 2.0 Grade Point Average in all classes required for graduation (Board Policy 101-12, previously BOE Policy 4520, <http://bit.ly/2khuDnH>). There is generally a quarterly grade check but this can be more frequent.
- Behavioral requirements were discussed and it appeared reasonable that if a student was disruptive, that student should not be allowed to participate. Still, there were questions raised about other athletic requirements such as classification of junior varsity versus varsity, years of eligibility, physical/health checks and credits for establishing grade level.
- Since school principals and athletic coaches felt strongly about ensuring academic achievement and discouraging students from being withdrawn from public school to play sports, a restriction was discussed of twelve months of home schooling as a prerequisite to participating in sports. A requirement of the home school student being registered with the school as a home schooled student at the beginning of the year as a requirement to participating in sports was also discussed. The applicability to other extracurricular activities still needs to be explored.

Report to the 2014 Legislature on 2013 Senate Concurrent Resolution 76:
http://lrhawaii.info/reports/legrpts/doe/2014/scr76_13.pdf

Feedback from Educational Leaders . Last year, the Department sought feedback from our Complex Area Superintendents and Principals on this measure. For your consideration, we would like to share some of those comments:

The student would need to be enrolled at the home school [Department designates a "home school" for a student based on where a child physically resides]. When a parent chooses to home school his/her child it is akin to enrolling the child at a private school. The extra-curricular activities at my participation school are reserved for students enrolled at that specific school.

Students enrolled at a private school do so by choice. Their parents still pay taxes but opt for a different educational experience for their child. Along with that, they forego the opportunities that would be provided by the public school. Similarly parents who opt for home schooling do so with the same. Extracurricular activities are part of a school's comprehensive educational

program. These activities extend the learning into other contexts, reinforcing study skills, working in conjunction with classroom teachers and remain accountable to the school's program. If there is a student that is not enrolled at the school, the overall purpose of extra-curricular students to play this role is debilitated.(Elementary principal)

What about TB, physical, insurance. We have no control on how home schools grade. They do not come under Chapter 19? Do they get training? How do we set up accounts for pay? (High School principal)

Athletics - will students need to meet GPA [grade point average] requirements? Will the "parent" be the one giving the grade? Difficult even for elementary schools as students may meet during the school day. There are grade checks as well as behavioral expectations. (Former Complex Area Superintendent)

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 318.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:59 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: Kaiao.hawaii@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB318 on Feb 15, 2017 14:45PM*

SB318

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 15, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaiao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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