



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

Date: 02/06/2018

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: 211

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0318, SD1 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. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) recognizes the intent of SB 318 SD1 and respectfully offers its comments and concerns.

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." Hence, upon a parent's choice to consciously exclude their child from the public school environment, the Department has honored that decision.

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.

Resources. Schools are allocated general funds via the Weighted Student Formula based on students who are enrolled and attend school, and other defined weighted characteristics to provide the necessary resources for school programs, activities and operations. Students attending public school also have mandatory dues to supplement their class activities and in most cases must fundraise to minimize their expenses.

There is no viable fee structure and accounting system for non-attendees that would be fair and equitable without additional resources to monitor and hold non-attendees accountable. This task would place an additional strain on school resources.

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.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 318 SD1.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.

SB-318-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 9:27:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/6/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 2/2/2018 2:23:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/6/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl		Comments	No

Comments:

It's great that the home-schooled kids will be able to participate in those activities and I can see why the request has been made. Will others be allowed as well? For example, those from private schools or visiting students? I would ask then how the parents will be supporting those activities and the school since they will only be attending "after-school " events? Are they willing to put in the volunteer time and effort as well? For field trips, how will the liability be handled?

Just questions to think about.

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Submitted on: 2/3/2018 9:20:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/6/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Poulos		Support	Yes

Comments:

February 3, 2018

Dear Senators;

Thank for the opportunity to share my thoughts on SB318 SD1.

I have homeschooled my four children for the last 20 years and am excited for the benefits this bill presents for both the homeschooled student and the public schools.

I appreciate and agree with most of the ideas presented by the bill that allows homeschool students to participate in extracurricular activities at the local high school that they would attend, but there are a few changes I would suggest.

Section A part 4 presents a few issues:

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(4) Be registered with the school as a home-schooled student at the beginning of the school year and at least twelve months prior to participating in the extracurricular activity.

Homeschool families are not required to follow the public school calendar so the beginning of our school year may not be same as that of the DOE.

Also, having the “twelve months prior to participating” prerequisite may automatically, unfairly disqualify our military families who often transfer to Hawaii in the middle of the year. What about those students who may be withdrawn from school for unforeseen reasons such as health issues, education needs, family crisis or even protection such as instances as bullying?

It is understandable to require homeschool students to be in attendance at the beginning of a sports or tournament season that they desire to participate in, but an arbitrary 12 month time constraint is unnecessary, especially for clubs.

I hope that these few changes would be made to better serve the homeschool community and ensure that the students are given fair and reasonable requirements to participate.

Mahalo for your time and thoughtful consideration,

Lisa Poulos