



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

Date: 02/24/2020
Time: 12:00 PM
Location: 308
Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 2426, HD1 RELATING TO ATHLETICS.

Purpose of Bill: Requires that DOE and athletic leagues and associations allow charter school students wishing to participate in a sport for which there is no program at the charter school in the service area where the student resides, to participate in a comparable DOE school sports program in the service area where the student resides or in an adjacent service area at no additional cost to the student. Specifies that charter school students be represented by the DOE school for athletic league or association business. Takes effect on 7/1/2050. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) has strong concerns with HB 2426, HD1.

HB 2426 HD1 states that the Department shall provide students at charter schools: "*with the same opportunity to participate in athletics as is provided to students at department schools.*" However, the amendments to this statute states: "*If a student at any charter school wishes to participate in a sport for which there is no program at the charter school in the service area where the student resides, the department and the athletic league or athletic association on the respective island shall allow the student to participate in a comparable program at the department school in the service area in which the student resides, or if no program exists at that department school, then at a department school in an adjacent service area, at no additional cost to the student.*"

The Department is concerned with this amendment allowing more opportunity for participation in athletics to a charter school student than to a student at a Department school. Currently, if there is no program/sport at a high school, the student who wishes to participate in a sport that is not offered at the current school would need to transfer. The student would not be allowed to remain at the current school and participate at an adjacent school offering the sport.

If this measure passes, it may set a precedent for Department school students who wish to participate at another school offering a program/sport not offered at their current school.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2426, HD1.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. 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.

LATE

HB-2426-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 10:10:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessell Tanaka	Kawaikini New Century Public Charter School	Support	No

Comments:

Kawaikini NCPCS strongly support HB 2426 as participation in athletic programs is vital to the development of students in our secondary program.

We request an amendment to HB2426- Allow charter school students a choice to participate athletics programs of schools within or adjacent to the districts of the charter schools they attend OR to the districts where they reside.

We a Hawaiian immersion program providing education across the island of Kaua'i. Our students travel from all areas of the island and would benefit from the choice in districts offering athletic programs.

Me ke aloha,

Jessell Tanaka

LATE

HB-2426-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 9:48:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taffi Wise	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for your continued support!