

HB-2426

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 9:42:31 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Hirakami	Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science PCS	Support	No

Comments:

Athletics play a huge part in a student's educational pathway and may lead to scholarships in higher education. This is a further refinement of participation in athletics for students who choose to enroll in a virtual, blended, or hybrid education. By passing this measure, you (legislators) will be enhancing the education of thousands of students around the State. Thank you in advance for your support.

Aloha, Steve Hirakami, School Director HAASPCS



'O'ohē pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'okahi

Connections Public Charter School

A Community, Business & Education Learning 'Ohana

Chairperson Woodson, Vice-Chairpersons Hashem and Quinlan and Members of the House Committee on Lower & Higher Education:

Thank you for addressing this ongoing issue at charter schools with high school students. Allowing charter school students to participate in state-funded athletics at department schools, has been an ongoing issue for many charter schools since our inception. Policies and the law have vacillated from allowing charter school students to participate in sports at department schools near the charter school a student attends to at a department school near where the student resides. Charter schools embrace options for our families. I believe families should have the option of choosing based on their specific circumstances and/or the needs of their family.

I would like to suggest a few amendments to HB 2426 to allow for more opportunities for more students at charter schools in Hawaii to participate in athletics. The bill currently says, “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...” I believe the intent is to refer to the same charter school that the student attends. However, it is confusing and could also be interpreted as referring to another charter school in the area where the student resides. This is an important distinction because many charter school students attend a charter school that is not near their residence. If the intent is to refer to the charter school the student attends, “in the service area where the student resides.” should be removed.

I would also like to suggest that another option for charter school students be provided. Many charter school students on the Big Island attend a charter school that is relatively far from where they reside. If their only option for participating in a sport, that their charter school does not provide, is to participate in a program near their residence; many will still not be able to participate because of transportation issues. An example would be a student residing in Pahoa and attending a charter school in Hilo where their parents work. The student may not be able to get back to Pahoa after school in time to participate in a sport at a Pahoa school. Families faced with such a challenge might have to make difficult decisions pitting their work schedules against the interest of their child. This challenge could easily be mitigated if the student has the option of participating in a sport at a department school near the charter school they attend. I would suggest that the current language, “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” be changed to say, “or at a department school near the charter school the student attends, at no additional cost to the student.”

These suggested changes will not only clarify the intent of the bill, they will also allow more charter school students to participate in organized sports at public schools. Thank you for considering these suggested amendments.



Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau
Laboratory Public Charter School

46-500 Kūneki St. Kāne'ōhe, Hawai'i 96744 *Kelepona: 808.235.9175 *Kelepa'i: 808.235.9173
E mālama 'ia ana ka mauli ola o kākou mai kēlā hanauna a i kēia hanauna.

Before the House Committee on Finance Committee, House Bill 2426 Relating to Athletics

February 6, 2020 2:10 p.m., Rm 309

Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J Hashem, Vice Chair Sean Quinlan and members of the Committee

IN STRONG SUPPORT w/ AMENDMENTS

Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau **strongly supports HB 2426**, requiring that DOE and athletic leagues and associations allow charter school students 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.

Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau Laboratory Public Charter School is a family-based, Hawaiian language immersion school offering a comprehensive multi-level (preschool through secondary) educational program. As a high school, we recognize the need for our student athletes to participate in the DOE athletic programs, especially since we are a small school and are unable to fill the roster of athletic teams with our limited students.

Additionally, we request the following amendment to HB2426-

- Allow charter students a choice to also to participate in the athletic programs of schools within or adjacent to the districts of the charter schools they attend in addition to the districts where they reside.

While charter school students travel from across the islands to attend our mission driven schools, Ke Kula 'o Samuel M Kamakau is one of many charter schools who continue to lose student athletes due to the reality that they are unable to attend practices and games on time at their residence district homeschool. The choice of an appropriate educational setting lies with the families, and our student athletes should not be penalized for choosing to attend charter schools by being forced to attend a school based on their athletic program.

Once again, we are in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB2426 to allow charter school students to participate in a comparable DOE school sport program either in the service area where the student resides or within or adjacent to the districts of the charter school they attend.

Me ke aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "I Kelling Kahu". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

I Kelling Kahu, Director

HB-2426

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 12:42:19 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Smith	Kapolei Charter School	Support	No

Comments:

Kapolei Charter School, which opened in 2017, serves high school students in grades 9-12. As part of their high school experience, students have the opportunities to earn industry certifications or college credits to give them a head start in the career or secondary educational goals.

At Kapolei Charter School, we recently, with our own funding started a JV softball team due to the interest of our students. This required an investment of time and financial resources from our limited budget, however, we felt the opportunities the students had access to, were worth it. It was the right call to make - the students had a great season, and their team spirit carried back to the school.

The opportunity for our students to participate in additional DOE Athletics programs will serve to enhance their educational experience as well as provide them with social, leadership and team skills outside of the school environment critical to their development.

HB-2426

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 2:08:22 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sheila Gallien	Governing Board West Hawaii Explorations Academy	Support	No

Comments:

I enthusiastically support this bill and ask for you to pass it! Charter Schools do an excellent job serving the specific needs of students in the community, but they simply don't have the resources or population to offer meaningful well-rounded sports education. This opportunity is fantastic for the Charter School students, and also for the DOE students, to support each other and learn to integrate and connect outside of the academic environment. Please vote yes!

Thank you,

Sheila Gallien

HB-2426

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 2:20:14 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dawn Poiani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Support HB2426.

Athletics is a challenge for Charter Schools and it is an important part of childhood development

HB-2426

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:17:14 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Levenson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB2426

HB-2426

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 11:06:19 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Polly Pidot	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill being passed.

HB-2426

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 11:08:31 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Woodson and Committee Members,

The language in this bill will clear up issues that have been happening over the past few years impacting students' ability to play sports. Thank you for supporting this bill!

HB-2426

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 11:31:33 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katie Benioni	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2426

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 11:40:57 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen Hurwitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2426

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 12:08:03 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marion K A Kapuniai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2426

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 12:43:30 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Fraser	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
Rep. Sean Quinlan, Vice Chair
Committee on Lower & Higher Education

Jennifer Smith

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Support for HB 2426 Relating to Athletics

As a charter school educator and board member and a parent of a former charter school student I am writing to support HB 2426. Every keiki should not only have choice in education but should also be able to play the sport of their choice. As a former student athlete and athletics coach I can personally testify to the importance of student participation in extracurricular activities. Being able to participate in school sports has several benefits. For instance, many athletes do better academically. Sports teach teamwork and problem-solving skills not to mention physical health benefits. Playing sports also boosts self-esteem and can reduce stress in the student. To continue to educate and produce well-rounded students, I urge the committee to pass HB2426. Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to testify.

HB-2426

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 1:48:27 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dimitri Nikolai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Pease support this Bill and Athletics for Charter Schools!!

thank you!

HB-2426

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 2:05:14 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Albert Keoni Jeremiah	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2426 and allows charter school students wishing to participate in sports an opportunity to do so. Please pass this bill. Mahalo!



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

LATE

Date: 02/06/2020

Time: 02:10 PM

Location: 309

Committee: House Lower & Higher
Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 2426 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.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) respectfully offers comments on HB 2426.

HB 2426 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 preference or entitlement for participation in athletics to a charter school student that is not given to a student at a Department school. Currently, if there is no program/sport at a student's home area 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 sport not offered at their current school.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2426.

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

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 3:03:07 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Ann Barry	WHEA	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2426

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 4:07:11 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Martin Wallace	West Hawaii Exploration Academy	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2426

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 11:06:33 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

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

Comments:

LATE

HB-2426

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 3:44:58 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lesli Masuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2426

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 3:56:24 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Montgomery	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Letting charter school students participate in athletics is good for their health, good for their well being and a great way to encourage them to build bridges with other schools in the area.

Seems like withholding this opportunity would punish the children for opting into the charter system.

The charter system is already at a disadvantage when it comes to facilities funding. There is no reason to punish the students by keeping them out of team sports.

The world needs more team players. Lets make some.

LATE

HB-2426

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 4:10:55 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessie Ellington	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Hawaii State Legislation,

I am writing a testimony in support of the Big Island charter schools. These students should be able to play sports and engage in positive outlets. They should be able to play in a sport of their choosing either at the charter schools if offered or other schools in their area at no additional cost. I urge you to please support our keiki. Mahalo for your consideration.

-Jessie Ellington

LATE

HB-2426

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 6:18:14 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marcie eynon	Innovations Public Charter School	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of HB2426 because my daughter attends Innovations Public Charter School (IPCS) and she loves athletics. She is in 2nd grade, is in track and is taking swim lessons with intentions of joining the swim team. IPCS can only offer the children a few athletic choices while neighboring schools like Kealakehe and Konawaena can offer many more. If my daughter wants to continue with either track or swimming she would have to attend those athletic events at either of those schools, or find a city league to play on. She has friends at the other schools and would prefer to participate in sports with them.

I believe in supporting my student through athletics as it teaches children self-discipline, how to be part of a team, and self-confidence when they learn that they can work hard to achieve their goals. Please allow charter school students the opportunity to participate in athletic programs at neighboring public schools so our children do not lose out on some of the most important experiences during their formative years of life. You will be encouraging and allowing generations of students to become better versions of themselves and contribute to society in a meaningful way in their adult years when they can look back on their childhood with pride. They will be the mentors for future generations of children if you afford them that opportunity.

Thank you.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



JOHN S.S. KIM
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)
<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

Late Testimony

FOR: HB 2426 Relating to Athletics
DATE: February 6, 2020
TIME: 2:10 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Lower and Higher Education
ROOM: Conference Room 309
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony which **SUPPORTS THE INTENT of HB 2426**. This measure allows charter school students wishing to participate in a sport for which there is no program at the charter school to participate in a comparable Department of Education (DOE) school sports program in the service area where the student resides or, if no program exists at the department school, in an adjacent service area at no additional cost to the student. The measure further specifies that charter school students be represented by the DOE school for purposes of athletic league or athletic association business.

The Commission supports and advocates for the participation of charter school students in athletic programs and has appreciated the support and inclusion provided by DOE schools. However, the Commission has been made aware that the current law has both pros and cons for charter school families. For example, the requirements under the current law makes it difficult for a charter school student who resides in Kapolei but attends school in Central Honolulu to participate in sports programs. There are further complications that have arisen for students that participate in the blended learning/virtual programs provided by some charter schools which have students on multiple islands.

The Commission takes no position on and defers to the DOE regarding the cost implications of this measure.

The Commission will continue to collaborate with the DOE, other interested stakeholders, and public charter school students and families in continuing and, hopefully, increasing the participation of charter school students in athletic programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

HB-2426

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:40:00 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jean laliberte	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly recommend the possibility to do sports when attending WHEA School.

HB-2426

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 10:27:54 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kris Adair	Individual	Support	No

Comments: