

HB-811

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:37:32 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Keith Hayashi	Hawaii Department of Education	Comments	Yes

Comments:

Comments

Date: 02/08/2022

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Title of Bill HB 0811 RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL SPORTS.

Purpose of Bill Allows home-schooled, high school-age students to participate as unattached competitors in individual sports available to the public school that the student would otherwise be required to attend.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) recognizes the intent of HB 811 and respects parent-initiated educational alternatives but respectfully offers comments and strong concerns.

According to Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 8, Chapter 12, parents are responsible for reporting progress annually. To meet Grade Point Average (GPA) requirements and quarterly and in-quarter reporting, parents would need to have an equivalent home-schooled grading system comparable to the Department's. An equivalent grading system and reporting may inhibit the parent's ability to independently choose curriculum.

Although Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 8, Chapter 12, gives a compulsory attendance exception, there are no Board policies governing home school students' access to public school activities. Should this measure move forward, time and resources would be needed for the Department to review and propose new changes to current Board policies which would then require Board approval. The interscholastic sports leagues would also need to be consulted and tasked with creating new policies and changes to administrative regulations.

Further, the public school system does not receive any funding for home-schooled students since they are not counted in public school enrollment counts. Schools would not receive funding through the weighted student formula for home-schooled students; thus, the details of establishing a fee schedule for home-schooled students' participation in extracurricular activities remains to be explored.

The Department is cognizant of Hawaii's keiki who are home-schooled. Equal to parents of the students of the public school system, the parents of students who are

home-schooled are dedicated and passionate about their children's education and make academic choices for them in their best interest, which the Department fully respects and supports. The Department respectfully requests consideration and clarification of the concerns raised herein and looks forward to continued dialogue on this topic.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 811.

2/6/22 KK reviewed, minor edits made

Status: [Approved](#) 02/07/2022

Rep. Woodson, Chair
House Committee on Education

Kara MacPherson

Tuesday, February 8, 2020

Support for HB811

Thank you for your time in considering HB811.

I am a homeschooling mother of four children, aged 11, 15, 17, and 20. We chose to homeschool because we moved frequently as a military family. My husband's career in the Air Force took us to nine states and two countries on two different continents over his 24 years of service. The social and academic difficulty of having to be pulled out of and dumped into different schools on such a frequent basis is something we wanted to avoid. As a certified teacher with a BA and MA in Education, I felt qualified and called to school my children and to give them consistency in this area of life, when so much else was up in the air due to no fault of our own but just because my husband was willingly serving his country. To be penalized by not having access to athletic events for doing what is best for our children is heartbreaking.

My oldest son, now in the Army, was a track runner. While he did have the opportunity to compete in the active club program here on Oahu, being able to participate in school meets as well would have given him the chance to build community with a different set of athletes and challenge himself more. Psychology tells us that healthy levels of competition motivate people to work harder toward their goals. Including homeschoolers would raise the level of competition and encourage all athletes to train harder, thereby benefiting everyone.

My oldest daughter, a junior this year, is a springboard diver, the only homeschooled varsity-level springboard diver in the state of Hawaii, to my knowledge. Her opportunities for competition on Oahu are very few, only two in her entire high school career, whereas when she travels to the mainland for regional, zone, and national competitions, the athletes against whom she is competing have up to twenty meets per year! The difference in level of preparation is staggering; the opportunity to practice dealing with the nerves of a competition situation, to handle how to continue when you have had the adrenaline rush of a personal-best dive or the disappointment of not hitting

a dive you had counted on doing well - these are all things that can only be trained in competition format.

Almost every year, legislation is introduced at the state level to allow homeschoolers to participate in public school sports and extracurricular activities. It is resoundingly defeated each time with strong opposition from public school administrators. The way our law is currently written, the Board of Education may adopt rules for the government of all teachers, educational officers, other personnel, and pupils, and for carrying out the transaction of its business (HI Rev Stat § 302A-1112). The Board of Education Rule §8-12-13 (d) states that "The parent(s) submitting a notice to home school a child shall be responsible for the child's total educational program including athletics and other co-curricular activities."

I believe that reasoning raised in opposition to these previous legislation proposals are valid, and those reasons were carefully considered in the drafting of HB811. I think the arrangement of allowing homeschoolers who train independently and fund their own athletic programs to participate in competitions as unattached athletes would be a good compromise that would address all of the opposition that the public school administrators have had to homeschooler participation on public school teams. Opposition typically has addressed three main areas:

1. Funding - Homeschooling families would remain responsible for funding the training, uniform, athletic association fees, and any other related costs for their athletes. At no time would public funds be requested or used on a homeschooled athlete's preparation for competition.
2. Accountability - Homeschool-generated transcripts are accepted by military enlistment offices, colleges and universities nation-wide (including Ivy League schools), workplace applications, car insurance companies, and many more official places. My son used his homeschool-generated transcript to apply for congressional nominations for military academies (he was awarded FOUR), to apply to the United States Air Force Academy, the United States Military Academy at West Point, the United States Naval Academy, and the University of Hawaii. Surely if these reputable schools and businesses can trust a homeschool-generated transcript, our state athletic association can.
3. Liability - I have had a lawyer draft a liability waiver that could be used for homeschooled athletes who are participating as unattached competitors if that would be needed.

The idea for this bill has been formed through over four years of conversations with Hawaii high school coaches, athletic directors, principals, athletic association staff, and members of the public, private, and homeschooling communities.

Initially, I contacted the PAC-5 representative at Interscholastic League of Honolulu, thinking the entire basis of the PAC-5 organization was exactly what I was attempting to accomplish for homeschoolers. Unfortunately, PAC-5 is bound by the ILH Bylaws, which specifically state in the 2.1 Enrollment section "(C) Home-schooled students are not eligible for ILH activities."

I have spoken with Blaine Gaison (the ILH Executive Director) on two occasions, to try to ascertain if there could be a way to change the bylaws to allow for homeschoolers to compete in ILH-sponsored events and he is completely closed to the idea, even though I was supported by Kale Ane (the ILH Swimming and Diving Coordinator, and the Punahou head football coach).

I tried to form my own private school but Hawaii requires a minimum of 14 students to establish a private school by the Standards and Procedures for Licensing of Hawaii Private Schools through the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools. California allows homeschooling parents to submit a Private School Affidavit and classify as a private school so I thought that might be an option, but it is not permissible here in Hawaii (unless you have a very large family I guess!).

Next, I attempted to work with the Oahu Interscholastic Association to amend their bylaws to allow for homeschooled students to compete as unattached athletes. While a proposal was put forward by James Sunday from Radford High School in August of 2019, it did not pass the OIA Executive Council and was never put on the minutes of the next meeting for discussion.

Finally, in 2019, I contacted my district representative, Lisa Kitagawa, to see if there was anything she could suggest. Her support and conscientious research into this issue have been inspiring!

Different states deal with this issue in varied ways. Some states leave it up to the districts to decide whether homeschooled students can participate in public school activities (Massachusetts, Montana, Oklahoma). Some require homeschooled students to enroll in a specific number of classes at the public school in order to be allowed to participate in athletics (Indiana, Michigan, Idaho, Alabama). Some just allow homeschooled students to join athletic teams and participate in activities like band and

orchestra without restriction on their attendance at any public school (Minnesota, Colorado, Arizona, Ohio, Florida). Some states allow homeschooled students to participate in private schools' athletic programs but not public schools' (Virginia). There really is not precedent for the situation this bill is proposing, but given the history of opposition to laws like these states have, HB811 is a strong option for Hawaii's consideration.

Thank you again for your time in reviewing this testimony. Please join me in supporting HB811 to make competition opportunities available to homeschooled high schoolers in the state of Hawaii!

Rep. Woodson, Chair
House Committee on Education

Kadyn MacPherson

Tuesday, February 8, 2020

Support for HB811

Hello. My name is Kadyn MacPherson. I am in 11th grade and am 17 years old. I have been homeschooled since I was in kindergarten.

I am currently the only homeschooled springboard diver on Oahu, and likely in the state of Hawaii, prepared to compete on the varsity level. I am in support of HB811 because I know it will be a great opportunity for homeschoolers in Hawaii to participate in competitions that public and private school students get to. Homeschoolers who are dedicated to sports should have the same opportunities to compete as other students.

Throughout my competition experience in club diving, I have noticed how competition helps develop the ability to handle stress and anxiety. It would be good for homeschoolers to have more opportunities for competition. This way they can develop the ability to help them in stressful situations that will come in life.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to speak. Please support HB811.

Rep. Woodson, Chair
House Committee on Education

Avery MacPherson

Tuesday, February 8, 2020

Support for HB811

My name is Avery MacPherson. I am 15 years old and I am in 10th grade. I have been homeschooled since kindergarten. I am in support of HB811 because I think homeschoolers should be able to compete in athletic events as unattached competitors. I would like to have the chance to compete in individual sports now that I am in high school. I also think it is a good opportunity for homeschoolers and public school students to support each other.

Thank you for your time and for supporting HB811.

HB-811

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:56:51 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jeffrey Temple Stable, Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a Hawaii-based competitive Masters diver and coach of competitive Junior, Elite, and Masters divers with Tropic Lightning Diving Team (based at the K Mark Takai Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center), the President of the Hawaii Diving Association, and a judging representative of United States Diving at the International level in the sport of diving, I support the effort to afford competitive opportunities to the greatest number of athletes possible.

HB811 does exactly this by allowing a group of athletes - those who are educated outside of the public and private school systems - access to competitive opportunities they have been excluded from.

And HB811 asks for no resources to be allocated to these homeschooled athletes other than the resources already being used by Hawaii's interscholastic athletics programs to hold competitions in various disciplines.

I cannot think of a clearer example of legislation that extends the greater good (by providing competitive opportunities and deepening the field of athletes in interscholastic competition), let alone one that does so with so little financial impact or need.

I strongly urge the legislature to pass HB811 and allow Hawaii's athletes to shine in the best and most inclusive way possible.

Rep. Woodson, Chair
House Committee on Education

Lukas MacPherson

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Support for HB811

My name is Lukas MacPherson and I am 11 years old. I support HB811 because I would like to be able to compete in sports when I am in high school. I would like to run in track meets. That would give me the opportunity to get stronger and healthier by training hard for races. I think the kids from schools would train harder if homeschoolers were allowed to compete. Thank you for supporting HB811.

HB-811

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:38:26 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ian MacPherson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is a no brainer - allow scholastically eligible high schoolers to compete in sports at no cost or liability to the State, Counties, or schools. I fully support HB811 and encourage the representatives to pass this bill.

HB-811

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 3:59:50 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leilani Christian	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Leilani Christian

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Support for HB811

Thank you for your time in considering HB811.

I am a homeschooling mother of three school aged children ages 17,15, and 13. We are a military family that has spent over a decade of our career serving here on Oahu. We have made a commitment to homeschooling because of the freedom it allows us to have with our service members schedule. We have no desire to stop homeschooling, but we have a great desire to participate in higher level sports that are just not offered to the homeschool community.

This bill would make a huge impact on our children. They would have the ability to play sports in a new environment with new challenges and opportunities.

Please join me in supporting HB811 to make competition opportunities available to homeschooled high schoolers in the state of Hawaii!

HB-811

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 6:38:50 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Robert Takao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is LTC (Ret.) Bob Takao and I offer my support of HB 811. I served 25 years in the US Army including 4 years as the PMS at the Univeristy of Hawaii Army ROTC program. For the past 20 years, I have been in charge of the JROTC program at Punahou School. Our school hosts a magnet program that allows students who do not offer JROTC at their schools an opportunity to enroll in our program. These students, that represent up to 15 different high schools from grades 8-12 have successfully integrated into our extracurricular programs throughout this time. I have experienced no resentment, animosity, or controversy throughout this time. Students, better than parents; understand the circumstances associated with such relationships. No one is disadvantaged through such associations; everyone learns something. At the end of the day, all children, in a democratic society, deserve the opportunity to participate. We've learned the lessons of discrimination and exclusion. Let us never forget that understanding, acceptance, and compassion, are the hallmarks of civil society. Let the kids play!

Rep. Woodson, Chair
House Committee on Education

Jeshua Grose

Tuesday, February 8, 2020

Support for HB811

Hello. My name is Jeshua Grose. I am in 11th grade and am 16 years old. I have been homeschooled since I was in kindergarten.

I have many private schooled and public schooled friends around the island. We have, on numerous occasions, been disappointed because I was denied access to athletic competitions they were allowed access to. I see the passing of HB811 as a chance for the Hawai'i legislature to increase and improve connectivity, both in community and competition.

I think this will increase the freedom that homeschool students will have, under the law in Hawai'i, which is a core tenant of American life– to have liberty to pursue happiness.

I would also like this opportunity, not only for current high school students, but for people like my younger brothers who want to compete against their public-school friends once they enter high school.

Stand with me in support of HB811, for the improvement of Hawai'i high school competition and community. Thank you for your time.

Rep. Woodson, Chair
House Committee on Education

Jordan Grose

Tuesday, February 8, 2020

Support for HB811

My name is Jordan Grose. I am 12 years old and I am in 6th grade. I have been homeschooled since kindergarten. I am in support of HB811 because I think homeschoolers should be able to compete in athletic events as unattached competitors. When I reach high school, I would like to have the chance to compete in individual. I also think it is a good opportunity for homeschoolers and public school students to support each other.

Thank you for your time and for supporting HB811.

HB-811

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:36:12 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Taradee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill will allow more children to have access to compete in diving and that is valuable. As someone who got the chance to learn by competing in HS diving. I was able to get my college paid for by a sports scholarship. It is something that can have a positive impact on even just one student, it will be worth it. Give students every chance to succeed.

-Taradee Thornton

Rep. Woodson, Chair
House Committee on Education

Jacqueline Grose

Tuesday, February 8, 2020

Support for HB811

My name is Jacqueline Grose. I am a wife of a retired Army officer. We moved 14 times in 20 years and lived on two continents and now we live in Hawai'i. We have seven children. They are 26, 24, 23, 19, 16, 12 and 8. I taught all my children at home to provide continuity during our many military moves. We moved to Hawai'i in 2019. My 19 year old daughter played club soccer in Hawai'i during her last year of high school, which was our first year here. Her soccer club did not practice at all during the high school season, from December through February. My three youngest children are swimmers. Each year, they can compete with our club, but are not allowed to compete in the public or private school meets.

I support HB811. I believe it will improve competition for all high school students in Hawai'i. I believe it will create unity and improve community amongst students and families. I believe that the taxes that I pay as a resident of Hawai'i provide the justification for my students to participate in high school sports.

Stand with me in support of HB811. Thank you for your time.

HB-811

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:26:28 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sevastyan Swan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Rep. Woodson, Chair

House Committee on Education

Sevatyan Swan

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Support for HB811

Hello. My name is Sevastyan Swan. I am 13 years old and am in the 8th grade. I have been homeschooled since kindergarten.

I am in support of HB811 because I believe homeschoolers and public schoolers should have the same opportunity to compete and grow. Students should have the same opportunity to learn as well as to do sports. I think it would be beneficial for students like myself to be able to have the opportunity to learn through a situation that competition provides.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. Please support HB811.

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

House Committee on Education

From Rodd Johnson

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Support for House Bill 811

My name is Rodd Johnson and I am a Recreational Diving Coach at one of the local pools. Having witnessed the dedication and hard work of divers that are home schooled for many years, I support HB811 because I believe home schooled athletes, should have equal access to individual athletic competitions in the State of Hawaii. Passing Bill HB811 gives individual home schooled athletes access and equality to public & private competitive activities on an fair, equal and honest basis. Thank you for the opportunity to support HB811.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rodd Johnson

94-656 Nuao Place

Waipahu, HI 96797

HB-811

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:19:26 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elizabeth Swan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Rep. Woodson, Chair.

House Committee on Education

Elizabeth Swan

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Support for HB811

Hello. My name is Elizabeth Swan. I am 15 years old and am in the 10th grade. I have been homeschooled my entire life. I have been competitively swimming for 3 years.

I am in support of HB811 because it would allow me to compete more often with public and private school sport teams. I would like to have the chance to compete in individual sports with other athletes. Homeschoolers who are dedicated to sports should have the same opportunities to compete as other students do.

Throughout my competition experience in team swimming, I have noticed how competing helps develop the ability to handle stress and anxiety. Giving us more opportunities to compete would help us to develop skills for future stressful situations in our life.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to speak. Please support HB811.

HB-811

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 11:20:18 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Abigail	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Rep. Woodson, Chair

House Committee on Education

Abigail Hendricks

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Support for HB811

Aloha, my name is Abigail Hendricks and I am 16 years old. I am a military child and I have been homeschooled ever since kindergarten. My family and I have lived in eight duty stations and I am proud to say that this has been my second time being stationed here in Hawaii. As I have been traveling all over the world, I have had the luxury to attend many sports competitively. But as I have been traveling all over the world, finding a sport or team has always been a stumbling block and a challenge. I support the bill HB811 because children like me, who struggle trying to find a team because they are either homeschooled or are in the military, will have the chance to seek out a sport or a team that is suitable for them.

When I lived in Okinawa for a short period of time, there was a lacrosse team that I competitively played for. I was the only homeschooler who attended. This team purposefully gave access so that homeschoolers could be a part of their team. But since they allowed homeschoolers to play, they were not a part of the school in Okinawa, which caused some problems. One of them was that we never had a field that we played on every night and we would move from one field to the next. Because this team allowed homeschoolers to play on the team, it was difficult to find places to practice and play.

Henry Ford once said: "Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress; working together is a success." If we give the chance to allow homeschoolers to participate in sports that they otherwise would not have the chance to attend, this can build bridges between people, children, teams, and foster communities. I believe this bill will open the gateway to success, teamwork, and civility.

Stand with me in support of HB811, for the improvement of Hawai'i high school competition and community. Mahalo for your time and attention.

HB-811

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 11:27:01 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joshua Hendricks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Rep. Woodson, Chair

House Committee on Education

Joshua Hendricks

Tuesday, February 8, 2020

Support for HB811

Hello. My name is Joshua Hendricks. I am in 8th grade and am 13 years old. I have been homeschooled since I was in kindergarten.

I have loved sports my whole life and being in a military family does not make playing sports easy. I have not been able to play any sports for the last two years because of Hawaii not allowing homeschoolers to play for public school teams.

I am in a program called sea cadets, which is a military program for teens not yet old enough to enlist in the navy, and every day the cadets talk about their school sports and rivalries. Eventually they turn to me and ask me why I am so quiet because they know I love sports.

I have many friends who are in public school and all I have wished for is to be able to play any sport against them.

Stand with me in support of HB811, for the improvement of Hawai'i middle school and high school competition and community. Thank you for your time.