

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/23/2023

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HCR 0123 REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO INTEGRATE THE DOCUMENTARY FILM "WATERMAN" INTO MIDDLE AND INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education supports resolution HCR 0123 but wishes to point out the need for resources to provide the requested theater experience for students.

This movie provides an excellent opportunity for students to learn valuable life lessons and engage in critical discussions about important issues. The themes explored in the movie are topics that are relevant to middle school students who are at a critical stage in their personal and emotional development. Viewing Waterman in theaters can provide a valuable educational experience for our middle school students and help them to grow into compassionate and responsible members of society.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

HCR-123

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 8:53:12 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/23/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiania Kiaha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this resolution. I've had the privilege to watch the film WATERMAN several times, and each time it has grown my appreciation and aloha for Duke. It's challenged me to think about how I, as a kanaka maoli, holomua through times of difficulty, how I can embody selflessness and aloha as Duke did, and how I can carry on Duke's legacy.

Our youth often hear about heroes and public figures in history that come from the U.S. Continent or other areas of the world, but to know the worldwide impact of one of our very own Hawaiians can provide a sense of pride and hope to our young people in Hawai'i. If Duke can, we can, they can. Through Waterman, you learn that his life was not simply athletic excellence, but that he embodied the values of our ancestors such as aloha, lōkahi, ha'aha'a, kuleana, ku'upau, and 'onipa'a. To have Waterman be a part of the intermediate and middle school curriculum would provide an engaging and relatable platform for youth to learn these Hawaiian values and to learn the culture and history behind them.

Now, more than ever, our youth need to know the legendary life of Duke Kahanamoku so they can see what it means to live like Duke.

HCR-123

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 9:22:51 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/23/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathie Valdovino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Cathie Valdovino. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union that represents entertainment technicians in the state of Hawaii. I submit this testimony in support of HCR123. I am the costume designer on the film "Waterman"! Any film about Duke Kahanamoku is important for the youth of Hawaii's education. The film "Waterman" is the perfect vehicle for the youth of Hawaii to understand the path of an Hawaiian hero who embodied strength, courage, integrity, determination, humility and kindness. "Waterman" should be integrated into middle and intermediate school curriculum.

Chet Thomas

Aloha to all!

I'm one of the producers of the film *Waterman* and am very proud to have been a part of making the film. More importantly, it's been an honor to have been a part of something that I have personally seen affect and change lives. Without exception, this film inspires all those that see it no matter the age, whether young or old. The most rewarding have been those moments that have truly affected young teenagers to change how they treat others.

I fully support this resolution and know that if we are able to make possible what is in this resolution, your lives will be changed positively forever. I've been a part of discussion after the film wherein youth have said, "I'm now realizing that I should be nicer to people" or "I'm a great athlete and after seeing this film I'm realizing that I also need a couch." I have been witness to many responses like this and the potential to have thousands more because of this resolution are huge.

Duke is such a great role model for our keiki and is an amazing hero that is being forgotten by the rising generation because they just don't know who his is. We can't allow a positive role model like this to just fade away.

I think the biggest question that everyone might have is why do we want to go to the trouble of having the kids watch the film in the theater and let's just make it easy and give teachers a link. That's certainly a possibility but I have always found that easy is hardly ever better and in this situation, easy is most definitely not more impactful or better.

There are quite a few reasons which I'd like to express here from our experience of showing the film to many different people and kids in different settings and here's what we've found in our experience. The overarching motivation for this resolution and its motivations is to have the highest level of impact on our keiki...creating the highest probable experience for the greatest impact outcome.

I would like to outline the various reasons we've seen and therefore feel that this would be the best approach to changing the lives of our keiki for good:

Creating an Unforgettable Experience

-Going to the movie theater and seeing one of Hawaii's greatest heroes on a 40 foot screen with sound that moves viewers to tears quickly becomes an experience for all that they will always remember.

-Having this educational experience being one that they've never been able to do in the past and not likely to ever do again makes it a central and unforgettable image in their educational tapestry.

-Having a movie theater be their classroom for a day will be one that truly increases the focus for learning.

Creating a Highly Anticipated Event in their Lives

-This experience, over the years, will become one of those events that the underclass keiki will highly anticipate doing because of the positive word of mouth and energy that will flow through the school upon their return. It will be the talk of the school and those that weren't able to attend yet, will see it as something highly anticipated in the coming years.

-The impact will increase exponentially as years pass and the experience becomes more anticipated with excitement.

-Having this learning experience matched up with an activity (going to the movies) that teens love doing, will also increase the anticipation.

Learning Becomes Entertainment

-All kids love going to the movies. It's an escape from the realities of life but often they can't do as often as they would like because of their families' economic hardships. Taking this positive environment and infusing a true Hawaiian hero into their lives will directly make Duke's messages (the spirit of Aloha and their kuleana to do good) much more memorable because of the association with something that they love doing.

-Watching the film on the big screen with state-of-the-art visuals and sound will result in higher levels of focus and attention to the educational themes. The outcome is a more effective learning opportunity.

Creating a Memorable Hero

-Duke is becoming a forgotten Hawaiian hero to the rising generation and by creating an unforgettable experience when being introduced to him will

increase the odds that the keiki will put him on a pedestal and desire to be like him. The opposite is the risk that he just becomes one of many people (great for sure) studied in Hawaiian history in the classroom but quickly forgotten.

Increased Positive Peer Pressure

-Gathering the youth in large groups for a positive experience will create a much larger wave of impact as the kids in mass see the energy of all those around them and desire to join in to be a part of it.

-The odds are increase that they will look around and see the positive affect of the message and they will more likely want to be a part of it for fear of missing out.

-The “Everyone’s doing it” mentality will be used in a positive way.

-Energy is felt in numbers. The feeling and energy that is felt in the theater after this film is over is very palpable and exponentially greater than is felt in an in-class viewing.

A More Submersing Experience

-The simple concept of going to an aquarium to see fish vs. watching a video on it in class is quite similar with this concept. Watching a film in the theater will feel much more in person and in-turn be more impactful than watching it on a tv in the classroom.

-Likely, if the film is watched in the classroom the teacher will need to break up the film into 2 or 3 viewings which will eliminate the emotional arc and build that’s been masterfully created by the director of the film. The film was created in such a way to have a continued emotional build to the climax of the film. Breaking the film up into viewing segments and spread out over a week will significantly reduce the impact.

Increased Odds of Inner-Familial Discussion

-Because the experience is larger than life and is entertaining and enjoyable, the odds of the keiki going home and talking about it with their parents are increased quite a bit. This will provide the parents more in-depth involvement with what their kids are learning and experiencing at school.

Greater Opportunity for Teacher Student Curricular Discussions

-Because of the experience being so memorable and moving due to going to the theater the opportunities for a more profound and intriguing post discussion, whether in the theater or back in the classroom is increased significantly.

-When an experience is more impactful because of all the above reasons the ability to tie the subject matter into curriculum will be more effective.

There are others but I hope these testify of the reasoning behind taking extra effort to have greater impact.

I feel it's my kuleana to do everything possible to impact the lives of our keiki in the most profound way possible and where not possible then we definitely figure it out.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Mahalo Nui!!!

Chet

HCR-123

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 11:42:58 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/23/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Molly Unterseher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been assisting with the legal work for the Waterman film and in full support of the resolution. Working on the film and helping disseminate Duke's inspirational story to the general public has been such a rewarding experience. The film communicates messages that are relatable to all, particularly young minds at the peak of learning. I am confident that this film will provide inspiration to our youth and offer a genuine, true hero at an age when they can all use someone to look up to. Showing this film to the next generation will carry on Duke's legacy and story. Our clients are donating this film to be shown in theatres in pursuit of their charitable mission to educate the public on subjects that are useful, beneficial, instructional, and inspirational. I encourage the state to take advantage of this opportunity and ensure that Duke's story is told in a meaningful and impactful manner to the next generation. It will benefit each of them personally and the community as a whole.

HCR-123

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 12:01:38 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/23/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Duane DeSoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii has hero's that have impacted the world. Duke Paoa Kahanamoku is one of them and our children will benefit from knowing their his accomplishments and contributions.