



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL
1120 NEHOA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96822

February 21, 2022

To: Chairperson Sen. Kidani
Committee Members

My name is John Chung and I am the Athletic Director of Roosevelt High School. I have been involved with athletics for 40 years. 25 years as a coach and 15 years as an Athletic Director. Prior to becoming the Athletic Director, I was a teacher for 17 years, 11 as a PE teacher.

I strongly oppose bill 3296 because there are many questions concerning the bill at this time:

1. Bill 3296 is too vague at this time. It does not address how athletics will be implemented as a co-curricular activity.
2. Currently, co-curricular activities where grades are given is instructed by a certified teacher. Will this be followed should athletics be categorized as a co-curricular activity? At this time, I have 5 certified teachers that are head coaches at Roosevelt HS. The teams are Judo, JV baseball, Varsity Track, Varsity Boys Basketball and Varsity Girls Basketball. The rest of my head coaches are non DOE teachers. We currently have 54 athletic teams when you calculate JV / Varsity boys and girls teams. If bill 3296 passes right now, I will not be able to offer many of the sports that are currently being offered unless the requirement of a certified teacher is changed.
3. If bill 3296 passes what will happen if there is a lot of interest in a particular sport? Will the individual school be required to open up more sections depending upon the amount of interest in the sport?
4. If more sections have to be opened up due to a large amount of interest, this will have a financial impact. An example, currently my boys basketball team has 12 students on the JV team and 12 students on the Varsity team. If athletics moves to a co-curricular activity and we use the current DOE number of students per class, we could enroll up to 25 students per team. That would be an additional 26 students for my boys basketball teams this year. The increase in cost would be for the extra uniforms that would have to be purchased. For a team of 25, we would have to have a minimum of 30 sets of uniforms for home and away games. The reason to have 30 sets is to make sure that we have the proper sizes for each student. That would equate to 120 uniforms if you take into account the JV and Varsity home and away sets. Uniforms cost roughly \$100 per set depending on the brand and style.

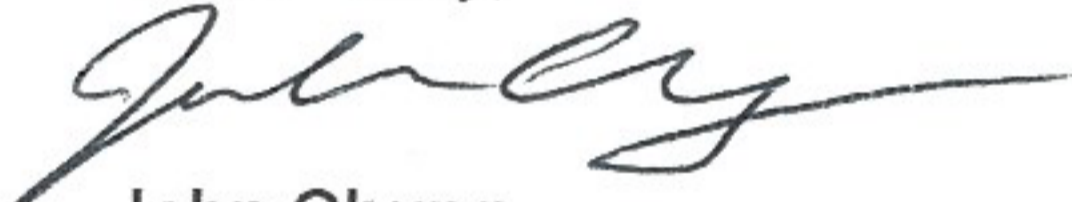
Using 25 students as an enrollment count for each team, we would also have to increase the amount of equipment that is purchased yearly. For basketball, I normally purchase 8 basketballs per season. I would have to up that to a minimum of 16 per season. At roughly \$55 a ball, it will add up significantly.

Another cost increase will be the need to have more coaching positions allocated. I would assume that if our roster size increases, we would have to hire additional coaches. Currently, we have 2 coaches per 12 – 15 students. If we increase the amount to 25 or more students, we would have to hire an additional coach. 2 additional coaches would be ideal but that would add even more to the cost.

5. Facilities is another concern that may arise if this bill passes. If there is a need to increase the size of a team due to the interest in a particular sport, we may not have enough facility space to run the program. I used 25 as an example earlier but we actually had 45 students tryout for my boys JV basketball team this year.
6. Another question that will arise is if we identify athletics as a co-curricular activity, will each student be required to have equal playing time? Although this has not been clarified, as a former pe teacher, I would assume that the answer is going to be yes. That's how PE classes are run. If this happens, it may hurt those students that trying to use their athletic ability to earn them a financial waiver from colleges.

I feel that bill 3296 should not be passed at this time. Until we can get answers to the questions above, as an athletic administrator, former coach and teacher, I cannot support this bill. I hope that before the vote is taken on this bill, that the committee look into getting some answers to the questions above.

Yours Truly,



John Chung
Athletic Director
Roosevelt High School

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:42:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kelly Jack Sur	Testifying for Radford High School	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Kelly Jack Sur and I have been a teacher, counselor, coach, and AD since 1984. I have been the AD at Radford high school for 20 + years.

After reading the bill as written, it is very vague and misleading. Why change "athletics" from an extra curricular activity to a co curricular activity? The bill as written already establishes why athletics is important and when done correctly, is the "largest classroom on campus". The problem with this bill is it does not spell out and explain in detail how coaches will be decided, budget issues, co curricular mean during the school day....this is just a few problems that will arise if this bill passes.

From the onset of the ROIA (OIA first organized) over fifty years ago, we (OIA) have never been fully funded by the legislature/state. With this bill, how will monies be appropriated? Does a certified teacher have to be considered a "head coach"? Nearly 65% of the coaches now are not certified teachers. We ensure that they are given coaching education classes to be certified from the NFHS (National Federation of High Schools)..

When the word "curriculum" is what the premise of this bill's intentions are, why isn't dedication, commitment, perserverance, attitude, teamwork, dignity, humility, pride, and honor a part of the "

curriculum" now for all students? Playing a interscholastic sport is a priviledge not a right..when comparing the ILH schools to the OIA as far as the intent of the purpose is like finding similarities in apples and oranges...both are very different leagues as well as how their schools are run and managed. Will we now have a tuition for all students?

What I find very amusing are those who created this bill, did they do their homework? Consult with their constituents within the OIA? Seems this bill is a reflection of how some of our representatives have "special interests" involved in their erratic assumptions.



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

Date: 02/23/2022

Time: 10:05 AM

Location: CR 211 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 3296, SD1 RELATING TO SPORTS.

Purpose of Bill: Designates sports as being cocurricular activities. Requires the Department of Education to submit a report on the cost of implementing sports as co-curricular activities. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully offers comments on SB 3296, SD1.

The Department supports the addition of the definitions of "Co-curricular activities; sports," "Curriculum," "Curricular activity," "Co-curricular activity," and "Extracurricular activity" to the existing HRS 302A.

The Board of Education Policy 101-12 states, "Students participating in co-curricular activities must have at least an overall 2.0 grade point average and be passing in courses required for graduation." The Department utilizes the Board policy in forming school teams and athletic activities. In addition, curriculum and instruction build skills and understanding of the rules of the game, such as basketball, volleyball, and other sports, and are taught in health and physical education classes which are available to all students. The Department provides various ways for K-12 students to voluntarily engage in athletic activities such as intramurals and multi-school meets to promote the use of these skills within and beyond the school day.

Athletic competitions between athletes from different schools are governed by the leagues: Big Island Interscholastic Federation, Kauai Interscholastic Federation, Maui

Interscholastic League, and Oahu Interscholastic Association. Neighbor island leagues include public and private schools and all league champions and teams participate in an all-state tournament under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association (HHSAA). The Department defers to the various athletic leagues and HHSAA for language that will impact the nature and decisions related to competitions.

The Department is concerned that costs to fulfill the mandates of this bill could be over \$100,000,000 if head coaches are expected to carry out curricular responsibilities and if high schools are expected to accommodate all students who are interested in participating in sports as a co-curricular activity.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 3296, SD1.

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:40:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Asai Gilman	Testifying for Cultural Sports Connection LLC	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha-

I am in support of SB3296.

I would like to add to my former testimony that this bill should be passed based on the following:

1. Student athletes put in more than 20 hours per week in a sport. It is justified that students that are learning skills to participate and/or compete in a sport that they should at least be rewarded a pass or fail class for an elective credit for PE that can be used toward graduation. This is based on the time spent.
2. Student athletes are learning not only critical thinking and problem solving skills but they are acquiring a high level of intense soft skills that most if not all employers want and need in today's job market.
3. Based on schools like Punahou and Iolani offering this to their student athletes, why not consider it for public school students. I have learned today that HTA or Hawaii Technology Academy offers sport participation/competition as an PE elective towards graduations as well.

I believe this is a no brainer. At the least, it is necessary to have more of a dialog and thought by those that have experience to frame how this can look like in our schools.

I have over 25 years of higher education administration and I am a certified secondary teacher in Hawaii. I welcome the opportunity to assist those who desire to work with a think tank in allowing the discussion to be continued and perhaps implemented in the future.

In gratitude, I support the SB3296 Bill.

Mahalo,

Asai Gilman, President

Cultural Sports Connection, LLC

IRON WORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

February 23, 2022
10:05 am

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Via Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Re: SB3296 SD1 -Relating to Sports

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee,

We **SUPPORT** SB3296 SD1. The bill, if enacted, would designate sports as being co-curricular activities within the Department of Education and requires the Department of Education to submit a plan on how to implement sports as co-curricular activities.

Designating sports as co-curricular will increase and elevate the role of athletics in education. It will ensure that sports are a priority and an essential part of a student athlete's education. Co-curricular activities are programs that take place at a school that are not a part of the academic curriculum but are acknowledged to be *essential* to the overall learning process for students.

Sports help student athletes in character development, academic achievement, and overall educational success. Sports also help in positively affecting a student athlete's overall health and well-being. Sports for some have been life-changing and key to changing their path in life in a more positive direction.

During the COVID-19 pandemic not only our student's education was sidelined, but so was their outlet and civic and social development through sports. If our students are required to go to a classroom, we should also ensure that they are able to be on the field. Completing the educational process through co-curricular activities, students learn values of fair play, teamwork, self-discipline, self-confidence, and how to handle and be productive in competitive situations. These co-curricular activities also promote mental health and emotional wellness, which is so important during the COVID-19 pandemic when students have been separated from coaches, teammates, kinesthetic learning, and competition.

Many of our members and their families have benefited from participating in sports. Sports as co-curricular will mean more of our keiki will benefit from participating in sports and become better citizens.

Sincerely,



T. George Paris
Managing Director



Hawaii High School Athletic Association

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Christopher Chun, HHSAA Executive Director
TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 2427 / SB 3296
RELATING TO SPORTS; DOE; SPORTS; CO-CURRICULAR

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to SB 3296 and its companion bill HB 2427.

By way of background, I am the Executive Director for the Hawaii High School Athletic Association, a position that I have held since 2010. Prior to that I was a civil litigation attorney and have represented the Oahu Interscholastic Association in all legal matters including those pertaining to the eligibility of student-athletes. I have a son (and a daughter), who participated in baseball and bowling, while attending Kaimuki High School as a 2021 graduate. I am a National Federation of High Schools accredited and certified coach, and the current head coach of the PAC-5 intermediate baseball team.

Founded in 1956, the HHSAA is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) educational athletic organization exclusively dedicated to serving 96 public and independent member high schools statewide, as they work cooperatively to support and promote athletics as part of the high school education program. As the umbrella organization of high school athletics, the HHSAA operates 44 state championships in 18 different sports, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition.

The HHSAA and its five member leagues, comprised of 96 member schools statewide, are opposed to making sports co-curricular for the following reasons:

1. Sports participation is not a protected right under the Fourteenth Amendment of the federal Constitution.
2. We cannot arbitrarily single out athletics in making it a co-curricular activity, therefore creating a ripple effect of other school-based activities becoming co-curricular.
3. Public education in Hawaii is chronically underfunded and it will be even more so should interscholastic athletics be deemed co-curricular.
4. It will make it impossible for public schools to remain compliant with Title IX, and therefore risk crucial federal financial assistance for our schools.
5. It will kill the competitive nature of interscholastic athletics as it has existed for the last century as well as across the country, as every student will have the right to be on a team and will have the right to playing time.
6. We do not understand the impact this bill as written will have on coaches and teachers.

1. Right v. Privilege

The federal Constitution protects people’s rights to life, liberty, or property by providing that no one may be denied of these rights without due process of the law.” Should sports participation become property interest? A great majority of the courts have considered this question over decades, and while they acknowledge that these activities are important, “extracurricular activities do not rise to the level of a property interest.” Therefore, there is not a substantiated reason it should be designated as co-curricular. Furthermore, by doing so Hawaii courts would end up becoming the outlier as they would not have any basis to enforce and uphold eligibility rules of HHSAA and its member leagues.

2. Ripple Effect Extended to Other Extracurricular Activities

We cannot arbitrarily single out athletics in making it a co-curricular activity. If signed into law, this bill will create a ripple effect of other school-based activities falling under the same co-curricular designation, including student government, service clubs, speech, debate, music, the arts, drivers’ education, among others.

There are countless court cases throughout the country that tie education-based institutions in costly litigation to hash out whether a student has protected rights in extracurricular school activities, such as the right to run for student council without the endorsement of teachers, or the right to attain membership to the school’s National Honor Society after not receiving a majority vote by a faculty selection committee.

Courts have sided with the schools stating that they have policies for extracurricular activities, which serves a legitimate educational purpose that qualified, responsible students would be elected to such positions or earn the privileges to participate.

To make an activity co-curricular will lose all its authoritative weight. Although the intent of the bill is meant for the benefit of our students, the unforeseen ramifications would not only impact competitive, amateur sports as it has existed for over a century, but it will have ripple effects beyond the playing fields of athletics.

3. Funding

With chronic underfunding of our current public-school programs, coupled with the fact that we’ve taxed various sectors of our local economy in attempt to fix this problem, it only further poses the question of where the funding will come from to support co-curricular athletics. The State of Hawaii does not have the funding to accommodate every student that wishes to participate in extracurricular activities, and we cannot impose “pay to play” fees on participation when it is part of the schools’ curriculum. Therefore, it is highly likely many sports programs will be cut or not offered at all, such as in the case where student interest is overwhelmingly greater than school resources.

4. Title IX Compliance

It is impossible to accommodate the interests of every student who shows interest in co-curricular athletics and remain in compliance with the Title IX Education Amendment. Under Title IX, participation opportunities for male and female students are provided in numbers substantially proportionate to their respective enrollments. Although there are more girls participating in sports than before Title IX was enacted 50 years ago, there still is a disproportionate number of boys who are generally predisposed to be more interested in athletics than girls.¹

5. Jeopardizes Competitive Amateur Sports

Furthermore, school administration and coaches would not be able to hold students liable for breaking rules or not attaining passing grades in all required classes because they have the right to play. Giving students the automatic right to play furthers the belief that everyone deserves privileges for things that they did not earn. In interscholastic athletics, working hard and earning your spot on the team comes from hard work, honing your skill – not something handed to you.

6. Impact on Schools

At the last hearing, the Department of Education testified that if sports moved from extracurricular to co-curricular, coaches would need to be employed as teachers. Currently, the vast majority of coaches serving in the Department of Education are not employed as teachers by the schools they contract and/or volunteer at. This would leave a shortage of coaches as well as force overworked teachers into curriculum they are not familiar with. Most coaches testifying in support of this bill would no longer be able to support our student-athletes and create lasting memories, impressions, and life lessons that they have forged as an extracurricular activity.

Conclusion

While the HHSAA does endorse the benefits of education-based athletics, this model of co-curricular activities might be suited for the lower-level grades, such as through the Hawaii State Department of Education's Intermediate Athletics Initiative, established in 2015 through private donations and community partners. High school athletics has positively impacted so many student-athletes as an extracurricular activity in Hawaii. Please continue to allow it to do so. I will be in attendance to answer any questions that you may have. Thank you for considering this testimony.

¹ Males play sports much more than females; <https://www.gvsu.edu/gvnext/2012/males-play-sports-much-more-than-females-7343.htm#:~:text=In%20addition%20to%20these%20physical,competition%20during%20our%20evolutionary%20history.%E2%80%9D>

LATE

Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Ways and Means Committee
State Senate
State Capitol

RE: SB3296

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith Agaron, and members of the Committee,

My name is Gino Soquena, Executive Director of the Hawaii Building and Construction Trades Council which represents 18 construction trade unions in the State of Hawaii. I am submitting testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB3296.

I believe in what it does for our kids now and how important it is that we address that. This bill is a step towards that and a step for the kids in a time we've not seen much happen for them. I hope for your favorable decision to pass this Bill. To support this bill to support our students in a future that would benefit us all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Gino Soquena, Executive Director

Hawaii Building and Construction Trades Council

HO'ĀKEO APOÑO TRADES ACADEMY

“Building through Innovation”

Box 475 Anahola, HI, 96703, USA
(808) 652-4208

LATE

February 22, 2022

Good Afternoon Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and WAM Committee members,

I am thankful for this opportunity to be able to write this letter in support of SB3296. As an athlete, coach, business owner and a contributing member of our communities and society, I have been positively impacted by sports

I am the woman I am today because of high school sports and the coaches that have instilled life skills and values in me throughout their years of commitment. Sports provides student-athletes education in the areas of character, self-esteem, and work ethics- all highly important qualities in today's workforce.

It is imperative that we address the lack of mental and social education in public schools, and the role that Sports and Coaches play in filling this need. Bill SB3296 is a step towards filling that need for the keiki of Hawai'i, in a time we've not seen much happen for them.

I urge you to support this bill for the future of our keiki and the betterment of our communities.

Mahalo piha,



Kelcie Yomen

Administrator
Ho'ākeolapono Trades Academy
lawaianaihe@hoakeolapono.org

LATE

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 7:35:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Daryn Ogino	Testifying for Smart Money Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Committee,

My name is Daryn Ogino and I am writing this testimony in support of SB3296 and its companion HB2427. Thank you for this opportunity to do so.

As a former athlete who participated and was very involved in High School Sports, I stand today as a witness and a product of the impact that sports has had in my life that extends through my life today. I am the man I am today as a son, a father, a husband, and as a business owner and leader because of sports and what it has taught me. I did not realize the importance of the experiences I've had in sports until I became an adult. Those experiences are far more than just educational, they were essential in my development as a young man.

I owe much of my success today because of the life skills and moral values that were instilled in me. I'm a competitive person in my business because in the industry I'm in, it is the difference between success and failure. I had learned and understood what competition was early on because of sports and it is relevant today as it ever was before for me. In sports I also learned something more valuable and that was how to lose. A loss in sports isn't the same as failure in the classroom. Much of what I've learned about losing in the arena of sports was valuable in my journey as an adult.

What was most important about sports for me was how it taught me to be responsible and be a leader. It taught me how to fight through adversity and never to give up. I could go on for another few pages on how important sports has been in shaping me to be who I am but that is not what this is about. What I want to share is that there are far more benefits to the young men and women who participate in high school sports than the average student. There is more substance in what that discussion is in regards to education in sports but at the end of the day, sports is an opportunity for us to meet many of the kids today who have fallen dangerously behind and who continue to fall each day that passes.

This bill is a bill I feel should've been considered long ago but it makes perfect sense that it is here today with all that this pandemic has caused. Our youth is in a pandemic that we've continued to mention lightly but have not done much to help them. That pandemic is everything

that continues to push our kids dangerously close to harms way affecting them mentally, emotionally, socially, spiritually and physically. What contribute to that were some of the porr decisions made by those who are supposed to be leading athletics in the DOE and even then, I'm not even sure whos in charge. Its been more of passing the buck yet we've seen that there has been a huge disconnect between the DOE and Athletics. With the dysfunction in that area, I believe that the system we're in now for athletics has not only put our kids in harms way, it has for years minimized oppportunities for our students in more ways than one.

For that, it highlights even more the importance of this bill. This bill is about our kids and about oppportunities they deserve and their education. This bill is what we've needed to have to start the discussion and it brings to light everything good and everything bad. There needs to be a change for the good and we need to change the mindset that currently governs athletics. It is not the mindset that promotes growth nor is it the mindset that has the best ointerest of our kids. But for all the right reasons, this bill benefits the students, their families, the schools, the community and it will benefit soceity because it is a means to the end, to an oppportunity that will put our kids in the right place for a chance in life.

I strongly urge you to support this bill and see it through. Our keiki, your kids will benefit greatly from this and we will all reap the rewards of this.

Thank you for your time,

Mahalo,

Daryn Ogino

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 12:24:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leo Goeas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Leo Goeas. From the age of 7 to 32 years old i competed in athletics. All off my greatest mentors were my coaches throughout my elementary, middle and Highschool years. I was fortunate to play college football and UH in the '80s and eight season in the NFL. My greatest coach was my father, Larry Goeas. He coached me from 7 to 11 years of age. Most of my friends did not have a dedicated father like me, so i remember watching my Dad mentor many of my friends who didn't have a father. The same was true in my Highschool years. My basketball and football coaches would become father figures/mentors to many of my friends who didn't have Dad. As important as learning math and science are, i could tell you who my teachers were in Highschool, however i can tell you who all of my coaches were. I believe it's because of the amount of time spent with my coaches on a daily biases as compared to my math or English teacher. Additional it was the pure excitement brought about by the competition within athletics that causes me to remember these experiences some 40+ years later. Character development, work ethic and being accountable are just a few things which athletics teaches a young person. With that said, coaches are in fact these teachers. Fields, courts and gymnasiums are their classrooms. It's time to take a fresh new look at how we can better facilitate the learning that takes place in athletics and truly give our children and future generations that opporunity to flourish. I strongly support SB3296 because it gives us the opportunity to do something special for the kids of Hawaii.

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:38:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Randall A Okimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

Im in support of this bill and its amendments that would bring further discussions and details that hopefully would adjust the implementation from 2050 to 2023. Discussions that would help provide more opportunities for our students from K-8 to participate in sports with quality instruction from highly qualified coaches. Also birthed from those discussions would include highly qualified coaches for students grades 9-12 in which they could take classes offered during the school day like a student who could take band during the day then also join band after school. Mahalo for your time invested into recognizing sports as highly impactful to our students.

Aloha Ke Akua

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:59:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sterling Carvalho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a current coach and educator, I am in full support of student-athletes. These student-athletes dedicate themselves to excel in their perspective sports while maintaining their grades in the classroom. This bill will allow these student-athletes and coaches an opportunity to be more productive with their academic classes and training. I am in full support of this bill.

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:29:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Matti Gorodenchik	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a football and soccer coach for many years, I have witnessed first hand how sports have changed my young athletes lives. Participating in different sports, whether team or individual, teach the athletes many things they will never learn in a regular classroom environment. I've seen young boys and girls becoming strong individuals, becoming people who care about the society they live in, they want to be involved and be engaged in different discussions. I've seen players fighting their own mental issues and getting healthier thanks to the sport they were involved in, the coaches who supported them and their teammates who learned how to help a person in need.

Having sports as part of the school curriculum won't only ensure we have more physically healthy young adults, but also create a better world for our future generations. This is more than teaching the youth how to score a touchdown or a goal, it's about creating our future leaders, it's about strengthening their mental toughness, it's about teaching them how to keep working hard even when things don't always go as planned. Our education system should give that option to our students and I'll be shocked why anyone would oppose such a thing.

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 7:08:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tokunaga Eric	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe all student athletes should be afforded a credit for PE or something similar in nature as compensation for all their time and dedication that they put into their particular sport. Hopefully in the near future student athletes and even qualified coaches should be able to earn some kind of PDE credits or something similar in nature as compensation for all the time and effort they put into their sport as well. Coaches at the high school level are held to such strict guidelines and their responsibilities are immense but yet they only receive small stiipends for the hard work, self sacrifice and liabilities they esstially are responsible for...

Students themselves need to enfure strict guidelines for participation as well and yet receive no compensation in terms of credits earned or certification of participation etc. Let's make a change for the better and do what is right for our student athletds and coaches as well...

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 7:49:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jimmy Morimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jimmy Morimoto. I am a former student athlete, parental spectator, and educator from the island of Maui. I am currently a collegiate administrator and coach.

I am writing today, in support of SB3296, which designates sports as a co-curricular activity. As a parent, I have witnessed the benefits of my high schooler who received credit for participating in co-curricular sports activities. As an administrator, I feel the credits the student athlete receives frees up opportunities for the individual to explore other core and elective classes needed for college enrollment, NCAA eligibility, or high school graduation. While still receiving much deserved enjoyment for their active participation in sporting events.

Student athletes are held to a higher academic and physical standard and should be recognized for their participation. Allowing these students to earn credits for their dedication and hard work after school hours is fitting, as they are being supervised/coached by school employees. The physical activity a student athlete endures during a given sporting season can likely equate to a year's worth of a physical education class.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my point of view. I am in full support of SB3296 and would be willing to discuss the merits of the co-curricular program.

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 7:53:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rusty Komori	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a former head tennis coach at Punahou school, I strongly support this bill. Teachers have made a positive impact on all of our lives, and it is a fact that student athletes spend much more time with coaches and their sports teams than they do with a teacher. Because of this, the impact that a coach has on a student athlete is absolutely huge. We all know that student athletes learn life's lessons through sports which prepares them for their future. The coaches that I have had in the past have greatly impacted me in a positive way. This bill is absolutely necessary to ensure the positive impact by coaches for student athletes in their future. Mahalo!

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 8:33:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Moses S. Ringwood	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am an Iolani School alumnus, former walkon D1 football student-athlete, & retired professional Indoor/af2/International football player. In addition I also have a disability & was diagnosed with epilepsy at age 14 as a high school freshman. Prior to my second career as a professional DOE teacher/coach (which I started in 2012), I worked in many various fields from construction/tack welding to sales/marketing. I am very supportive of SB3296. I work at Kaimuki' HS on Oahu in Honolulu HI. & have a deep understanding of the unique role of sports in many public school student's educational experiences. I do feel that the integrated role of sports is unique to a DOE student's learning process even more so than those at a private school environment. Which is why I am completely convinced via my professional experience that this is exactly why the passing of this bill is so essential to the future succes of our DOE students & their attainment of the skills necessary for the jobs of a 21C. economy.

I believe this due to my hands-on experiece both teaching/coaching the much more extensively diverse level of initial/ongoing cognitive/critical learning foundations that DOE students are subject to rather than Priv. school students. I have coached in both the OIA/ILH & such a variance of what I have learned myself as an educator from both experiences can only be compared to as being in different worlds. In the ILH the dynamic is very different; if students don't achieve the required GPA to either play sports or stay in good academic standing to remain enrolled they are either not eligible or put on academic probation. If academic non-performance continues they can also be placed on academic suspension or eventually expelled from the school. This is not the dynamic in the DOE. We have to do things differently because we are literally the educational safety net of our democracy. Obviously we in the DOE also have our academic requirements for students to be eligible for sports, but unlike the ILH we must take every student according to federal law. What this means is that many of our public school students are susceptible to additional challenges in all their life environments, not just their educational ones. These challenges carry over into both the classroom & their role in sports which is why this bill has such incredible potential to help the DOE youth of today. Our students deesperately need more routes for success & this is exactly such a path that can help them achieve it. They need as many opportunities to gain self confidence & see themselves as productive contrubutors to their school as possible, especailly in this new Pandemic era. Defining their extensive & exhausting efforts sacrificing their time as HS student-athletes as an 'extra-curricular' activity is neither an equivalent or fair representation of their significant contributions to their respective school communities.

Sports plays a unique role in the DOE student-athlete experience in that it is often a catch-net for many students that are simply better on the field, on a track, in a gym, or in a pool than they are in a classroom. But there in is the huge potential for the transformation of an athlete-student into a student-athlete via the acknowledgment of their hours & rmonths of commitment via the redesignation of sports in the DOE as co-curricular. The concrete fundamentals of sports; hard work pays off, learning not to quit via actual athletic/intellectual personal experience as soon as it gets really tough, pushing through adversity even when all looks hopeless-----which in 1984 I had very personal exposure to myself at the vital age of confidence building for a young man at 14-----these are all the same critical skills/experiences that we know employers are looking for in their employees. Let's finally give our DOE students the credit they have long deserved for essential skills they have historically already been learning. A vote to support the passing of SB3296 is not just a vote for current student-athlete success, but also puts us on the path as a state to a more diversely prepared future workforce.

Mahalo.

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 8:49:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
David Tautofi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and WAM Committee Members,

In my time and career in education as a teacher, an Administrator, an Athletic Director and a Coach, I've been a part of and have seen many changes. Changes that have had a huge impact on the way we educate our youth. We always talk about change but its not until its initiated that we don't realize what we're in for until it happens. One good example was the change that happened in March of 2020, this Pandemic.

No one saw it coming and who could've ever expected anyone to know what would happen? It put a lot of responsibilities on our leaders yet the pressure was felt in our communities and families. How we moved through the last 2 plus years is something we need to reflect on, but I'm still left with one question. Have we really prioritized our kids during the pandemic? One can make several strong cases that beg that question one what has been done for the kids through this pandemic.

What we have acknowledged by virtue and value we have not accepted as a society especially in how we educate our kids. What I speak of is EDUCATION IN SPORTS. Education in Sports is the Education of the Heart which focuses on the person and focuses on character development. The moral values and life skills taught in sports teaches and instills a key component in education we have not yet taken into consideration. The education in sports that ultimately helps in the maturation process of our kids which helps them to learn and understand their identity, their emotions, and their values which in the end shapes their character and gives them the skills needed to be a good and productive citizen wherever they go.

We've done little to almost nothing to help our kids through this pandemic and they're still left behind. While the our kids sit on the sideline waiting for some kind of plan, this is a plan, it starts the conversation to work towards a better outcome in education starting today, and it is benefitting not only our kids but our schools, our families our communities and our society.

I support SB3296 because its the concept we need to move in the right direction in education and it truly is about our kids and is a bill for our kids.

We've made every excuse to why we couldn't do things and why drastic measures and decisions were made during the pandemic. Still at the end, our kids got the bad end of the stick. This bill is more important in so many ways than we even realize it. But what comes of any ideas meant for

our kids if its not discussed or even brought up?

This bill brings us all as stakeholders for our kids together to discuss a plan that is to supplement(not change, or replace) the educational development and experience.

I strongly and urge you all to really consider the fate of our kids, what has been actually done for our kids through this pandemic and how we can make this the beginning of a hopeful future for our kids. This bill and all who support this bill as well as your support of this bill is a vote for our kids and their future. Mahalo and thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of all our students and this bill SB3296.

Best Regards,

David Tautofi

LEU OKUDA & DOI

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GARY Y. OKUDA, Esq.
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3296

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 3296 and its companion bill HB 2427.

Although I have served for about five years and continue to serve as a Commissioner with the State Land Use Commission, this testimony is made in my individual capacity. I am testifying only on my behalf, and not for any other person or entity. I also disclose that I am NOT a paid lobbyist or representative regarding this bill.

SB 3296 is simply a good idea and with the right people can help bring real change.

I understand that SB 3296 proposed nothing more than what is already taking place at Hawaii's major private schools, Punahou, Iolani and St. Louis high schools as examples.

As a graduate of Hawaii's public schools who has practiced law since 1981, I believe that what is good for students in our private schools should also be provided to our public school students.

SB 3296 is a cost-effective way to help public school students - especially those students considered disadvantaged - to recover from educational loss caused by the pandemic.

In my service on the LUC, I have asked witnesses at hearings: "Where should Hawaii be in 30 to 50 years, and how do we get there?"

The pandemic has highlighted problems in Hawaii which we must address. Hawaii is becoming a society divided between those with wealth, real property, and access to educational opportunities, and those who are being left behind.



Public education and supporting the classroom teachers, coaches and school principals have been the engine that has moved Hawaii forward.

Historian Lawrence Fuchs, in his landmark social history "Hawaii Pono", chronicled the work of Dr. Miles Carey and his dedicated teachers at McKinley High School and how the classroom education they provided were the "Seeds of Democracy" which transformed Hawaii from a inequitable plantation economy to a modern, more democratic Hawaii.

Large problems often require bold initiatives. But sometimes the solutions already exist, and we simply need to support the people who are already doing the difficult job of keeping students engaged and educated.

Coaches provide school level, direct contact and mentoring of students, some of whom would not succeed without the support of coaches.

I am a graduate of a public high school, attended Windward Community College and received my B.A. degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I periodically teach a graduate level course "Higher Education law" in the College of Education on the Manoa campus.

Except for attending law school at the University of California, Davis, I was born, raised, been educated, married my wife who is a retired Special Education public school teacher with whom we raised our two children, all in Hawaii.

Please do not be swayed by the sometimes overpaid bureaucrats from the Department of Education, people who no longer are in the schools or classrooms, and seem to be simply unable to bring real change and advancement to students.

This pandemic has left behind many of our public students. These bureaucrats offer no solutions, only excuses, opposition or "reservations".

Perhaps they - and we - should have listened and learned more from our coaches, who preached the spirit of:

"CAN DO, WILL DO, WE CAN AND NEED TO TRY NEW THINGS TO GET THE JOB DONE."

I therefore respectfully request that you approve SB 3296.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'GARY Y. OKUDA', written over the typed name.

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SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:00:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kip Akana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kip Akana and I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 3296.

Having Coached for 20+ years including being a Head Varsity Baseball and Football Coach, I understand the necessity of recategorizing athletics from an extra curricular to a co-curricular activity.

Having experienced first hand the opportunities that athletics has provided for my own sons, and the opportunity that myself and other Coaches experience in helping kids advance their education and athletic careers, I know just how significant a role that Coaches play.

In many cases, in the absence of energetic parents or experienced support systems, Coaches a lot of times may be the determining factor on whether kids continue on to higher education. Certainly from my own experience, a lot of the guidance that I hear in my mind, even til today, had came from my Coaches.

By no means am I diminishing the importance of standard education. However one would be hard pressed to convince me that Coaches and athletics don't play a significant role in the development of the "majority" of HS students.

I believe that the mission of a HS education is to develop and prepare young adults for the rigors of advanced education and / or entering the work force.

Sports provides many lessons that the classroom just can't. I hope that we can all agree on the vital role that "A Coach" has on influencing the future of a young man or woman. As I've mentioned, I've benefited personally from them, and know the gratification of helping kids pursue their post high school educational goals and athletic dreams.

If we allow ourselves to be open minded, see things for what they really are, put aside predetermined stereotypes and conditioned responses on this particular topic, I believe that we can agree that athletics has a profound role in our education system, and is much much more than extra-curricular activity.

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:11:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sean Phillip Soares	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I, Sean P. Soares Fully Support SB3296 SD1

My name is Sean Soares and I am a former teacher of 13 years and coach of 20+ years. I have been a part of every aspect of athletics from playing and commentating through college, as well as officiating and coaching through high school. I have coached many kids who moved on to great successes in life, and not because they played professional sports or became rich and famous, but because they understood the importance of life.

I coached at a traditional high school as well as continuation high school. The Continuation High School used this proposed model and I've never had such an inspiring coaching experience. I had a young man who was a troubled youth, hanging out with the wrong crowd, doing drugs, and missing school. He was never taught how to be a man and because he was troubled, he had a hard time finding a teacher who could spend the hours and energy on him like a coach could. Someone who was there to feed him when he didn't have a meal, talk him through times of great anger, and inspire him to achieve his very best. By the time his senior year rolled around, he was on track to graduate early and after he made and kept his promise of not missing even one day of school, became my starting quarterback and Captain of the football team. If he didn't have this type of sports program that was imbedded into our PE program, he would have been lost to the streets. A week into basketball season, he passed away in my arms after collapsing on the basketball court. He turned out to be an amazing young man and the leader of his school. His name was Maurice "Bubba" McCoy.

I can't tell you any of our records, how many games we won, how many championships we won, but I can speak on behalf of all the lives that were impacted through sports. I was able to help keep hundreds of kids off the streets and in the classroom. The life lessons that we learned on the field go way beyond winning games and championships. We learned to persevere through the struggle, worked together as a team through various backgrounds (even rival gangs), we learned how to communicate, and how to thrive in society after sports, but most importantly we learned about ourselves. We learned our weaknesses as well as our strengths. We learned how to pick other people up who may have been struggling through things that we've never experienced. We learned empathy. We learned compassion. And we learned what it took to be a champion. A true champion doesn't always have to win; a true champion is someone who tries their very best no matter what they're up against. A true champion does what it takes off the field as much as he does on the field. A true champion is willing to learn from someone who they may not agree with. A true champion is someone who goes out every single day to improve no matter what the

outcome, no matter what the score, no matter what the sacrifice. There is way too much that goes into being a true champion that winning is nowhere on the list. Winning comes when everyone on a team has a common goal and is willing to do whatever it takes on and off the field to make themselves the very best they could possibly be, and to do it with character and integrity.

Learning to play the actual sport is such a small part of the game because winning on the scoreboard is easy when you provide people with an opportunity to do their very best in life and to provide hope for a better future. The goal of school is to learn and there are only a few teachers in my life that were truly able to teach me, but there were countless coaches who were able to instill in me life's most important lessons, and they never gave up on me. Everyone deserves the opportunity to experience the unconditional love and passion that a coach of integrity has. These lessons cannot be learned in the typical classroom for so many young men and women, they have to grow in the crucible of athletics, they have to learn who they are at their weakest moments, and they have to learn who they truly are at their core. When an athlete does this, they will begin to thrive in every aspect of their life and the title of student-athlete will no longer be a term used to identify this group as they have learned everything they need to know to thrive in the classroom...just the title of athlete will suffice!!!

I WHOLE HEARTEDLY SUPPORT SB3296 and once a child knows his HOPES and DREAMS are no longer a bargaining tool for their FUTURE, they will surprise EVERYONE, maybe even YOU!!!

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:28:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Richard C Tuason	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Richard Tuason and I come before you to submit my personal testimony in support of SB3296. As a parent of a student athlete, I am excited to see the introduction of this bill for it bring to light the features and benefits of what have been previously termed as “Extracurricular Activities” to finally be recognized for the actual value that it possesses. These values are not only beneficial to the student athletes but also to coaches, the community, and society as a whole.

“Extracurricular Activities” have often been viewed as activities that is done outside academics; however, that is farther from the truth. Reality will show that these “extracurricular activities” have for more educational values than they are given credit for. All of these activities require a specific form of structure and guidelines that must be met on a daily basis. Each of these activities not only serve as the foundation of competition, they serve as lifelong lessons in leadership. Leadership curriculums should already be an important part of the DOE curriculum catalog. As a PhD Candidate in Organizational Leadership, I can tell you that curriculum on leadership lessons can created based on just one day’s worth of football practice. Rather than taking extensive time to cite many different studies that have been conducted showing the overwhelming benefits of “extracurricular activities”, I believe we can all agree that “extracurricular activities” are beneficial of more ways than one.

As a parent of a student athlete, I often find myself questioning how policies are being created that affect “extracurricular activities” with what seem to have no input from those who are directly being affected. This was very evident during the past lockdown of student athletes during these extraordinary times that we are currently in. It appears that decisions were made without the consultation of stake holders. I believe that this bill will enable greater communication and transparency for ALL concerned parties so that important decisions can be made with full transparency and support from all stake holders.

Furthermore, the one of the most important aspects in recognition of “extracurricular activities” as “co-curricular activities” would be the ability to hold coaches to a higher standard and hold them accountable. As stewards of “co-curricular activities, coaches can then be held to higher level of training, experience, and educational background. This bill will enable the establishment of standards, expectations and accountability to ensure that coaches establish a program that is conducive to learning and grooming students to become a productive member of society.

Respectfully,

Richard Tuason

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:50:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Wendell Say	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

"A Coach will impact more people in one year than the average person will in an entire lifetime." Billy Graham

Good Morning,

My name is Wendell Say and I have been a football coach at a public high school going on 43 years. That is a long time to be coaching at the same school, but let me explain my "why". I played football at Leilehua High and also ran track there. I can remember the name of every one of my coaches in high school and college. Why? Because of the impact they had on me during my developmental years (high school). To me, they will always be "Coach", even at 65 years of age I will refer to them as Coach and never by their first name. I have that kind of respect for these Coaches that taught me so many things.

Teaching is coaching, and Coaching is teaching---the impact on a young person is life changing. Athletics made me a better student/athlete, helped me to forge lifelong friendships, and taught me the importance of being able to work together. The qualities and life skills are spot on, as to what you will face in your future, no matter what your venture. I got my college degree and am now a high school counselor because of my coaches. They helped me to believe that I can do anything with hard work and perserverance. I was always undersized and they made me believe that there is a place for you, if you want it. I graduated from college and worked at a federal job for ten years before realizing that I wanted to give other student/athletes the opportunity that I had. I went back and got my Professional Diploma to teach and my Master's Diploma to be a counselor. All through the guidance of my former coaches.

As a coach, I not only want to give my players the same opportunities I had, but I give them new and exciting opportunities that are available to enrich their lives. My support of this bill only enhances what athletics in high schools can do. Thank your for your time in this matter.

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 10:00:13 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cal Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

I am writing to you in support of SB3296 relating to sports being Co Curricular. I have had an extensive career as an athletic director and a coach working with our youth through coaching and I have seen the fruits of the impact of sports in their lives especially when it is managed right.

The challenges that I am seeing currently with the DOE and the HHSAA towards this are all about the system, the operations and policy. TThese policies need to be revisited due to all that has happened in this pandemic. I've gotten to hear and read the opposition to nthis bill and one thing stand out. All of the concerns are of everything else but the students. It is a concern we all need to look at when we are prioritizing a system over our students. Everything about this bill and the simplicity of it is what is right and is what we are all accountable to. Im not sure how we could stand against a bill that pushes to elevate our students and those that impact their lives.

The concerns shared by the opposition on this bill in my opinion should be a clear indicator that this is a need and a change weve needed for a while but its now bigger of an issue due to the pandemic. If we look at how Athletics in high school runs now, there are opportunites we are minimizing for our students that has not been fair when it comes to giving our students the best chances and a fair chance.

Policy seems to be the issue and this bill brings that to the table for dicsussion. A discussion we've needed. In the current system, it would be nearly impossible for this bill to happen but because of its nature and how the pandemic has brought life to this bill, this might be the key to elevating education in our state.

I hope that as you consider all that is brought forth in this hearing, you understand that this bill is about two things, Our Kids and Education. That is more than enough of a reason to support this bill. We are better than what we've shown and with all thats at risk in the future for our kids, we can do something today that may very well impact our future for good.

Athletics is more than just a right or a priviledge. It is a means to other oppourtunities beside college. It is about life and preparing these students to being the best they can be. They desrve

that chance and we owe it to our youth after all they've been through and continue to go through in this pandemic.

I whole heartedly support this bill and I strongly urge you to support and push this bill through for the sake of education and kids. This bill prioritizes our kids. That is all the reasons why this bill is important.

Mahalo for your time and thank you for all you do,

Cal Lee

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 10:00:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shawntell Ladines	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a former student athlete and continue to support sports in Hawai'i.

The experiences that I gained from childhood into adulthood has much to do with the positive impact and relationships that was created, nurtured, and maintained from my coaches.

Sports has a way of embracing the whole person. Accepting them for all that they are, exactly as they come. Sports provide opportunities for our youngsters who can build upon their life skills and self esteem. My coaches became family. I entrusted them to guide me and love me. Their teachings were impactful and beyond measure to the person that I am today.

Please consider SB3296 for the longevity and fulfillment that every Hawai'i athlete can prosper. Mahalo for your time.

LATE

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 10:09:57 AM
Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sila Luaifoa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Sila Luaifoa Paopao. I strongly support SB3296. This is for the future of children and my grand children , and generations to come. I believe this bill will benefits not just Hawaii but will be a role model program for the rest of the country. Give our children the tools to succeed in life not for failure. We have an old mindsets of ways of doing things..we are beyond that. Put the right people with the hearts for our children and not their pockets. I STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS

LATE

Kevin K.J. Chang
47-740 Hui Kelu St #6
Kāneʻohe, HI 96744

22 February 2022

To: Senate on Ways and Means

Re: Support SB 3296 SD 1

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs and members of the committee,

My name is Kevin Chang. I am a former public-school athlete (Castle H.S.) and walk-on for the University of Hawai'i. Today I am an attorney who now runs a small local non-profit. I am also a musician and high school football coach.

I write in support of SB 3296 SD 1 which designates existing interscholastic sports as co-curricular activities, instead of extracurricular activities to be considered an essential status within the department of education.

I wholeheartedly agree with the findings of the legislature in Section 1. I attribute much of my growth and experience in life to the lessons my coaches and teammates instilled in me through athletic and team experience. The experience of school did not end at the 2:05pm bell on a regular school day. Sometimes it went into the early evening and into the weekend. Athletics were essential education activities.

I disagree with the current DOE suggested amendments that request that this concept only be applied at the middle school level.

I imagine this change will both uplift the significance of athletics for our kids and bring a level of excellence and sophistication to how we think about the role of coaches and athletics in our kids lives. A common phrase used in my field of work speaks to this "*ma ka hana ka ike*;" it is through doing that one learns. Through the doing of athletics our children learn to grow into their bodies, their maturity, leadership, citizenship and civic virtues in ways that an enclosed class room or book cannot do. This undeniably feeds into the make-up of the spirit of the school and student body. Athletics are essential education activities.

This bill acknowledges the depth and significance of sports in young peoples lives. Since returning to athletics as a very green coach I can attest to seeing the continued lessons being paid forward by the team of coaches I am a part of. Other than the 2-hour practices we all have I see our kids interact with our coaches as role models in building their sense of community. During the season, on a weekly basis, our head coach spends an hour with our kids speaking to them about and demonstrating virtues of kuleana (privileges and responsibilities), humility, kindness, team work and respect among others. I hear the kids then speak about this among themselves as something to strive for together. For some of our kids these lessons serve as their foundational purpose for participation. It will also be a foundation for their lives.

Recent national public athletic data indicates that almost 60% of the student body may be involved in sports in some way. This doesn't account for the other formal volunteer school related activities beyond sports that take our children to greater impact and experience in life.

With these activities, just about all student educational experience extends beyond the bell, with teachers and community members who go beyond the call to uplift our youth. All of this counts to me supplemental to our young people's education.

In my recent experiences as a coach, I see a new level of sophistication that Hawai'i must adapt to too; our community has awakened to the potential in the life pathway that sports creates for greater educational and economic opportunity. This is a viewpoint that was less present when I was younger. Today we are known to be a small community whose talent output exceeds expectations. Why would we not want to leverage this? Hawai'i athletes have gone on to compete at the highest levels all the while exemplifying the character of our community. Some have gone on to have greater impact on the world. This includes the presidency of the U.S.A.. If we are to build a greater more resilient community with opportunities that extend beyond tourism, military and global investment why not invest more deeply in the growth and community that nurtures our children where we know they can excel.

Please support SB 3296 SD 1 as a step toward actualizing the potential of our youth and acknowledging the role of coaches and athletics in the greater community and world.

Aloha 'āina momona,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin K.J. Chang', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin K.J. Chang

LATE

I stand in strong support of SB3296. I have been an athlete my entire life, and many of my lessons, achievements, and levels of self-esteem, not to mention my health, have been a direct result of my involvement in sports as an athlete and the support of my parents and the coaches. I Graduated High School and went directly into the Marine Corps. I can tell you that that was as much a physical challenge, as it was mental. These are the very same skill sets taught in sports, not to mention the life lessons of sometimes you win, and sometimes you lose. These lessons parallel life in so many ways, and sometimes when I look back, I realize it was those lessons, that carried me. I can only speculate how different my life would have been, had I not had the opportunity to participate in school sports. I learned leadership, responsibility, teamwork, and the drive to win when the chips were down, as well as how to take a loss. This bill is critical to the future of our youth, because God forbid, we ever find ourselves in this situation again, there will be a plan in place that will prioritize the youth and their physical, and mental well-being. After all, they are the future of Hawaii, and we talk about how much we care about our children and the Aina, well this is your chance to do something instead of just wishing we had. They say the best time to create such a plan would have been before the pandemic, the second-best time is now. Cast your vote and take an active role in the future of Hawaii and be a part of the solution.

LATE

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 11:00:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
GILLIAN YAMAGATA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As an Athletic Director, I am not in support of SB 3296. I believe in the importance of Athletics, and the great opportunities it provides to our students. SB 3296 would change the way athletics is operated. While thousands of athletes have enjoyed extracurricular competition over the years, it needs to remain a privelege to participate and not a right, mandated curriculum should remain in the school day classroom. The current structure provides great opportunities to the next level for many of our athletes, this change would greatly affect those opportunities.

Athletics needs to remain a priveledge not a right.

Thank you,

Gillian Yamagata, CAA

Athletic Director

Kahuku High & Intermediate School

LATE

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 1:01:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Keawe H Gilman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha-

I am in support of SB3296 based on the following:

1. Student athletes put in more than 20 hours per week in a sport. It is justified that students that are learning skills to participate and/or compete in a sport that they should at least be rewarded a pass or fail class for an elective credit for PE that can be used toward graduation. This is based on the time spent.
2. Student athletes are learning not only critical thinking and problem solving skills but they are acquiring a high level of intense soft skills that most if not all employers want and need in today's job market.
3. One of my children graduated from Punahou. They were able to provide this benefit to him as a pass/fail credit for PE that went towards high school graduation I believe Iolani and also HTA/Hawaii Technology Academy offers it as well. HTA is funded by DOE. This should be offered to all students in the public school system.

I believe this is a no brainer. At the least, it is necessary to have more of a dialog and thought by those that have experience to frame how this can look like in our schools.

In gratitude, I support the SB3296 Bill.

Mahalo,

Keawe Gilman

Ho'omana Lifestyle Foundation

LATE

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 1:04:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jeremy Dunn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of SB3296 and it's companion, HB2427.

My name is Jeremy Dunn and I'm an Action Performer in Film & Television, as well as the CEO of iStunt.com, a global platform that assists Productions in finding specialized union personnel, nationwide. But before my current profession, I was first a Football Player, a Kapahulu Raider, a Kaimuki Bulldog, an Athlete.

I felt compelled to write this Testimony because this important distinction should not be overlooked as it has been in the past. Instead, this issue should be viewed with fresh understanding as 'another' battle on the field of equality, with regard to the recognition and designation of a misunderstood arena.

In the ever expanding development of departments recognizing differing areas of equality, I felt the need to turn the equity spotlight on this matter, as the broad context of 'extracurricular', in my opinion, is divisive and an absolutely 'incomplete' standpoint with regard to Sport. Without ever stating that one element of education is superior to the other, or what lessons we actually take into adulthood from either classroom or sport, in the context of 'curricular' activities, equity should be reached between these two forms of youth education and development: in Class, and in Sport. Both of which are led by a coach of some kind.

I feel its time we evolve old, outdated classification and finally recognize the far greater role coaches and sports have in the curricular education of student athletes.

I understand 'extracurricular' is most often defined as 'being outside the regular curriculum of a school' or 'outside the duties of a job' ...but in the context of organized sport within schools, this definition is simply inaccurate. Sports today are intermingled with every aspect of an athletes student life & developing learning process. From study halls, to tutoring, to counseling, to mentorships, to discipline that happens on the field because of an issue that happened off the field in a classroom, learning does not stop at the school house door.

Teaching is "the art of passing on knowledge to a group of people." While coaches "sharpen the skills a person already has." But don't teachers sharpen previous skills we have learned too, don't coaches pass on knowledge to a group of people as well?

Maybe we should rename curricular Teachers, to Coaches? After all, they coach us on Biology,

Mathematics, Reading, Vocabulary, etc. Or maybe coaches should be renamed “Teachers” as to help people better understand my point and what they 'really' do day in and day out, while having the complete attention of a student athlete?

It's like physiology focusing on the brain, while philosophy focuses on the mind. Do those two not go hand in hand? Well, the same goes for many sports of which we label 'extracurricular.' Does the knowledge we test and education we obtain via our Sport Teachers, not go hand in hand with much of the curriculum we learn from our classroom teachers? In campus offices where Sport Teachers teach game theory or the importance of team work on white boards, are they inferior than Classroom Teachers who teach their discipline on White Boards?

The unified relationship seems obvious to me, as well as every single athlete I have spoken too or discussed this matter with.

Non-athletes may not relate exactly to what I am stating here, but they can certainly relate to or understand the difference between the brain vs mind and how they are still, one and the same. This is why Sports, that take place within High School, should be designated as co-curricular, not broadly labeled as if it is some after-school hobby.

Art is considered curricular, is sport not art an art form? We all took mathematics in class, in sport do you not test leverage, trajectory, weight, measures and angles? I could draw parallels, on endless fronts where standard curricular introduces, while sport and game theory implements. If you go to school for construction, should the real-world apprenticeship still be broadly labeled as extracurricular, or should it be co-curricular? Sports and their Teachers simply focus their curriculum within other disciplines, like social development, social complexities, team work, respect for others and many other aspects that still go hand in hand.

The year round dedication that Sports demand in this age, also means athletes tend to spend more time with their Sport Teachers, than they do their Curricular Teachers, yet because they educate in a different sphere on campus, their curriculum seems to be viewed as less impactful by the Department of Education?

I loved my curricular teachers, but I never learned how to truly conquer things like adversity from them. I never gained the level of social skill from my classroom (as in most class rooms you listen, but do not speak), I never learned true strategy in class, nor learned how to care for my body in P.E., the same way I did in Sport, I never learned how to truly rely on the person next to me by breaking into small classroom groups, the same way I learned to rely on the man next to me, in a Rival Football Game. Both taught me valuable lessons and one is not greater than the other of course, but sometimes the other teaches deeper understanding on a similar aspect of education or a principle.

Throughout my life, I have had great Teachers in class, but I feel Teachers of Sport are unsung heroes. In my personal experience, the lifelong relationship and lessons I've learned by way of Sport have been the MOST impactful on my life. The discipline & team work taught through physical sport has molded me and my business. It truly taught me how to handle the good and the bad, the winning and the losing, to deeply understanding my role in a team environment

which helped me be a better, more functional part of society. All these are priceless lessons, most of which in my experience, were taught by Teachers, from the mislabeled arena of “Extracurricular.”

Again, the growing trend of broadening definitions of equality, without stating one is ever superior than the other, in the context of this bill, equity should be understood that these two ‘systems of impactful education’ be equally recognized and Sport be finally designated as co-curricular, by the Department of Education.

Thank you for your time,
Jeremy Dunn

LATE

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 1:44:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Randen Nishimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha To All on WAM Comittee,

I am a hard working father that provides for my family, a supportive community member and lastly a sports coach in the youth. I am honored to be able to submit my testimony in full support of SB3296.

I believe in this bill because it elevates the role of sports in education. I feel also that theres so much more learned about life in and through sports that makes me wonder why havent we already done something like what this bill is asking. I was also recently a high school coach well connected with many who still coach on the high school level. What is common sense is sports being co curricular in my mind simply because it is about something almost more important today than just academics, it is about character building, life lessons and responsibilities and much more. I dont understand how we try to justify sports as being "extra" curricular when exta curricular really mean its nothing to the curriculum yet the school benefit far more from athletics than they give credit to. The athletes themselves are held to a much higher standard and the expectations are great in comparison to the normal student. With all that said, its a no brainer.

I can see what they make the issues be and its all about how the system currently operates. Well these kids got thrown out and left behind and no one spoke for them and yet they are all still left behind. We must pay attention and must do and be better because the kids deserve that at least that.

Coaches are the key. All coaches are teachers but not all teachers are coaches. A coach is a teacher and a mentor which is what separates a coach from a teacher. We have very few teachers that are coaches but coaches are key to this all. They are the educators that help mold and mature our kids.

Anyhow this bill brings eveyone to the table and starts the discussion and we need to stop sitting on our okole and do something for these kids who still get the bad end of the stick.

Please I urge you to support and push this bill through. If there was ever a time we needed a plan theres no urgent time as now.

Mahalo for your time,

Randen Nishimura

LATE

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 2:58:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
william wilhelm	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I would like to support this bill as a high school coach and former athlete. I feel high school sports have been lacking a true voice from the athletes as well as coaches. The sports experience in high school is like none other, for some it is the main motivation for attending school. We see a trend as coaches when the season starts the athletes grades go up and the season ends grades go down. Cocurricular for sports may change this trend.

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 6:52:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lincoln Barit	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Lincoln Barit and I'm in support of SB3296 and it's companion HB2427. I'm a '79 graduate of Waialua. I have 39 years of coaching experience in football. I have coached at various levels of football, 5 years as a pop warner head coach, 2 years head coach high school junior varsity and 32 years of varsity football coaching. The last 15 years of my career as head coach at the high school varsity level. I have enjoyed every minute of my coaching career. Through out my 39 years of coaching, I have coached a lot of players that were very talented and awesome scholar athletes and also coached and helped talented and awesome athletes that have struggled with education. For me, I can relate to our athletes who have struggled in education. I too struggled in education but was a decent athlete back in the old days. With this bill it's a step forward and our scholar athletes will have a better foundation in life. It will create future leaders, role models and good citizens. I have 14 grandkids aging 16 years old to new born and with this bill I think it will set a great foundation for my grandkids and others. Let's all come together and support this bill for the future of our Hawaii athletes. I urge you to support and push this bill through.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Coach Lincoln Barit

-APK-

blessedandcalm1@gmail.com

LATE

February 23, 2022

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

10:05 a.m.

Room CR 211 & Videoconference

STRONG SUPPORT SB3296 - RECOGNIZING SPORTS AS CO-CURRICULAR


Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee,

In an article published by the **National Federation of High Schools** (an organization that the Hawaii High School Athletic Association reveres as reputable enough to provide the foundational framework for our sports programming through rulebooks and coaches' training), Executive Director, Dr. Niehoff outlined the importance of education-based athletics, traditionally referred to as **EXTRA**curricular. She states that "students' involvement in these programs is connected to education in the classroom. The term 'cocurricular' makes a huge difference in connecting activities to the classroom and **supporting the concept of education-based activities**. Completing the educational process through these activities, students learn teamwork, fair play, self-discipline, self-confidence and how to handle competitive situations. They also promote mental health and emotional wellness."

The NFHS is urging schools across the nation "to recognize that athletics are a crucial part of the overall education process...and students need them as much as they need the core subjects. **Cocurricular activities should be a high priority in our nation's schools.**"

As our elected representatives, I urge you to help us offer a gentle nudge to our leaders in the Department of Education and state-wide high school athletics programs to make this small but important advancement for the role of athletics in the education of our youth by voting in support of SB 3296.

Best Regards,



Amanda P. Keawe

LATE

SB-3296-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 2:00:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kylie Bagio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a parent, a community football team mom, and a high school team mom. I feel that as a parent who has a senior it's been a rough ride for my son. He lost a junior year. He worked hard on and off the field to make his senior year as amazing as it can be. But truthfully he's been down, depressed and doesn't have joy for the game he knows loved. He spends hours after school training and never having a day off so that he can continue to train and be the best he can be at the sport he loves. Because there wasn't better planning for our youth they were robbed. So many protocols could have taken place. We were apart of a club team that took 40 tackle football players to Cali in the middle of a pandemic and then took 70 football players from different schools to Seattle to play football. We did our own precautions and was victorious on our planning. And what did the state do for our players nothing. Pause sports and delay and delay. Those delays set these players back. Now these seniors are suffering because now they can't get offers scholarships because of the whole Super Seniors happening in college. That's not fair. These kids have suffered enough. Now what do you tell these athletes who train day and night? There were just not the right people to make the right calls. How do you make it up for these athletes? Playing in high school is what every little kid dreams about. As we once did but it was taken away. Our own keiki our own children have to travel to the mainland just to play a sport they are dieing to play. Why? Why can't our own state fix this issue and stop blaming others because we all have the solution but no one wants to take that next step to pono our youth and to keep them in praise and provide these kids to being able to play. No our state fails. So why not make High School Sports Part of today's education? These coaches coach because they want to be there. They give there time away from the families to provide the leadership, skills and training to this high school athletes. They spend more time with them then a teacher does in a day. These coaches provide support, opportunity and perseverance to these athletes. Some don't get paid but sure cares for them and these coaches are the ones trying there hardest to get them to the next level. I am as a team mom, providing all the resources for them to apply for college, Send there highlight videos. Chexk upon them. Making sure there grades are on top. We provide all this as part of there off ciricular and it should be part of there Co Cirricular. It should be apart of our education. These sports are not funded enough. Enough to provide knowledge and sustainability for our youth. These athletes are our future. It's going to take time for "CHANGE" but we need a change. It's time for us to stand up and listen with our hearts, listen with our ears, and listen to our athletes who cry each day because they've spent hours training and there tired because they Hev a full day of school. There hungry, they have a lot of homework. As i see it as a mother it brakes my heart. Does anyone care? Nope! When these children are hungry, who

feeds them? There coaches or team mom. When these kids get into trouble, who will solve the issue? The coach? When these kids need new shoes for soccer or football who will go out and

buy them a pair? The coaches. if we don't make a change now then something needs to be done!! If anyone can make a student better and achieve there goals is these coaches. Think about our future think about our athletes and think about what's best for them?

Thisnk about how exciting it can be when high school sports becomes a Co Cirricular and how many more student will participate. How many more will try something new. And how many more athletes going to the next level.

Make that change for our Hawaii. Im not going to stop to were heard. Back in October I made a video to allow spectators into the games. Once that video went viral things changed and the best day miracles and happy faces happened. We can do it here. Our voices need to be heard which this bill will support our athletes. We need to take care of our youth who need us. I am in support of this bill and pray that we will find a way to provide what's best for our future for our athletes.

Mahalo, Kylie

LATE

Testimony in support of
SB 3296 Department of Education to recognize sports as part of its Curriculum

Submitted by:
Kevin Yuen
46-192 Yacht Club Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744

February 10, 2022

My name is Kevin Yuen, retired from the Department of Education, 36 years. During my tenure, I served as a teacher, counselor, and administrator at the elementary, middle, high school and community school for adults levels. I was also a former Head Wrestling Coach for Kaimuki High School for 13 years. My teams won 2 OIA Varsity Division I Wrestling Championships and 2 team State Runner up finishes. During this time, I have also had many individual Eastern Division and OIA champions. Ultimately, 8 of my wrestlers achieved State Champions. One wrestler was a two time individual state champion. I was also honored one year with being voted OIA Varsity Coach of the Year.

I am in strong support of SB 3296.

This bill is very important to me because I know how important coaches of athletics are to the development of student athletes. My coaching staff and I have come to know that we have high influence and impact on our athletes. Being a coach comes with much responsibility. Coaches spend an astronomical amount of time preparing their athletes for competition. Two main things that are learned and experienced is teamwork and sportsmanship. These are major life skills that are needed in our present society.

The time invested is given willingly with heart. We share and feel all of the highs and lows together with our athletes. Cheering, laughing and crying together builds a strong bond that is very hard to describe. I experience such a great emotional feeling when reconnecting with former athletes now while they are in their 30's, 40's and yes 50's. The bond is very strong. Please allow me to include that many of these students were from the Palolo Housing area where they were faced with much more challenges than their counterparts not afflicted by poverty. I feel that athletics taught them the necessary life skills where they are gainfully employed today.

Final Statement: Presently with the Covid 19 pandemic upon us, with two years of dramatic reduction of traditional "in-person" educational experiences as we know, our community and society need to provide our youth the support they ultimately need more than ever. I say without hesitation, that athletic coaches can and will help our youth in a time where students need our help the most.

Please support SB 3296 and identify school athletics as co-curricular within the Department of Education. Give coaches the opportunity to extend their care and solid direction for our youth. Data from the last two pandemic years will show that many of our high school youth have not succeeded. The graduating class of 2023 were in the 9th grade when the pandemic hit the world. They should now be in the 11th grade. We need to recognize and move athletics to an advantageous strategic position for student success. Athletics has been the **reason** for many outstanding student achievements.

I extend my thanks and aloha to Chairperson Kidani and the Senate Education Committee. I respectfully request that you support Senate Bill 3296.