



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

**Date:** 02/11/2022

**Time:** 03:30 PM

**Location:** CR 229 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 3296 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.

**Department's Position:**

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

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 "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 the rules of the game, such as basketball, volleyball, and other sports, and are done in health and physical education classes and 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.

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



## 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.

### **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.<sup>1</sup>

## **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.

## **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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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>

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

8 February 2022

To: House Committees on Education & Economic Development

**Re: Support SB 3296**

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs and members of the House Committees on Education and Economic Development,

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** 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 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 'K. Chang', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin K.J. Chang

**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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February 10, 2022

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

Senator Michelle Kidani

Senator Donna Mercado Kim

Friday, February 11, 2022

3:30 P.M.

Room CR 229

**STRONG SUPPORT SB3296 - RECOGNIZING SPORTS AS CO-CURRICULAR**

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado-Kim, and Members of the Committee!

My name is Pōmaika'i, and I am writing this letter, as a parent of a student athlete, an educator in both public and private education, and an administrator of a non-profit that serves Hawai'i's youth, to ask for your **support in passing SB3296 relating to DOE-sanctioned sports activities no longer being recognized as EXTRA-curricular activities, but instead as CO-curricular activities.**

Our children have been raised in public education for the duration of their elementary educational experience. **In elementary, Physical Education provides an opportunity for each student to become acquainted with their bodies and learn cognitive and motor skills through active play.** The Hawaii DOE has provided the following description of Physical Education at an elementary level, which I am in full support of:

*"The emphasis is on developing the mature forms of locomotor, non-locomotor, and manipulative skills and the application of combinations of movement forms into a variety of basic games and physical activity settings. Students also learn about the basic benefits of physical activity and are encouraged to choose health-enhancing pursuits both inside and outside of the school setting."*

After elementary, Physical Education is *"highly recommended, but not required"* for middle school. As a parent of middle-school children, I have seen their desire to participate in activities that allow for social interaction, friendly competition, and guidance from trusted adults who are not parents (e.g. coaches). I have witnessed that it is their involvement in these activities that

# -APK-

blessedandcalm1@gmail.com

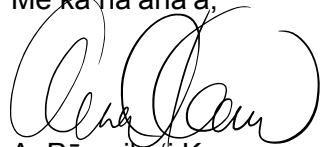
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keep them on a path of learning, well after their “school-day” has ended. At this age, they begin to understand the correlation between what they learn in the classroom and what they experience on the “field.” Through their involvement in sports activities, our children have learned how to manage time, finances, social interactions, and their overall health. We, as parents, consider each of these skills to be the real-world application of concepts learned in the classroom. **Physical Education in public school curriculum should continue through these crucial and formative adolescent years.**

In High School, Physical Education is *required* for graduation, and students must enroll in a standard P.E. course and one basic elective course, which does not include involvement in sports activities. This **MUST** change, especially for those students who are continually involved in sports activities that keep them physically active and on a more rigid diet and workout regimen than students who do not. I have seen, firsthand, how my children’s participation in sports activities has enhanced their comprehension and retention of classroom curriculum, thereby improving academic performance. Furthermore, mentorship from trusted individuals, namely coaches, both in-season and off-season, have also helped my children maintain good citizenship standing. **High School students’ involvement in sports activities IS an extension of their educational experience and should be credited as such.**

While the Hawai’i DOE has shown support for our children’s involvement in sports activities by sanctioning leagues, events, and providing facilities for these activities to occur, they need to do more. **Many student athletes in public schools use experience in high school sports as a means to pursue post-high education and career goals they would not otherwise have the opportunity to pursue. I am urging you, our legislators, to support this measure that requires the DOE to recognize sports activities as “CO-curricular”** (*in addition to and in support of current curriculum*) and no longer using the term “EXTRA-curricular” (*outside of established curriculum*). Once this has been established, we can move toward building our public school athletic programs in such a way that student athletes can be supported to have a successful educational experience that will lead to improved community outcomes throughout Hawai’i both now and in the future. Mahalo for your consideration!

Me ka ha’aha’a,



A. Pōmaikā'i Keawe

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:54:46 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Evern Williams	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Please pass SB 3296. The DOE needs to pivot from not only teaching academics but also teaching life skills which are inherent with playing sports in school. Character building is part of the act of playing sports and our kids need this kind of experience. Students should get credit for the time that they put in learning, experiencing and building their character while playing sports in school.

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:55:41 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Brandon Keenan	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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.

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 11:38:45 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Laynie Sueyasu	Testifying for Castle High School	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha. I believe in the importance of athletics in public schools as the way it is run currently. Athletics is a privilege and should remain classified as such. Millions of students have benefited from participation outside of the confines of a set curriculum in the classroom. I oppose this bill as an educator and a former athlete. The role of athletics would change if it becomes a right and not a privilege.

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 11:42:06 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Cherilyn Akana	Testifying for Mckinley High School	Oppose	No

Comments:

I believe in the importance of athletics.

I believe that athletics is a privilege.

I believe in the current structure as it has benefited millions of student-athletes in Hawaii including myself when I participated.



**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 6:33:32 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Alan Vogt	Testifying for Kealakehe HS	Oppose	No

Comments:

As an Athletic Director at a public high school I fully understand the importance of participation in athletics and fully support additional funding of athletics. However this bill concerns me greatly. By moving athletics to a co-curricular activity it will fall into an area in was never intended to be. I am afraid it would fall into oversight that is totally unneeded and unwarranted. It is not broke, don't try to fix it!

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



Keith Hayashi  
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

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

February 9, 2022

To: Chairperson Kidani,

My name is John Chung and I am the Athletic Director at Roosevelt High School. I am writing this letter opposing SB 3296.

I am opposing SB 3296 due to the fact that the purpose of SB 3296 is unclear. The definition of "Co-curricular activity" is stated as any activity that is outside of, but usually complements, the curriculum". This seems to imply that athletics will somehow now be connected to the school's academic program. If that is the case, I can see some issues that may arise.

As mentioned above, there are many questions to SB 3296 . If the intent of this bill is to help student athletes receive their physical education credits, I would like to see that clarified somewhere in the bill.

There are many more questions and until there is more clarity, I cannot support this bill.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Chung".

John Chung  
Athletic Director  
Roosevelt High School

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:22:26 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Brandon MM Young	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a coach/former student athlete, I believe in the importance of athletics for students. Athletics is a privilege - students get to earn that right. I believe in the current structure as it has benefited millions of student-athletes Hawaii including back when I participated.

The ramification if this bill passes changes the landscape of high school athletics as we know it. In short, if sports becomes part of the curriculum in public schools, athletics becomes a right and not a privilege. It would in effect terminate state tournaments and varsity competitions as we know it. Courts could not uphold transfer rules (because student-athletes would have a right to play). Coaches would not be able to make decisions about their teams, because any student that registers for a sport would be entitled to participate.

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 10:45:16 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
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**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:32:28 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Shelley Cramer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB3296. I believe that this bill will help to elevate the role of coaches as educators, in that it would have a stronger positive impact and influence on the student athletes.

I feel that the education in sports is critical in the character and educational development of the kids and should be an essential part of their education, not just extra credit.

Lastly, this bill would allow students to earn academic credit to complete requirements, which would open up space for kids to take other and more classes that would benefit them.

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 4:04:40 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
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 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

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:45:59 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Corey Fellezs	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Corey Fellezs and I support SB 3296

As a former student-athlete, Division 1 swimmer and water polo player, I've had many influential coaches in my life. Growing up I've always known that I wanted to become a coach because of the positive impact that coaches had on me. They all had a hand in shaping the person that I've become today.

Teaching high school swimming and water polo has been a part of my life for the last 20 years. I teach swimming because it's a life skill. I am a coach because it allows me to guide athletes into becoming the best that they can be in and out of the pool. Seeing kids come thru a program and leave with confidence, character, determination and hope for their future is priceless. That alone has been the most meaningful part of my life.

Coaches wear many hats. We are leaders, role models, disciplinarians, motivators, friends and extended families to name a few. We are there to challenge students in ways the classroom can't. We are there for the kids when their parents can't be. We are there to not only teach athletes skills and fundamentals but we are there to guide them on how to apply that knowledge on the field and in their everyday lives. Coaches challenge each individuals and help them find, develop and perform at their full potential on and off of the court.

SB3296 Would motivate students to become athletes and well rounded individuals. It would encourage students to get involved, obtain a sense of self pride, be on a team, get physically fit, gain self discipline and even get a scholarship when they may not otherwise have the opportunity to do so. This bill is a winner on and off of the field.

SB3296 is important to the lives of our keiki. Please support our future generations.

~Corey Fellezs

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 8:50:13 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Brandy Burke	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

I respectfully submit my testimony in strong opposition of SB3296/HB2427. As a supporter of Hawaii high school athletics, I agree that the benefits of high school sports are an important tool to engage our youth in life lessons and values that can only be obtained through participation in interscholastic competition. However, the classification change of high school athletics from Extra-Curricular to Co-Curricular threatens that every essence of the competitive nature which is incorporated in high school sports. High school athletics will have the effects of local community sporting associations like AYSO where every person who signs up will become participants and will participate regardless of their experience which could pose a health and safety concern. This would also require high school coaches to coach at an elementary level to those unfamiliar with the sport while leaving those advanced in the sport to wait for others to get acquainted and familiar with the sport. This passage will also threaten the ability for student athletes to garner attention by college scouts who may look past them based on the "competitive level" they'd be forced to engage in. Students may withdraw from public school education and seek other opportunities elsewhere like we did when the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

Please oppose SB3296/HB2427. These is no need for this reclassification.

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:18:12 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Barbie Kaahu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not seek to put this into law. Extra curricular activities provide youth who are seeking challenges to better themselves physically. When you put it into play as a "everyone makes the team, everyone plays" format that gives youth less opportunity to challenge themselves. To go outside of their comfort zone, seek opportunities, take chances. I do not support this bill.

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:20:21 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Delsa Moe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose the bill to make sports a co-curricular class in high school. It should remain extra curricular and participation is determined by GPA, capability and desire so it remains competitive. Phys Ed classes can be co-curricular where everyone gets the chance to participate regardless of skill level and grades but leave competitive sports competitive for growth of our students.

Aloha to all,

I am a parent to three student athletes who take sports as a very important part of their lives. As their parent, who is also a alumni student athlete, I truly understand what our athletes go through. When the Covid-19 pandemic started it was really rough for everybody especially students. Their lives as teenagers was put on a stand still. My daughter was affected by this and was not given the best Senior Year that she was hoping to get. Sports was cancelled, no senior prom, no senior night and that was the saddest thing that a senior let alone a student athlete had to go through. Suicide rates has doubled maybe even tripled since the start of the pandemic. Sports plays a big role in a lot of kids life. There are a lot of things that teenagers in this century go through that sports allows them to be who they are as well as an outlet to what ever they are going through at home, in school, or just in general. Student athletes spend just as much hours as an athlete then as a student. Some people think that sports is not educational but guess what? it is. And how you say it's educational? Well let me give a small glimpse of why it is; being able to absorb the teaching a player need to learn how a game is played, how to use your thinking skills, improving their overall health, your being taught time management, teaching them how to be responsible for one's actions, how to respect the adult as well as your peers, how to to be responsible for one's self, there grades has to be a certain GPA in order to play and the list goes on. So the question is "Should sports be a part of its Curriculum ? Yes most definitely it should. It gives an athlete the motivation to work hard in their academic performance, they get to stay healthy and it gets them motivated to attend school and not have to go through another year of cancellations, and another year of disappointments. There are so much benefits to being an athlete, a lot of times our minds don't look at sports as educational but look at it as kids just want have fun and not go home and do chores but our thinking needs to change with the times that we are in. Sports plays a big role in our student athlete lives and are being taught not only life lessons but for their mental well being as well as for educational achievements. So once again Sports should be a part of its Curriculum for our students, the educators, and the parents. Please Help our student athletes as well as any student out their achieve their goals...

Mahalo from,

A parent of an athlete

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:49:00 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
william wilhelm	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a high school coach for a number of different sports and a former college athlete. I see great importance in this bill to make athletes and coaches experience higher level of expectations of their future. It will establish a real connection of sports and academics and making athletics truly accountable to a scholastic experience.



**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 12:54:29 PM  
Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
David Tautofi	Testifying for KYDO	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha and Thank You Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim and members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of this HB2427. My name is David Tautofi, and I'm a community leader, youth advocate, and a former Elementary, Middle School and High School Teacher, Athletic Director and Coach

I am writing to share my in full support of HB2427.

Student athletes are held to a much higher standard than the general students. They not only have to meet requirements for practices as well as games and services, they need to maintain a gpa of 2.0 in order to participate in games and remain on the team. The expectations put on student athletes is often overlooked but there's no denying the education in sports and how that impacts and shapes lives.

Sports is much more than just a game, it truly is life for these student athletes who are students and who make up more than half of the student body of high school students in the DOE. The education in sports shapes much of the most important elements in youth development, the heart and character of our kids.

For all that the experience entails for these student athletes, it's more than reasonable to consider the education in sports be an essential part of the educational development of our kids. The education in sports also helps with the maturity process in how these student athletes think and how they handle themselves.

This Pandemic has opened our eyes and we've not done much to help our kids at all. The only group of people that have been left behind were our kids, has been our kids and are still our kids. If there's a way we can better prepare them for life in college or not in college or in whatever journey life takes them, it would be in small ways and this is a small way to make a big difference for the sake of our kids, their future and ours.

What this all comes down to is simply this... Our Kids and Education.

This will be challenging for many to envision or to see but its to be expected when anything new comes forth. What we must not forget however is our kids and our priorities. We must also not forget what this pandemic has done and how the cancellation sports hurt not only our kids but families whom so many have moved away. The discussion can begin because of this and we can not be limited by policies and laws that have not been revisited or adjusted since the pandemic. What this bill is meant to do is to establish the title. Whats significatn about that is the respect. What that then leads to is the discussion. The discussion on how we move forward coming together, putting all on the table, sorting them out and modling it to fit the needs of our kids where theyre at today.

I humbly ask that you will support and vote on this bill to pass. We can counter what this pandemic has done especially to our kids by taking it one step at a time, this would be an important start. What worked before the pandemic has obviously not worked since and like we were quick to move in everything else, we must be quick to move for the sake of our kids. This will catch many who have fallen back and many more that are on the verge of that. At this point for all that our kids have gone through, this is actually a bill that truly looks out for the best interest of our kids.

I strongly support SB3296

Mahalo, David Tautofi

**LATE**

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 1:05:15 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
David Kawika Kane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha I am in support of this bill because I am a coach and an educator and I believe sports is an extension of the classroom I have communicated to student athletes for 25 years that sports is an outdoor classroom for life skills and the opportunity to learn to follow directions and to learn the technical aspects of sports applies to learning any subject matter the self-discipline required to excel in outdoor Sports are the same that are required to learn in the classroom sports provides opportunity for student athletes to learn how to work together as a team and to better themselves as a leader in the community wholeheartedly support this bill and encourage the legislature to approve this bill for the betterment of education in the classroom and outside of the classroom which sports provides. Thank you, David Coach Kawika Kane

**LATE**

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:56:02 AM  
Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Zac Odom	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Zac Odom a former teacher(17+years), athletic coach(20+years), and a Division 1 athlete at UH Moana. I am in full support of the SB3296 Bill that changes the term to co-curricular instead of extracurricular. As an African-American male, I understand how division works and leads to possible destruction. The very thing we were taught as special education teachers was inclusion was essential and to exclude anyone was detrimental. When we included students with special needs with the rest of the mainstream student body it provided them the very thing they were looking for, to be acknowledged and given equal opportunities. That acknowledgment gave them more choices and opportunities to see themselves with purpose.

When your whole goal is to exclude people based on race, color, and socioeconomic status you continue to divide the people rather than bring them together. Coaches impact people from all walks of life and we bring them together with the understanding that dedication, hard work, and preparation do not guarantee a championship but give the student-athlete the ability to be better prepared in life and be successful.

**LATE**

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 12:39:29 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Daniel	Testifying for Fellowship of Christian Athletes	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Hawaii Senate,

"A coach will influence more people in a season than most people will in a lifetime", Billy Graham. "Coach said, ....." are two of the most common words from athletes with a broken home. I'm so grateful for the coaches that guided me to my future, they gave hope and character and relational building blocks that are keys to my foundation as a leader.

Unfortunatly the coaches of today are placed into a terrible dilemma to care for their families or coach. There is very little time to develop their pedagogy, few resources, and no incentive. Hawaii has some of the most good hearted coaches in the nation willing to sacrifice for the next generation, imagine the future were they are giving full attention to the youth instead their scraps! Imaging the troubled youth that will get the primer lessons of hands on training with a coach beside them.

Would you consider the changes in sport the last 20 years and how smart phones have created a even large disconnection between the youth and kupuna. This could solidify school sports over club, reinitate kupuna coaches, increase the quality of coaches across the DOE, and save lives of those who quit because of the underdeveloped and outdated school sports system. Think about the quality of coaches you could attract and develop, and the quality of the results from fully engaged athletes. The certifications, curriculum, and standards could turn the tide!

Throught Hawaii we would see more integrity, service, excellence, and teamwork.

Mahalo Nui,

Daniel Rich

Fellowship of Christian Athletes

**LATE**

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 1:04:18 AM  
Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Asai Gilman	Testifying for CG Consulting and DB Tech Academy	Support	No

Comments:

The focus should be EDUCATION In Sports not EDUCATION Of Sports. My name is Coach Asai Gilman. I ran a successful nonprofit organization called Education-1st, years ago in Hawaii as an Executive Director which helped over 6000 students and families. It was built with the premise from an ‘olelo no’eau:

‘O ke kahua ma mua, ma hope ke kūkulu. First the foundation, and then the building.

I have 7 children. Five of the seven children participated in high school sports, i.e. soccer, football, basketball, water polo, and track. As a former college football coach with a lot of years in coaching high school sports, I taught principles to my family and others that I coached to increase the character and leadership skills for the purpose of building the “whole person” and not just about winning.

You see it’s a paradigm mindset change. Extracurricular means education of sports. This means that sports teach you about competition only, team-based and winning is the emphasis, and activities that are extra do not contribute to the curriculum taught in school.

I view education in sports as a co-curricular. This means that involvement is an essential part of the educational development of the student. Employable leadership soft skills are gained and entrepreneurial skills are enhanced to assist the definition of a student; the whole person.

Educating our Keiki in sports, it is not only about winning. It’s about implementing developed skills and knowing how to execute a plan. It speaks to the foundation first and then the building concept. In reality, you are setting the footing and building a solid foundation of character and leadership skills for life.

I have a son who works for the LA Chargers NFL football team as a defensive back. He will tell you that Football, (the sport) doesn't define who he is because he is not Of the sport. What defines him is that he knows who he is and understands how to tap into Godly powers to perform on the highest level. He learned that not only from home but he learned from education In sports. This is a big difference, it’s how we see it.

Co-curricular has unlimited potential in building confidence in the person. If we are about educating our Keiki, it's really looking at how we define education in sports to mean. Extra curricula mean education of sports which is limited. Education in sports has unlimited potential when it is used as a co-curricular.

In conclusion, this bill is to expose alternative ways of helping students reach their full potential. Having a healthy discussion to define how sports is defined in education as a possible co-curricular option is welcomed. Defining what it means is the priority. This bill SB3296 is not replacing but adding more options for students to benefit through fulfilling graduation requirements while participating in sports in high school. I am absolutely for it.

I look forward to continuing this dialog with DOE officials to help frame how it looks, learn of the pitfalls and explore new ways and methods to provide endless positive possibilities for our Keiki's future.

Please consider passing this bill SB3296.

Aloha,

Asai Gilman

**LATE**

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 1:20:10 PM  
Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Daryn Ogino	Testifying for Smart Money Hawaii Mortgage Broker	Support	No

Comments:

February 11, 2022

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Michelle Kidani

Senator Donna Mercado Kim

Friday, February 11, 2022

3:30 P.M.

Room CR 229

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and members of the Committee,

I strongly urge you to support SB3296.

Throughout the pandemic, we have seen the impact student involvement in sports activities has on Hawai'i's youth. While I strongly support the idea of classroom curriculum teaching core subjects—math, science, social studies, language arts, I also believe that it is their involvement in sports activities, among others, that helps to solidify their understanding of the learned curriculum. Student involvement in sports not only helps to provide extended learning



opportunities through application of curricular concepts, but also provides opportunity to develop character and communication skills that contribute to lifelong success.

Lets please come together and prioritize our kids. Theyve gone through the worst of anyone throughout this pandemic and yet still we're not doing enough.

The pandemic changed the game entirely and we've seen how the DOE especially the OIA and HHSAA have handled this. This is a new era and a new time thanks to Covid. If it pushed us to move how we did that didnt help our kids, then we can definitely grant the same to move for whats right for our kids.

Theyve been left behind this entire time, lets not drop the ball on them again.

Please Support SB3296 100%

Mahalo for your consideration,

Darin Ogino

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 3:17:30 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Cal Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha to all the members of the committee, Chair Kidani and Vice Chair Kim,

In my time and career as a Coach here in our great State of Hawaii, I've been a part of and have seen many changes. Changes that have made our society how it looks today and changes that have impacted the way we think. We always talk about change but its not until its initiated that we done realize what we're in for until it happens. It happened on March of 2020.

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. The moral values and life skills it teaches and instills is 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 ends shape their character and gives them the skills needed to be a good and productive citizen wherever they go.

I believe that we've done little to almost nothing to help our kids through this pandemic and they're still left behind. I believe in this bill because it is a plan, it starts the conversation to work towards a better outcome in education starting today, and it can only get better benefitting not only our kids but our schools, 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 couldnt 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 Regard,

Cal Lee

Coach/Educator

**LATE**

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 3:23:28 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Randall A Okimoto	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

My name is Randall Okimoto and I have been teaching in the DOE for over 20 years. I also have been coaching for over twenty years as well. I'm very intrigued by this bill because it seems that if passed it could provide coaches a living wage, raise the quality of coaching, and provide more opportunities for our children especially from K-8 grade. My seven year old son already experienced a toxic learning environment while participating in one season of flag football. I would love to see better opportunities for him in the future. This bill seems that it could do that. Those who are currently employed to take on this responsibility in our schools need help and resources and I personally would not want to see their positions eliminated if this bill passes. That would be a concern for me. But if this bill adds to what we have now then I'm in full 100% of this bill especially because my son's future and all our children's future will be impacted one way or another. Mahalo

**LATE**

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 3:47:46 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
D. Hernandez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a veteran coach and teacher, I have always championed athletics and academics for our student-athletes. I am hopeful that designating athletics as a co-curricular activity can allow student-athletes to get school credit for participating, which would free them up to take required classes needed for college.

**LATE**

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 3:48:39 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Arnold Martinez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Arnold Martinez. I am submitting testimony in support of SB3296. I am in support of this bill that designates sports as being co-curricular. As a teacher for the DOE for 18 years and a Head Football Coach in the OIA for 13 years I believe that designating athletics as co-curricular can be beneficial in many ways.

As educators we know that athletics support the academic mission of our schools. I have always structured my programs as an extension of the classroom with the same rigor and learning expectations that are used in academics. Studies have shown that students who participate in sports maintain higher grade point averages, better attendance records and fewer discipline problems during and after their seasons. In addition, our student athletes learn life skills such as team-work, leadership, time management, positive relationship building and many more. Their participation fosters positive physical and mental well-being. All of these factors promote future success in life for our student-athletes. Many of them use these skills to be productive contributors to our society. Isn't that what we want for our children and for our students?

I believe that designating athletics as co-curricular will provide more resources and opportunities for our students as well as our coaches. Please vote in support of Senate Bill SB3296.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 4:14:25 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lisiate Taufa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Lisiate Taufa support this Bill. This Bill help students and Coaches. Student will see sports as a stepping stone to getting in to college and extending there education through it. Coaches will be part of the DOE staff and hold a job in the DOE. Alot of students spend alotof time with their Coaches around 2 to 2 1/2 hours with them. So alot of these Coaches spend alot of time mentoring tothese student athletes. Mentoring these student athletes on education, physical and mental well-being, pre planning, building charcter, motivating them, encouraging them, guiding them through challenges, supporting them, and even listening to them. Coaches play a big part in their lives I feel as well as teachers, spending 10 to 14 hours a week with these student athletes.

As a parent and coach, I've witnessed the seniors including my son feel as though the state and the world has forgotten about them. Through this pandemic alot of the seniors felt that if they had another year to show case their talents in sports, that could've gotten a better shot at going to college or receiving scholarships to go to college and extending their education. I've seen alot of seniors from last year around working, taking up jobs or doing nothing. I feel they were robbed of their Senior year because of the pandemic, and lost the chance to show case their talents as well to further their education through sports.

Again, this Bill will help the students and Coaches. Especially for Coaches, they can have a Job in the DOE and be able to somewhat support themselves or maybe even their families. Alot of these Coaches spend alot of time doing things for these student athletes during off season as well such as weight training, planing games/scrimmages, taking them to clinics or holding free clinics, giving rides to games and schools, feeding them meal prep on game days or just in general because some can't afford food at home. These Coaches do alot for the kids. It would be nice to give back to these coaches. Alot of Coaches volunteer for these kids. Please pass the Bill. Alot goes on behind the scenes for Coaches and players. Such as lack of supplies, gear, jerseys, and sometimes support from the state/community/home. Help our student athletes and coaches and the future of tomorrow. Support the Bill

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

**LATE**

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 9<sup>th</sup> grade when the pandemic hit the world. They should now be in the 11<sup>th</sup> 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.



**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 8:52:45 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kevin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whome it may concern

Think about what a teacher is. They are the ones that have to get students to want to learn. They are the back bone of the school system. Now coaches are to sports as teachers are to school. Coaches need to convey information about a sport to the student. I am a parent and a coach. My son does play under me at the school. What i see as a coach is the kids are willing to learn just as in the class room but on the feild. We as coaches can and have work with teachers to help students that are falling behind. So this bill if passed will be a inportant step in closing the gap between student,teacher,coach so we can work towards a brighter future for all our kids.

Thanks for you time, Kevin

**LATE**

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 12:01:05 AM  
Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
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 dying 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 their time away from the families to provide the leadership, skills and training to this high school athletes. They spend more time with them than 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 their 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 their highlight videos. Check upon them. Making sure their grades are on top. We provide all this as part of their off-curricular and it should be part of their Co-Curricular. 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 are tired because they have a full day of school. They're hungry, they have a lot of homework. As I see it as a mother it breaks my heart. Does anyone care? Nope! When these children are hungry, who feeds them? Their 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.

Mahalo,

Kylie

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 9:05:53 AM  
Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM



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

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for taking your time to consider this important topic. Sports are such an essential part of a Students growth in High School. Yes Sports help a Tennager develop a particular skill whether it be hitting a Softball or making a shot in Basketball or a certain stroke in Swimming. However Sports help a student learn other things that a far more essential to their success later in life.

Sports becomes these students first job, as they spend the equivilent to a part time job at practice and at games. On average my basketball players spend 10-12 hours at least with their team each week. They learn so many skills that will help them when it is time for them to join the workforce such as Being on Time, putting in an Honest Days work, cooperation and taking criticism.

Sports also help students learn about "Grit: The Power of Passion and Perserveranc" by Angela Duckworth she talks about how Grit maybe one of the most important Charateristics that help determine success. Student-Athletes get to learn about this first hand. We put them in something that they are Passionate about enough for them to Persist through adversity to aquire a skill. They get to use their talent and combine it with effort to aquire a new skill. They then get to take that skill and add more effort in order to achieve success.

This is why I support Sports being a part of the Curriculum for a High School Student. I am sure there are many decisions that need to be made on exactly how to make this happen, but I also believe that the students who are "playing" sports deserve our attention into helping them understand and process through the intangible aspects of the sport that will help them in all aspects of their life.

As the commercial says we may not all be a professional athelte but we all Go Pro in something.

Please consider this Bill.

Mahalo

Noa Hussey

Boys Basketball Coach

Kalani High School

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 12:21:28 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Traci Fujita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am the parent of public school children and I agree with the intent of this bill. Sports and other "extra-curricular" activities are just as important to the education of children as academics. These activities teach vital life skills like communication, working with others to achieve a goal, resilience, and grit that kids don't always learn in academic classes.

I am very happy to see that cheerleading is listed as a sport under this bill. The sport of cheerleading has grown in recent years and there is no doubt that cheerleaders (both sideline and competitive) are athletes. Please make sure the sport of cheerleading is included in this bill.

**LATE**

**TO: Senate Committee on Education  
Attn: Chairperson Senator Michele Kidani**

**FROM: Albert Tufono  
99595 Auhau Place  
Aiea, Hi 96701  
Email: albert.tufono@gmail.com**

**SUBJECT: Testimonial SUPPORT for Senate Bill 3296**

Aloha Chairperson & members of the committee,

My name is Al Tufono and I am in FULL SUPPORT of Senate Bill 3296.

Senate Bill 3296 is considering sports in the DOE as a co-curricular activity rather than an extracurricular activity. I am in full support of having sports in our schools be considered co-curricular. This bill, if passed, would have incredible value for our students and coaches. This will give students school credit for the time spent towards graduation in high school by developing skills they learn in sports and seeing it put into action. This will dramatically change how sports is viewed and implemented in our schools.

I have been a high school coach here in Hawaii for the last 20 years. I have also volunteered and coached in the community in youth football and basketball leagues and I know the value of sports and what it does for our children's physical, mental and emotional progress in life. This Bill will change how sports will have an impact by benefitting our students as they continue to strive to become the best people they can in our communities.

I urge you to strongly consider passing Senate Bill 3296. I am in FULL SUPPORT of Senate Bill 3296. Thank you in advance for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Al Tufono

**LATE**

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 2:22:40 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Moses S. Ringwood	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As a professional DOE teacher & coach since 2012 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 all 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 success of our DOE students & their attaining the skills for the jobs of a 21C. economy.

I believe this due to my hands-on experience 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 DOE/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 desperately 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 contributors to their school as possible, especially 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 in the gym, on the field, or in a pool than they are in a classroom. But there is the huge potential for the transformation of an athlete-student into a



student-athlete via the acknowledgment of their hours & months 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, these are all the same critical skills that we know employers are looking 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.

**LATE**

**SB-3296**

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 2:39:17 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2022 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Sean Phillip Soares	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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!!!