

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 02/23/2023

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0500, HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds to DOE to promote surfing as an interscholastic sport. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) recognizes the intent of HB 500 and respectfully offers comments and concerns.

Since 2005, the Department has developed regulations to implement surfing as a high school sport. In 2016, the Hawaii State Board of Education approved Board Policy 101-11, Surfing, which established surfing as a high school sport.

While the Department appreciates the appropriations to support surfing in high school athletic programs, this would not address the larger risk factors that make surfing difficult for high schools to sanction. These risks include concerns around accessible and safe surfing areas to conduct practices and the inability to control the practice environment. On Oahu, surfing has not been proposed by any Department high school principal.

The Department appreciates this proposal and the inclusion of funding but asks that any additional funding does not affect the Department's Board of Education-approved budget priorities.

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



**OUTRIGGER
DUKE KAHANAMOKU
FOUNDATION**

P. O. BOX 160924
HONOLULU, HI 96816

DUKEFOUNDATION.ORG

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Testimony to the Committee on Finance

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair; Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 23, 2023 10:00 a.m.

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee on Finance:

On behalf of the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation, I would like to testify in **strong support of HB 500** to appropriate funds to DOE to promote surfing as an interscholastic sport. Though surfing was declared an interscholastic sport several years back, at most public schools outside of Maui, surfing remains either a club sport, or unincorporated in the school sports opportunities. Funding is needed to provide insurance, organize competitions, subsidize equipment, and provide stipends to coaches (who are often teachers). As the Finance Committee, I am sure you are concerned about the liability but Maui public schools, many private schools, and public school club teams have figured out how to run these programs safely; we just need to follow their templates. (I've attached two examples.)

Surfing is a Native Hawaiian sport and Hawaii has ideal surfing conditions. We should be helping all kids have an opportunity to build surfing skills, as well as the associated swimming and water safety skills which could save lives. More local kids of all economic backgrounds would get access and exposure to the sport, as part of a healthy lifestyle, a stronger connection to the ocean, and a deeper understanding of culture. Further, more school teams mean greater competition for all, producing a higher tide of top performing athletes. We should put the same financial backing behind surfing that we do behind imported sports like football, soccer, and baseball, which require much greater physical infrastructure and cost and have their own implicit risks (see attached data). Please do this for our kids.

ODKF strongly urges this committee to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Thank you,

Sarah Fairchild

Executive Director

DUKE'S CREED:

"In Hawai'i, we greet friends, loved ones or strangers with Aloha, which means with love. Aloha is the key word to the universal spirit of real hospitality, which makes Hawai'i renowned as the world's center of understanding and fellowship. Try meeting or leaving people with Aloha. You'll be surprised by their reaction. I believe it and it is my creed. Aloha to you."

DUKE PAOA KAHANAMOKU

Farrington High School Surf Club

1. How you are insured and what insurance company you use?: To my knowledge as long as we follow all DOE rules and requirements we are covered under DOE insurance. We also have all the students and coaches sign up for AAU sports insurance.

2. Protocols for calling off surf team practice due to weather or surf conditions: We call off surf practice if waves are over 5ft Hawaiian (even smaller if unsafe for our students abilities), any signs of man-of-war, shark sightings, lightening, polluted water, etc...

3. Safety requirements for surf team members to join: We have students DOE Sports Physical, DOE Liability waver, DOE authorization to travel form, and HSP contest waiver. All the students need to swim a 1/4 mile under 10 minutes, tread water for 10 minutes, every student has to have a Junior Lifeguard Certification before we can take them surfing as well as turning all their paperwork in.

4. Safety certification requirements of coaches: Our Coaches have CPR, First Aide and Open water certifications and one of our coaches is a Nurse Practitioner (not a requirement but a plus)

"I have had the privilege to coach Farrington High Schools surf team for the past 15 years. Most of our students from Kalihi do not have access to the ocean. We get all the boards donated and for 90% or more of our students it is their first time learning to surf. For many of our students who live in the Housing Projects or have challenging home lives, the surf team is their one healthy outlet that becomes a second family. They are able to get off of the streets and connect with the ocean and have good clean fun surfing, learning the ocean and the culture. Most of our students are not in other sports and the surf team is the reason they do not fall through the cracks. They have to keep at least a 2.0 to be a part of the team like any other sport. We push our Farmington Surf Team students to keep a 3.0 all year. If they do, we give them a used board at our end of the year banquet. The team aspect is so important to be a part of something bigger than self. Other than paddling this is the only Native Hawaiian DOE sport, which is so crucial since this is the birthplace and mecca of surfing. High School surfing in Hawai'i does not have nearly the support that Australia, California, and the East Coast has which is a shame. The great thing about surfing is it is a sport you can enjoy your whole life. I could go on, but I would love to have some of our students share how surfing has gotten them out of gang life, drug life and the many other challenges many of our Farrington students face."

- Brady Giusta, Farrington Surf Coach

Iolani Surf Team

Safety Requirements

1. **Jr. Lifeguard Certification** - All competitive surfers and coaches must complete the requirements for ocean safety. We partner with Northshore Lifeguards and Na Kama Kai each year to complete ocean safety requirements.
2. **CPR/First Aid & AED training**
3. **Swim Test** - 300-meter swim, 2 mins tread with no hands, various ocean safety life-saving techniques.
4. **Iolani School Parent Liability Waiver**
5. **AAU Membership** (Insurance Coverage for our surf practices) - All surfers and coaches must sign up for AAU membership.
6. **NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Certification** - All coaches must complete 12 hours online coursework. Additional training includes "Concussion In Sports", "Heat Illness Prevention", "Covid-19 for Coaches", etc. (Insurance Coverage). I have a copy of all certifications in our Magnus Binder.
7. **Iolan Surf Team Magnus Binder** - At each practice and competition we have the Magnus Emergency Medical Information Binder which includes all Magnus911 Emergency Documents and Contact Information.
8. **First Aid Kit** - We have first aid kits at each practice and competition. Working on getting AED.
9. **Communication/Website** - We communicate with surfers and coaches via the official [Iolani Surf website](#) which has a calendar of events, practice schedule, competition schedule, etc. We also use text message chain.

Table 1. Annual averages and percentages of emergency department visits for sports and recreational activity injuries, by activity type, age, and sex: United States, 2010–2016

Characteristic	Total	Age group (years)				Sex	
		5–9	10–14	15–19	20–24	Male	Female
Number of visits (standard error)							
All sports and recreational activity visits	2,717,672 (132,654)	557,150 (39,818)	980,078 (58,761)	827,357 (56,868)	353,088 (27,176)	1,797,904 (100,111)	919,768 (53,549)
Activity type ¹							
Percent (standard error)							
Football	14.1 (1.1)	5.5 (1.6)	19.9 (1.8)	16.2 (1.7)	6.9 (1.4)	20.2 (1.7)	2.2 (0.5)
Basketball ²	12.5 (0.8)	3.6 (0.9)	13.0 (1.3)	16.6 (1.8)	15.4 (2.2)	14.3 (1.2)	8.9 (1.0)
Pedal cycling ³	9.9 (0.8)	13.8 (1.6)	10.1 (1.3)	7.3 (1.3)	8.8 (1.5)	10.3 (1.0)	9.1 (1.1)
Soccer ²	7.1 (0.6)	3.1 (0.8)	7.4 (1.1)	9.3 (1.5)	7.2 (1.5)	6.8 (0.8)	7.7 (1.1)
Ice or roller skating or skateboarding	6.9 (0.6)	6.1 (1.1)	6.1 (0.8)	5.9 (0.9)	12.8 (3.3)	6.7 (0.7)	7.5 (1.0)
Playground ^{3,4}	6.3 (0.6)	23.1 (2.2)	3.5 (0.7)	0.7 (0.3)	*	4.8 (0.6)	9.2 (1.1)
Other or unspecified ⁵	6.2 (0.6)	7.8 (1.4)	5.2 (0.9)	5.1 (0.9)	9.2 (1.9)	4.9 (0.5)	8.8 (1.2)
Running or jogging	5.5 (0.5)	8.4 (2.3)	5.3 (0.8)	4.5 (0.8)	4.2 (1.2)	5.1 (0.6)	6.4 (0.9)
Gymnastics or cheerleading ³	5.4 (0.5)	9.3 (2.0)	5.3 (0.8)	4.1 (0.7)	*	2.1 (0.4)	11.8 (1.4)
Baseball or softball	5.1 (0.5)	3.5 (1.0)	6.2 (0.9)	5.9 (1.0)	2.7 (0.7)	4.9 (0.6)	5.4 (0.9)
Recreational sport ⁶	3.4 (0.5)	4.8 (1.2)	2.6 (0.7)	2.6 (0.7)	5.4 (1.5)	3.7 (0.6)	2.9 (0.5)
Aerobics or exercising or weight training ²	3.3 (0.5)	1.0 (0.4)	3.2 (0.8)	4.3 (1.2)	*	3.5 (0.8)	3.0 (0.6)
Other team sport ⁷	3.2 (0.5)	1.0 (0.5)	3.1 (0.6)	4.9 (1.3)	3.0 (1.1)	2.9 (0.6)	3.8 (0.8)
Water sport	3.0 (0.4)	4.5 (1.3)	2.1 (0.5)	2.7 (0.6)	4.0 (1.1)	2.3 (0.5)	4.4 (0.8)
Combative sport ²	2.8 (0.4)	1.0 (0.6)	2.8 (0.6)	3.9 (0.8)	3.2 (0.9)	3.5 (0.5)	1.4 (0.4)
Snow sport ²	2.6 (0.5)	1.4 (0.6)	1.9 (0.5)	2.9 (0.8)	6.1 (1.7)	2.4 (0.4)	3.1 (0.9)
Other individual sport ⁸	2.6 (0.5)	2.3 (0.9)	2.3 (0.6)	3.0 (1.1)	2.8 (1.0)	1.6 (0.3)	4.5 (1.2)

* Estimate does not meet NCHS standards of reliability.
¹Difference in distribution is statistically significant between characteristic and age and characteristic and sex ($p < 0.05$).
²Significant increasing linear trend by age.
³Significant decreasing linear trend by age.
⁴Includes playground equipment injuries and other injuries sustained at the playground.
⁵Includes school-related and other unspecified activities.
⁶Includes tennis, racquetball, badminton, and other racquet sports, as well as golf, bowling, fishing, hunting, hiking, mountain climbing, and other leisure sports.
⁷Includes volleyball, rugby, hockey, lacrosse, cricket, and other team sports.
⁸Includes all other sport and recreation categories, such as horseback riding, riding an all-terrain vehicle, playing catch, and other non-team activities.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.
 SOURCE: NCHS, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2010–2016.

HB-500-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 12:45:34 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Ball	Maui Interscholastic League Surfing	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I have been the co-coordinator of Maui Interscholastic League surfing since the MIL principals voted unanimously, in August 2012, to include surfing as an MIL sport. We had an unofficial three-contest season in the spring of 2013 before having an official MIL season in spring 2014. We have 10 Maui County high schools that will compete in five MIL surf meets this spring.

It seems Superintendent Keith Hayashi's main opposition is: "These risks include concerns around accessible and safe surfing areas to conduct practices and the inability to control the practice environment."

We have never had a serious injury in the nine years of MIL surfing. I am sure that the MIL athletic trainers will tell you there are more injuries in football, soccer, wrestling, judo, baseball, softball, basketball or even track & field.

The surf coaches in the MIL are the only coaches that have to take a certification clinic which includes a swim test, ocean rescue & lifesaving techniques, ocean risk assessment and a CPR class.

Our clinicians, this year, included former Maui County head of ocean safety, Archie Kalepa, and Chris Pagdilao, the Maui High athletic trainer. Kalepa is now contracted to teach Navy Seals ocean rescue techniques. Rich Pierce, the co-head judge for surfing in the Tokyo Olympics, taught an International Surfing Association certification clinic, which all of our MIL judges passed, at Maui High three weeks ago.

I urge you to pass this bill. It's way past due.

HB-500-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 12:35:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

HB-500-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 5:27:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawika	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Hawaii has tremendous surfing talent, literally some of the best surfers in the world yet our native sport is not supported in the public schools. The DOE and or the state should provide funding for surfing like they do other sports.

Please consider passing this bill.

mahalo,

Kawika DelRosario

HB-500-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 5:40:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Giles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The price of living is so high here. We are the birthplace of surfing, but most champion surf competitors are coming from elsewhere, because a lot of families don't have the resources to help their kids succeed due to costs of competitions, gear, or being able to practice because parents have to work. We're even seeing people moving here and paying lots of money to have their kids coached and seeing them move up the rankings in competition. Let's give the local kids a class that they could learn competitive surfing in and keep the spirit alive and home based.

HB-500-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 7:00:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Chojnacki Juri	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The sport of surfing is a gift, which we all have kānaka maoli to thank for. While the sport gains popularity around the globe, was granted Olympic status, and offers an increasingly fruitful career path for professional surfers, our education system lacks the ability to lift up aspiring student athletes to a professional level. While privileged students with unending parental support, private coaching lessons, and often expensive gear can make their way into professional surfing, there are descendants of the creators of this sport that lack the access and support network necessary to take surfing from a hobby to a career. Funding varsity-level surf programs in our schools would offer a great non-contact sport option for students to participate in, one that is culturally significant in Hawai'i, and offers the mental health benefits and discipline one gains as they progress as a surfer. A vote to fund varsity surfing is a vote to support Hawaiian student education in a Hawaiian sport, and increase the rate of native Hawaiian surfer representation on a global stage.

HB-500-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 7:27:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brady Giusta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to whom it may concern,

I have had the privilege to coach Farrington High Schools surf team for the past 15 years. Most of our students from Kalihi do not have access to the ocean. We get all the boards donated and for 90% or more of our students it is their first time learning to surf. For many of our students who live in the Housing Projects or have challenging home lives, the surf team is their one healthy outlet that becomes a second family. They are able to get out of the streets and connect with the ocean and have good clean fun surfing, learning the ocean and the culture. Most of our students are not in other sports and the surf team is the reason they do not fall through the cracks. They have to keep at least a 2.0 to be a part of the team like any other sport. We push our Farmington Surf Team students to keep a 3.0 all year. If they do we give them a used board at our end of the year banquet.

Concerning safety our students and coaches sign up for AAU sports insurance. I have coached Farrington surf team for 15 years we have never had a major injury, surfing is much safer than other sports. We call off surf practice if waves are over 5ft Hawaiian(even smaller if unsafe for our students abilities), any signs of manawar, shark sightings, lightening, polluted water, etc...

Requirements for surf team members to join the surf team is every student must get their doctor to fill out the DOE Sports Physical, DOE Surf Team Liability waver, DOE authorization to travel form, and HSP contest waiver. All the students need to swim a 1/4 mile under 10 minutes, tread water for 10 minutes, every student has to have a Junior Lifeguard Certification before we can take them surfing as well as have turned in all their paperwork. Safety certification requirements of our coaches is CPR, First Aide and Open Water certifications. One of our coaches is a Nurse Practitioner (not a requirement but a plus).

The team aspect is so important for our students to be a part of something bigger than self. Other than paddling this is the only Native Hawaiian DOE sport, which is so crucial since this is the birthplace and mecca of surfing. High School surfing in Hawai'i does not have nearly the support that Australia, California and the East Coast has which is a shame. The great thing about surfing is it is a sport you can enjoy your whole life. I could go on and on about the benefits surfing has had on our students but I would love to have some of our students share how surfing has gotten them out of gang life, drug life and the many other challenges many of our Farrington students face. If I wasn't teaching Thursday and knew about this bill earlier we would have love

to come down and have our surf team students share the impact being a part of Farrington Surf Team.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Brady Giusta
Farrington Surf Coach
(808) 366-2667

HB-500-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 7:44:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paquito KHD Capillan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

HB-500-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 7:55:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adrian Kaleo Nakashima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support HB500.

HB-500-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 8:03:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chad Amasiu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support hb500

HB-500-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 8:49:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clinton Blackman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of HB500

HB-500-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 9:13:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melvin Palmiano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good morning!

My name is Melvin Palmiano. I support HB500 that:

Appropriates funds to DOE to promote surfing as an interscholastic sport.

The youth of Hawai'i deserve every opportunity to have surfing available at the varsity level. The talent and commitment are there. Surfing has both historical and cultural significance to Hawai'i and it must be promoted, preserved and nurtured.

Mahalo,

Melvin Palmiano

HB-500-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 9:14:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodie Tonita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our Hawaiian students have world class talent. Let's give our kids an opportunity to grow.

HB-500-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 9:20:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bree Thuston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HB 500 HD1. My daughter is Native Hawaiian and will be attending High School with hopes to join a surf team. Private schools such as Iolani High School have surf teams. Please provide funding for public schools to have surf teams, so they can compete competitively. Funding this bill has many benefits. You would be helping to fund a program that perpetuates the Hawaiian Culture in which the sport was originated. You would be helping to fund a safe space for O'ahu's youth. Funding this program would encourage youth participation and help with motivation to get passing grades. By funding this bill you are also teaching and encouraging lifelong healthy outlets for coping with life stress.

I humbly ask for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Bree

HB-500-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 9:17:23 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Ikaika Ito	Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha e nā lālā o ka‘aha‘ōlelo,

I'm submitting testimony to support HB 500. In the late-90s I participated in my high school surf team and was able to leverage that experience in competitive amateur surfing to a lucrative career. I became the first Native Hawaiian editor of surf publications when I was editor-in chief of Free Surf Magazine from 2005-2007. Furthermore, I started two businesses - Contrast Magazine and Pai'ea Projects - with three teammates on my my high schools surf team. As a kanaka maoli, I know that surfing provides a platform to express my identity as a Native Hawaiian as well as a cultural practice that grounds me to my ancestors. It is a shame that California, Florida and Australia are far more advanced in their amateur surfing and interscholastic programs than Hawai'i, but I'm confident with strong leadership and public-private partnerships we can eventually provide the same - if not better - interscholastic surf programs than The Continent and abroad.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Daniel Ikaika Ito

HB-500-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 9:55:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Butler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Christopher Butler and I support HB500. I have been one of the surf coaches at 'Iolani School for six years. Each year we have approximately 90+ students sign up for the Surf Club and over 30+ on the competitive 'Iolani Surf Team who compete in HSP High School Surf Challenge competitions against other Oahu high school teams. These are some measures we take to ensure 'Iolani's High School Surf Team is safe.

1. **Jr. Lifeguard Certification** - All competitive surfers and coaches must complete the requirements for ocean safety. We partner with Northshore Lifeguards and Na Kama Kai each year to complete ocean safety requirements.
2. **CPR/First Aid & AED training** - All competitive surfers and coaches must complete this training each season
3. **Swim Test** - 300-meter swim, 2 mins tread with no hands, various ocean safety life-saving techniques (e.g. techniques to rescue conscious and unconscious surfer in distress, etc.).
4. **'Iolani School Parent Liability Waiver**
5. **[AAU Membership](#)** (Insurance Coverage for our surf practices) - All surfers and coaches must sign up for AAU membership.
6. **[NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Certification](#)** - All coaches must complete 12 hours of online coursework. Additional training includes "Concussion In Sports", "Heat Illness Prevention", "Covid-19 for Coaches", etc. (Insurance Coverage). I have a copy of all my NFHS certifications in our Magnus Binder.
7. **'Iolan Surf Team Magnus Binder** - At each practice and competition we have the Magnus Emergency Medical Information Binder which includes all Magnus911 Emergency Documents and Contact Information for all surfers.
8. **First Aid Kit** - We have first aid kits at each practice and competition. We are working on getting AEDs.
9. **Communication/Website** - We communicate with surfers and coaches via the official ['Iolani Surf website](#) which has a calendar of events, practice schedule, competition schedule, etc. We also communicate using text message string when practices and competitions are canceled.

We already have the infrastructure set up for high school surfing at 'Iolani School and humbly request you please make it an official high school sport so our surfers can feel supported and their love of surfing is a valid high school sport.

HB-500-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 9:59:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Kauwe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill as a leader at Nā Kama Kai and Natove Hawaiian. I also surfed on my high school team at Kamehameha.

HB-500-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 10:33:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
glenn pang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Glenn Pang I'm a long-time water safety/lifeguard master instructor trainer, and I would like your favor to support HB500. This bill is not only adding another sporting activity to a very crowded and well-rounded extra curriculum activity offered by our Department of Education, but it also gives the participants the opportunity to learn about Hawaii long rich culture, and heritage in the development of surfing and how it affects the many life of such people as " Duke Kahanamoku "; Buffalo Keaulana; Eddie Aikua; Rell Sun; Carissa Moore, Luke Shepardson, Kai Lenny, Makani Adric and the many other surfing greats, as well as promoting health/fitness, and safety, to understanding how the space, sky, sea, and land all affect the environment.

All these points are induced in a course that was developed to help support the surfing curriculum within our DOE

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ppXj9fVoM8lVBvS2bilvqktlJEBxBuxU/view?usp=share_link

If you have any questions in regard to this program please contact me

mahalo for this opportunity to support this bill

HB-500-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 1:33:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aurene Padilla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Morning,

My name is Aurene Padilla and I would like to submit testimony in favor of HB 500.

A little background,I am a mother of two teenagers, a public school teacher, a former highschool varsity soccer player, and a surfer!

High school soccer taught me so much about life and ultimately paid for my college education. The friends I made while playing soccer are my friends today, in fact, at age 50 we still play together on Sundays for the Women's League.

I learned to surf at 44 on a whim, and 6 years later it has changed my life. Surfing has made me more conscious of how my life choices affect the Earth, has made me a responsible consumer and a protector of the ocean.

I would love our high school students to be able to have these same life lessons that I have had, and the funding of varsity-level surfing programs in Hawaii public schools will do just that! Our keiki surfers deserve to represent their communities through participation of sports in their school. Participation in sports leads to improved health, and academics. It is a win win situation for all!

Please support HB 500 and bring Varsity Surfing to our Public Schools.

Thank you,

Aurene Padilla

HB-500-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 3:40:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isabella Parsons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and the members of the Finance Committee,

HB500

In strong support

My name is Isabella Parsons and I am testifying in favor of HB500.

I am a Kaua'i High School alumni of the class of 2022. Throughout my high school career I was involved in some sports, however I never truly found one that I was passionate about. If surfing had been an option, I believe I would have been more invested in school, my academics, and the community. I am confident that this would be the case for many other students, especially on Kaua'i.

The Garden Island does not have many options for after school activities and programs. Providing funding for interscholastic surfing teams will create safe spaces for students and may help reduce the amount of teenagers who turn to drugs and alcohol due to boredom and lack of alternative activities. This funding will also remove the barrier of expensive equipment for students who cannot afford to provide their own surfboards, wax, fins, leash, etc.

Surfing is an integral part of Hawaiian culture and enabling all students to learn about the culture and historical significance of the activity as well as the art of surfing will create a deeper appreciation for tradition, the ocean, and health.

Thank you,

Isabella Parsons

ellagrace210@gmail.com

(808) 651-9755

HB-500-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 6:36:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Matsuda	Wai`anae High School Surf Club	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Kakou. This is Beth Matsuda, founder of the Wai`anae High School Surf Club. I would like to submit testimony in support of HB 0500. We have been a school club that has gone from 15 last year, with 31 students this year, with 15 competing. We have strong support from the community (i can submit letters of support at a later date).

I understand the DOE has several concerns. One is safety. We currently have 6 coaches, all who have gone through the coaches certification class with Ian Masterson as required by the DOE.. We also work with Mauka to Makai Makaha Foundation, a local non profit that is also sanctioned by the City and County of Honolulu. They provide a vigorous Ocean Safety and Hawaiian cultural program that takes the students through various ocean conditions. Our students are all run through CPR. We have a pre-season conditioning program to make sure our students are in shape. We practice only at beaches that have Ocean Safety officers on duty. We also limit the wave size that we practice in. We have a Safety Protocol document in place and follow it closely. Before each practice we check in with the Ocean Safety personnel, check on their recommendations on conditions and safety pointers.

The students and their parents sign a DOE Release of Liability, along with proof of insurance. We have had no accidents or incidents (prior to this I ran a community based program and have not had any accidents or incidents.

Hawaii is the birth place of surfing, yet it has the support in many other states, along with it being an Olympic sport. It's a shame that it's not a recognized sport in it's birth place. Our community is an ocean based community. Some of our students participate in OIA sports, but many joined so they would have a school based activity. It has kept them in school and kept their GPA up (the average GPA is 3.0). Several students are beginners, participating in a program that keeps them out of trouble, out of substance abuse and with strong support of their parents because of the benefits they receive.

Our students are not wealthy, so many of our boards and equipment have been donated by the community. We also have some of our students learning how to do surf board repair and shaping. This provides them with a learning opportunity and possible future careers.

We have received inquiries from other schools about starting their own Surf Clubs but don't know where to start. I am willing to help this students through all the steps that are needed to start their own programs.

It is already an interscholastic sport on Maui. It should be a state wide sport. We already have an Olympic Gold Medalist in Carissa Moore and we could possibly offer opportunities to other Hawaiians.

HB-500-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 8:07:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry SUPPORT HB 500 RELATING TO EDUCATION. To include the Waianae community.

HB-500-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 8:13:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
michelle Hoover	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On an island that prides itself in the surfing community. We must afford kids the opportunity to join and participate in school clubs and athletes that support the most common and well lived activity on the island. This will benefit all children open them up to trying something new and helping them Etsy in school and motivated. This is a must for schools! Please approve

HB-500-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 9:46:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clair Mason	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha chair, vice chair, and members of the committee,

My name is Clair Mason and I am a resident of Kailua-Kona. I am testifying in support of HB500 to appropriate funds for increased surfing opportunities for youth. Surfing is a central component of Hawai'i culture and our youth should have access to honing their skills within our public education system. Not only does this bill allow for more opportunity within sports education for youth, it also would increase access to ocean safety practices. Please support our Keiki and pass this bill though.

Mahalo for your work and for considering my testimony.

Clair Mason

808-741-0124