

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: 04/04/2024

Time: 10:15 AM

Location: CR 211 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: HB 0500, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds to the Department of Education for various workforce readiness programs and opportunities. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Takes effect 6/30/3000. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 500 HD1, SD1.

The Department recognizes the importance of extracurricular and workforce readiness programs and opportunities for students. The Department is appreciative and supportive of the items included in this measure that were part of the Hawai'i Board of Education approved supplemental budget request. Funding of these programs and opportunities will address student engagement, expand learning opportunities and will support a well-rounded education for student success.

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

HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
KA 'OIHANA LAWELAWE ULIA PŌPILIKIA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

3375 KOAPAKA STREET, SUITE H450 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819
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IAN T. T. SANTEE, MPA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O

April 2, 2024

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
and Members
The Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of HB500 HD1 SD1

I stand in strong support of House Bill 500 SD1 HD1, relating to Education, and would like to point out that even in this day and age, aquatic safety is a collective effort by many stakeholders for our islands' youth, and is frequently led by non-government entities.

We know the State Department of Education's responsibilities are broad, but if HB500 SD1 HD1 can further our support of our children's growth in our ocean waters, through surf club and formal team participation, and related activities, it would seem to make sense.

Many states have far more robust high school surfing structures than does the birthplace of the sport.

Mahalo,

John K. Titchen
Chief of Ocean Safety
City & County of Honolulu

HB-500-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 1:06:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Matsuda	Testifying for Hawaii High Schools Surfing	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We currently have 13 schools participating in High School Surfing. We have 3 more schools entering next year. Hawai'i is the birthplace of surfing. It is a high school sport on the West and East Coasts and Australia. It is also a college sport at 35 colleges. Surfing can serve as a pathway to college and a pathway to maritime careers.

We are requesting \$50,000 for the cost that Hawaii Surfing Association charges to run 10 meets. (The cost may increase as more and more schools join). It would cost an additional \$22,500 to have a jetski and operator present at the meets for safety. We don't need generators. The schools have purchased their own pop up tents. There are no uniforms for meets as different color rashguards are issued at the meets to differentiate the competitors. The clubs have been fundraising to purchase team practice rashguards. The students supply their own surfboards. We've had tremendous community support. The community has donated surfboards.

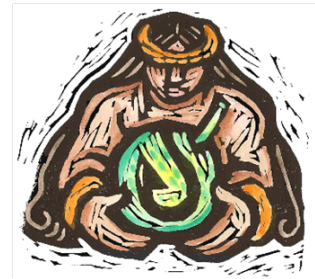
Surfing attracts students who don't participate in the current high school athletics. Surfing helps them stay in school and keep their grades up. Students have testified that it keeps them in school versus some have said they thought about dropping out, but the prospect of representing their schools has kept them in.

Please support our state sport.

KAI LOA, INC.

KAMAKAU ASSOCIATION FOR INCREASING LIFELONG OPPORTUNITIES FOR
ADVANCEMENT

46-500 Kūneki St., Kāne'ohe Hawai'i 96744 * Phone: 808.235.9175 Fax: 808.235.9173



**HB500 HD1 SD1
Relating to Education
House Committee on Education
April 4, 2024
10:15 AM**

Date: April 4, 2024
Subject: Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of House Bill 500 HD1: Relating to Education

Aloha mai kākou e nā Luna o Ke Kōmike WAM,

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 500 HD1 SD1 Relating to Education, which includes the appropriation of (1) \$42,000 funds to the DOE for the promotion and support of surfing as an interscholastic sport.

As the non-profit support organization of Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau, KAI LOA Inc. **strongly supports** the appropriation of \$42,000 to the DOE for the promotion and support of surfing as an interscholastic sport.

While it is important to address the safety concerns of the DOE, it is also understood that the careful consideration and creation of safety procedures and protocols will be required prior to proceeding with a surfing season. Existing community partners may be brought into the process as essential resources, including the Hawai'i Surfing Association and C&C Lifeguards.

Infrastructure- Addressing Safety and Procedures

1. Eleven (11) high school surf teams participated in the 2023-2024 school year with their own school surf clubs, which was organized by the HSA (Hawai'i Surfing Association)
2. The Hawai'i Surfing Association (HSA) has already created a system for organizing surf competitions across the state, including the safety and certification requirements for the coaches as well as the student surfers.
 - a. Kamakau's surf team was able to meet the requirements within a month as a last-minute school to participate in their first year of surf competitions.
3. The concern for the inability to control the practice environment-
 - a. Whether with surfing or other already sanctioned sports (e.g., cross-country, canoe paddling, etc.), it is impossible to completely control the practice environment. Rather, the best way to mitigate the concern is to develop safety protocols and procedures, which has been established and are being enforced by the existing high school surf clubs.

E mālama 'ia ana ka mauli ola o kākou mai kēlā hanauna a i kēia hanauna.

Our spirit of being is nurtured from generation to generation.

Please allow this testimony in strong support for HB 500 HD1 SD1.

‘O ia ihola nō me ke aloha,

I. Meahilahila Kelling, Ed.D
Executive Director

E mālama ‘ia ana ka mauli ola o kākou mai kēlā hanauna a i kēia hanauna.

Our spirit of being is nurtured from generation to generation.

HB-500-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 11:22:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Fairchild	Testifying for Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing in support of HB500 because it still provides funding for surfing in schools. We have the framework for surfing in schools ready to go, and already in use in Maui County. The questions around safety and insurance have already been answered. The safety regulations are probably stronger than any other sport in the public schools. As a result, safety certification for coaches (usually our public school teachers) is very expensive, creating a barrier to entry for many schools. Even if this funding can just cover safety certifications, that will still help more schools have surf clubs. Once enough clubs in each league are participating to hold tournaments in at least three leagues, HHSAA will be compelled by its bylaws to hold a statewide championship as it does for other sports. Surfing is the official individual sport in Hawaii and surfing as a sport provides much-needed water safety skill building.

I recently attended the middle school Lead Like Duke conference as an observer. It was a great model for bringing together middle school students from around the islands to network IRL (in real life), a skill and experience becoming increasingly uncommon for the younger generation. Kids identified with leadership qualities are allying with each other before they enter high school together. They are also learning and modeling the important values that Duke Kahanamoku stood for, as our first official Ambassador of Aloha. I do hope it continues.

Aloha,

If you know me, you know that surfing is a big part of my life. I've had the privilege of growing up with the sport, and have learned priceless lessons from the ocean that have helped me get to where I am today mentally, physically, and spiritually. I also have had the privilege of being part of my high school's surf team, where I'm able to put on a jersey and represent my school in the water with pride. It's through this team and this sport that I've been connected to amazing friends, and made some of my best memories.

Despite all this, surfing is still not getting the recognition or support it deserves. Hawai'i is the birthplace of surfing, but Hawai'i has yet to give surfing the state funding it needs to become an official sport in high schools statewide. As long as there's no funding, my high school's surf team won't be recognized or properly supported as anything more than a club, despite our hours of dedicated training comparable to a varsity level sports team. Not only my community, but other surf teams and student surfers statewide won't be given proper credit for their physical efforts and time commitment, and won't have a chance to surf for their school.

Every student athlete deserves to experience the pride of representing their school through their sport. Every student deserves to connect with a supportive community in the water, and to experience the transformative blessings that surfing and the ocean have to offer.

Together with the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation, we are advocating for surfing to become a state funded sport through this petition that has been signed by 311 people so far (www.SurfPetition.com). Together, let's make surfing available to all Hawai'i students, and give our homegrown sport its long-overdue support and recognition.

Mahalo!

Sunny Kazama
'Iolani School
Class of 2024

Congratulations on starting your petition!
Take steps to strengthen it.

Petition Strength



Write a longer description

Add a personal story, as well as relevant facts and statistics.

[Edit description](#)

Start an image test

Upload a few images and we'll find the one driving the most signatures.

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To Allocate Funds to Establish Surfing as a Sport in Hawai'i High Schools

Started
Petition to

March 12, 2024
[Hawaii State House](#)

311
Signatures

500
Next Goal

52 people signed this week

[Share this petition](#)

Why this petition matters

Started by [Sunny Kazama \('Iolani School - Class of 2024\)](#)

Surfing was born in Hawai'i, yet it is still not a funded sport in high schools statewide. Surfing is offered as a club sport in only a handful of schools, preventing students from experiencing the pride of representing their schools and the joy of building lifelong memories with teammates.

Besides holding immense cultural significance in Hawai'i, surfing provides a much needed study break for students' mental health, disconnecting us from stressors, releasing mood-improving endorphins, and connecting us to Mother Nature. Surfing is also a wonder for physical health, as it's a full body workout that incorporates cardio, strength training, and muscle building all at once.

****We are asking the Hawai'i State Legislature to allocate funds so that every high school student statewide has the opportunity to represent their school with pride and reap the numerous benefits of surfing.****

Please sign this petition and bring surfing to Hawai'i high schools statewide. (Please do not donate any money when signing this online petition.)

Mahalo!



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Hawaii State House

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No response yet

1 petition response to date



52 people signed this week

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Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau, LPCS
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Phone: (808) 235-9175; Fax: (808) 235-9173

“E mālama 'ia ana ka maui ola o kākou mai kēlā hanauna a i kēia hanauna.”

**HB500 HD1 SD1
Relating to Education
House Committee on Education
April 24, 2024
10:15 AM**

Date: January 20, 2024
Subject: Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of House Bill 500 HD1: Relating to Education

Aloha mai kākou e nā Luna o Ke Kōmike WAM,

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 500 HD1 SD1 Relating to Education, which includes the appropriation of (1) \$42,000 funds to the DOE for the promotion and support of surfing as an interscholastic sport.

Athletics/Survival Skills-

1. As surfing originated in Hawai'i by Hawaiians and was a national pastime, our youth should be provided the opportunity to participate in this sport, especially in the public schools in Hawai'i.
2. Water sports and swimming are important skills for all residents in Hawai'i as an island state.

Infrastructure- Addressing Safety and Procedures

1. Eleven (11) high school surf teams participated in the 2023-2024 school year with their own school surf clubs, which was organized by the HSA (Hawai'i Surfing Association)
2. The Hawai'i Surfing Association (HSA) has already created a system for organizing surf competitions across the state, including the safety and certification requirements for the coaches as well as the student surfers.
 - a. Kamakau's surf team was able to meet the requirements within a month as a last-minute school to participate in our first year of surf competitions.
3. The concern for the inability to control the practice environment-
 - a. Whether with surfing or other already sanctioned sports (e.g., cross-country, canoe paddling, etc.), it is impossible to completely control the practice environment. Rather, the best way to mitigate the concern is to develop safety protocols and procedures, which has been established and are being enforced by the existing high school surf clubs.

Self-Funding as Current Practice-

1. Currently, both public and private schools participating with their own surf clubs are having to self-fund all expenses required for participating in surfing.
2. Many of the Surf Coaches are volunteering their valuable time to their students on the surf clubs as they recognize the great value of surfing as a sport. Their efforts to service our students must be equitably compensated.

Please allow this testimony in strong support for HB 500 HD1 SD1.

‘O ia ihola nō me ke aloha,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "I. Meahilahila Kelling".

I. Meahilahila Kelling, Ed.D.
Director

LATE

HB-500-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 1:25:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joslyn Sato	Testifying for Leilehua High School's Mules Surf Team	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Ways and Means,

This testimony is in support for HB500 SDI. While we know that not all students are the same, providing diverse opportunities for academic and extracurricular experience is vital for our children's growth and success. Moving in this direction will truly allow the DOE to offer diverse, equitable, and inclusive programs that are recognized, supported, and meaningful to our community while being flexible to meet the needs for each school.

My testimony is in specific support of HB500 SDI, Section 3. 1) for the promotion and support of surfing as an interscholastic sport. And to allocate funding for the 2024 – 2025 school year.

This support will be a huge step for Leilehua High School and other schools to establish clubs with competitive teams to participate in high school surfing. The funding will allow teams to ensure SAFETY is met adequately and equally among all contests and all participating high schools. As a parent and volunteer team mom, safety is priority. I have spent several hundred dollars of my own to cover many upfront costs like required coach's ocean lifeguard training and "safety equipment" like rash guards and other items to ensure safety of our team before even getting students to join. So by passing HB500 SD1 we can ensure that core required safety measures are funded, and begin the process to explore what surfing would truly look like within the DOE.

Being part of this process and hearing challenges during the last hearing, I've realized that surfing, might not be like other "OIA" sports or fit in predefined definitions and criteria. In addition, surfing, might not have large interest like other "team" sports, but that doesn't mean that surfing (and any other competitive clubs) shouldn't get DOE or school support and recognition. Students are proud to represent their school and have a deeper sense of purpose and connection when given an opportunity like surfing. Surfing is one of the few sports that has a deep connection with our Hawai'i history, culture, economy, local career paths, and lifestyle. So maybe now's the time that we take the next step to move surfing forward and pave a way to allow surfing to be equally recognized, funded, and supported in the DOE. By passing HB500 SD1 you are help us take to the next step forward and making an investment in our future ocean stewards! ~ Mahalo for your consideration, Joslyn

LATE

HB-500-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:08:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian A. Masterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Surfing has long been our identity and gift from Hawaii to the world. I have seen surfing inspire kids throughout their whole lives, as a college professor teaching surfing classes for anthropology at UH and HPU. Please support this bill to make surfing a legitimate OIA sport. With surfing now in the Olympics, we need the amateur surfing pathways to start at the high school level if we are to compete on any international scene, especially at the Olympics. To promote Hawaii as a destination for surfing and not promote surfing as our individual sport fully supported by our school system would be a travesty to our community. Please give our keiki a chance through fostering this important connection to Hawaiian culture. Duke Kahanamoku would support it, so should we. We must act now, please support this bill to legitimize surfing in our schools. Sincerely with Aloha, Ian Akahi Masterson