



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025**

**LATE**

**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**  
H.B. NO. 88, RELATING TO STUDENT ATHLETES.

**BEFORE THE:**  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**DATE:** Thursday, January 30, 2025      **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 309

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Anne T. Horiuchi or Randall M. Wat, Deputy Attorneys General

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Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) provides the following comments.

The bill requires the Department of Education to establish and administer a three-year student athlete travel pilot program (Program) to provide funding for intra-county travel expenses for student athletes of Maui county, and it appropriates funds.

Any sports-related travel for student athletes must comply with title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. sections 1681-1688), and section 302A-461, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Department recommends amending the bill to explicitly require compliance with all applicable state and federal laws. Additionally, the bill should require reporting on the number of male and female student-athletes who participated in the pilot program, the amount of private donations received, both monetary and service-related, and the allocation of money (both private and public) and services provided to each male and female athletic team.

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



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

**Date:** 01/30/2025

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Bill Title:** HB 0088 RELATING TO STUDENT ATHLETES.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the Department of Education to establish and administer a three-year student athlete travel pilot program to provide funding intra-county travel expenses for student athletes of Maui county. Appropriates funds. Repeals 6/30/28.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of the intent HB 88, which establishes a three-year student athlete travel pilot program.

Travel is a challenge across all Department athletic programs. These challenges are even greater for schools that need to travel to other islands for intra-island games and face additional lodging issues. While there is special funding for athletic travel for Lanai and Molokai teams due to their unique geographic challenge to participate in athletic events, these funds are limited. The three-year pilot would be a welcome support for student athletes who also face lodging challenges in addition to other travel expenses. The Department respectfully suggests the pilot allow funding to also be used for an athletic clerk if needed, who would assist with travel procurement and implementation of the pilot.

While the Department appreciates the appropriation in this measure, we ask that it does not adversely affect the priorities identified in the Department's Governor-approved budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for HB 88.

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR



**MAKALAPUA ALENCASTRE, ED. D.**  
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII  
**STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION**  
**(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)**

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>  
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1100, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

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FOR: HB 88 Relating to Student Athletes  
DATE: January 30, 2025  
TIME: 2:00 P.M.  
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education  
ROOM: Conference Room 309 & Videoconference  
FROM: Ed H. Noh, Ed. D., Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 88 with amendments** which requires the Department of Education to establish and administer a three-year student athlete travel pilot program to provide funding intra-county travel expenses for student athletes of Maui county.

The Commission would appreciate the inclusion of Maui County public charter schools in this measure as charter schools are a part of the public education system. There are two charter schools, Kihei Charter School and Hawaii Technology Academy, in Maui County that have high schools that may have student athletes that would benefit from this travel pilot program.

The Commission is available to work with this committee, the DOE, and our public charter schools in moving this legislation forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**HB-88**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 5:14:11 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/30/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lorena Martinez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please accept this testimony in support of HB88. I have served as a coach several times and seen the extraordinary efforts so many caregivers go through to provide travel experience to their children. Please support our efforts in passing this bill to support our student athletes across the Maui sister islands.

Mahalo,  
Lo Martinez - Resident of West Maui

**HB-88**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:45:51 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/30/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
La?a Poepoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please accept my support for all the reasons provided in additional testimonies. thank you

**HB-88**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:46:34 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/30/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Briann Starkey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & HEALTH**

**RE: HB 88**

**Wednesday, January 29, 2025**

**Aloha Senators,**

**My name is Briann Starkey and I am submitting testimony as an individual. I am writing this in favor and support of HB 88, in relation to Students Athletes. I am a current Elementary teacher at Kualapuu School on the island of Moloka'i. I am also a mom of four children, two who have graduated and 2 who currently attend Moloka'i High School and are involved in athletics.**

**Sports on Moloka'i as you may know are a driving force for our youth of today. Exercise and health are important factors. However, students are also driven & committed to make the traveling team to get off the island, represent our island community as well as their families. Many of the above mentioned students have multi-children in their families and are involved in different sports. And like every off-island trip, it involves money. Money for food for at least 4 or 5 meals. (Dinner, Breakfast, lunch, dinner) which usually range at \$20. That is about \$100 a trip, for EACH sport for EACH child which may deem costly over the sports season of 3 months.**

**Qualifications; other than money for food. Our schools need money for travel and participation in school representation. A sports season for one sport lasts a couple months. The opportunity for competitions to be held on Maui are high which leaves Moloka'i students traveling the most. Out of 7 Maui County Competitions and the school funding, Moloka'i schools can only afford to participate in 3 of the 7 which makes their qualifying time for MIL's and States lessen. Teams can only take a certain amount of students, leaving some home and not participating. Maui schools only travel one time to Moloka'i**

**and one time to Lana‘i..Moloka‘i students travel the most and in need of more participation in competition and more funds.**

**Traveling costs, Mokulele is the only way off of the island for Moloka‘i residents. It would help if you would support travel and funding by boat for when the plane transportations are ceased. This can cause unfairness in the Sports qualifications as well. My son and his Paddling Team had to disqualify themselves from a canoe race because Mokulele planes were not flying yet the Competition still went on. Where is the fairness in that?**

**Your support with the passing of this Bill HB 88 will help all of our families here on Moloka‘i and our student athletes ease our minds. Thank you for your consideration.**

**HB-88**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:49:25 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/30/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michelle Miki'ala Pescaia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Athletics for rural communities is an essential component of developing well rounded students who lack similar opportunities in club or non-DOE leagues. Access to rigorous competition, character building as well as the caliber of programs students at other schools enjoy is not a privilege but a right. Please support building equitable access to athleticism to remote schools in the Maui county complex which this bill provides through this funding.

Mahalo nui.

**HB-88**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:49:33 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/30/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joyce Haase	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha State of Hawai'i House of Representatives,**

**I am writing in support of HB 88. I am submitting testimony as an individual who is currently a teacher on the island of Molokai where I have worked for 15 years.**

**Students on Molokai experience a long list of inconveniences and by the end of high school these small injustices add up to consequential ramifications. Over the years, Molokai students will miss out on many of the common educational experiences of their Oahu, Hawai'i, Maui, and Kaua'i peers. Many of these missed educational opportunities are enrichment experiences that provide arts, STEM, athletic, and cultural exposure to the Molokai student. Athletics is an area where Molokai students are competitive and do get a chance to travel and complete in Hawai'i tournaments and sporting events with peers from other islands. Please support this three year pilot athletic travel program in order to provide Molokai students more EQUITY as they travel and compete in HS athletics.**

**In support of HB 88, mahalo for your time.**

**Joyce Haase**