



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**  
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI  
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**Wednesday, April 2, 2025**

**10:01 a.m.**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 211 and Videoconference**

**In consideration of**

**HB 133, HD2, SD1**

**RELATING TO SURFING.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

I'm Keith Amemiya, Chair of the Governor's Sports Task Force and former Executive Director of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association, and I strongly support HB 133, HD2, SD1 which appropriates funds to the Department of Education to support the establishment of surfing as an interscholastic sport statewide beginning in the 2025-26 school year.

Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing, is extremely popular with residents of all ages, and is home to legendary world surfing champions Duke Kahanamoku, Carissa Moore, John John Florence, and many more.

The Hawaii State Board of Education already approved surfing as an official high school sport in 2004. In 2014, the Maui Interscholastic League held its first season where students regularly competed and contended for an official championship. Since that inaugural season, no MIL surfers have sustained any serious injuries during practice or competition.

On Oahu, numerous Oahu Interscholastic Association high schools have adopted surfing as a club sport that requires surfers and coaches to pass rigorous safety requirements before being allowed to participate. To date, no OIA surfers have sustained any serious injuries during practice or competition.

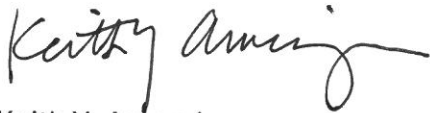
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
HB 133, HD2, SD1  
Page 2

The funding of surfing with sanctioned competitions statewide will increase sports participation for both males and females, will increase academic achievement, will increase student and community pride in their schools, will be well received by the general public, and is long overdue.

Based upon the above, I humbly ask for your support and to pass HB 133, HD2, SD1.

Please let me know if you have any questions and mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Y. Amemiya". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Keith Y. Amemiya  
Chair  
Governor's Sports Task Force



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB133 HD2 SD1  
RELATING TO SURFING**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawai'i State Capitol

April 2, 2025

10:01 AM

Conference Room 211

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Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to **supports House Bill 133, HD2 SD1**, which provides full funding for the implementation of five high school interscholastic board surfing programs—fulfilling the Legislature’s intent from 2016.

**Since the Legislature authorized interscholastic surfing in 2016, only one league—in Maui County—has been established.** Meanwhile, states like New York and the Carolinas have successfully launched high school surfing leagues. It is past time for Hawai'i to fully embrace the sport that originated in these islands.

**By providing \$2 million in funding, this bill will support five athletic leagues statewide, including public, private, charter, and Hawaiian language immersion (Kaiapuni) schools, ensuring broader participation and fostering the next generation of Hawai'i born surfers.** As noted in Standing Committee Report No. 152 on HB122, HD1 in 2016, the committee stated, “Surfing is of significant cultural, social, and economic value to the State... and should be sponsored by more of the State’s athletic leagues to enable student-athletes to compete in and perpetuate the legacy of this sport through state championship events.”

**Beyond expanding athletic opportunities, this bill sends a clear cultural message that Native Hawaiian traditions and innovations deserve recognition and protection.** OHA urges the Legislature to fulfill the promise made in 2016 by ensuring all five leagues are established. Doing so will preserve, promote, and honor Native Hawaiian culture while providing invaluable opportunities for Hawai'i's youth.

Mahalo for your time and consideration, we ask that this committee **pass** this bill.



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

**Date:** 04/02/2025

**Time:** 10:01 AM

**Location:** CR 211 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Ways and Means

**Department:** Education

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

**Bill Title:** HB 0133, HD2, SD1 RELATING TO SURFING.

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to support the establishment of surfing as an interscholastic sport. Takes effect 7/1/2050. (SD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) recognizes the intent of HB133, HD2, SD1, and respectfully offers comments.

Since 2005, the Department has developed regulations to implement surfing as a high school sport. In 2016, the Hawaii State Board of Education approved the Board Policy 101-11, Surfing, which established surfing as a high school sport. Currently, the Maui Interscholastic League is the only league that participates in surfing as an interscholastic sport.

For a new competitive sport to be offered, the Department defers to the 4 different league associations. Each league has procedures in place to propose and approve a new athletic sport. On Oahu, Kauai, and Hawaii Island, surfing has not been proposed as an interscholastic sport. The Oahu Interscholastic Association is engaging in conversation with members of the surfing community. As dialogue is at initial stages, there is not yet any proposal on the table for the League members to consider.

The Department has not included an ask for funds to support the expansion of surfing as an interscholastic sport in the Governor's approved budget request at this time, as there are other pressing needs to address for athletics.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

# OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR

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## Testimony of Derek S.K. Kawakami

Mayor, County of Kaua'i

Before the

### Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 2, 2025; 10:01 AM

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

In consideration of

### House Bill 133 HD2 SD1 Relating to Surfing

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

The County of Kaua'i is in **support** of HB 133 HD2 SD1 Relating to Surfing which appropriates funds to the Department of Education to support the establishment of surfing as an interscholastic sport.

The sport of surfing embodies the social and cultural fabric of Hawai'i. With its long history in our islands and deemed by many as the most popular sport in Hawai'i, the sport of surfing was sanctioned by the Department of Education and approved by the Board of Education in 2016.

Since then, only one of five state interscholastic athletic leagues has embraced the sport, leaving our surfing students with limited opportunities to compete at the high school level. This bill not only proposes to add funding to support surfing as a competitive high school sport but also lends the opportunity for discussion and encouragement to the other interscholastic athletic leagues to consider adopting the sport.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this measure, HB 133 HD2 SD1 Relating to Surfing.

Aloha Committee members,

This is the proposed budget for high school surfing for one season for 46 public high schools. If you have any questions, contact Kim Ball, the MIL surfing co-coordinator. [kim@surfmaui.com](mailto:kim@surfmaui.com) / 808-280-1320.

Mahalo, Maile Castro

<b>Per contest</b>	<b>Cost</b>		<b>Total</b>
<b>Equipment Rental</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>26 contests x \$500</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>
<b>Contest Director</b>	<b>\$850</b>	<b>26 contests x \$850</b>	<b>\$22,100</b>
<b>Beach Marshall</b>	<b>\$200</b>	<b>26 contests x \$200</b>	<b>\$5,200</b>
<b>Announcer</b>	<b>\$200</b>	<b>26 contests x \$200</b>	<b>\$5,200</b>
<b>Head Judge</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>26 contests x \$300</b>	<b>\$7,800</b>
<b>Judging panel-six judges</b>	<b>\$1,080</b>	<b>26 contests x \$1,080</b>	<b>\$28,080</b>
<b>Live Heats computer program</b>	<b>\$175</b>	<b>26 contests x \$175</b>	<b>\$4,550</b>
<b>Live Score operator</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>26 contests x \$300</b>	<b>\$7,800</b>
<b>Security Guard</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>26 contests x \$300</b>	<b>\$7,800</b>
<b>Ocean Safety w/jet ski</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>26 x contests \$2,500</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>
<b>Team Jerseys</b>	<b>\$800</b>	<b>46 x \$800</b>	<b>\$36,800</b>
<b>Coaches salary per team</b>	<b>\$6,990</b>	<b>46 x \$6,990</b>	<b>\$321,540</b>
<b>Bus Transportation</b>	<b>\$700</b>	<b>46 x 5 contests 230 trips x \$700</b>	<b>\$161,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>\$685,870</b>



## Testimony in Support of HB133 Surfing as an Interscholastic Sport in Hawai'i

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Cara Short, and I am honored to provide testimony in support of HB133 for surfing as an interscholastic sport in Hawai'i's schools. As the birthplace of surfing and a place where the ocean is deeply woven into culture, history, and daily lives, it is only fitting that surfing be given the same recognition and opportunity as other competitive school sports.

Surfing is more than just a recreational activity in Hawai'i—it is a way of life that teaches discipline, resilience, and respect for the ocean. By integrating surfing into our schools, we provide students with an opportunity to develop physical fitness, ocean safety skills, and a deeper connection to their heritage. Surfing is one of the few sports that naturally fosters inclusivity, providing opportunities for all students, including those with disabilities. Surfing promotes mental and emotional well-being, offering a healthy outlet for stress and encouraging students to embrace an active lifestyle. As the Executive Director of AccesSurf, I have personally witnessed the profound impact surfing has on overall health, well-being, and the empowerment of confidence that extends far beyond the ocean.

Furthermore, making surfing an official interscholastic sport ensures equitable access to the ocean for all students, regardless of socioeconomic background. Many families cannot afford private lessons or competitive surf programs. By establishing school-based surfing teams, we create opportunities for aspiring young surfers to train, compete, and even earn scholarships, just as they would in football, basketball, or volleyball.

Hawai'i has long been a global leader in surfing producing world-class athletes who inspire generations. By supporting surfing in schools, we invest in the future of the sport and uphold cultural legacy. I strongly urge the committee to recognize surfing as an interscholastic sport, ensuring that our students have the opportunity to participate in a sport that is not only part of their identity but also a vital part of their education and personal growth.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cara Short".

Cara Short  
Executive Director, AccesSurf Hawai'i



AccesSurf Hawai'i  
PO Box 15152  
Honolulu, HI, 96830



808-236-4200



info@accessurf.org



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Catherine Wolfe

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and the Ways and Means (WAM) Committee:

I'm writing in support of HB133 to appropriate funds to establish surfing as an interscholastic sport in the Department of Education. The Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation supports the development of competitive water sports in Hawaii. Surfing is intrinsic to Hawaii's cultural identity. Additionally, surfing teaches and builds water safety skills that are sorely needed in our state which ranks second in the nation for rate of drowning among residents.

Surfing was designated as an official interscholastic sport in the DOE in 2014. The purpose of this bill is to provide the funding needed to get teams established around the state, so that the league thresholds can be met for three league tournaments to occur, triggering a state championship to be held by HHSAA. Once a state championship is held, the sport would be funded within the budget of other DOE varsity athletics, like soccer, football, archery, bowling, and flag football. This evolution is not anticipated to take more than a few years at most. Maui has an existing league championship; OIA and ILH are very close to the threshold; Kauai only needs 2 schools to participate.

The safety protocols of the sport were already approved and established by the DOE in 2014; a copy is attached for your reference. These are likely the most extensive safety protocols of any DOE sport and to date the Maui interscholastic league and the Oahu club leagues have great safety records. Research on competitive surfing indicates that it is relatively safe when compared with other sports for which comparable data are available. Research also indicates that surfers with safety training enhance community-level capacity to prevent and respond to ocean emergencies at unguarded beaches.

The Foundation published a white paper about surfing in schools which can be found at [www.dukefoundation.org](http://www.dukefoundation.org) for further background. DOE surfing would be covered by existing insurance at minimal additional cost (and is already being utilized for Maui County). I have emailed this information to WAM members previously on March 27, and can share it again upon request. Please help surfing get past the tipping point so our kids can proudly represent their schools and receive varsity status in Hawaii's official state sport.

Mahalo,

Sarah Fairchild  
Executive Director

Enclosures:

List of OIA Schools that have expressed interest in a surf team for 2025-2026  
DOE Approved Safety Protocols for Surfing

**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**



OIA Schools Expected to Have Surf Teams in 2025-2026:

**Existing:**

Farrington

Kahuku

Kaiser

Kalaheo

Kapolei

Leileihua

Waiʻalua

Waiʻanae (Kamala is invited to compete as part of Waiʻanae)

Kekula Samuel Kamakau

**Coming on next year:**

Campbell

Kailua

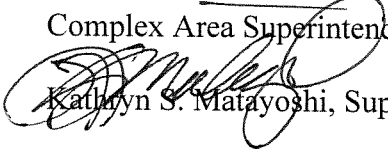
Mililani



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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

March 7, 2014

TO: Complex Area Superintendents, High School Principals, and Athletic Directors  
FROM:  Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent  
SUBJECT: **Updated Surfing Regulation 2180.1**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) has updated the Surfing Regulation 2180.1 to include interscholastic surfing. Please discard the April 2005 Surfing Regulation 2180.1 and replace with the attached regulation. Each interscholastic league that adopts surfing as an interscholastic sport should follow the parameters in Surfing Regulations 2180.1(Rev. 02/14).

Should you have questions, please contact Mr. Raymond Fujino, Interim DOE Athletics Administrative Officer, at (808) 421-4394.

Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this matter.

KSM:RF:rf

Attachment

c: Assistant Superintendents  
Superintendent's Office Directors  
District Athletics Specialists  
State Public Charter School Commission Office  
Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Student Support

## SURFING REGULATION

### Purpose

This regulation is established to implement Policy 2180 on Surfing. It sets the authority and minimum requirements to implement surfing as a high school sport in Hawaii's public schools.

### Definitions

*High School Sport* – any athletic activity in grades 9-12.

*Surf Club* – a special interest club for high school students formed to promote the historical and cultural roots of surfing and/or to implement surfing as a high school sport.

*Interscholastic Leagues* – shall refer to and mean the Oahu Interscholastic Association, the Big Island Interscholastic Federation, the Maui Interscholastic League, and the Kauai Interscholastic Federation

*Interscholastic Surfing Contest* – a high school surfing competition sanctioned by the Oahu Interscholastic Association, the Big Island Interscholastic Federation, the Maui Interscholastic League, or the Kauai Interscholastic Federation, and governed by the interscholastic league's sport rules, constitution, bylaws, and eligibility requirements.

*Surf Team* – a student athletic surf team for high school students whose members engage in competitive surfing and other ocean-based activities related to surfing.

*Surf Club advisor* – an adult Department of Education ("DOE" or "Department") employee who serves as a mentor to student club members and who is responsible for ensuring that all DOE requirements for student clubs are met.

*Surf Club Coach* – an adult who meets specified minimum ocean-safety/surfing experience requirements, helps mentor student club members, and is responsible for “coaching” student surfers. The coach is responsible for the safety of student members and participates in all ocean-based activities related to surfing, including preparing for surfing, riding waves, and competition. The coach does not need to be a DOE employee but must be knowledgeable about and agree to adhere to all DOE policies, rules, regulations, procedures, and guidelines.

*Surf Team Coach* – an adult who meets specified minimum ocean-safety/surfing experience requirements, helps mentor student-athletes, and is responsible for coaching student-athletes. The coach is responsible for the safety of student members and participates in all ocean-based activities related to surfing, including preparing for

surfing, riding waves, and competition. The coach does not need to be a DOE employee but must be knowledgeable about and agree to adhere to all DOE as well as individual athletic leagues' policies, rules, regulations, procedures, and guidelines.

#### Authority

1. Hawaii public schools with grades 9-12 that establish surfing clubs, with the permission of the school principal, shall adhere to all DOE regulations including 2120.1 – Student Activities Program, 2250.1 – Field Trips, and to all guidelines/procedures pertaining to student activities, water safety, and surfing.
2. If the Interscholastic Leagues sanction surfing as an interscholastic competition, all public schools in their respective interscholastic leagues shall adhere to all DOE policies, rules, regulations, guidelines, and procedures pertaining to student activities, water safety, and surfing.

#### **Surf Club Regulations**

##### Surf Club Staffing Requirements

1. Each surf club shall have an advisor who is a DOE employee. The school principal must approve all club advisors.
2. Each surf club shall have a minimum of three coaches. The school principal must approve all surf club coaches.
3. Each surf club coach, whether ocean-based or land based, shall meet the following minimum qualifications:
  - a. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification
  - b. First Aid Certification
  - c. Ocean Rescue Skills Training
  - d. Ocean Safety Risk Management Training
  - e. Ocean-Related Injury Prevention Training
  - f. Training in Legal and Cultural Issues Related to Ocean Safety Management in Hawaiian Waters
  - g. Near-Shore Waters Environmental Awareness Training
  - h. DOE Background Check
4. All certifications must be current.

##### Surf Club Student Requirements

1. Student surf club members (also referred to as "club members") shall meet all academic requirements for participation in co-curricular activities as specified in Board of Education Policy 4520, DOE Regulation 4520.1.

2. Student surf club members that participate in ocean-based activities shall have Junior Lifeguard Certification or equivalent skills in all four areas listed below:
  - a. CPR Certification
  - b. Basic ocean swimming ability
  - c. Basic ocean rescue skills training
  - d. Ocean safety risk management skills training
3. Student club members shall have general physical fitness, as certified by an annual medical examination. Medical examination certification forms shall be on file **prior to** participation in any in-water activities.
4. Student club members shall have signed parent/guardian permission forms that must be on file **prior to** participation in any off-campus club meetings/activities, including surfing practices. Parents/guardians signing permission forms shall acknowledge the hazards and dangers of surfing when they allow participation.
5. Although the Department will not be responsible for verifying the appropriateness or safety of a particular surfboard the student may use, whether owned or borrowed by the student, surf club coaches shall have the sole discretion to disallow the use of surf equipment that the coach determines to be unsafe.
6. Student club members who meet the academic requirements outlined in Policy 4520 but who do not meet all minimum ocean safety skills and training requirements may be club members but cannot participate in any ocean-based activities.

#### Surf Club Adult-Student Ratios for Water Activities

1. The minimum ocean-based coach to student ratio for water activities shall be one (1) adult to six (6) students.
2. The land-based surf club coach to student ratio shall be one (1) adult to twelve (12) student surf club members.
3. At least one surf club coach shall remain on-shore at all times to observe no more than two in-ocean groups.
4. The level of adult to student supervision shall be increased to accommodate student club members with special needs and other special circumstances to make certain that the safety of all students is ensured. The principal has the authority to impose a lower adult to student ratio when special circumstances exist. The land-based club coach to student ratio and the ocean-based club coach to student ratio shall be adhered to at all times. A land-based club coach observing land-based members cannot also be simultaneously observing any ocean groups, and an on-shore surf club coach observing ocean groups cannot also be simultaneously observing land-based members.

5. An in-ocean group is a group of no more than six (6) student club members.
6. Student club members shall practice the buddy system, 1:1 ratio, whenever participating in in-water activities.
7. There shall be no more than twelve (12) student club members **in** the water at any given time.

#### Ocean-based-Site/In-water Activities

1. All surf club advisors and club coaches shall have knowledge of and adhere to the Department of Education Guidelines for Water-Related Activities.
2. There shall be a DOE employee at all ocean-based site activities, including surfing practices.
3. Standard Department of Education Field Trip, Consent, Release, and Assumption of Risk, and Use of Private Vehicle forms shall be used for all ocean-site/in-water activities, including surfing practice.
4. All surf club coaches shall assess ocean conditions prior to and during the ocean activity, including surfing practices. Club coaches shall also assess students to ensure they are capable of handling surf/ocean conditions for the activity. Club coaches shall have the authority to prohibit club members from ocean activities if in their sole discretion they determine the club member is not capable of handling the surf/ocean conditions, or if the club members engage in behavior that is deemed risky and/or unsafe.
5. The coaches shall develop an Ocean-Safety Management Plan and implement it appropriately. The Plan shall specify what actions shall be taken when surf or weather conditions are or become unsafe. A copy of the Plan shall be kept on file in the school office. It shall be the responsibility of each school to develop a plan for their surf club. The Plan should include emergency procedures for incidents, which include but are not limited to, extreme weather/surf conditions, accidents, injuries, and shark attacks.
6. The surf club coaches shall assure that there is a plan to account for all student surf club members at all times. The ocean-based site shall be vacated at the end of each activity. Student club members shall not be allowed to remain at the site but shall be dismissed from a designated area, away from the beach. Surf club coaches shall use a sign-in/sign-out form with student signatures to accommodate those student club members who have prior parental approval to drive. The DOE parental approval form must be completed for each practice or event the parent is allowing his/her child to drive to. Student club members leaving the site with someone other than their parent/guardian must submit appropriate parental permission forms prior to the practice or event. Student club members may be released to a parent/guardian from

the activity site provided that the proper release forms noting date/time of release have been verified and signed by parent/guardian and club coach.

### Equipment for Surfing Activities

1. The surf club shall acquire and maintain the following equipment for all ocean-based activities, including surfing practice:
  - a. Rescue surfboard, minimum nine (9) feet
  - b. Rescue tube and swim fins
  - c. Emergency medical kit
  - d. Cellular phone: club advisors and coaches shall have cellular phones, a written plan for cellular no-signal areas and also have knowledge of the nearest land-phone line and fire station.
  - e. One automotive vehicle that can be used to transport student members in case of an emergency.
  - f. Color-coded jerseys for student members and club coaches
  - g. Air horns, flags

### Insurance

1. Although medical/health insurance coverage is not required, if the club advisor, coach, and student club member chooses to be insured, they shall be responsible for his/her own coverage.
2. Each student and parent/guardian must sign a form that acknowledges their understanding that: a) all insurance costs and medical, dental, and vision costs related to injury are the sole responsibility of the parent/guardian; and b) the DOE will not assume any of these costs.

### **Surf Team Regulations**

#### Surf Team Staffing Requirements

1. Each surf team shall have a minimum of three surf team coaches. The school athletic director and principal must approve all surf team coaches.
2. Each surf team coach, whether ocean-based or land based, shall meet the following minimum qualifications:
  - a. CPR Certification
  - b. First Aid Certification
  - c. Ocean Rescue Skills Training
  - d. Ocean Safety Risk Management Training
  - e. Ocean-Related Injury Prevention Training
  - f. Training in Legal and Cultural Issues Related to Ocean Safety Management in Hawaiian Waters

- g. Near-Shore Waters Environmental Awareness Training
  - h. DOE Background Check
3. All certifications must be current.

#### Surf Team Student Requirements

1. Student surf team members (also referred to as "team members") shall meet all academic requirements for participation in co-curricular activities as specified in Board of Education Policy 4520, DOE Regulation 4520.1.
2. Student surf team members shall have Junior Lifeguard Certification or equivalent skills in all four areas listed below:
  - a. CPR Certification
  - b. Basic ocean swimming ability
  - c. Basic ocean rescue skills training
  - d. Ocean safety risk management skills training
3. Student team members shall have general physical fitness, as certified by an annual medical examination. Medical examination certification forms shall be on file prior to participation in any in-water activities.
4. Student team members shall have signed parent/guardian Consent, Release, and Assumption of Risks forms that must be on file prior to participation in any off-campus team meetings/activities, including surfing practices. Parents/guardians signing permission forms shall acknowledge the hazards and dangers of surfing when they allow participation.
5. Student team members shall have surfing experience, skills and abilities equivalent to compete in a surf meet. The student-athlete's parent or legal guardian is required to attest through a written and signed letter that the student team member possesses surfing experience, skills and abilities at the level of a surf meet competitor in order to participate on the school's surf team. When surf team coaches assess the skills and abilities of the student-athletes, the coach shall do it in the ocean on a one-to-one basis.
6. Although the Department will not be responsible for verifying the appropriateness or safety of a particular surfboard the student may use, whether owned or borrowed by the student, surf team coaches shall have the sole discretion to disallow the use of equipment that the team coach determines to be unsafe.

#### Surf Team Adult-Student Ratios for Water Activities

1. The minimum ocean-based surf team coach to student ratio for water activities shall be one (1) adult to six (6) students. The level of adult to student supervision



shall be increased to a one-to-one basis to assess students' skills and abilities during the initial try-out period.

2. The land-based surf team coach to student ratio shall be one (1) adult to twelve (12) students.
3. At least one surf team coach shall remain on-shore at all times to observe no more than two in-ocean groups.
4. The level of adult to student supervision shall be increased to accommodate student club members with special needs and other special circumstances to make certain that the safety of all students is ensured. The principal has the authority to impose a lower adult to student ratio when special circumstances exist. The land-based coach to student ratio and the ocean-based coach to student ratio shall be adhered to at all times. A land-based team coach observing land-based members cannot also be simultaneously observing any ocean groups, and an on-shore surf team coach observing ocean groups cannot also be simultaneously observing land-based members.
5. An in-ocean group is a group of no more than six (6) student team members.
6. Student team members shall practice the buddy system, 1:1 ratio, whenever participating in in-water activities.
7. There shall be no more than twelve (12) student team members in the water at any given time.

#### Ocean-based-Site/In-water Activities

1. All surf team coaches shall have knowledge of and adhere to the Department of Education Guidelines for Water-Related Activities.
2. Standard Department of Education Field Trip, Consent, Release, and Assumption of Risk, and Use of Private Vehicle forms shall be used for all ocean-site/in-water activities, including surfing practice.
3. All surf team coaches shall assess ocean conditions prior to and during the ocean activity, including surfing practices. Team coaches shall also assess student team members to ensure they are capable of handling surf/ocean conditions for the activity. Team coaches shall have the authority to prohibit team members from ocean activities if in their sole discretion they determine the team member is not capable of handling the surf/ocean conditions, or if the team members engage in behavior that is deemed risky and/or unsafe.
4. The individual surf team coaches shall develop an Ocean-Safety Management Plan and implement it appropriately. The Plan shall specify what actions shall be taken when surf or weather conditions are or become unsafe. A copy of the Plan

shall be kept on file in the school office. It shall be the responsibility of each individual school to develop their Plans. The Plan should include emergency procedures for incidents, which include but are not limited to, extreme weather/surf conditions, accidents, injuries, and shark attacks.

5. A surf team shall only be allowed to participate in the Interscholastic Surfing Contest if the interscholastic league has developed specific rules and regulations for the surfing competitions, and the rules and regulations include safety precautions for the ocean contest area, as well as the judging/spectator area on shore, and include water safety personnel in the surfing area and security personnel on shore.
6. The surf team coaches shall assure that there is a plan to account for all student team members at all times. The ocean-based site shall be vacated at the end of each activity. Student team members shall not be allowed to remain at the site but shall be dismissed from a designated area, away from the beach. Team coaches shall use a sign-in/sign-out form with student signatures to accommodate those team members who have prior parental approval to drive. The DOE parental approval form must be completed for each practice or event the parent is allowing his/her child to drive to. Student team members leaving the site with someone other than their parent/guardian must submit appropriate parental permission forms prior to the practice or event. Student team members may be released to a parent/guardian from the activity site provided that the proper release forms noting date/time of release have been verified and signed by parent/guardian and coach.

#### Equipment for Surfing Activities

1. The surf team shall acquire and maintain the following equipment for all ocean-based activities, including surfing practice:
  - a. Rescue surf board, minimum nine (9) feet
  - b. Rescue tube and swim fins
  - c. Emergency medical kit
  - d. Cellular phone: Team coaches shall have cellular phones, a written plan for cellular no-signal areas and also have knowledge of the nearest land-phone line and fire station.
  - e. One automotive vehicle that can be used to transport student team members in case of an emergency.
  - f. Color-coded jerseys for students members and team coaches
  - g. Air horns, flags

#### Insurance

1. Although medical/health insurance coverage is not required, if the team coach and student athletes chooses to be insured, they shall be responsible for his/her own coverage.

2. Each student and parent/guardian must sign the Consent, Release and Assumption of Risk form that acknowledges their understanding that: a) all insurance costs and medical, dental, and vision costs related to injury are the sole responsibility of the parent/guardian; and b) the DOE will not assume any of these costs.

Adopted: 04/05

Amended: 02/14

March 31, 2025

Hawai'i Senate – Ways and Means Committee

Re: HB133, HD2, SD1

Dear Chair Dela Cruz,



**Board of Directors**

Kalani Vierra  
President

Ricky Alvarez  
Vice President

Bridget Velasco  
Secretary

Chantal Zarbaugh  
Treasurer

Directors  
Zach Edlao  
Darwin Okinaka  
Cary Kayama  
Jon Kaneshina  
Bradley Young  
Kleve Zarbaugh  
Kurt Lager  
Clark Abbey  
Kekaulike Kealoha

Kirsten Hermstad  
Executive Director

**Ex Officio Legends**  
Ralph Goto  
Brian Keaulana  
Archie Kalepa  
Mark Cunningham

I am writing on behalf of the Hawaiian Lifeguard Association (HLA) to express strong support for House Bill 133, which proposes adding surfing as a sanctioned interscholastic sport in Hawai'i. HLA is a statewide non-profit with representation from all four County Ocean Safety Bureaus. HLA has worked diligently for 30 years throughout the state to support programs that reduce the incidence of drowning and aquatic injuries. Incorporating surfing into high school sports programs will provide numerous benefits to our students and community.

Surfing is not only a culturally significant activity in Hawai'i but also an excellent way to promote water safety education and lifeguarding skills among high school students. It is our understanding that all students participating in interscholastic surfing must complete junior lifeguard training.

The Hawaiian Lifeguard Association strongly supports this initiative as it aligns with our mission to enhance water safety and prevent drowning incidents. Despite the Department of Education approving surfing as a sport in 2016, funding continues to be a barrier for public schools to establish surf teams.

High school sports play a crucial role in the well-being of our youth. Participation in sports has been shown to improve physical health, reduce stress, and enhance academic performance. Moreover, sports provide a sense of belonging and community, which is essential for the mental and emotional well-being of students. Studies have shown that involvement in sports can lower rates of anxiety, depression, and risky behaviors, and even reduce the risk of suicide.

In Hawai'i, the importance of water safety cannot be overstated. Drowning is the leading cause of death for our keiki ages 1 – 15. By incorporating surfing into high school sports, we can provide students with essential water safety skills that could save lives.

We urge you to support HB133 to ensure that our students have the opportunity to participate in surfing as a sanctioned interscholastic sport. This initiative will not only promote physical fitness and mental well-being but also equip our youth with vital water safety skills.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Hermstad  
Executive Director

Hawaiian Lifeguard Association  
P.O. Box 844  
Kapa'a, Hawaii 96746  
Tax Id 99-0308213  
hawaiianlifeguardassociation.org

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 8:59:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leigh Tonai	Testifying for Hawaiian Island Creations	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

On behalf of our company, Hawaiian Island Creations, we are in support for HB133 to fund surfing in Hawaii public schools. We have 17 stores spread throughout the islands with over 200 employees. Surfing is a sport that originated in Hawaii and spread throughout the world. It is sad to see how little support surfing gets from the state considering how much it contributes to the state economy and history of the sport.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 2:57:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sebastian Zietz	Testifying for Hawaii Surf Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of HB133, a bill that would significantly improve interscholastic surfing opportunities for students across Hawai‘i. As a volunteer director of the Hawai‘i Surf Association (HSA) and a professional surfer with experience competing on the World Surf League (WSL) Championship Tour, I strongly believe this bill will be a crucial step in expanding opportunities for local students who aspire to pursue competitive surfing.

Surfing has always been an integral part of Hawai‘i’s culture, and it is incredibly important that we provide local students with avenues to pursue their passion for surfing in a competitive, educational, and supportive environment. While surfing is already recognized as a high school sport in Hawai‘i, it remains underfunded and underdeveloped in many regions. This bill would help address those gaps by appropriating funding to expand the reach of interscholastic surfing programs, ensuring that more students across the state have the opportunity to participate in and excel at the sport.

As someone who has competed at the highest levels of the sport, I know firsthand how powerful it can be for young surfers to have access to structured competition. It not only builds skills in the water but also fosters personal growth, discipline, and confidence. By supporting HB133, we are ensuring that our young athletes have the resources and opportunities to succeed, just as I was fortunate to have early in my career.

Not only would HB133 create more pathways for students to pursue competitive surfing, but it also aligns with our state’s values of preserving and promoting local culture while fostering educational achievement and community pride. Supporting our students in this way will allow them to connect with Hawai‘i’s rich surfing traditions while pursuing their dreams in a structured, safe environment.

By passing HB133, we are investing in the next generation of Hawaiian surfers and ensuring they have the support needed to thrive in the sport that is such a vital part of our state’s identity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Sebastian Zietz

Volunteer Director, Hawai'i Surf Association  
Professional Surfer, WSL Championship Tour Veteran



**Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau**  
Laboratory Public Charter School

---

46-500 Kūneki St. Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i 96744 \*Kelepona: 808.235.9175 \*Kelepa'i: 808.235.9173  
E mālama 'ia ana ka mauili ola o kākou mai kēlā hanauna a i kēia hanauna.

**HB133 HD2 SD1**  
**Relating to Surfing**  
**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**  
**April 2, 2025**  
**10:01 AM**

**Date:** April 2, 2025

**Subject:** Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 133 HD2 SD1: Relating to Surfing

Aloha mai kākou e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB133 HD2 SD1 Relating to Surfing, which proposes to appropriate funds to the department of education to support the establishment of surfing as an interscholastic sport.

As Hawai'i is the birthplace of surfing, this cultural practice continues to connect our students to the ancestral knowledge of their kupuna. At our small PreK–12 Hawaiian Medium Charter School, students and families have strongly expressed their desire to engage in surfing as part of their learning journey. Over the past two years of competitive participation, I've observed powerful growth in our youth—increased physical strength, improved mental well-being from the time spent in the healing kai (ocean), and a growing comfortability and respect in the water as they earned junior lifeguard certifications. Beyond these physical gains, students now carry themselves with greater pride and confidence. Their cultural identity has strengthened as they developed deeper connections to the Hawaiian language related to surfing, learned of the traditional mo'olelo (stories) of place and people, especially as they learned the traditional names and histories of local surf sites.

Within these past two years, school and student interest in surfing have grown on O'ahu with a total of 9 public and 6 private participating high schools in this current school year. Surf Clubs in these high schools have listed a combined total over 260 student surfers on their rosters, showing the demand of students in this sport.

We believe that all students in Hawai'i should be offered the opportunity to compete in a sport, especially one that originated in Hawai'i. I urge you to **pass HB 133 HD2 SD1** to appropriate funds to the department of education to establish surfing as an interscholastic sport.

Mahalo for your careful consideration.

'Oia ihola nō me ke aloha,

I. Meahilahila Kelling, Ed.D.  
Director





P. O. Box 6116, Kamuela, Hawaii 96743

March 31, 2025

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

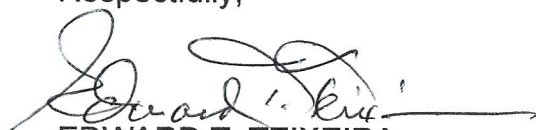
Testimony in Support of  
HB 133 HD2 SD1

The purpose of this letter is to provide our support for HB 133 HD2 SD1, which appropriates funds to the department of education to support the establishment of surfing as an interscholastic sport.

As a canoe club on the Big Island, we are fully aware of the importance of water sports and believe that this measure would have an immediate and positive effect on developing high school student athletes who are interested in surfing and in surfing competitions.

We strongly support this HB 133 H2 SD1 and urge your committee to pass this bill.

Respectfully,

  
EDWARD T. TEIXEIRA  
President

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 12:35:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Sanita	Testifying for Hana High and Elementary School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of HB133**

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB133, which seeks to fund interscholastic surfing in Hawai‘i. As a lifelong surfer, educator, and principal, I have witnessed the profound impact surfing has on our keiki—not just as a sport, but as a way of life deeply rooted in our culture, history, and natural environment.

Surfing is an integral part of Hawaiian identity, dating back centuries to our ali‘i (chiefs) who mastered the waves as a display of strength, skill, and connection to the ocean. This practice, known as he‘e nalu, was nearly lost due to colonization but has since been revived as a proud expression of our heritage. By funding interscholastic surfing, we provide our students the opportunity to engage in an activity that is uniquely Hawaiian, reinforcing their connection to their ancestors while fostering respect for the land and sea.

Beyond the cultural and historical significance, surfing also embodies science in action. Through the sport, students engage in hands-on learning about oceanography, meteorology, wave dynamics, and the physics of surfboard design. The principles of buoyancy, hydrodynamics, and momentum become real and tangible as they study how different board shapes, fin configurations, and materials impact speed, maneuverability, and stability. Understanding swell patterns, wind conditions, tides, and currents also enhances water safety, which is an essential skill for anyone living in Hawai‘i.

Furthermore, surfing supports the overall well-being of our students. Physically, it provides an excellent full-body workout that enhances strength, endurance, and coordination. Mentally, it builds resilience, mindfulness, and stress relief—factors that are crucial for academic success. The ocean has long been a place of healing in Hawaiian culture, and for many students, surfing is not just a sport but a sanctuary.

Economically, this investment extends beyond our schools. Hawai‘i’s surf industry, from professional surfing careers to board shaping, coaching, marine biology, and tourism, offers viable career pathways. By establishing high school surfing programs, we open doors for students to explore professions connected to their passion while contributing to our state’s economy.

Surfing is not just a pastime—it is a living, breathing part of our islands' legacy. By passing HB133, we give our keiki the opportunity to learn, grow, and excel in an activity that is uniquely theirs, reinforcing their pride in their culture, their school, and themselves. Let's ensure surfing has a rightful place in our education system, just as it has always had in Hawai'i's history.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**Respectfully,**  
Chris Sanita

Principal

Hāna School

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 1:48:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua DeMello	Testifying for Hawaiian Paipo Board	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha Chair, vice Chair, and Senators of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Joshua DeMello and I am a lifelong surfer from a surfing family and a parent of surfers as well. I also am working to perpetuate Paipo/Paepo'o through Hawaiian Paipo Board on social media to get more people to enjoy this traditional form of surfing. It amazes me at the ability of Hawaii's keiki in the water and I marvel at their abilities to outperform even us old guys. At the Buffalo Big Board Classic surf contest last month, the kids in my heat of the Paipo division were killing it so much so that I found myself wasting part of the heat just to watch them.

I say this in strong support of HB 133 and request your support for this bill as well. The bill would provide funding for these kids that were in my heat, my kids that want to compete, and all the other kids that don't have that opportunity to be able to surf for their schools. There are some kids that play football, some that play volleyball, but I guarantee you that the majority of all these athletes also enjoy the water whether it be bodysurfing at Awāwāmalu (Sandy Beach), bodyboarding at Kahului Harbor, or surfing at Honoli'i, Hilo. But not all of the kids play football or volleyball or other land-based sports. This bill provides the opportunity for THOSE kids that enjoy surfing, equality with their classmates to be able to compete against their peers, win state championships, and get that varsity letter that all the other athletes chase,

Despite catching waves my whole life, its always remained a recreational pasttime. Though it consumed my life in high school, we didn't have a surf team then. My kids have one now, but its only at a club level (though it is recognized as a varsity sport at their school). While the club level seems to be improving, its not as structured as the HHSAA sports where there is greater oversight, transparency, and basic understanding of how things work. HB 133 would provide funding to ensure that this sport, the "sport of kings" is afforded that same opportunity.

I know that this bill is about funding, but that is the key to getting this started. A Civil Beat article about this in 2024 (<https://www.civilbeat.org/2024/09/high-school-surfing-is-a-thing-in-hawaii-but-not-as-much-as-you-might-think/>) details the issues and struggles that our schools and surf teams face. Maui has already done it in the Maui Interscholastic League through local support. There are examples of scholastic surf leagues on the mainland with national scholastic competitions as well as a world competition, both of which Hawaii kids have entered, competed, and won. Now is the time for the state to support these efforts for ALL of the islands. I realize that if this bill is passed, then it will be time for the leagues, HHSAA, and the surf community to

step up and get this this thing done, but from what I have witnessed at the club level, they are ready and already moving, they just need that extra support to get them through the whitewash and onto the open face (to use surf lingo). It will be a slow start, not all schools will be ready to compete, but starting small, getting it right, and expanding as schools get ready and have the surfers to participate will only help to grow the sport and the surfing community. I am excited to see this happen and equally excited that it would support the traditional sport that I enjoy and the culture that I grew up with and will be able to pass on in a new way to my keiki.

Mahalo for your support of our keiki, our schools, our surfing community, and our culture,  
Joshua DeMello

Kaneohe resident, lifelong surfer, parent of two surfers

## **Testimony in Strong Support of HB133: Appropriating Funds to the Department of Education to Support the Establishment of Surfing as an Interscholastic Sport**

Lei Goleta-Cruz  
Leiahnam@hawaii.edu

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Lei Goleta-Cruz, and I am a Master of Social Work student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am submitting testimony in **strong support** of HB133, which aims to integrate surfing as an interscholastic sport in Hawai'i's school system. This bill proposes appropriating funds to the Department of Education to support the establishment of surfing as an interscholastic sport.

### **Reasoning & Personal Impact**

As someone who is studying social work and passionate about holistic interventions to promote well-being, I believe that surfing is not just a sport, but a powerful therapeutic tool that can enhance the physical, emotional, and mental health of Hawai'i's youth.

In social work, we emphasize the importance of grounding techniques which are meant to help individuals manage stress, anxiety, and trauma by reconnecting with the present moment. Surfing is one example that embodies this concept naturally. When a student paddles out into the ocean, they are forced to be present, regulate their breath, and connect with their surroundings, which are all crucial skills in managing mental health challenges. The rhythmic motion of the waves provides sensory regulation, helping students feel calmer and more balanced.

In 2022, I was a practicum student at a non-profit organization, Surfrider Spirit Sessions. Surfrider Spirit Sessions "empowers and transforms adjudicated, at-risk, or vulnerable youth through surfing and holistic ocean-based mentoring programs, experiential education and cultural activities, and teaches ocean awareness, Hawaiian culture, and environmental sensitivity to the general community." After experiencing being a mentor and practicum student at this amazing organization, I gained a different perspective and understanding of surfing as a whole. I have seen first hand the impact of surfing and this program had on each of the youth who participated during each session.

Additionally, Hawai'i is the birthplace of surfing. It is a tradition rooted in Native Hawaiian culture for at least 1,000 years. Historically and culturally, Hawaiians saw surfing (he'e

nalū) not just as sport, but as a spiritual and community practice, a way to maintain harmony with the ocean. By passing HB133, we would honor this legacy and ensure that future generations learn, respect, and continue this cultural tradition within an educational setting.

### **Recommendation**

By supporting this bill, we are not just adding another sport to the DOE curriculum but we are giving students an accessible, culturally relevant, and holistic pathway to improve their well-being and connection to the 'āina. In our recent generations where our youth are increasingly struggling with stress, anxiety, and screen dependency, we must prioritize more outdoor therapeutic activities like surfing.

I **strongly urge** the WAM committee to pass HB133 and support the well-being of Hawai'i's keiki through the healing power of surfing.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,

Lei Goleta-Cruz

Master of Social Work Student, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Leiahnam@hawaii.edu

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 1:25:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Davin Kazama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my SUPPORT OF HB133.

We all know the benefit of high school sports and the community that it breeds. The pride that kids feel from representing their schools, playing with, against, and in front of family and friends...that community is what makes sports so critical in the development of our youth today.

We all know that Hawaiians invented surfing and were once banished from participating in it. There is no sport more engrained in Hawaii's culture, and yet has been actively excluded from Hawaii's list of high school sports.

What we might not know, however, is that because surfing is not an interscholastic sport in Hawaii:

1. Surfers are ineligible for numerous international, national, and local scholarships, including the prestigious HMSA Kaimana Awards & Scholarship Program which has granted higher education funds to Hawaii High School Athletic Association athletes for 20 years. \$100,000 will be granted this year, and not a single dollar will or has ever been received by an HHSAA surfer/athlete, because there is no such thing.
2. Surfers are not viewed as student-athletes on their college applications. They are simply viewed as students, hurting their college options and chances of admission.
3. With no team option, many surfers forsake in-person schooling. These students do their schooling and training individually, separating themselves from their classmates and peers. This isolation and individualism works well for some, but less so for others.

There is a way forward, though. Let's commit to finding a way to get this done. Together, let's put in the work to create opportunities. The passage of HB133 is a necessary step to providing our community with what it's been wanting for decades. Surfing as an HHSAA sport is a dream that is well within our reach and it starts with HB133. Let's do this.

Thank you,



Davin Kazama

P.S. I understand that there is concern over the cost of a surf contest, estimated at \$4,350, versus \$1,800 for a football game. I'd like to respectfully point out that a surf contest can feature up to 12 teams (\$362.50 per team, per contest) whereas a football game features 2 teams (\$900 per team, per game). In other words, a surf contest is 60% more cost effective per team, per game. Thank you.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 8:21:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalani Kaanaana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 133 HD2 SD1, which proposes appropriating funds to the Department of Education to establish surfing as an interscholastic sport in Hawai'i's public schools.

Approving funds as outlined in HB 133 HD2 SD1 is a necessary step to ensure that schools have the resources to implement and sustain surfing programs effectively. Investing in our youth will enrich their educational experience and strengthen our community's connection to its cultural roots.

I respectfully urge the committee to pass HB133 HD2 SD1

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Kalani Kaanaana

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 10:11:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Fujikawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Written Testimony in Support of HB133**

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB133, which seeks to fund and promote interscholastic surfing in high schools across the state of Hawai`i.

I have had the distinct privilege of coaching the 'Iolani Surf Team since the establishment of the 'Iolani Surf Club, and it has been immensely rewarding to witness the development of students both as surfers and individuals. Being involved with this club from its inception has allowed us to create significant opportunities for students to enhance their physical, mental, and emotional capacities while fostering a profound appreciation for the ocean.

As an avid surfer, I possess a deep connection to the ocean and am dedicated to promoting sustainability and ocean conservation. Surfing has instilled in me a sense of responsibility to protect our waters and has facilitated the formation of lasting friendships with fellow surfers, thereby nurturing a strong sense of community. My surfing experiences have also enabled me to explore diverse waves, cultures, and coastal ecosystems, further deepening my appreciation for our marine environment.

Investing in interscholastic surfing throughout the state of Hawai`i would provide invaluable opportunities for high school students. Surfing is more than just a sport; it serves as a crucial conduit for cultural connection, resilience building, and strengthening our relationship with the ocean. It promotes physical health, mental well-being, and environmental awareness. Through surfing, students learn essential life skills such as discipline, patience, and respect for nature, all while cultivating school pride and camaraderie.

Furthermore, securing funding would ensure that all students, regardless of their backgrounds, have access to this sport that originated in Hawai`i. It would empower them to embrace and communicate our appreciation for aloha and cultural heritage through surfing, while simultaneously opening pathways to careers in ocean safety, marine biology, environmental advocacy, and the surf industry. Surfing fosters a lifelong connection to the ocean, and by supporting interscholastic surfing, we provide students with the opportunity to uphold Hawai`i's proud legacy while becoming responsible stewards of our marine environment.

Supporting interscholastic surfing also facilitates the preservation and sharing of our aloha and cultural heritage through wave riding. As the birthplace of surfing, Hawai'i possesses a rich history deeply rooted in ancestral traditions. By investing in high school surfing, we ensure that students continue to honor these traditions, demonstrate respect for the ocean, and spread the spirit of aloha, both in and out of the water.

In conclusion, funding high school surfing represents not only the preservation of Hawai'i's deeply ingrained surf culture but also an investment in the future of our youth. It equips students with valuable skills, confidence, and a lasting connection to the ocean. I fully support HB133 and express my sincere gratitude for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Thank you for your attention and support.

Sincerely,  
Erin Fujikawa  
Coach, 'Iolani Surf Team

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 2:18:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luana Froiseth	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

As a surfer growing up since I was 6 years old the joy and love I have experience is unforgettable. I surfed competitively for 15 yrs and the friendships I made hold till today.

As a Hawaiian sport we need to support our kids so that they too can become Olympian's or professionals in this great sport. I too surf in a surf meet for high school kids. Please give our Keiki this opportunity to surf and show us all its better to be in the water or on the streets doing stupid things

Mahalo for your time

Luana Froiseth

President - Waikiki Surf Club

Race Director - Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 8:02:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bert Ryan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We love the idea of surfing being a state High School sport

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 9:19:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carla Stroh-Palalay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I am in support of bill HB133.

When the pandemic hit and our kids were all segregated and weren't allowed to do anything, all sports stopped. I am so thankful that my child was still able to surf. He was in seventh grade at the time. after doing online school all day long, he needed an outlet that was physical, more than just doing laps in our backyard, or 'online' soccer practice. If it wasn't for surfing, I'm sure his psychological health and well-being would have gone down dramatically. Now he is a senior, and continues surfing. Surfing Continues to be a very important mental health Outlet for him as he navigates through his senior year and life in general. I feel very lucky that our school has a Surf team that allows him to participate with others in this great sport that he loves, and that is and will always be Hawaii!!

Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing. There are opportunities for people outside of Hawaii to surf, get scholarships to colleges and make a future of it. Yet here in Hawaii, the birthplace of surfing, we are not allowed that same opportunity. It seems absolutely mind blowing and ridiculous that There are people wanting to prevent our kids from the same opportunity.

To me, and many other others, this is the same thing as preventing soccer. Soccer has one of the highest injury rates in the nation, particularly for children under the age of 18, and yet no problem with that sport. There are far less injuries in surfing than almost any other sport that is now allowed for high school kids. Cheerleading, basketball, even volleyball have much higher injury rates than surfing.

Please, please pass this bill and allow our kids to do what our Hawaiian ancestors have done forever, participate in a sport, which belongs to Hawaii, and should be allowed to be participated in, in Hawaii. A sport with much less injury or problems than almost every other high school sport.

Funding of this bill would mean that so many more kids can participate, and not only help with their physical agility, their water safety, but also for their mental health and well-being.

Thank you.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 9:41:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bud White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Sure, here's a short and supportive statement you could use: — Statement Supporting HB133 - School Surfing in Hawaii I fully support HB133, which would recognize surfing as an official interscholastic sport in Hawaii. Surfing is not only a vital part of Hawaiian culture and history, but it also promotes physical fitness, mental health, and environmental stewardship among students. By making surfing an official school sport, we provide students with meaningful opportunities to connect with their heritage, stay active, and develop lifelong skills both in and out of the water.



**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 10:02:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryan Goodnight	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in full support of HB113. I have been involved with MIL surfing as the Beach Marshal since the beginnning. Hawai'i is a surfing state, this sport needs to be state wide. Thank you in advance for making it happen.

Bryan

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 4:46:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Duane DeSoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha kakou. I strongly support surfing as a high school sport. Hawai'i is the perfect place to encourage our children's mental and physical development through surfing. Historically surfing is rooted in hero's like Duke Kahanamoku who shared surfing with the world. Economically surfing is a global sport with product marketing and manufacturing everywhere there are coastlines, oceans and now wave pools. Having surfing as a high school sport will ensure that our children have both a physical and industrial advantage as they should. Mahalo for your time.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 10:23:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dane Fujiwara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB133

Submitted by: Dane Fujiwara, Former Head Coach of the Kamehameha Surf Team

National Championship Coach 2019

Date: 3/31/2025

Aloha members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing this testimony in strong support of HB133. As a former head coach of the Kamehameha Surf Team and an educator at Kamehameha Schools Kapālama, I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact that competitive surfing has on Hawai‘i’s youth.

Surfing is more than just a sport in Hawai‘i—it is an integral part of our culture, history, and identity. Providing student-athletes with the opportunity to compete at the high school level not only honors this legacy but also fosters academic excellence, discipline, and personal growth. The skills developed through competitive surfing—resilience, strategic thinking, and environmental stewardship—extend far beyond the waves and contribute to the overall success of our students.

I’m so grateful for the people that have helped establish the current system in place for the O‘ahu student athletes. Reality is such that this operation does come at a cost, without sponsorships the students/teams/coaches are forced to cover the financial requirements to participate. For a sport that originated in Hawai‘i, we should be honoring that history. There are other places worldwide in which surfing is not native yet there is strong support for students to develop their skills and passion. We should and need to be better.

As the coach for a high school surf team, my #1 priority was to try help our student-athletes surf their way to college. There are many names who have excelled in our program and have found their way to furthering their education both in the classroom and in their careers. Students who surf are sometimes unique students. I will give you 3 examples 2 of which I have personal experience with: 1) Eddie Aikau. He would skip school to go to the ocean to surf. He may not have been the “model” student. But we all know the phrase “Eddie would go” which references his courage and bravery in the water. It’s hard to imagine how much more of an impact he would have made in this world if his educational upbringing supported his passion for the ocean. 2) Brianne Wong. She was a surfer on our team who did an amazing job both in the classroom as well as in the water. She may not have been the best surfer on our team however she continued to grow as a student athlete. After graduation she attended Point Loma University and was a member of their surf team. 3) Kahanu Cuban. A talented surfer who joined our program as a Junior. He came in 2nd at Nationals his 11th grade year and was unsure of returning to Nationals his 12th grade year as funding was difficult. After a successful O‘ahu season our coaching staff was able to help get him to Nationals in which he won the National Championship in longboarding. A moment I will never forget is when he gave his mahalo speech in ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, just like Duke Kahanamoku sharing his aloha for the sport he loves and the place that raised him. As a high school classroom educator, I have seen firsthand what happens when students are supported and empowered to chase their dreams.

HB133 represents a commitment to equity in interscholastic sports by ensuring that surfing, a sport born in Hawai‘i, receives the same institutional support as other athletic programs. Access to proper resources, safety measures, and competition opportunities will help student-athletes thrive both in and out of the water.

I urge you to pass HB133 to support the next generation of Hawai‘i’s surfers and to uphold the rich tradition of surfing within our educational system.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Dane Fujiwara

Math Teacher, Kamehameha Schools Kapālana

Former Head Coach, Kamehameha Surf Team

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 5:50:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joslyn Sato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Senator Moriwaki, and the Ways and Means Committee,

Thank you for the time to hold a hearing and allowing testimony for HB133 HD2 SD1.

I support HB133 HD2 SD1 and humbly ask the committee to appropriate funds to the Department of Education to support the establishment of surfing as an interscholastic sport. This investment not only gives us the step forward to be recognized as an official sport but also celebrates Hawai'i while investing in our students. Your funds will go towards a sport that allows for individual and team building for both girls and boys who shortboard, longboard, and bodyboard. Your funds will also provide a program that directly supports well-being, promotes an active lifestyle, creates ocean stewards, and jr lifeguards. Thus, appropriating funds will return more than just surf contests but well-rounded benefits that support student success, career readiness, and embeds positive benefits throughout our community to last a lifetime.

Since May 2004 (over 20-years), when surfing was approved by the DOE, passionate students, parents, teachers/advisors, and the community continue to come to the legislature to ask for surfing to become a recognized high school sport with resources.

As a parent volunteer of the Leilehua High School Mules Surf Team, and being the liaison to our 'Oahu high school surfing coaches, I have experienced and heard the struggles each club encounters, as well as the challenges encountered running the season. The appropriation of funds will allow our individual high school clubs to come together as a cohesive unit that gives us the opportunity to work collectively, make decisions, and ultimately find funding strategies that can sustain and grow the sport.

Having the opportunity to reach the WAM Committee is the furthest we've got, which shows how much interest and support there is among our community. So I humbly ask to appropriate funds so we can officially establish high school surfing as a sport and ensure the opportunity is there for students now and our future!

Without appropriating funds, what does the future of high school surfing look like? Do we continue to come to the legislature? Do we continue to have no answers when our keiki and community asks "why isn't surfing a high school sport"? My hope is we don't need to answer that question anymore, and that we don't need to come back asking for the same thing. But

instead we can grow the sport and create an opportunity for all keiki who consider surfing and bodyboarding as their sport and look forward to surfing for their high school!

I know financial commitments are challenging, and I humbly ask for you to please consider passing HB133 HD2 SD1 as this will be a huge step in celebrating Hawaii's sport while investing in our students.

I'm happy to answer any further questions or share any insights on my experience.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Joslyn Sato

*Parent Volunteer, Team Manager*

*Leilehua High School - Mules Surf Team*

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 11:11:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison Schaefers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I am in strong support of HB 133, which appropriates funds to the Department of Education to support the establishment of surfing as an interscholastic sport.

The Hawai'i Water Safety Coalition in February released the first Hawai'i Water Safety Plan countering Hawai'i's drowning crisis by ensuring that everyone is safe on, in, and around the water. Statistics in the plan from the Hawai'i Department of Health show that we are in a drowning crisis, and we are not doing enough to address it.

1. Hawai'i has the nation's second highest rate of death by drowning for residents in the nation
2. Drowning is now the number one cause of death for children in Hawai'i, ages 1–15.

This bill was modeled after recommendations from the plan, which was supported by a broad network of water safety advocates across the state, including bereaved parents like me, who have lost a child to drowning.

When it comes to surfing, the plan recommends: “funding surfing as an interscholastic sport and expanding the requirements for lifesaving training to all participants,” and “funding aquatics, surfing, and lifeguard career and technical education (CTE) training at state Department of Education (DOE) schools.”

A reason that making surfing an interscholastic sport is so important is that it is another way that allows our children to develop swimming skills, while connecting to their culture. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander culture is so entrenched with water that it could be argued that those who cannot swim cannot fully embrace and perpetuate their culture. By providing an opportunity for Hawai'i students to participate in surfing as a sport, more will develop swimming skills and learn how to mālama each other and the ocean.

The ocean is beautiful, but it can also be dangerous, so we need to be careful and aware. By practicing mālama, we make sure to watch over others while swimming, warn them about strong currents, and help anyone who might be in trouble. Ocean safety isn't just up to one person—it's something we all need to do together. By caring for each other, we keep everyone safe and show respect for the ocean and its power.



Hawai'i has some of the best watermen and waterwomen in the world, but these skills are not getting passed down in the current climate where many parents are working two and three jobs and have neither the time nor the money or transportation to get their children to lessons, which are often expensive, or to expose their children to watersports like surfing. Drowning across the world is increasingly an equity issue, and one place we can more easily address this is by making surfing an interscholastic sport. Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are about 27% of Hawai'i's population yet make up 36% of resident drowning deaths.

Drowning death rates for Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders are 1.5x higher than the rate for all other ethnicities, and the disparities are especially heart-tugging when it comes to Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander children ages 1-17, whose percentage of drowning deaths was more than 3X higher than the percentage for all other ethnicities in the same age group.

While there are a few great free surfing programs available, enrollment is limited, and again the transportation requirement to get to these programs will exclude our poorest students. Only one in five local athletic leagues have sponsored surfing. The lack of interscholastic surfing programs limits opportunities for inspired students to pursue competitive surfing.

Our kids deserve more. Let's give them the tools that they need to be safe in, on and around the water in our island state, and to take their place as global surfing leaders, after all they come from the birthplace of surfing.

Moreover, surfing offers great economic potential for Hawai'i. Surfing contests are a great way to market Hawai'i across the world and attract numerous competitors and spectators. An economic impact study on the 2010 Vans Triple Crown of Surfing, held on the north shore of Oahu, estimated that the event generated \$20,900,000 in spending.

Devoting resources to surfing programs in the state's schools will perpetuate the sport of surfing in the state and continue to entice tourists across the globe to visit the state to spectate or experience surfing firsthand.

Sincerely,

Allison Schaefer

Hawai'i Water Safety Coalition bereaved parent volunteer

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 1:55:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Tanaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha! I am in full support of bill HB133. Surfing is our State sport. Along with Outrigger Canoe Paddling. The children of Hawai'i are the future of Hawai'i. With all due respect we should honor our State sports, Contest should be prioritized at a few select spots that are perfect venues to run youth contest such as Kewalos. Youth contest schedules should be on "To-do list" for tourist and locals to come and enjoy our family and friends have fun and compete in our state sport of Surfing! This is a World Wide Sport that was Born right here! Funding Interscholastic surfing in Hawaii will be vital for our children to perpetuate our culture, we are connected with the world through the ocean, the physical health and well being of our children, Salt Water Heals, Mental Health, school pride, economic effects, career pathways, future men and women City and County Ocean Safety Officers, Paramedics, Teachers,etc...So I kindly ask you for your support. Aloha and Mahalo

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 8:00:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Matsuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Safety**

Safety is a big concern for the DOE. We follow the guidelines set by the Board of Education.

Each school needs at least 3 coaches ( 1 coach on the beach as a spotter, 2 coaches in the water).

The coaches all take the Coaches Ocean Risk Assessment class. In the class, they learn different rescue techniques, Ocean risks. They must be current with their CPR and First Aid certification.

They also are required to write up a Risk Assessment for the beach they are using and what their protocol for emergencies.

The students are required to take a five day cean Safety Jr. Lifeguard every two years. The American Red Cross Pool Jr. Lifeguard does not qualify. Unfortunately there are not enough Jr. Lifeguard sessions to accommodate all the club surfers. I then work with the City and County Ocean Safety if they have the ability for more sessions. But die to finances they can't offer enough sessions. I rely on Mauka to Makai Makaha Foundation. They offer sessions every DOE school break (Fall, Winter, Spring and 6 sessions in the summer. It costs them approximately \$8,250 per week. (This includes supplying all the equipment and lunch every day.They are a non profit that depends on donations so ALL the students are able to get their Jr. Lifeguard certificate. It would be nice if we could pay/ make a donation to keep the program going. They and Ian Masterson are the only ones who run the equivalent to the required 5 day program.

The school surfers must wear matching rash guards to differentiate them from other recreational surfers. This makes it easier for the spotter on the beach to keep track of their surfers

We practice only at beaches that have an Ocean Safety Lifeguard.

The students want the program. Five years ago we had only 5 DOE schools participating. Next year we will have 14/ 15 schools. The cost is what holds other DOE schools from joining.

**Community**

The community supports this program. They have donated boards, wax, etc for the school program. Sometimes when they see us at beach and we explain the program, they donate to support the program.

### Careers

The surfing program can also lead to careers. Some go on to become Ocean Safety Lifeguards, they can also become a spokesperson for different surf companies and some go on to maritime careers.

School teaches our studentd academics. Surfing provides them a relief from stress, family problems, etc. It helps with their mental/emotional needs.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 8:08:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Keeley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB133! Surfing should absolutely be a state sport. Participating in Maui MIL surfing has been a huge positive experience for my daughter and it should be on the state level!!

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 9:59:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cary Kayama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I am in full support of HB133. Surfing has been a huge part of the Hawaiian culture for as far back as I can remember. The MIL surfing has been a huge success here on Maui for the past 10 years. Going on 11. I hope it can be a State wide sport. Thank you for your time.

Mahalo,

Cary Kayama

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 7:08:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ginger Hill	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

As a high school competitive surfer, I support bill HB133. I think it is very important to promote high school surfing as a sport as it has greatly helped me to grow. Having a supportive team to technique my skills has been very beneficial to me over the years. I have created valuable friendships through my high school's surf team. Most of the skill, knowledge, and experience at new surf spots would not have been possible to me without my high school surf team.

Funding interscholastic surfing in Hawaii would help our next generation of keiki by encouraging school pride, increasing physical health in positive ways, open career pathways for skilled athletes, and increase mental health. I think it is our kuleana to support the upcoming generation with opportunities to flourish mentally, socially, and physically by promoting an additional interscholastic sport. The confidence, school pride, and memories I have gained from Maui's interscholastic surfing is immeasurable.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 8:26:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cassidy Crowley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB133 I grew up surfing as a little baby and compete for HSA high school surfing regularly.

Being able to fund surfing and have it as a sport would provide a sense of community and having purpose and recognition for all the time that my classmates and I put in to the craft. As a local girl and hula dancer, I believe it is important to also practice surfing to preserve the Hawaii Hawaiian culture.



**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 8:18:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shawn Keeley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My daughter has enjoyed surfing for Kulanihakoī high school on Maui and I strongly support surfing becoming a state sport. Thank you!

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 9:02:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Connie Molina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha. Surfing is an Olympic sport and has a national league and WSL and ISA. It should be a High School Sport to support students career path and scholarship opportunities. It should be. High school sport just like football girls flag football basketball ball and so on

mahalo for you time. Support the kids

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 9:53:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Eversole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I fully support this bill to fund interscholastic surfing in Hawaii Public Schools. Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing, which is an exciting sport of skill that teaches our children about the ocean surrounding our home. No only does surfing support a child's physical health, it also can assist in their mental health and connection with nature. It ensures that our children can swim and are safe in the ocean. It challenges them individually to think about and navigate their path on a wave. It makes them think about the reef below them, the fish and creatures who live in the ocean, and the health of the sea. As a female surfer, it can truly boost the confidence of our young women. As a world traveller, I have seen, first-hand, surfing taught in the physical education classes of Australia. Hawaii should have been at the fore-front of promoting surfing and surfing culture - NOW is the time to bring surfing to our schools and take our place as the premier home of surfing.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 4:09:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jack Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB133 in efforts to fund interscholastic surfing in Hawaii public schools.

My name is a Jack and I am a surfer and former Punahou School student, as well as the 2023 Duke Award winner. I re started the Punahou Surf Club in 2023 during my senior year but unfortunately graduated shortly after handed it off the student roll to under classman.

Surfing in Hawaii is a symbol of our state and our community. Modern day surfing was pioneered by Duke Kahanamoku and having his statue in the heart of Waikīkī is evidence of the importance of the sport. With funding to public schools, it allows students from all sides of the island to participate in competitions and events without the need to fundraiser for their own school sport. The reality is that most students who surf come from places on Oahu where private schooling is not an option. You can argue that some of the best surfers in Hawaii come from the North and West shores of Oahu. These places on Oahu have a direct translation to the lack of private schooling access. There should be no reason that students from certain communities can't participate in competitions due to the school that they attend. If Punahou, Kamehameha, and Iolani are setting the trend, it's only fair that public school students have the same opportunity to join the movement of making surfing a designated "sport" in Hawaii.

I support HB133 for the future of interscholastic surfing in Hawaii and the importance of recognizing the history of a sport that was birthed here in Hawaii. Mahalo.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 9:11:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chloe Pestana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing. It is a sport that appeals to people of all ages, walks of life and socioeconomic status. Making surfing an ILH sport will open doors and opportunities for so many keiki including the native Hawaiians. Many colleges are now giving surf scholarships as there are universities with surf programs throughout the mainland. Making it a sport with give Hawaiians and locals the opportunities to travel, go to college on a scholarship and pursue their passions. It would be really unfortunate if we denied this bill and took away these opportunities for the youth. We need to consider the up and coming generations when moving forward and perpetuating the culture and sports that make this place so special.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 8:49:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Hill	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a mother of four children in Maui, and teach in the public schools.

I support HB 133 to make 🏄🏻‍♀️ surfing a sport in schools statewide.

My daughter has had an excellent experience competing on the Maui High surf team. It has improved her physical fitness and emotional well being by getting her out on the water and learning respect for the ocean.

We have built strong bonds with coaches and other surf families, and it brings pride to our school.

Surfing is truly a Hawaiian sport and one that promotes island culture in a way nothing else can. We have the world's most beautiful beaches, let's utilize them for our high school athletes and their Ohanas to come together in friendly competition and aloha.

Mahalo,

Rebecca Hill

807-214-2986

25 Akeu place

Kihei, HI 96753

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 9:06:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas pestana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing. Many colleges are giving out surf scholarships. California has a robust surf program for the youth and the keiki of Hawaii deserve the same accessibility so they can go on to further their passions and even help support them going to colleges.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 10:28:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Earl S. Tenn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I strongly support HB133.

Will bring about ocean awareness and safety with friendly ocean skills. Surfing is the State sport.

I am the liasian for Nadine Alexander Kahanamoku (Mrs. Duke Kahanamoku).

Funding HB133 would bring about those suggestions as recommended by Committee on Education as presented by Michelle N. Kidani, Chair.



**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 11:05:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian H Shimabukuro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to speak in favor of the measure regarding funding surfing as an interscholastic sport in our school system. Surfing is such a widespread practiced and popular sport. We are the home of surfing and it is the perpetuation of a cultural practice albeit it is looking much different today than it was in Ancient Hawaiian times. This becoming a sanctioned sport also provides our Opio a positive and constructive activity to learn positive skills and continue to increase fitness of our youngsters. I ask that you support our youth with the passing of this measure and fund this opportunity for participation.

Mahalo,  
Shimabukuro

Brian

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 6:13:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sanoe Kazama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Sunny Kazama, and I stand in full support for HB133.

I recently graduated from ‘Iolani, and had the privilege of being on the ‘Iolani Surf Club for the past three years of my high school career. It was undoubtedly the highlight of my thirteen years at ‘Iolani. The team became like a second family to me, a supportive community of people who shared my love for surfing and our ocean. It was incredible to be surrounded by people who were just as passionate as I was, and it inspired me to excel in my surfing and in my scholastic efforts. I made lifelong friendships and memories that I would’ve never experienced if it weren’t for the team. My coaches, teammates, and all the team parents poured so much love and energy into the team, and yet, I couldn’t help but notice how much more we could’ve gotten in return if only surfing were an official high school sport, not just a sports club. As an avid surfer, I would’ve loved the opportunity to partake in the sport I love at the interscholastic level. I would’ve been able to rep my school doing what I’m passionate about, and had more access to resources needed to keep our surf team afloat.

Surfing was born in Hawai’i, yet it is still not a funded sport in high schools statewide. It’s only offered as a club sport in 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. It is a sport that improves the health, both physical and mental, of our students, and connects them to a supportive community like no other. The ocean truly has no boundaries, and the sport of surfing brings people together from all walks of life for the same purpose--to catch a great wave. Everyone in a lineup shares the same stoke as you, cheering you on when you catch a wave, offering guidance to improve a turn or carve, or just sharing their aloha and knowledge as you talk story with them. One can't help but feel surrounded with aloha as they surf, especially while surfing in a lineup of people who share the same love for the ocean.

I ask the State of Hawai'i to support HB133 so that high school students statewide have the opportunity to represent their school with pride, and reap the numerous benefits of surfing: physically, mentally, and community-wise.

Mahalo for your time!

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 11:03:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
keone downing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT. Surfing is a very individual sport. Allowing SURFING to become a sanctioned high school sport will teach these individuals the importance of TEAM, COMMUNITY, and PRIDE of SCHOOL. It will also bring together like minded individuals who will care for our ocean environment and understand the concept MAUKA to MAKAI.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 11:57:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luukia Archer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I SUPPORT this bill. Surfing is a sport that developed in Hawai‘i by Hawaiians. Our keiki should be able to learn and compete in a Hawaiian sport supported by our state and that people from all over the world participate in. In other states highschool surfing is already well established. Why isn’t that the case for Hawai‘i, the homeland of the sport? The physical, cultural, and educational benefits are unquestionable. I strongly support appropriating funds to establish surfing as an interscholastic sport.

Mahalo,

Lu‘ukia Archer (mom of three surfers)

Wahiawa, HI

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 12:09:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karin Jucker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Writing this testimony in support of HB133 to fund interscholastic surfing in Hawaii schools. Maui County has supported surfing in the MIL league and has proven successful. Supporting competitive surfing not only fosters the surf athletes with mental health, team and school pride, but also cultural roots and continuing to enhance surfing for generations. My three kids are competitive surfers on Maui and having surfing as a school sport allows them to be a part of the school athletics that they would not be otherwise. Surf team athletes are the lifeguards and waterman of the next generation for our state.

This is my support for HB133 to fund Surfing as a school official sport in the interscholastic leagues.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 12:22:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Geesey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

MAHALO for supporting interscholastic surfing!

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 12:28:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley de Coligny	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

This one's a no-brainer, guys. There are so many cultural, educational, physical, and economic benefits to having interscholastic surfing teams in Hawaii's schools. I'm a parent of public school kids in Kaneohe and I strongly support this. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 1:26:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

As a mother to a child who loves surfing, paddling and the ocean I strongly support Hb133. Funding interschool surfing would be an amazing cultural opportunity for all the keiki of Hawai'i. It could open doors to future ocean related careers so that our keiki could stay here in Hawai'i and find jobs. Funding interschool surfing could introduce more children to the sport and the ocean which is very healing and could greatly improve teen mental health.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 3:24:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey F Mizuno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 3:48:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Kakalia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Esteemed Members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 133, a bill that seeks to appropriate funds to the Department of Education to support the establishment of surfing as an interscholastic sport in Hawai‘i’s public schools.

Cultural Significance:

Surfing is deeply woven into the fabric of Hawaiian culture and history. Recognizing it as an official school sport honors our heritage and provides students with a meaningful connection to their ancestry.

Educational Benefits:

Integrating surfing into school athletics offers numerous educational advantages:

- **Physical Health:** Surfing promotes cardiovascular fitness, strength, and coordination.
- **Mental Well-being:** Engaging with the ocean has been shown to reduce stress and improve mental health.
- **Academic Motivation:** Participation in sports is linked to improved academic performance and increased engagement in school activities.

Safety and Structure:

Organized school programs ensure that students receive proper training in ocean safety and surfing techniques. The Maui Interscholastic League, for example, has successfully hosted surfing competitions for over a decade without serious incidents, demonstrating the feasibility and safety of such programs.

#### Economic Impact:

Surfing significantly contributes to Hawai'i's economy through tourism and international competitions. An economic impact study on the 2010 Vans Triple Crown of Surfing estimated that the event generated \$20.9 million in spending. By fostering young talent through school programs, we invest in the future of this vital industry.

#### Community Support:

There is widespread community backing for HB 133. Educators, students, and organizations have voiced their enthusiasm for the bill, highlighting the positive impact it would have on our youth and communities.

#### Conclusion:

Establishing surfing as an interscholastic sport aligns with Hawai'i's cultural values, promotes student well-being, and supports economic growth. I respectfully urge you to pass HB 133 and provide the necessary funding to implement this important initiative.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew Kakalia

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 4:01:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Manuel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a Native Hawaiian who has spent over a decade competing at the most elite levels of surfing, I strongly support HB133 to establish surfing as an interscholastic sport in Hawaii. Surfing is not only a cornerstone of our culture, but it is also an incredible tool for personal growth, discipline, and community building.

This bill will provide local students with the opportunity to develop valuable skills both in and out of the water. It will ensure that the next generation of Hawaiian surfers has a structured path to grow, compete, and thrive—ultimately helping preserve the legacy of Hawaiian surfing.

For me, surfing has been a life-changing journey that shaped my character and purpose. This bill represents more than just a sport; it is an investment in our youth, in their futures, and in our cultural identity as a people deeply connected to the ocean.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Malia Manuel

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 4:15:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Lee-Hubin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill ! Our children deserve this !

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 4:25:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

## Comments:

I fully support HB133, which relates to surfing as an interscholastic sport, and would allocate the necessary funding to the Department of Education. My name is Christopher Butler and I have been a surf coach at 'Iolani School since 2016. Funding high school surfing as an official sport in Hawaii would be a transformative investment in the next generation, strengthening cultural identity by honoring the island's deep-rooted connection to he'e nalu (wave sliding). This support would provide students with opportunities to develop physical fitness, mental resilience, and ocean safety skills, fostering a lifelong love of the ocean. Recognizing surfing as a school sport would instill pride in students who are passionate and potentially give them a reason to stay in school. Economically, it could create pathways to college through scholarships at universities like San Diego State University and Pepperdine University. Furthermore, Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing and investing in interscholastic surfing would provide the next generation of students with similar skills as traditional sports like hard worr ethic, since of pride, teamwork, comraderie, and discipline. Thank you for allowing me to testify in writing in support of HB133.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 5:11:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joel Guy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support  
Relating to Surfing  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I'm writing in strong support of this measure to fund surfing as an interscholastic sport in our schools.

Surfing challenges young people in unique ways — physically, mentally, and emotionally. It teaches patience, humility, focus, and resilience. The ocean is an incredible teacher, and surfing helps students build a lifelong relationship with it.

This isn't just about competition — it's about growth, discipline, and giving more students the chance to learn who they are in the water. I hope you'll support this bill and help make surfing more accessible across Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration, Joel Guy



**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 5:16:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Flossie Federico	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern, Aloha.

As a native Hawaiian born and raised on the westside of Oahu in Makaha, surfing was part of my roots through my dad. This would be such a healthy benefit to the community as it's already a part of our culture. The state would do a great service to the people of Hawaii, the children who are our next generation and families to implement surfing into our education system.

Through surfing growing up, it built a strong and healthy relationship with my dad and the friends he had in the community along with new relationships that continue on today over 45 years later. It provides ultimate physical, mental, social, survival and even professional benefits. Surfing also bring families together while creating an extended one.

I encourage you to take advantage of this great oppoortunity to serve the people well and make our community healthy and thriving again.

Thank you for your time.

Blessings,

Flossie Federico

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 6:23:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane campos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and to whom may concern

My name is Jane Campos and I live on Kaua'i. My daughter Sophia goes to Kapaa Middle School. She is on 6 th grade and a straight A student. Her passion is surf! She qualified last year and this year to represent Hawaii on her age division at the USA Championships in California.

I am in favor of this bill because will create more opportunity for our kids to stay in school and compete. Surf is part of Hawaii culture!

Thank you

Jane

Campos

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 7:39:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly Support HB133

Paul Giles

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 8:31:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristopher Schur	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I write to you today in support of HB1333. I am a life long surfer, a surf coach and have worked in the surfing industry for over 20 years. Surfing is more than just a sport, it is a lifestyle and it sets you on a path of life long learning. The etiquette and unwritten rules of surfing, teach us how to interact in an orderly fashion with others in society. We also learn how to interact with the natural world and our environment through time spent in the ocean, surfing. Finally, we learn how to be a part of and support our community, From beach clean ups to political action, surfers are constant stewards of our oceans.

Investing state funding towards surfing as a school sport would be beneficial in multiple ways. First, it would increase school pride, especially for alot of the athletes that already compete outside of the school system and would finally be able to represent their schools in competition. It would also help introduce surfing through sport, to newcomers in a safe and positive manner. Therefore, more of our chikldren would be able to experience the physical and mental health benefits associated with surfing.

Surfing has always been a Hawaiian sport. It has a history and a culture born right here in our home. It is not only our right and privilege, but our responsibility to continue passing that history and culture down to our future generations. Funding Surfing as a sport in our school systems, would not only help perpetuate surf culture, but also help perpetuate Hawaiian culture for future generations.

Mahalo,

Kristopher J. Schur

Before the Committee on Ways and Means, House Bill 133 HD2 SD1 Relating to Surfing

April 2, 2025 10:01 a.m., Rm 211

## **STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha mai kākou e nā Alaka'i a me nā Lālā 'Aha Kenekoa o ke Kōmike Ways and Means,

My name is Davin Kānanaikawaiola Kelling and I am a senior at Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau, Laboratory Public Charter School. I am in **strong support** of HB133 HD2 SD1, which proposes to appropriate funds to the department of education to support the establishment of surfing as an interscholastic sport. I am fortunate to have participated in high school surfing on the Kamakau surf club over these past two years and believe every student should have this same opportunity in all public schools across O'ahu.

As Hawai'i is the home of surfing and continues to host many professional surf competitions attracting international attention, I don't understand why surfing is not yet an OIA sport in the high schools. For students at Kamakau, surfing is not just a sport. Our surf club is taking advantage of this opportunity to reclaim surfing as a Hawaiian cultural practice. We are learning through the eyes of our kupuna as mo'olelo are shared with us of this traditional hana ku'una (cultural practice) and as we learn of the traditional names and stories of surf spots across O'ahu. I have also appreciated the opportunity to connect and interact with other student surfers across O'ahu at the high school competitions.

As student safety is a concern for all, I feel that it is addressed with all students being required to earn their Jr lifeguard certification and coaches are required to become lifeguard certified. We are carefully watched during practices with multiple coaches available to assist with a 1:6 coach to student surfer ratio.

We have heard that donations are currently being sought to support surfing in its startup years as an interscholastic sport on O'ahu. However, I am here to advocate for funding from the state to support this Sport of Hawai'i and to ensure that it is sustained in the high schools for the long-term. As a current senior in high school, it is too late for me to participate on an OIA surf team. I am here, however, to champion for my younger classmates and future generations to come for the state to provide this amazing life changing opportunity. Afterall, our Hawai'i student surfing athletes serve as a pipeline to professional surfing competitions with our very own Ēwelei'ula Wong, Kamakau class of 2023 now surfing in the professional arena.

Once again, I strongly support HB 133 HD2 SD1. Mahalo for allowing me to testify and for your consideration.

Me ke aloha nō,  
D. Kananaiakawaiola Kelling  
Kamakau, Class of 2025

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 9:43:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Rouse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I fully support this bill, as it directly benefits Hawaii's young surfers. As a teacher and surf coach on Maui, I've seen firsthand how surfing as a high school sport motivates students to maintain their grades, leading to greater academic engagement and stronger connections within the school community. Surfing is deeply rooted in Hawaiian culture, and recognizing it as a high school sport honors that tradition while giving our youth the chance to be part of something truly special. Thank you.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 10:09:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB133. As a surfer I know there are many life skills the students will benefit from. Learning to be safe in the ocean is important.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 5:42:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonah Keohokapu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha my name is Jonah Keohokapu. I fully support HB133. Surfing is mentally, physically, spiritually, and culturally connected to Hawai'i. Our students should have every opportunity possible to participate in activities like surfing to promote healthier lifestyle, while at the same time maintaining academic integrity through school sports.



**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 8:29:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kylie Sato	Testifying for Leilehua High School - Mules Surf Team	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha Senator Dela Cruz, Senator Moriwaki, and the Ways and Means Committee,

I am the Team Captain of Leilehua High School's Mules Surf Team and on behalf of my team, we support HB133 HD2 SD1.

Having surfing (shortboard, bodyboard, and longboard) as an interscholastic sport in the high school matters because it's an opportunity for students like me and my team! Surfing is a big part of Hawai'i, our community, our economy, and our lifestyle.

High school surfing provides so much opportunities and benefits, it's truly more than contests! From developing ocean safety skills that we can use anytime we're at the beach to building surfing skills and friendships while also connecting with the local industry. It also exposes us to local careers in the surf/ocean industry. The program creates many benefits that will carry on with us after we graduate.

My biggest worry is that this is our last chance and if funds are not appropriated then high school surfing will not get a chance to be recognized as an OIA sport, and when I graduate in a few years the team will no longer carry on. I don't think anyone will try again in the future because we've been trying for so many years. I know so many younger kids that surf and bodyboard and they may never have a chance to be on a surf team, surf for their high school, and get the same benefits and opportunities I am currently experiencing.

I humbly ask to please pass HB133 HD2 SD1 and appropriate funds to make a difference in recognizing Hawaii's Sport - Surfing, and provide us an opportunity and invest in our future!

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Kylie Sato and the Mules Surf Team

*Mules Surf Team - Team Captain*

*Leilehua High School*

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 8:54:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scarlett Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha, I support HB133 and believe that surfing in Hawai'i schools is of the utmost importance. The origins of surfing began in Hawai'i, it is the birthplace of the sport. As a lover of the ocean, a parent, a teacher, and former lifeguard, I can personally attest to the benefits that ocean sports can provide our Keiki. Ocean sports such as surfing promote health and active lifestyles. Surfing is excellent for mental health, mindfulness, stress reduction, physical strength, community and cultural connections. Funding interscholastic surfing in Hawai'i would create career pathways as well as show the world that we value and hold dear the Hawaiian culture, we live it, breathe it, and share it, so that future generations can too. Let's build the future together and continue to make Hawai'i one of the healthiest & happiest places to live! mahalo nui!

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 9:04:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Pontes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Surfing should absolutely be a funded school sport, especially here in Hawaii, the birthplace of surf. Sports help keep kids/teenagers on a healthy path, especially during high school time when social pressures and experimenting are tempting. Scholastic sports hold kids accountable, and give them a positive outlet to channel their energy and focus. Having an organized scholastic surf team is only beneficial for the youth. Surf, being one of the most popular sports here in Hawaii, should be available to the many kids here who are connected to the ocean to participate in scholastic sports.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 9:28:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicola Laulu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I am in full support of this bill.

My husband and 6 of 7 keiki surf. My keiki ages are from 11-18. As you can imagine, it is so peaceful, good for their health and keeps them connected to their Aina and ancestors.

To have surfing funding available to all public schools would help benefit all keiki and give them the opportunity to explore a new hobby, continue to improve in their surfing, stay connected to this aina that we are caretakers of and if they are kanaka, be connected to their ancestors.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 9:38:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mayumi Drill	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

I am in support of HB133 and high school surfing.

I am in support of our youth building a community of friends, especially through the sport of surfing.

My children's confidence has increased and they have learned how to communicate with males and females of all ages when in the water, and now on land.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mayumi Drill

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 9:59:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Myriam Saboui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Myriam Saboui and I am in strong support of HB133.

Surfing is more than just a sport; it is a cultural practice that teaches discipline, resilience, teamwork, and respect for the Āina. For many students, the opportunity to join a surf team can provide a positive and engaging outlet for physical activity, fostering personal growth and developing skills that will stay with them long after they leave high school.

By establishing funding for surf teams at high schools, the state is also promoting inclusivity and diversity. This bill will make surfing more accessible to students residing in Hawaii, thus creating opportunities for everyone to take part in a sport that is pivotal to the culture in this state. Through surfing, students will also get the opportunity to learn about water safety principles.

Funding school surf teams is an investment in our youth and our communities. The investment also represents an acknowledgement of the importance of practicing a sport that is central to the culture of Hawai‘i. I urge you to support this bill and allow our students to experience the many benefits of surfing.

## COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair  
Wednesday, April 2, 2025 10:01 AM Conference Room 211 & Videoconference  
**Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 133 HD2 SD1 Relating to Surfing**

Ke aloha nui iā 'oukou e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

Eia mākou ka 'Aha 'Ōpio o Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau, LPCS he kula mauili ola e noho ana i uka i Ha'ikū ma He'eia, O'ahu. **Kāko'o piha mākou i kēia pila HB 133 HS2 SD1 pili i ka he'enalu.** He nohona Hawai'i e kahukahu 'ia e ko mākou kula no kona mau ho'opōmaika'i o ke ola kino 'oe, 'o ka hana pili 'uhane 'oe, 'o ka 'ike ku'una 'oe a me ka ho'oīlina makamae 'oe kekahi. A eia hou, he mea ha'uki i kēia manawa ma kona 'ano he kūlana pae kula nui, pae Olympics a me ka pae pili 'oihana kekahi. E kōkua mai i nā 'ōpio a puni o Hawai'i e hō'ea i ka 'ānu'u hou a'e i kaha i ka nalu a pae i uka.

*We are the student council of Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau, LPCS a Prek-12 mauili ola school in the uplands of Ha'ikū in He'eia, O'ahu. We are testifying in **strong support of HB 133 HD2 SD1** relating to surfing. Our school has hosted a surf club for the last 2 school years and we have seen a multitude of benefits for our student athletes as well as an increase in the general school spirit and personal pride of our whole student body on campus.*

*This bill proposes to provide funds to the HI-DOE to establish surfing as an interscholastic high school sport. This will be an opportunity to open avenues for our teen surfers to compete for their schools and qualify for post high-school recognition and opportunities at the collegiate level including possible continuance into the professional world of surfing and perhaps the Olympics as well. By supporting this bill Hawai'i has the opportunity to invest in sports teams and athletes that honor and celebrate our culture and our kuleana as stewards of our oceans. Currently our school's surf club members are required to attain a Junior Lifeguard certificate. Coaches also must be certified in Ocean Risk Assessment while abiding by the 1:6 coach to student athlete (same as pool sports) ratio.*

"Hō a'e ka 'ike he'enalu i ka hokua o ka 'ale.


*Let your surfing skills be proven."* (Pukui 1983, 108; 1013).

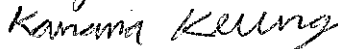
*A goal of ours is to ensure that surfing is recognized as a cultural practice here in Hawai'i, it is more than a "just a sport" to us. Passing this bill would be a great first step towards recognizing and elevating the status of surfing in our schools. We appreciate this opportunity to share our mana'o and our strong support for **HB 133 HD2 SD1**.*


*Please pass this bill.*


*Mahalo nui,*


*Student Council of Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau, LPCS 2024-25*

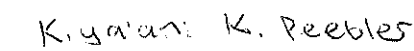
*Olali Wong, *

*Kanana Kelling, *

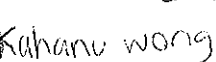
*Pualena Keahi, *

*Hoola Hottendorf, *

*Kauhaanui Domingo, *

*Kiyaani Peebles, *

*Kulailai Punua and *

*Kahanu Wong *



Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz,  
Chair Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair  
Wednesday, April 2, 2025 10:01am Conference Room 211  
Testimony in full support of HB133 HD2 SD1 Relating to Surfing

Aloha mai e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

My name is Phyllis K. Waiau and I am a lifelong resident of Papakōlea here on O‘ahu island. I’m testifying in **full support of HB133 HD2 SD1** relating to surfing.

This bill proposes to provide funds to the Hawai‘i State Department of Education to establish surfing as an interscholastic high school sport.

This bill also seeks to expand access to surfing as a recognized OIA sport and will be a wonderful way to include cultural sports to our plethora of interscholastic sports already available to our teens. Surfing is where many life lessons can be experienced and practiced; team work, handling pressure (remaining calm), stress-management, social and emotional balance, as well as recognizing the profound mana of all aspects of mother nature.

Hawai‘i is surfing’s home culturally and historically. We have a kuleana to nurture, grow, engage and steward this sport for our youth and our whole community. **HB133 HD2 SD1** is a way to start on the path towards growing our surfers into ocean healers and ocean stewards. Together, we can.

I appreciate this opportunity to show my strong support for **HB133 HD2 SD1** .

Phyllis K. Waiau

Papakōlea, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 11:05:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamakani Froiseth	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha I am an ocean safety lifeguard and I am in support of HB133. building competent kids not only applies to the books but also in the ocean and our communities. Classrooms are not limited to just buildings and can apply to every surrounding. I feel it's more important to build life long learners and through high school surfing we can give an outlet for a large group of students that focus their lives around the ocean. Also introducing students to something new. Being capable in the ocean is a huge asset in Hawaii and most people can surf long after their school day, providing a foundation for happiness in peoples lives. Aloha thank you for your time

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 11:50:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

## Comments:

Surfing has been an important part of my health, well-being and personal joy for over 25 years. Surfing is the reason I moved to Honolulu over 20 years ago, and the reason why I chose this special places as the place to build my home, family and a thriving business. It's been an incredible gift to be athletic in nature -- surfing is not just a sport, it is a way of being and communing with nature in a raw and unique way.

I fully support HB133 to make the funding available for high school surfing in public schools. Hawaii is the epitome of world class surfing and year-round waves. Surfing is our gift to the world, as embodied by the great and humble Duke Kahanamoku. Like, Duke, the children of Hawaii should be given every opportunity and support to become champions and ambassadors of the sport of surfing. Surfing is one of the main reasons Hawaii is beloved and admired around the globe. Therefore it should be our students and keiki who should be in the best position to represent us through surfing - not just in international competition but as citizens who go out in the world. A competitive surfer will always carry that love of nature, sportsmanship and Aloha pride within them. In Hawaii, we are singularly positioned to do this based on our unique geography and the nature that surrounds us. It truly begs the question in fact, on why this isn't yet supported by the DOE. Our public high school students, especially those in economically challenged districts, should be given the opportunity to build community, access the physical and mental health benefits and personal development offered through a structured surfing program. A surfing league would allow high school school teams to nurture and develop student-athletes and provide them an education in water safety, leadership and discipline, as well as foster school and personal pride. Please consider dedicating a small portion of our tax dollars to supporting our future surfers at the public high school level. This is something the community would widely embrace, value and support, versus so many other example of wasted public funds.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 3:37:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha my name is Joshua Moniz. I am a Native Hawaiian born and raised in Hawaii and a Professional Surfer. I am in full support of bill HB133. I've travelled the world surfing for the last 15 years and Ive got to see the positive impact other countries and states have on funding school surf teams. Promoting kids to get in the ocean and off the streets and off their phones has such a great impact not just on physical health but mental health also. Unlike most other sports surfing is a outlet kids can use even if they cant take the next step into college surfing or professionally. I believe thats the biggest difference between surfing and any other major sport the government supports now. You aren't just teaching kids a new sport you are introducing them to a new postive lifestyle they can have for their entire lives.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 7:04:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keanu Asing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha, My name is Keanu Asing i was a former professional surfer from Ewa Beach, O'ahu. I support this bill! Born and raised in Hawai'i surfing has always been apart of my life and has given me so much. If we can provide High schools students to have surfing as a sanctioned sport I truly believe it would give them access to much more opportunities.

Hawai'i is the birth place of surfing and we should support our next generation in giving them a chance/future they deserve through the sport of surfing.

I currently work at Billabong as the team manager, I was fortunate enough to have surfing as a career for many years and it is our responsibility to give this opportunity to the kids of Hawai'i.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 6:38:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Downes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 7:08:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liya Seibel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha! My name is Liya Seibel, and I am a junior at Kamehameha Kapālama. I am in full support of the bill HB133, which would establish surfing as an interscholastic sport with sufficient funding. I am an avid and passionate surfer, and I am part of the Varsity surf team at Kamehameha Kapālama. Although surfing was approved over 20 years ago, there has been no financial support for schools to operate their teams. It is very disappointing to see surfing neglected by the state, especially because this is where surfing originated. Strong funding for surf teams in schools would create opportunities for kids to dive deep into Hawaiian culture, learn basic water skills (that could save lives), and learn the etiquette that comes along with it. Being part of the surf team at Kamehameha has allowed me to meet so many new people from all over the world. I've not only grown in my surfing but also in myself as an individual. Among many other things, the surf team has taught me to have perseverance, confidence, and patience. I am so lucky to have a team like this, and I believe all kids should have the opportunity to take part in surfing as a sport at their school.

This bill isn't just about the money. When someone thinks of school sports in Hawai'i, what instantly appears in their mind is probably football or volleyball. No one even thinks to acknowledge surfing, which is such a heavily important sport and piece of our Hawaiian culture. When I come to school with my surfboard, people stare and it makes me feel uncomfortable, as if I am doing something embarrassing. Surfing is a part of who Kānaka are and we should never feel like we are out of place in our own home.

Mahalo for your time and consideration with this matter.

Sincerely,

Liya Seibel

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 6:57:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liam Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Liam Wilson and I support the sport of surfing becoming an official interscholastic sport in the state of Hawaii. As a former member of the Kamehameha surf team and now coach of the Kahuku surf team, I believe that there is no better place to have surfing in highschools than here in the birthplace of the sport.

From 7th grade to senior year, I was fortunate enough to travel every year with the Kamehameha surf team to Nationals at Salt Creek. It's what brought the competitive side out of me and I'll never forget the lessons/memories I've made on those trips. Seeing fellow Hawaiians win national titles and bring it home is one of the most inspiring experiences I've had. How many other sports have brought home national titles?

I want the next generation of Hawaii surfers to experience what I did. Please support HB133.

Mahalo



**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 8:43:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cade Oyadomari	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha !

Please support a program that give these kids a chance to represent their school in the sport of their passion. Its great for the state of Hawaii. Please invest in trhe future of our children!

Much Mahalos!

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 6:07:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

## Comments:

I support this bill! This bill allows great opportunity for our younger generation to explore different avenues with sports. Surfing is now an Olympic sport. Surfing is a great sport for young men and women to build relationships with neighbor islands and still have fun. This bill has long been overdue especially since this sport was developed in Hawai'i Nei.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 9:48:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystalyn Yoshimoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Why wouldn't you want to invest into our Keiki? I fully support this bill, as it is a very good opportunity to keep our Keiki off the streets and doing good with their time. Although my children do not surf, they do participate in other recognized school sports and I see the value it has in their lives on and off the field.

Sports can not only build self confidence, but it also teaches one how to stay disciplined, work hard, team building, how to set goals, give back to the community and also how to loose and bounce back. These are all traits to have when they go into the workforce. Who is to say one sport is more important than another? How "certain" sports can be recognized and not another.

We should always invest in our Keiki because they are our future.

Mahalo,

Crystalyn Yoshimoto

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 5:52:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Oliana Schur	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha, I am a student from Lahainaluna High School and I am extremely passionate about surfing. Throughout my life, I have watched surfing change people and bring communities together. I started surfing when I was very young and it has changed the trajectory of my life in a tremendous way. Our surf team at Lahainaluna is something that I take great pride in because it teaches kids strength, perseverance, self-awareness, teamwork, and so much more. It gives the kids the opportunity to learn about the ocean and connect with something much larger than ourselves. By giving kids a gateway to surfing, we are giving them an opportunity to join the surf community and create connections that could never be built otherwise.

The funding for interscholastic surfing in Hawaii means more chances for connection and growth among the next generation. It would give them a sense of community and school pride. It would also teach them an alternative way to take care of both their physical and mental health. Surfing teaches many kids how to read and understand the water in different ways, allowing them to handle themselves better and lessen their chances of getting injured or worse. Surfing is an important part of my life and interscholastic surfing gives kids the opportunity to make it important to their lives too.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 7:21:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anthony Makana Paris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of HB133**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwakinand Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to share my heartfelt support for Bill HB133, which aims to establish surfing as an interscholastic sport in our beautiful state of Hawaii. This bill resonates deeply with me, as surfing is not just a sport; it's a vital part of our culture and identity.

Surfing was born right here in Hawaii, and it has been woven into the fabric of our lives for centuries. It represents our connection to the ocean and embodies the values of respect, community, and harmony. When the Department of Education recognized surfing as a high school sport in 2016, it was a significant step forward. However, it's disheartening to see that only one of five local athletic leagues currently sponsors surfing. This limits the opportunities for our young people to engage in a sport that is so integral to who we are.

I believe that providing our youth with the chance to compete in surfing can have a profound impact on their lives. Sports, in general, play a crucial role in shaping young people, teaching them teamwork, discipline, and resilience. Surfing, in particular, offers unique lessons about navigating challenges, both in the water and in life. It builds confidence and self-esteem, helping our youth grow into strong, capable individuals.

Additionally, we cannot overlook the economic benefits that surfing brings to our state. Events like the Vans Triple Crown of Surfing have generated millions in revenue, attracting visitors from around the world. By investing in surfing programs in our schools, we not only nurture the next generation of surfers but also ensure that Hawaii remains a top destination for surf tourism, supporting local businesses and creating jobs.

Establishing interscholastic surfing programs will also foster a sense of pride and community among our students. It will give them a chance to connect with their heritage and with each other, creating lasting bonds and memories.

In closing, I urge you to support HB133. By appropriating funds to establish surfing as an interscholastic sport, we honor our rich cultural heritage, empower our youth, and strengthen our

economy. Let's work together to ensure that surfing continues to thrive in Hawaii for generations to come.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Me ke aloha,

Anthony Makana Paris

Kapolei, Hawaii

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 9:57:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Crowley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

My children has been participating as members of the surf team and club in their high school. It is such a great event for the kids as athletes and for the community they get to know other kids from other schools while playing this sport surfing is now part of the Olympics and it's been accepted as a competitive sport and we strongly believe that it should be reflected in the high school schools.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 5:31:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristin Moore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

We are writing to express our wholehearted support for HB133, which proposes the sanctioning of surfing as a high school sport in Hawaii. As parents of a student at Kahuku High, we believe this bill has the potential to profoundly benefit our youth, both physically and mentally!

Surfing is not only a significant part of our local culture and heritage, but it also provides an incredible opportunity for our students to grow in a supportive and structured environment. By sanctioning surfing as a high school sport, we would be offering our children access to the coaching, camaraderie, and discipline that organized sports provide—elements that are vital for young people as they navigate the challenges of high school and beyond.

With formal recognition of surfing as a high school sport, students would gain access to qualified coaches who can mentor them in both their athletic skills and their personal development. Having a coach who understands the nuances of surfing would allow students to refine their technique, build resilience, and learn life skills such as goal-setting, perseverance, and time management—qualities that are crucial for success in all areas of life.

Organized surfing would also open up opportunities for students to access scholarships, giving talented athletes the chance to pursue their education while excelling in a sport they love. Many high school athletes benefit from scholarship programs that can assist with higher education expenses, and we believe that surfing should offer the same potential to our students. The recognition of surfing as a formal sport could provide them with the chance to compete at higher levels and gain access to these important opportunities.

And, maybe most importantly, surfing as a high school sport would provide a sense of camaraderie and community. Being part of a team teaches students the value of collaboration, mutual support, and respect for others. The bonds formed within a surfing team are unique, as students work together to improve their skills while enjoying the shared experience of connecting with the ocean. These friendships and the sense of belonging are crucial for students' mental and emotional health.

Finally, the discipline required to excel in any sport is an invaluable life lesson. With the structure of an organized team, students would learn the importance of responsibility, time management, and balancing their academic and athletic commitments. This discipline fosters self-respect and drives students to strive for excellence both in the classroom and in the surf.



By supporting HB133, you are providing students with a meaningful opportunity to grow as individuals, athletes, and members of their community. We believe that this bill would not only provide our students with access to coaching and scholarships but also nurture the important life skills of teamwork, discipline, and mental resilience.

We strongly urge you to support this bill and help create a brighter future for our young surfers. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kristin and Carl Moore  
Parents of a Kahuku High Student

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 7:21:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaipo Palakiko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha, as a father of a 12 year old up and coming surfer and a Native Hawaiian. I am in full support of HB133 HD2 SD1! I believe that it is our Kuleana to give our keiki every opportunity to participate in as many cultural practices as possible through our educational system. I humbly ask for your support as well. Mahalo

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 5:47:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Racquel Achiu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha my name is Racquel (Hill) Achiu from Moku O Waialua (North Shore) in STRONG support of HB133. I am Chair of the Waialua High School Community Council and Vice Chair of the North Shore Neighborhood Board but am testifying today as an individual. Growing up in a extremely strong surfing ohana, my brothers were a part of the very first attempt at having surfing a part of our school athletics. What was known then as the National Scholastic Surfing Association (NSSA), we were at surf meets every weekend throughout the island ..AND WE DID WELL !!! We won the first championship and were not recognized by our school system, not even a little bit. But they wanted the trophy to be displayed on campus. What an incredible punch to our gut. No recognition, no credit, NOTHING but hey please hand over the trophy (as the schools name was on it). We were incredibly disappointed but as a team we eventually understood that the trophy wasn't the true win ... we were the WIN - we had developed & won something so much more than that trophy - We had an amazing team that worked hard, together, to accomplish the goal of the championship. Surfing provided a healthy and positive lifestyle and led my brothers to very successful careers in surfing and as businessmen in the surf industry. Yes there are risks, just like any other sport in our school athletics system. Surfing is a sport that provides discipline, team work, education and keeps our Hawaiian culture alive. The education & values of life in and out of the water, our marine environment and water safety that are paramount living on our islands is invaluable. Please support HB133 and allow our youth to experience and excel in a sport that not only shapes our young men and women in a positive environment but guides them in a sport that doesn't just physically and mentally support them but educates them culturally and environmentally on our beaches and our oceans and in our communities. MAHALO

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 8:13:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lewis Watson II	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Mahalo for the opportunity to help support HB133, HD2 SD1

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill HB133, HD2 SD1 which aims to provide funding to the education system to support surfing and related extracurricular programs for students. As a father of 3 active keiki in Hawai'i school system, I believe that programs like surfing can have a tremendous positive impact on children's physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Additionally, it teaches important life skills such as discipline, perseverance, and teamwork.

Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing, a sport that has shaped its culture and identity for generations. Supporting Hawaii's young surfers is not just about helping them develop their skills on the waves—it's about preserving and honoring the legacy of the sport itself. These kids are the future of surfing, and by investing in their growth, we're ensuring that the deep-rooted traditions and spirit of Aloha continue to thrive. Their success is a reflection of Hawaii's enduring connection to the ocean and the global impact of the sport, and supporting them today means nurturing the next generation of champions, mentors, and stewards of the sea.

Surfing is not just a sport—it is an opportunity for children to connect with nature, learn about environmental stewardship, and build confidence. Providing access to such programs within the school system would offer an inclusive and unique educational experience for students, especially those who might not otherwise have the opportunity.

I urge you to support this bill and champion efforts to enhance educational opportunities for children by integrating diverse and enriching programs like surfing into the curriculum.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I appreciate your continued support of our Hawai'i children's education and well-being.

Sincerely,

Lewis Watson II



**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 9:39:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kea Moody	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I'm writing in support of HB133. Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing and is deeply intertwined with its history and culture. And for the reason I humbly ask your support and to pass the bill HB133 to establish appropriate funds for surfing as an Interscholastic sport at the department of education(DOE) so we can continue to thriving in and healthy atmosphere. Mahalo for the opportunity

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 5:19:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tia Ngum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha, my name is Tia Ngum, and I am a student at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology. I have been a surfer for most of my life, competing individually in the Hawaii Surfing Association and alongside the Kamehameha Kapālama High School surf team from 2017 to 2021. Surfing with the Kamehameha Schools Surf Team allowed me to connect with my Hawaiian culture, foster my passion for surfing, maintain healthy physical activity, and connect with other surfers, all while receiving an education.

I strongly support Bill HB133. Funding for interscholastic surfing in Hawai‘i would help to eliminate the financial barrier of competition fees and safety requirements. This would allow the young surfers of Hawai‘i to surf safely and equitably while experiencing the opportunities that come with being part of a school surf team.

Solidifying surfing as an interscholastic high school sport with adequate funding would also create the foundation to establish surfing as a collegiate sport in Hawai‘i, just as it is in other states. As a native Hawaiian surfer currently pursuing higher education, I recognize how pivotal this opportunity would be for surfer student-athletes who want to continue their education while still being able to remain in Hawai‘i.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the passage of Bill HB133 to ensure that the young surfers of Hawai‘i have the same opportunities as student-athletes in other sports. Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 4:33:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marissa Sugiura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I fully support HB133 as a female who was born and raised in hawaii surfing was always my favorite thing to do. I tried ball sports but never fell in love with it and always fell back to surfing. When I went to college, I was able to surf on a college surf team and get scholarships. Kids of Hawaii would benefit to have high school surf teams and it would mean more time spent exercising and working as a team then getting into trouble or just not exercising. Other states already recognize surfing in schools so it only makes sense to offer surfing where it was born-Hawaii. Of all the bills to make decisions on this is definitely a no brainer yes.



**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 3:26:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

## Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kawika Kanae, and I am writing to express my strong support for funding competitive surfing within Hawai'i's school systems. As the birthplace of modern surfing, Hawai'i holds a deep cultural and historical connection to the sport. By officially supporting competitive surfing in schools, we provide students with an opportunity to engage in an activity that fosters discipline, physical fitness, ocean safety awareness, and a sense of cultural pride.

Surfing is more than just a sport - it is a way of life in Hawai'i. Many of our students grow up in the water, and competitive surfing offers them a pathway to personal growth, college scholarships, and professional opportunities. Additionally, investing in competitive surfing promotes healthy lifestyles and keeps students engaged in positive extracurricular activities.

With the rising success of local surfers on the global stage, it is imperative that we nurture and develop young talent through our school programs. Funding competitive surfing would ensure access to training, proper equipment, and opportunities to compete at higher levels, paving the way for future generations to thrive in the sport.

I urge you to support this initiative and help solidify Hawai'i's commitment to fostering both athletic and academic excellence through surfing.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Kawika Kanae

(808)723-2251

kaveeks@gmail.com



WORLD SURF LEAGUE HAWAII  
PO BOX 429  
HALE'IWA, HI 96712

April 1, 2025

**Re. Testimony in Support of House Bill HB133: Relating to Surfing**

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

The World Surf League (WSL) submits this letter as testimony in strong support of **House Bill 133**, to establish and fund surfing as a statewide interscholastic sport.

As the governing body of professional surfing since 1976, we are grateful for the opportunities to host professional competitions in Hawai'i, the birthplace of surfing as both a cultural practice and competitive sport. From Duke Kahanamoku to Carissa Moore, generations of ambassadors have shared and perpetuated Hawaiian culture, values, and resources through surfing and surf competition. And surfers have traveled to Hawai'i to compete since 1953, when the Waikīkī Surf Club hosted the world's first international surf event at Mākaha.

It therefore seems well beyond time that Hawai'i's scholastic athletes have sanctioned and funded opportunities to participate in their own pastime, in their home islands.

Surfing is not a zero-sum game. The ocean is vast, and our island shorelines are large enough to officially bring interscholastic surf events into the fold. Perhaps no other group deserves the opportunity to compete in Hawai'i more than its youth. This official recognition for surfing is an investment in our future generations, one that will enrich them as individuals, and empower them as ambassadors of this beloved cultural tradition.

On a personal note, I was a high school and collegiate student athlete across multi-season disciplines, and am indebted to the innumerable physical, mental, social, and academic benefits that organized sports' participation has contributed to my personal and professional lives.

Mahalo for your consideration, and for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB133, which is offered with respect and hope for its passage.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin Erb", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Robin Erb  
VP, Tours & Events  
World Surf League Hawai'i

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 1:31:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lana Kapuakeaonlani Masterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I support this bill because I grew up surfing and in the water and i still surf to this day, and I want other kids to have that experience. Surfing is a Hawaiian practice and we should learn more about it in school. Getting to learn how to surf in school would be a good activity to stay active in the ocean and your learning all at once. It can be for all people if you know how to surf or if they want to learn. So I think school should get money for surf clubs because it's a good learning experience and a way to learn more about the cultural practice and what it's about.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 12:21:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

As a surfer, pediatrician, sports medicine physician, obesity medicine specialist, and parent, I urge you to pass HB 133 to fund surfing in Hawaii public schools. I have been a lifelong surfer, starting at Kailua Beach shorebreak as a child, and now at age 52, paddling out on our longboards with several female friends at 7am every Sunday morning near Ala Moana Bowls. I have taught my kids to surf and find one of the greatest joys in life to be sharing the ocean and the thrill of riding waves with my children. Surfing connects me to Hawai'i and what this beautiful island state has to offer. It roots me to the rich history our citizens have to ocean sports and conservation of our aina and kai. I thrill at seeing the ocean creatures and coral reef below, I love the way the warm water soothes me and rejuvenates my body and mind, and marvel at what surfing does to my physical and mental health. It keeps me young and fills my heart with glee. It keeps me strong, flexible, and agile. I am a better person because of surfing.

Funding interscholastic surfing in Hawaii would mean bringing this same joy and rich tradition of water sports to school children in our state. It has valuable cultural meaning and is grounded in our history of water sportsmen and sportswomen, like Duke and Rell, who have encouraged us all to enjoy the ocean. Interscholastic surfing would bring physical and mental health benefits to our keiki. It would provide exercise and extracurricular opportunities to children who might not normally have them. There are many economic benefits, including increased tourism with student competitions hosted in Hawaii and increased sales of local shaper's surfboards and local Hawaii surfgear. There would be coaching and officiant opportunities that might provide job opportunities for adults in our state. It would encourage water safety education and respect for our land and sea amongst our keiki. Had interscholastic surfing been available to me when I attended high school here, I would have participated without a question. I hope my own children will be afforded the opportunity to do so here on Oahu soon.

Mahalo.

Rachel Coel MD PhD

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 1:24:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ka'iulani Kauihou	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

As a native Hawaiian woman surfer, I support this bill to have funding allocated for the teaching of and support of surfing education and competition in the Hawaii school systems. Surfing has been an integral part of my life and my relationships with family and friends. Many of our family traditions centers around surfing. Surfing has provided me with an outlet, a sanctuary and a community that I wish for Hawaii's keiki to also be a part of. I support this bill, mahalo.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 3:29:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jeremey irvine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I rise in strong support of HB133. ALL interscholastic sports provide our youth with community, health, fitness, and life skills that translate into so many aspects outside of and beyond high school.

Surfing is no different and deserves a place and the appropriate funding in our High School athletics.

Thank you

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 4:16:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

## Comments:

Surfing is a crucial component in Hawaiian culture. It has many advantages in education like understanding the ocean environment, meteorological science, and physics of wave energy, wind, and tide. Whether it be folklore or a spiritual connection to the aina is a perception of every individual person. It can empower individual people and community. It can build self confidence and encourage students to work together. As an original sport of the Hawaiian people it should be supported by the State and department of education.

**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 8:26:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chaz kini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha as a native Hawaiian and father, I would like to say this is an important sport to our islands and people. Surfing's birth place is Hawai'i, and we should showcase our heritage by supporting it through school academics and getting our native Keiki a way to showcase our roots through the strength and art of surfing. We should be perpetuating culture while obtaining skills and knowledge of the ocean. People fly around the world attend college to obtain such knowledge, while we have it right here in our front and back yard. Surfing is a world-wide high-paying job, to set our keiki up for a career in surfing is one of many priorities.



**HB-133-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 8:28:35 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lindsay mochkatel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

My name is Lindsay Mochkatel and my family is a resident in Hale'iwa. We have three children, one that is entering high school next year. We are passionate about the ocean and surfing is a beautiful and vital part of our life.

I am writing in support of HB133 encouraging funding to the DOE to support surfing in high schools across our state. Hawai'i is the birthplace of surfing with strong cultural/historical ties to the sport--more so than any other place in the world. Yet, Hawai'i is one of the few states that lacks support and funding for the sport to be integrated into the high school experience for students.

Supporting surfing as a competitive team sport in high schools will serve as a benefit to students and local communities in a variety of ways. **First and foremost, it will provide students with structure, and a safe place to go after school, to further develop their surfing skills under the supervision and guidance of a trained and qualified coach. This ensures that our keiki are involved in structured activities developing socially and athletically in a safe space.** Furthermore, surfing has deep roots in Hawaiian culture, traditions, community and ocean/beach preservation. Allowing students to make these connections-between sport and place directly supports the unique mission of the DOE in perpetuating place based learning through cultural experiences, traditions and community. Students can extend the team experience partnering with local community groups (native/cultural, ocean protection, community outreach) as student-activists. Supporting this group of student-athletes in and out of the water will encourage school attendance and participation, as students will feel included and represented in the school community. Similar to other HS sports, these students will now have the opportunity to participate as a team representing their school and developing/sharing their unique talents.

Of course, any sport comes with risk of injury. Consider the dangers of tackle football, soccer, swimming and waterpolo. As all sports at the high school level have navigated the risk of injury/liability at the school level, surely a surf program/team can be safely and carefully organized and structured in collaboration with trained professionals, athletic directors, coaches, and parents to ensure the safety and well-being of all students. Lucky for us, our state has an abundance of trained, knowledgeable professionals in the field of surfing programs and competition.

Supporting surfing as an organized sport in the schools is long overdue and essential in continuing to grow student-athletes. It presents a beautiful opportunity to further make

connections between sport and culture/tradition/olelo and enhance community involvement, education and partnerships in and out of the water. The success of the program and athletes could even create the moment for the state to share the traditional/cultural aspect of surfing at a national level in competition. The state should be honored and proud to support such a unique culturally relevant sport at the school level.

Please support enrichment of our school programs for our keiki by voting in support of HB133.