



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

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 88, H.D. 1, RELATING TO STUDENT ATHLETES.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**DATE:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 **TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 308

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

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Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

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

The bill: (1) requires the Department of Education (DOE) to establish and administer a three-year student athlete travel pilot program to provide funding for intra-county travel expenses for student athletes of counties with a population of less than 500,000; and (2) appropriates funds.

Any sports-related travel for student athletes must comply with title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688), and section 302A-461, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Department recommends amending the bill to explicitly require compliance with all applicable state and federal laws. We suggest inserting the following as new section 2(d), starting on page 4, line 3:

**(d) The department of education shall comply with all  
applicable state and federal laws.**

Current section 2(d) on page 4, lines 3-4, should be re-alphabetized as section 2(e).

Additionally, the Department recommends:

1. Revising section 2(c)(1) of the bill, on page 3, lines 17-18, to specify that the DOE's report of its findings and recommendations shall include: "The number of male and female student athletes participating in the pilot program[.]"

2. Adding new paragraphs (4) and (5) to section 2(c), after page 4, line 2, stating that the report shall also include:

**(4) The amount or private donations received for the pilot program, both monetary and service-related; and**

**(5) The allocation of money, both private and public, and services provided to each male and female athletic team participating in the pilot program.**

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

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

**Date:** 02/20/2025

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Location:** 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Finance

**Department:** Education

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

**Bill Title:** HB 0088, HD1 RELATING TO STUDENT ATHLETES.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the Department of Education to establish and administer a three-year student athlete travel pilot program to provide funding for intra-county travel expenses for student athletes of counties with a population of less than 500,000. Appropriates funds. Repeals 6/30/28. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of the intent HB88, HD1, which establishes a three-year student athlete travel pilot program.

Travel is a challenge across all Department athletic programs. These challenges are even greater for schools that need to travel to other islands for intra-island games and face additional lodging issues. While there is special funding for athletic travel for Lanai and Molokai teams due to their unique geographic challenge to participate in athletic events, these funds are limited. The three-year pilot would be a welcome support for student athletes who also face lodging challenges in addition to other travel expenses. The Department appreciates the inclusion of funding in the HD1 to be allowable for an athletic clerk if needed, who would assist with travel procurement and implementation of the pilot.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for HB88, HD1.

**HB-88-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 7:47:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Dudoit	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Mary Dudoit and I am a parent and a middle school teacher on Moloka'i. I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB88 which would provide our Moloka'i athletes with more equitable opportunities to thrive and excell in sports.

Moloka'i athletes travel more than any other schools in the state for games/meets and tournaments during their respective sports seasons. As an island community, student-athletes must fly to most competitions. I believe we are *the most* travel-dependent school in Hawai'i. This creates financial and logistical burdens that other schools do not experience to the same extent.

Travel costs for flights, accommodations, and meals can be a barrier for families and athletes. Additionally, long travel schedules and early morning or late-night flights can take a toll on athletes' physical and mental well-being. Furthermore, without comfortable sleeping accommodations, our athletes often are sleeping on wrestling mats in school gyms. In order to pay for more comfortable accommadtions that allow students to sleep in beds and cook healthy meals at home, teams often conduct large-scale fundraisers, which is taking a toll not only on coaches and families of athletes, but also our small Moloka'i community, which has a very high cost of living.

Despite these challenges, though, Molokai athletes have continued to push through and compete with resilience. Nevertheless, the disparity in resources and opportunities remains an ongoing issue.

Voting aye on this bill will give our Moloka'i student-athletes a level playing field where they have more fair and equitable opportunities to succeed.

Thank you for your consideration to motivate and support the success of our Moloka'i student-athletes and any others who would benefit from such a program!

Sincerely,

Mary Dudoit

**HB-88-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 9:17:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MAHEALANI RAWLINS	Molokai High School Athletics	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill as a head coach of the Molokai High School Girls Varsity Volleyball program. During season games we are contracted with Mokulele Airlines to get our athletes to neighbor islands to compete. For the most part, we are scrambling unknowingly if we will travel or not due to the cancellations or delays. Sometimes we travel one day earlier to ensure the safety of our athletes. The stress level of being a coach and traveling home after dark is very frustrating, too. This causes our student-athletes to miss more school days. I believe with more traveling accommodations, whether by airlines or boat ferry will help accommodate all our athletes. Being that we are on Molokai, it puts a lot of stress on our Athletic Director when multiple sports travel to compete in MIL sports.

Please help our Molokai High Athletic program in providing more travel accommodations for our admin, staff, coaches, players, and Ohana.

Mahalo nui for your time.

**HB-88-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:13:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
April Bautista	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I kindly ask that you pass HB88 HD1.

Mahalo,

April

April Kamilah Bagasao Bautista

Kalihi-Pālama

**HB-88-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:13:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Love	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Unacceptable use of funds.

- 1) Repair roofing, plumbing and electrical systems in schools. Address mold issues.
- 2) Ensure every schoolchildren is able to read, write and do necessary math-budget, balance checkbook etc so they can function in society.
- 3) then consider fluff programs like this.

Thank you

Mrs Ruth Love