

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2009

March 20, 2009

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL RELATING TO EDUCATION  
SB360, SD1. Relating to Extracurricular Activities

To the Honorable Roy M. Takumi Chair, and Lyla B. Berg, Vice Chair, and the Committee Members.

My name is Leroy Simms Jr., and I serve as the Athletic Director of Hilo High School.

I am the Big Island representative sitting on the Athletic Directors and Coaches Association (ADCA) Board, and today I am representing the Big Island Interscholastic Federation of Athletic Directors and Coaches, **OPPOSING** this measure relating to the participation in extracurricular activities by home schooled children.

I speak in **OPPOSITION** to this measure SB360, SD1. Relating to Extracurricular Activities as it does not meet or address the participation guidelines and standards that our public as well as some of our private school institutions are held to, such as; the requirements for academic rigor; academic monitoring; student athlete training and conditioning; the transferring of schools, the role of high school athletics being a privilege versus it being a participatory right; recruitment; administrative oversight and finally the exploitation of ones talent(s).

I thank the Committee on Education for the opportunity to present testimony and I am available for questions on this matter. I urge you to **OPPOSE** this measure that would require the department of education to allow children who are home schooled to participate in extracurricular activities at the public school they would otherwise be required to attend.

LATE TESTIMONY

John Chung  
1120 Nehoa St.  
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96822  
Testimony Before the  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
March 20, 2009, 2:00pm  
Room 309, State Capitol  
Testimony Relating to Senate Bill 360

Chairman Tokumi, Vice Chair Berg and Members of the Committee:

I would like to offer testimony opposing Senate Bill 360, Relating to Extracurricular Activities. This bill requires the Department of Education to allow children that are home schooled to participate in extra curricular activities at the public school they would otherwise be required to attend.

My name is John Chung and I am the Athletic Director at Roosevelt High School. I strongly oppose SB 360 because of the inequities that this bill will provide for those that are home schooled. This bill will also provide loopholes to parents that are more concerned with having their child participate in athletics versus doing well academically.

At all public schools, we grade check our student athletes. Besides grades, we also look at the student's attendance, attitude and behavior in the classroom. These factors will determine whether or not a student can participate. How will we get an accurate account of the home schooled student's behavior if we have to rely on the parent to provide this information to us? Will the parent tell us that their child is being insubordinate to them? If parents will be responsible for submitting their children's grades to us, how will we know if the grades are accurate? I am not saying that the parents will submit a passing grade so their child will be eligible, but how can we make sure that it won't happen. Our students at Roosevelt are graded by six different teachers. Each may have their own grading system. A home schooled student will be graded by only one person. Is this fair to the public school student? I don't think it is.

Another inequity that may arise if home schooled children are allowed to participate is that a parent may take their child out of the public school setting and decide to home school them a few weeks prior to the end of the quarter or semester. This may be done in order to make them eligible for competition. I don't think that this bill addresses that issue.

If SB 360 is passed it may also lead to students moving to districts to play for a certain school. This may happen because of grades or because they want to play for a certain school. If that happens I don't think that it would be fair for someone who is home schooled to take a spot on a team from someone who is attending the school on a daily basis.

Prior to entering their child in high school, parents have a choice that they must make. Do I enroll my child in a private school, public school or do I choose to home school my child. Depending on what the parent decides, will determine what is offered to their child. Some private schools have programs that some public schools don't have. That's one reason that some parents send their children to a private school. My point is that parents have the right to choose home schooling. They must understand that if they choose that route to educate their child then certain programs may not be available to them. They know this prior to choosing this type of education.

Participating in athletics is important. We encourage all of our students to tryout for one of our athletic teams. We encourage them to participate because athletics helps to promote camaraderie, pride and unity within the school. If we have students in our program that do not even set foot on our campus during the school day, how will that help with having pride and unity and camaraderie with your classmates? As a former coach, I used to preach having pride in your school on a daily basis to my players. Home schooled students won't get the true message because they have nothing vested in the school other than wanting to participate in a sport.

Home schooled students currently do have an opportunity to participate in athletics. Just about every community has a Parks and Recreation league. Besides that, there are many club teams that offer basically the same level of participation as the high schools. Being that home schooled students will not be subjected to specific school rules and regulations, I truly believe that the Park and Recreation leagues will meet the needs of the home schooled student.

Sincerely,

John Chung