

HCR138 HD1

Measure Title: URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO EXAMINE ALL
POSSIBILITIES TO ENABLE STUDENT ATHLETIC TEAMS TO RUN AND
TRAIN OFF CAMPUS.

Report Title: Department of Education; Athletics

Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: EDU, JDL

Introducer(s): WOODSON, OHNO, TAKUMI



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

Date: 04/20/2015
Time: 01:15 PM
Location: 329
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HCR 138, HD1 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO EXAMINE ALL POSSIBILITIES TO ENABLE STUDENT ATHLETIC TEAMS TO RUN AND TRAIN OFF CAMPUS.

Purpose of Resolution:

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) does not support HCR 138 HD1 which urges the Department to examine all possibilities to enable student athletic teams to run and train off campus. We offer the following comments.

The Department's "Guidelines Relating to Off-Campus Athletic Activities" states "*Off-campus activities involving athletic teams will be limited to Department of Education (DOE) campuses and facilities. Athletic teams are not allowed to conduct practices and/or activities on city and non-DOE state property **without following the proper protocols and/or obtaining permits.** These practices and/or activities include but are not limited to running on city and state roads, streets, and highways, impromptu practices and/or activities at a park or beach, and running or hiking on a mountain trail. **If an athletic team uses a non-DOE facility for practices and/or activities, the proper permitting protocols as well as approval from the athletic director and/or principal is required.***"

The Guidelines require that an off-campus activity must be approved by the school's administration and proper permits obtained to utilize the non-Department property.

Further, the Department's guidelines for off-campus athletic activities are essential for the safety and welfare of the students and coaches, and are similar to those applicable to off-campus activities such as field trips and student activities. Thus, the Department has substantial concerns regarding the following language on page 2, lines 6-9, "**WHEREAS, a complete waiver of liability signed by the participating student, both parents, and anyone acting in loco parentis would satisfy the Department of Education's concerns for**

safety of students;..."

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



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Date: 04/20/2015
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Person Testifying: Mr. Bruce Anderson, Principal
Maui High School

Title of Resolution: HCR 138, HD1 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO EXAMINE ALL POSSIBILITIES TO ENABLE STUDENT ATHLETIC TEAMS TO RUN AND TRAIN OFF CAMPUS.

Purpose of Resolution:

Department's Position:
Maui High School does not support HCR 138.

The safety of our student athletes outweighs the need for coaches to practice along side roadways. The Department has procedures in place to have our student athletes practice on race-like courses. The schools, through the athletic director, have the responsibility to create safe practice sites with Emergency Action Plans (EAP) that can be realistically implemented, if an emergency occurs. Route planning and communication are essential components of the EAP. Athletic trainers are available to respond to emergencies if our practices and athletic events are held either on campus or near campus.

We strongly do not support HCR 138 because its provisions may compromise the safety of our student athletes.



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P.O. BOX 2360
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Date: 04/20/2015
Time: 01:15 PM
Location: 329
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Mr. Michael T. Ban, Athletic Director
Maui High School

Title of Resolution: HCR 138, HD1 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO EXAMINE ALL POSSIBILITIES TO ENABLE STUDENT ATHLETIC TEAMS TO RUN AND TRAIN OFF CAMPUS.

Purpose of Resolution
:

Department's Position:

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Michael Ban and I am the Athletic Director at Maui High School. As a representative of the school, I am not in favor of the proposed bill HCR 138, which "enables student athletic teams to run and train off campus."

Currently, the Department of Education has protocols in place to ensure student safety. Our athletic teams are allowed to practice at non-DOE facilities *if the athletic department is able to secure permits from the County Parks and Recreation*. This allows for proper supervision and emergency coverage in a controlled environment. Athletic trainers, administrators, and parents are aware of the team practice schedule (time and place). We have developed emergency action plans for those non-DOE facilities.

If students are allowed to run on the road and impromptu routes, it will open the Department to negligence since there will not be proper supervision and emergency action plans in place.

The current DOE policy "Guidelines Relating to Off-Campus Athletic Activities" ensures a safe and appropriate instruction for coaches and athletic administrators.

Thank you very much,

Michael T. Ban
Maui High Athletic Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR138 on Apr 20, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Friday, April 17, 2015 2:19:53 PM

HCR138

Submitted on: 4/17/2015

Testimony for EDU on Apr 20, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jared Welch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Comments: Aloha, For the past four years no public high school athletes in the state of Hawaii have been permitted to train off campus or away from a designated park. The DOE implemented a rule prohibiting off campus training due to a student-athlete getting hit by a car during practice, and the subsequent lawsuit brought on by his parents. The impact this has on sports, particularly cross country and track, is great. It's very hard to motivate kids to push themselves when they are confined to a specific area; it takes away the thrill of being able to run somewhere new you previously thought was too far away. It forces extreme monotony onto the sport of running, which most kids think is monotonous to begin with. It also impacts the public schools because private schools don't have to follow the DOE's policies. This further adds to the uneven playing field that exists between public and private schools. Private schools can already recruit kids without geographic limitations, and they can offer financial assistance to premiere athletes to entice them to attend their schools, drawing them away from public schools. Now those private institutions have another bartering chip to use during their recruiting, and an indefinite advantage to use during training. Go to this link for a clear example of how private schools have dominated just the sport of track over the past 30+ years: http://sportshigh.com/sports/track_field/tournament/record_book . Another issue with this ban is that it has also been counterproductive. I am aware of many coaches now circumventing the rule by setting up times for kids to run on their own, not at an official practice. Since these runs cannot be attended by a coach, the kids are therefore running unsupervised. If this ban was not in place, coaches would be able to structure routes for kids to run where they can be at certain points along the routes, ensuring the safety of the kids. If a coach were to do this as things currently stand, he or she would be in violation of this rule. Lastly, childhood obesity is an epidemic, and having a rule like this enacted does not help to address this issue. Rules that take away from the likelihood of a student participating in sports and improving his or her health are contrary to what needs to be done at this time. Please consider passing this resolution. Trust that the student-athletes and the coaches are responsible enough to understand the risks involved when running. You can't let public schools begin to recruit, but you can provide more balance between public and private schools when it comes to training. Mahalo for your time and consideration, Jared Welch, Head Coach of a Hawaii public high school.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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To whom it may concern,

As an avid runner for the last 20 years of my life, I am urging you to do what ever you can to find a way for the high school students of the state of Hawaii to be able to run! For those who don't know the joy of long distance running, they may see no problem in forcing distance running teams to try to run distances of 4 to 8 miles inside the confines of a high school campus in order to build the endurance necessary to compete against private schools who have no such rule. However, as an assistant coach for Maui High, I can personally tell you that the students quickly get board. There is no sense of adventure to their running. There is a frustration and a feeling of being discriminated against simply because they cant afford to attend a high dollar private school where they would be permitted to do the kinds of training needed to bring them to the place of achieving their goals.

The students have expressed to me their confusion about the rule. They don't understand how they are allowed to walk on the sidewalks of the community un-accompanied to and from school, they are even allowed to run those same sidewalks on their own with no supervision, and yet as a team, with the guidance of experienced coaches, it is forbidden. This rule is so discriminatory that these students may actually become better runners if they refused to become part of the team and simply ran by themselves.

If a student choked on a school lunch, would you ban them? If a student developed Carpal Tunnel syndrome from computer class, would you ban the use of computers? Of course you wouldn't. In sports like soccer, football, and basketball there are countless injuries and yet these sports are permitted to practice. Please, do not discriminate against runners.

Thank you for your time

Sean Housman

The Department of Education has created stringent guidelines and protocols for athletic teams to run and train off campus. Their disapproval of HCR 138 appears to be a result of safety concerns and possible financial liability—both of these issues could be resolved through the use of waiver agreements.

As described in other testimonies, the current policy (staying on-campus) discourages students from joining certain athletic teams, affords an edge to private schools, and generates an atmosphere of monotony for current athletes.

Beyond these arguments, evidence shows that student athletes have better health, academic performance and graduation rates, self-confidence, and stress-coping mechanisms. Additionally, they gain invaluable skills like hard-work and goal-setting. They develop friendships and learn to work as part of a team.

To conclude, many kids are only exposed to 2 domains—their home and school. The current policy permits them to run laps around the same track day-after-day. Do we want to teach our kids to run in circles; or do we want to give them the opportunity to set eyes on their community, stretch their goals, and learn to succeed?

Tomas Furusho
Individual
Support