

HB-2427

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:39:56 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Keith Hayashi	Hawaii Department of Education	Comments	Yes

Comments:

Comments



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

Date: 02/08/2022

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 2427 RELATING TO SPORTS.

Purpose of Bill: Designates sports as being cocurricular activities. Requires the Department of Education to submit a report on the cost of implementing sports as co-curricular activities.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully offers comments and amendments for HB 2427.

The Department supports the addition of the definitions of "Co-curricular activities; sports," "Curriculum," "Curricular activity," "Co-curricular activity," and "Extracurricular activity" to the existing HRS 302A.

The Department suggests further clarification be made to differentiate between competitive (extracurricular) athletics and co-curricular athletics. The current high school sports leagues across the state on the different islands allow for competitive athletics where two high schools are competing against each other to win the game. The goals and objectives are for coaches to select a team based on a tryout and develop skills and strategies to ultimately culminate in winning games and playing for a championship. Therefore, high school athletics should remain defined as an extracurricular activity.

A co-curricular athletic team's game or competition would be a culmination of a class curriculum; the goals and objectives would be to practice the learned skills and strategies at the event. The culminating event would be different for this co-curricular activity since participation and success of executing a little known skill after weeks of classroom instruction meets the definition of a co-curricular activity that complements the curriculum. Winning the contest would be irrelevant and there would be no

championships. Participation and having fun would be the emphasis at the event and the student's performance in the co-curricular activity may contribute to the student's grade for the class. The best setting for co-curricular athletic activities would be at Department middle schools.

The Department suggests adding the two examples provided above to the definition of co-curricular athletic activities and extracurricular athletic activities in the measure. High school athletics should remain defined as an extracurricular activity. However, middle school athletics could be added and defined as a co-curricular activity. Currently, the Department does not have the funding to institute a statewide middle school athletics program. Middle schools are seeking alternate funding to offer students an after-school athletics program. The benefits mentioned in the measure's first paragraph should be available to all students starting in the middle schools.

The middle school programs are currently modeling the high school extracurricular athletic programs where winning is emphasized and only the most skilled students are benefitting from these programs. A lack of funds forces a coach to hold tryouts to lessen the number of participants and players chosen based on their ability to execute the sport's skills. The National Federation of High Schools (NFHS), the national organization providing recommendations to states' athletic programs, emphasizes the following in middle school sports programs: Participation, sportsmanship, teaching, and, most of all, having fun. Athletics should be available for any and all students in the middle schools without requiring a tryout. The athletic team may be an extension of a class available to all students that provides an opportunity for the student to participate in the co-curricular activity (game). We realize that not all middle school students will continue to participate in athletics when moving on to high school and providing the benefits outlined in the first paragraph of this measure for a larger number of students through a middle school program would contribute to the well-being of our students statewide.

This measure provides an opportunity to explore the establishment of a statewide middle school athletics program. The Department believes that, with the amendments, the philosophical bases of the two activities align and we can support the measure moving forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2427.

HB-2427

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 12:57:20 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Christopher T. Chun	Hawaii High School Athletic Association	Oppose	No

Comments:

The Hawaii High School Athletic Association (HHSAA) opposes changing interscholastic athletics to a co-curricular activity. The legal ramifications of designating athletics as a co-curricular activity would negatively impact high school sports in Hawaii in a way that the legislature does not anticipate. For example, this would impact the ability of a coach to select his team, as well as governing associations and Courts to enforce eligibiity and transfer rules.

However, this Bill may be more suitable for a middle school sports program that is not within the purview of the HHSAA and its member leagues. The National Federation of High Schools stance on middle school sports, which emphasizes participation rather than competition and state championships is a better application model for this Bill.

HB-2427

Submitted on: 2/5/2022 2:04:04 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Matti Gorodenchik	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing today to support bill HB2427.

As a football and soccer coach for many years, I have witnessed first hand how sports have changed my young athletes lives. Participating in different sports, whether team or individual, teach the athletes many things they will never learn in a regular classroom environment. I've seen young boys and girls becoming strong individuals, becoming people who care about the society they live in, they want to be involved and be engaged in different discussions. I've seen players fighting their own mental issues and getting healthier thanks to the sport they were involved in, the coaches who supported them and their teammates who learned how to help a person in need.

Having sports as part of the school curriculum won't only ensure we have more physically healthy young adults, but also create a better world for our future generations. This is more than teaching the youth how to score a touchdown or a goal, it's about creating our future leaders, it's about strengthening their mental toughness, it's about teaching them how to keep working hard even when things don't always go as planned. Our education system should give that option to our students and I'll be shocked why anyone would oppose such a thing.

HB-2427

Submitted on: 2/5/2022 4:33:33 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Randall A Okimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Randall A Okimoto and I'm writing in support of this bill. As a coach in the DOE for 21 years I experienced the joy of coaching that only comes with commitment from our community and those who invest valuable time pouring into the lives of our families we serve. This bill has the potential to change the whole landscape of sports in Hawaii from the youth level to the highest level of sport. The quality of coaching will be elevated which will lead to a better product. The opportunities that this bill will provide will be available to a wider range of our population and not just the ones who can afford it. More opportunities from pre-K to high school and elevating the quality of instruction really fullfills needs in our communities that has been overlooked year after year in this arena called sport. If this bill is passed I'm excited to see my son who is 7 now experience the benefits by the time he turns 9 years old. This definitely is a worthy pursiut of a worthy goal.

Aloha Ke Akua,

Randall Okimoto

Kevin K.J. Chang
47-740 Hui Kelu St #6
Kāneʻohe, HI 96744

6 February 2022

To: House Committees on Education & Economic Development

Re: Support HB 2427

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs and members of the House Committees on Education and Economic Development,

My name is Kevin Chang. I am a former public-school athlete (Castle H.S.) and walk-on for the University of Hawai'i. Today I am an attorney who now runs a small local non-profit. I am also a musician and high school football coach.

I write in support of HB 2427 which designates existing interscholastic sports as co-curricular activities, instead of extracurricular activities to be considered an essential status within the department of education.

I wholeheartedly agree with the findings of the legislature in Section 1. I attribute much of my growth and experience in life to the lessons my coaches and teammates instilled in me through athletic and team experience. The experience of school did not end at the 2:05pm bell on a regular school day. Sometimes it went into the early evening and into the weekend. Athletics were essential education activities.

I imagine this change will both uplift the significance of athletics for our kids and bring a level of excellence and sophistication to how we think about the role of coaches and athletics in our kids lives. A common phrase used in my field of work speaks to this "*ma ka hana ka ike*;" it is through doing that one learns. Through the doing of athletics our children learn to grow into their bodies, their maturity, leadership, citizenship and civic virtues in ways that an enclosed class room or book cannot do. This undeniably feeds into the make-up of the spirit of the school and student body. Athletics are essential education activities.

This bill acknowledges the depth and significance of sports in young peoples lives. Since returning to athletics as a very green coach I can attest to seeing the continued lessons being paid forward by the team of coaches I am a part of. Other than the 2-hour practices we all have I see our kids interact with our coaches as role models in their sense of community. During the season, on a weekly basis, our head coach spends an hour with our kids speaking to them about and demonstrating virtues of kuleana (privileges and responsibilities), humility, kindness, team work and respect among others. I hear the kids then speak about this among themselves as something to strive for together. For some of our kids these lessons serve as their foundational purpose for participation. It will also be a foundation for their lives.

Recent national public athletic data indicates that almost 60% of the student body may be involved in sports in some way. This doesn't account for the other formal volunteer school related activities beyond sports that take our children to greater impact and experience in life. With these activities, just about all student educational experience extends beyond the bell, with teachers and community members who go beyond the call to uplift our youth. All of this counts.

In my recent experiences as a coach, I see a new level of sophistication that Hawai'i must adapt too; our community has awakened to the potential in the life pathway that sports creates for greater educational and economic opportunity. This is a viewpoint that was less present when I was younger. Today we are known to be a small community whose talent output exceeds expectations. Why would we not want to leverage this? Hawai'i athletes have gone on to compete at the highest levels all the while exemplifying the character of our community. Some have gone on to have greater impact on the world. This includes the presidency of the U.S.A.. If we are to build a greater more resilient community with opportunities that extend beyond tourism, military and global investment why not invest more deeply in the growth and community that nurtures our children where we know they can excel.

Please support HB 2427 as a step toward actualizing the potential of our youth and acknowledging the role of coaches and athletics in the greater community and world.

Aloha 'āina momona,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KJ Chang', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin K.J. Chang

HB-2427

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 8:49:56 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Corey Fellezs	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Corey Fellezs and I support HB 2427.

As a former student-athlete, Division 1 swimmer and water polo player, I've had many influential coaches in my life. Growing up I've always known that I wanted to become a coach because of the positive impact that coaches had on me. They all had a hand in shaping the person that I've become today.

Teaching high school swimming and water polo has been a part of my life for the last 20 years. I teach swimming because it's a life skill. I am a coach because it allows me to guide athletes into becoming the best that they can be in and out of the pool. Seeing kids come thru a program and leave with confidence, character, determination and hope for their future is priceless. That alone has been the most meaningful part of my life.

Coaches wear many hats. We are leaders, role models, disciplinarians, motivators, friends and extended families to name a few. We are there to challenge students in ways the classroom can't. We are there for the kids when their parents can't be. We are there to not only teach athletes skills and fundamentals but we are there to guide them on how to apply that knowledge on the field and in their everyday lives. Coaches challenge each individuals and help them find, develop and perform at their full potential on and off of the court.

HB2427 Would motivate students to become athletes and well rounded individuals. It would encourage students to get involved, obtain a sense of self pride, be on a team, get physically fit, gain self discipline and even get a scholarship when they may not otherwise have the opportunity to do so. This bill is a winner on and off of the field.

HB 2427 is important to the lives of our keiki. Please support our future generations.

~Corey Fellezs

HB-2427

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 10:42:34 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kurt Kawamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Kurt Kawamoto I am 18 years old and I am part of the Kaimuki High School Athletics. I participate in three different sports year round Football, Soccer, and Baseball. I support this position because not only students are being more disciplined it shapes their lives in different ways. Some students that don't play extra curricular activities use their time in high school poorly. for example, students skipping class or students failing class because they either don't have social skills or is struggling with teachers. By passing this bill it allows students like myself to have the opportunity to change their lives in so many different ways. It can lead them to the right path and let them stay focused in school. When I first joined sports I didn't know anyone on the team but as time goes by I learned how to communicate with people that I don't know and I will be used to them.

HB-2427

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 10:51:26 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kevin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whome it may concern. I support the bill for the reason that sports play a vital roll in the up bringing of young adults. I am a coach and a farther. Coaching has help the team kids beyond the class room where they lissen to us more then some of there own teachers. My view is a coach is a teacher on and off the field.

Testimony in support of
H.B. 2427 Department of Education to recognize sports as part of its Curriculum

Submitted by:
Kevin Yuen
46-192 Yacht Club Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744

February 6, 2022

Dear Honorable Chair Justin Woodson and the members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Kevin Yuen, retired from the Department of Education, 36 years. During my tenure, I served as a teacher, counselor, and administrator at the elementary, middle, high school and community school for adults levels. I was also a former Head Wrestling Coach for Kaimuki High School for 13 years. My teams won 2 OIA Varsity Division I Wrestling Championships and 2 team State Runners up finishes. During this time, I have also had many individual Eastern Division and OIA champions. Ultimately, 8 of my wrestlers achieved State Champions. One wrestler was a two time individual state champion. I was also honored one year with being voted OIA Varsity Coach of the Year.

I am in favor of HB 2427.

This bill is very important to me because I know how important coaches of athletics are to the development of student athletes. My coaching staff and I have come to know that we have high influence and impact on our athletes. Being a coach comes with much responsibility. Coaches spend an astronomical amount of time preparing their athletes for competition. Two main things that are learned and experienced is teamwork and sportsmanship. These are major life skills that are needed in our present society.

The time invested is given willingly with heart. We share and feel all of the highs and lows with our athletes. Cheering, laughing and crying together builds a strong bond that is very hard to describe. I experience such a great emotional feeling when reconnecting with former athletes now while they are in their 30's, 40's and yes 50's. The bond is very strong. Please allow me to include that many of these students were from the Palolo Housing area where they were faced with much more challenges than their counterparts not afflicted by poverty. I feel that athletics taught them the necessary life skills where they are gainfully employed today.

Final Statement: Presently with the Covid 19 pandemic upon us, with two years of dramatic reduction of traditional "in-person" educational experiences as we know, our community and society need to provide our youth the support they ultimately need more than ever. I say without hesitation, that athletic coaches can and will help our youth in a time where students need our help the most.

Please support HB 2427 and identify school athletics as co-curricular within the Department of Education. Give coaches the opportunity to extend their care and solid direction for our youth. Data from the last two pandemic years will show that many of our high school youth have not succeeded. The graduating class of 2023 were in the 9th grade when the pandemic hit the world. They should now be in the 11th grade. We need to recognize and move athletics to an advantageous strategic position for student success. Athletics has been the **reason** for many outstanding student achievements.

I extend my thanks and Aloha to Chairman Woodson and the House Education Committee. I support House Bill 2427.

HB-2427

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:02:31 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Arthur Isa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support bill HB2427 because of what playing on sports teams has helped my in my life. During my high school years, my father who was my primary parent/guardian was addicted to drugs including crystal meth. I had little adult supervision or guidance in my home, my father even allowed me to see the world he created for himself and had opportunitites to follow his path.

I like competing in sports, more than that I loved my teammates and coaches, and was passionate about doing my part to not let them down. It would have been easy to follow my fathers path in life, but my love for sports, its family atmosphere, and the attributes it helped cultivate were vital during a time in my life which is very confusing, and not easy to navagate. I was blessed to travel to Fresno, CA. and play football at Fresno city college. The time I had in junior college was vital to my mental, emotional and spiritual growth.

As I look back to my time in high school, I am thankful that my coaches and the teams that I was apart of were avialable. With the introduction of HB2427, in the world that our kids now face because of this pandemic. In closing, the education in sports is as important today than ever before. The HB2427 bill is important especially because it is all about the positive development for our youth.

Mahalo, Arthur Isa

HB-2427

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:27:37 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jeremy Dunn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of HB2427 and it's companion, SB3296.

My name is Jeremy Dunn and I'm an Action Performer in Film & Television, as well as the CEO of iStunt.com, a global platform that assists Productions in finding specialized union personnel, nationwide. But before my current profession, I was first a Football Player, a Kapahulu Raider, a Kaimuki Bulldog, an Athlete.

I felt compelled to write this Testimony because this important distinction should not be overlooked as it has been in the past. Instead, this issue should be viewed with fresh understanding as 'another' battle on the field of equality, with regard to the recognition and designation of a misunderstood arena.

In the ever expanding development of departments recognizing differing areas of equality, I felt the need to turn the equity spotlight on this matter, as the broad context of 'extracurricular', in my opinion, is divisive and an absolutely 'incomplete' standpoint with regard to Sport. Without ever stating that one element of education is superior to the other, or what lessons we actually take into adulthood from either classroom or sport, in the context of 'curricular' activities, equity should be reached between these two forms of youth education and development: in Class, and in Sport. Both of which are led by a coach of some kind.

I feel its time we evolve old, outdated classification and finally recognize the far greater role coaches and sports have in the curricular education of student athletes.

I understand 'extracurricular' is most often defined as 'being outside the regular curriculum of a school' or 'outside the duties of a job' ...but in the context of organized sport within schools, this definition is simply inaccurate. Sports today are intermingled with every aspect of an athletes student life & developing learning process. From study halls, to tutoring, to counseling, to mentorships, to discipline that happens on the field because of an issue that happened off the field in a classroom, learning does not stop at the school house door.

Teaching is "the art of passing on knowledge to a group of people." While coaches "sharpen the skills a person already has." But don't teachers sharpen previous skills we have learned too, don't coaches pass on knowledge to a group of people as well?

Maybe we should rename curricular Teachers, to Coaches? After all, they coach us on Biology, Mathematics, Reading, Vocabulary, etc. Or maybe coaches should be renamed “Teachers” as to help people better understand my point and what they 'really' do day in and day out, while having the complete attention of a student athlete?

It's like physiology focusing on the brain, while philosophy focuses on the mind. Do those two not go hand in hand? Well, the same goes for many sports of which we label 'extracurricular.' Does the knowledge we test and education we obtain via our Sport Teachers, not go hand in hand with much of the curriculum we learn from our classroom teachers? In campus offices where Sport Teachers teach game theory or the importance of team work on white boards, are they inferior than Classroom Teachers who teach their discipline on White Boards?

The unified relationship seems obvious to me, as well as every single athlete I have spoken too or discussed this matter with.

Non-athletes may not relate exactly to what I am stating here, but they can certainly relate to or understand the difference between the brain vs mind and how they are still, one and the same. This is why Sports, that take place within High School, should be designated as co-curricular, not broadly labeled as if it is some after-school hobby.

Art is considered curricular, is sport not art an art form? We all took mathematics in class, in sport do you not test leverage, trajectory, weight, measures and angles? I could draw parallels, on endless fronts where standard curricular introduces, while sport and game theory implements. If you go to school for construction, should the real-world apprenticeship still be broadly labeled as extracurricular, or should it be co-curricular? Sports and their Teachers simply focus their curriculum within other disciplines, like social development, social complexities, team work, respect for others and many other aspects that still go hand in hand.

The year round dedication that Sports demand in this age, also means athletes tend to spend more time with their Sport Teachers, than they do their Curricular Teachers, yet because they educate in a different sphere on campus, their curriculum seems to be viewed as less impactful by the Department of Education?

I loved my curricular teachers, but I never learned how to truly conquer things like adversity from them. I never gained the level of social skill from my classroom (as in most class rooms you listen, but do not speak), I never learned true strategy in class, nor learned how to care for my body in P.E., the same way I did in Sport, I never learned how to truly rely on the person next to me by breaking into small classroom groups, the same way I learned to rely on the man next to me, in a Rival Football Game. Both taught me valuable lessons and one is not greater than the other of course, but sometimes the other teaches deeper understanding on a similar aspect of education or a principle.

Throughout my life, I have had great Teachers in class, but I feel Teachers of Sport are unsung heroes. In my personal experience, the lifelong relationship and lessons I've learned by way of Sport have been the MOST impactful on my life. The discipline & team work taught through physical sport has molded me and my business. It truly taught me how to handle the good and

the bad, the winning and the losing, to deeply understanding my role in a team environment which helped me be a better, more functional part of society. All these are priceless lessons, most of which in my experience, were by Teachers, from the mislabeled arena of “Extracurricular.”

Again, the growing trend of broadening definitions of equality, without stating one is ever superior than the other, in the context of this bill, equity should be understood that these two ‘systems of impactful education’ be equally recognized and Sport be finally designated as co-curricular, by the Department of Education.

Thank you for your time.

Jeremy Dunn

LEU OKUDA & DOI

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GARY Y. OKUDA, Esq. TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2427

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 2427 and its companion bill SB 3296.

Although I have served for about five years and continue to serve as a Commissioner with the State Land Use Commission, this testimony is made in my individual capacity. I am testifying only on my behalf, and not for any other person or entity. I also disclose that I am NOT a paid lobbyist or representative regarding this bill.

HB 2427 is simply a good idea and with the right people can help bring real change.

In my service on the LUC, I have asked witnesses at hearings: "Where should Hawaii be in 30 to 50 years, and how do we get there?"

The pandemic has highlighted problems in Hawaii which we must address. Hawaii is becoming a society divided between those with wealth, real property, and access to educational opportunities, and those who are being left behind.

Public education and supporting the classroom teachers, coaches and school principals have been the engine that has moved Hawaii forward.

Historian Lawrence Fuches, in his landmark social history "Hawaii Pono", chronicled the work of Dr. Miles Carey and his dedicated teachers at McKinley High School and how the classroom education they provided were the "Seeds of Democracy" which transformed Hawaii from a inequitable plantation economy to a modern, more democratic Hawaii.

Large problems often require bold initiatives. But



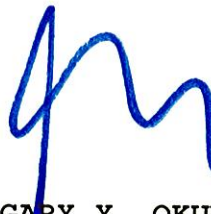
sometimes the solutions already exist, and we simply need to support the people who are already doing the difficult job of keeping students engaged and educated.

Coaches provide school level, direct contact and mentoring of students, some of whom would not succeed without the support of coaches.

I am a graduate of a public high school, attended Windward Community College and received my B.A. degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I periodically teach a graduate level course "Higher Education law" in the College of Education on the Manoa campus.

Except for attending law school at the University of California, Davis, I was born, raised, been educated, married my wife who is a retired Special Education public school teacher with whom we raised our two children, all in Hawaii.

I therefore respectfully request that you approve HB 2427.



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blessedandcalm1@gmail.com

February 7, 2022

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Rep. Justin H. Woodson

Rep. Jeanne Kapela

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

2:00 P.M.

Room 309

STRONG SUPPORT HB2427 - RECOGNIZING SPORTS AS CO-CURRICULAR

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee!

My name is Pōmaika'i, and I am writing this letter, as a parent of a student athlete, an educator in both public and private education, and an administrator of a non-profit that serves Hawai'i's youth, to ask for your **support in passing HB 2427 relating to DOE-sanctioned sports activities no longer being recognized as EXTRA-curricular activities, but instead as CO-curricular activities.**

Our children have been raised in public education for the duration of their elementary educational experience. **In elementary, Physical Education provides an opportunity for each student to become acquainted with their bodies and learn cognitive and motor skills through active play.** The Hawaii DOE has provided the following description of Physical Education at an elementary level, which I am in full support of:

"The emphasis is on developing the mature forms of locomotor, non-locomotor, and manipulative skills and the application of combinations of movement forms into a variety of basic games and physical activity settings. Students also learn about the basic benefits of physical activity and are encouraged to choose health-enhancing pursuits both inside and outside of the school setting."

After elementary, Physical Education is *"highly recommended, but not required"* for middle school. As a parent of middle-school children, I have seen their desire to participate in activities that allow for social interaction, friendly competition, and guidance from trusted adults who are not parents (e.g. coaches). I have witnessed that it is their involvement in these activities that

-APK-

blessedandcalm1@gmail.com

keep them on a path of learning, well after their “school-day” has ended. At this age, they begin to understand the correlation between what they learn in the classroom and what they experience on the “field.” Through their involvement in sports activities, our children have learned how to manage time, finances, social interactions, and their overall health. We, as parents, consider each of these skills to be the real-world application of concepts learned in the classroom. **Physical Education in public school curriculum should continue through these crucial and formative adolescent years.**

In High School, Physical Education is *required* for graduation, and students must enroll in a standard P.E. course and one basic elective course, which does not include involvement in sports activities. This **MUST** change, especially for those students who are continually involved in sports activities that keep them physically active and on a more rigid diet and workout regimen than students who do not. I have seen, firsthand, how my children's participation in sports activities has enhanced their comprehension and retention of classroom curriculum, thereby improving academic performance. Furthermore, mentorship from trusted individuals, namely coaches, both in-season and off-season, have also helped my children maintain good citizenship standing. **High School students' involvement in sports activities IS an extension of their educational experience and should be credited as such.**

While the Hawai'i DOE has shown support for our children's involvement in sports activities by sanctioning leagues, events, and providing facilities for these activities to occur, they need to do more. **Many student athletes in public schools use experience in high school sports as a means to pursue post-high education and career goals they would not otherwise have the opportunity to pursue. I am urging you, our legislators, to support this measure that requires the DOE to recognize sports activities as “CO-curricular” (in addition to and in support of current curriculum) and no longer using the term “EXTRA-curricular” (outside of established curriculum).** Once this has been established, we can move toward building our public school athletic programs in such a way that student athletes can be supported to have a successful educational experience that will lead to improved community outcomes throughout Hawai'i both now and in the future. Mahalo for your consideration!

Me ka ha'aha'a,



A. Pōmaika'i Keawe

HB-2427

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 1:26:42 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brandon Keenan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hi and thank you for allowing me to speak to you today. My Name is Brandon Keenan, I am a citizen within the communities that have been affected by the current situation.

I am here today to speak to you about HB 2427 and how I believe it will have a lasting impact on the future of Hawaii's youth. In light of the current situation, I believe it is essential for the healthy development of the future of Hawaii. I grew up participating in sports from an early age. It allowed me to develop social awareness along with self esteem. Being involved in sports allowed me to interact with the community, and know I had a place, and the support of the community. It provided me the opportunity to forge relationships with coaches and fellow athletes, some of which have lasted the test of time. My coaches were some of the greatest influences in my life. My coaches knew me, and they knew my parents, and together they helped guide me, and keep me out of harms way. When I needed someone to lean on, I knew my coach would listen, and he gave me good advice, and I believe those moments helped me to be the person I am today. I have in turn been a coach and have given back, and seen the benefit of my counsel and leadership. Making sports an essential part of the Keiki's development will insure that our communities, and our Keiki receive the benefit that this bill can provide.

HB-2427

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 1:30:07 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brandon Keenan	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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HB-2427

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:02:36 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
David Tautofi	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela and the members of the committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of this HB2427. My name is David Tautofi, and I'm a community leader, youth advocate, and a former teacher, athletic director and coach.

I am writing to share my in full support of HB2427.

Student athletes are held to a much higher standard than normal students. They not only have to meet requirements for practices as well as games and services, they need to maintain a gpa of 2.0 in order to participate in games and remain on the team. The expectations put on student athletes is often overlooked but there's no denying the education in sports and how that impacts and shapes lives.

Sports is much more than just a game, it truly is life for these student athletes who are students and who make up more than half of the student body of high school students in the DOE. The education in sports shapes much of the most important elements in youth development, the heart and character of our kids.

For all that the experience entails for these student athletes, it's more than reasonable to consider the education in sports be an essential part of the educational development of our kids. The education in sports also helps with the maturity process in how these student athletes think and how they handle themselves.

This Pandemic has opened our eyes and we've not done much to help our kids at all. The only group of people that have been left behind were our kids, has been our kids and are still our kids. If there's a way we can better prepare them for life in college or not in college or in whatever journey life takes them, it would be in small ways and this is a small way to make a big difference for the sake of our kids, their future and ours.

I humbly ask that you will support and vote on this bill to pass. We can counter what this pandemic has done especially to our kids by taking it one step at a time, this would be an important start.

Mahalo,

David Tautofi

HB-2427

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 8:34:43 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gino Soquena	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee. My name is Gino Soquena, Executive Director of the Hawaii Building & Construction Trades Council but testifying as an individual.

I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2427 that would designate interscholastic sports as co-curricular activities. Sports plays an important role in the development of majority of the students in our State. From a young age playing Pop Warner football and Little League baseball, to High School, and even College, our children are exposed to a variety of different sports activities that help mold them into successful individuals.

The COVID pandemic has taken a toll on our keiki as some of them were not able to participate in any sporting activities. Some of our best athletes were forced to leave the State just so that they could still participate in the sport that they love. Some of our athletes depend on sports to further their education with sports scholarships.

It is my hope that the Department of Education realize the importance of sports in our State and implement sports as co-curricular activities. For these reasons, I respectfully request that you pass HB2427.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2427.

Mahalo, Gino Soquena

HB-2427

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:21:08 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jeremy Chong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe this bill is excellent idea for the future of the children. Sports is vital to help build fundamental character traits which our kids desperately need. It help me stay out of trouble I don't know what my life would've been without sports.

HB-2427

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:56:34 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joe Charles Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I completely support Bill HB2427. I like many, am born and raised here. Sports was, is, and will always be a major part of who I am. And sports has always been a big part of life here in Hawaii. Bill HB2427 is a program that our student athletes will immensely benefit from. It's a wonder how a program like HB2427 has not been implemented yet. I am completely convinced that the lives of our student athletes will be enriched and as a result schools will be recipients of the effects of Bill HB2427. So I ask the members of the House for your support. Mahalo Nui.