

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:** 02/02/2023

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 0500 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds to DOE to promote surfing as an interscholastic sport.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) recognizes the intent of HB 500 and respectfully offers comments and concerns.

Since 2005, the Department has developed regulations to implement surfing as a high school sport. In 2016, the Hawaii State Board of Education approved Board Policy 101-11, Surfing, which established surfing as a high school sport.

While the Department appreciates the appropriations to support surfing in high school athletic programs, this would not address the larger risk factors that make surfing difficult for high schools to sanction. These risks include concerns around accessible and safe surfing areas to conduct practices and the inability to control the practice environment. On Oahu, surfing has not been proposed by any Department high school principal.

The Department appreciates this proposal and the inclusion of funding but asks that any additional funding does not affect the Department's Board of Education-approved budget priorities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 500.



**OUTRIGGER  
DUKE KAHANAMOKU  
FOUNDATION**

P. O. BOX 160924  
HONOLULU, HI 96816

[DUKEFOUNDATION.ORG](http://DUKEFOUNDATION.ORG)

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**Testimony to the Committee on Education**

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair; Rep. Lisa Marten, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 2, 2023, 2:00 P.M.

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

RE: HB 500, Relating to Education

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the Committee on Education:

On behalf of the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation, I would like to testify in **strong support of HB 500** to appropriate funds to DOE to promote surfing as an interscholastic sport.

Though surfing was declared an interscholastic sport several years back, at most public schools outside of Maui, surfing remains either a club sport, or unincorporated in the school sports opportunities. Funding is needed to provide insurance, organize competitions, subsidize equipment, and provide stipends to coaches (who are often teachers).

Surfing is a Native Hawaiian sport and Hawaii has ideal surfing conditions. We could and should be helping all kids have an opportunity to learn and build surfing skills. More local kids of all economic backgrounds would get access and exposure to the sport, as part of a healthy lifestyle, a stronger connection to the ocean, and a deeper understanding of culture. Further, more school teams mean greater competition for all, producing a higher tide of top performing athletes. We should put the same financial backing behind surfing that we do behind imported sports like football, soccer, and baseball. Just imagine the pride of cheering on our local high school surf teams the way we do for other team sports.

ODKF strongly urges this committee to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Thank you,

Sarah Fairchild

Executive Director

**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

**HB-500**

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:42:24 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/2/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shauna Springer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kāko‘o wau! I support!