



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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Testimony before the Board of Education Committee on Finance & Infrastructure
Submitted by: Roz Baker, Senator 5th District—South and West Maui

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Committee members,

Congratulations again on your appointment to this important board and mahalo for your commitment to our students to ensure excellence in our public schools.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on agenda item 8 (the committee's recommendation and action on the DOE operating budget) in particular the recommendation to continue funding for the boarding program at Lahainaluna High School, in my Senate district.

Let me provide some information about this unique DOE program. Lahainaluna is the oldest school west of the Rockies, established on the slopes of the West Maui Mountains in 1831 by missionaries who wanted to educate young native Hawaiian men. Pursuant to an act of the Territorial Legislature, in 1923 the Superintendent of Public Instruction (Mr. Willard Givens) and the Commissioners of Education voted to continue the then 92 year old school and *incorporate it into the public school system as a high school* which "should stress, along with its college preparatory work, the various vocational branches including machine, carpenter and auto shops, agriculture and home economics." Lahainaluna Technical High School was born. It became the West Maui day school for boys and girls and retained the boarding department for boys of Maui and "to some extent for those living on the others Islands who on account of location or other reasons needed the benefits of the boarding department."

Recently, the boarding program celebrated its 175th anniversary, and it continues to fulfill its educational mission today, by instilling discipline, a good work ethic, a sense of pride, an understanding of sustainability, stewardship, kuleana and teamwork. As a work study program, it builds character and literally has turned lives around. Many incoming freshmen start out nervous and apprehensive - it's their first time away from home, but

this unique program gives them the stability of ohana while teaching independence and the importance of giving back to their community. The boarding program is an integral part of the educational experience at Lahainaluna High School and merits continued support, not just because of its rich heritage and tradition but because it is educationally sound and produces outstanding citizens and community leaders.

After the 2010 legislative session, representatives from community, the Lahainaluna High School Foundation, faculty, boarders, parents and alumni began developing a strategic plan for the boarding department. Rep. McKelvey and I participated with them. We want to firmly establish a partnership with the DOE to strengthen, enhance and expand the opportunities for boarders and the entire student body. LHS enjoys enormous community support and is a source of great community pride. When schools were on furlough, the community made sure that the boarders weren't forgotten on furlough Fridays and those week-ends since many could not travel back to their homes off island. When food budget ran short or a 3-Rs project for the dorms needed help, the community was there. We know that for this unique program to reach its full potential there will be a need for resources beyond what the DOE budget may be able to accommodate. My community wants to partner with the DOE to create a sustainable 21st century boarding program. By voting to continue funding, you will enable that partnership to develop and ultimately flourish for the benefit of the students we all serve.

I appreciate the difficult choices to be made. On behalf of my constituents, boarders, alumni and the greater Lahainaluna school ohana, I ask you to vote to continue the categorical funding of the boarding program albeit with the modest reduction recommended. With your continued support, Lahainaluna and its boarding program will continue to inspire young minds, instill the values of our host culture and develop generations of new leaders who understand the importance of giving back to their communities. Mahalo.

The Castle Performing Arts Learning Center

is one of the jewels of the State of Hawaii's Department of Education. Recognized nationally in 2006 by the President's Council on Arts and Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts as one of the top after school programs in the country, CPAC was recognized internationally in 2009 at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the first public school from Hawaii to be chosen for this honor.



First Lady Laura Bush, in her White House speech recognized "The students of the Castle Performing Arts Learning Center in Kane'ohe Hawaii have higher GPAS, graduation rates and standardized scores than their peers." These statistics still hold true.

Students in the Learning Center programs come to school motivated and wanting to achieve. They match their peers socio-economically and ethnically, with the same rates of ESL and SPED as the general population. But the Learning Center students still have higher GPAS, graduation rates and HSA scores than their peers.



So Learning Centers WORK! We embody the direction that everyone agrees our schools should be heading! The legislature has noted that more afterschool programs are direly needed. Well, we got some great ones already!

Founded by Milken Award Winner and Hawaii Living Legend Ronald Bright, CPAC was the template for the Learning Center Program. Today, under the direction of Karen Meyer, CPAC still leads the island with its theatre programs. In both 2010 and 2009, CPAC productions were singled out as the best on Oahu by the Honolulu Advertiser, the only high school theatre, public or private, to be so mentioned.

CPAC, like the other Learning Centers, received \$28,400 last year in DOE appropriated funds, along with a .5 position for the Director. For this, 318 students in grades 5-12 from 12 schools all over the island of Oahu, received instruction in the performing arts. Over 15,000 students and community members a year attend CPAC plays and special events.

318 students? That's \$89 per student in expenses, and one half a teacher! For a world class program that is achieving the goals that its larger parent organization is still seeking? That is a bargain!

Learning Center spending SAVES the DOE money in other services! Ginny Wright, a CPAC parent, credits our program for her son no longer requiring SPED services. From grade school her son was assigned a speech therapist along with full SPED services. After starting CPAC in the fifth grade, he is now a academically successful junior at Castle and no longer in SPED. Not alone in his story, the DOE actually saves money in this way through the Learning Center programs.

We know the budget is tight. But if a program is proven with the data to back up its success, it should be saved, protected and emulated, not dismissed. We beg you not to throw the baby out with the bath water. Look at its value!

Please do NOT be swayed by those who look to the private sector to step in, or an overburdened principal to find money elsewhere to save a program. NCLB ties hands, private sector donations are hit or miss. The bottom line is once a program's foundation has been cut, even for a year, rebuilding is nearly impossible. The specialists find jobs elsewhere, the resources are reassigned and students move away.

We deliver. We give you your bang for your buck. With our Learning Center programs you're providing world class education at a ridiculously low price. Please let us remain in the budget. We promise to continue bringing pride and honor to the public schools in Hawaii. Come see what the public schools do right!

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The Top 10 Reasons to Support the Arts (from Arts Watch)

POSTED BY [RANDY COHEN](#) ON APRIL - 20 - 2011

The URL <http://bit.ly/eNV7zs> has been shared 189 times. View these Tweets.

I was recently asked by a major biz leader for “10 reasons to support the arts.”

He needed the points to help him pull an 8-figure investment for a new arts center... Make it compelling to government and business leaders, he asked. Oh, yeah, he’s a busy guy—didn’t want a lot to read: “Keep it to one page, please.” So, apart from the 10-1 flip (and with apologies to David Letterman), this is what I delivered:

10. True prosperity... The arts are fundamental to our humanity. They ennoble and inspire us—fostering creativity, goodness, and beauty. They help us express our values, build bridges between cultures, and bring us together regardless of ethnicity, religion, or age. When times are tough, the arts are salve for the ache.

9. Stronger communities... University of Pennsylvania researchers have demonstrated that a high concentration of the arts in a city leads to higher civic engagement, more social cohesion, higher child welfare, and lower poverty rates. A vibrant arts community ensures that young people are not left to be raised solely in a pop culture and tabloid marketplace.

8. Health and well-being... nearly one-half of the nation’s healthcare institutions provide arts programming for patients, families, and even staff. 78 percent deliver these programs because of their healing benefits to patients—shorter hospital stays, better pain management, and less medication.

7. 21st Century workforce . . . [reports](#) by The Conference Board show creativity is among the top applied skills sought by employers. 72 percent of business leaders say creativity is of high importance when hiring. The biggest creativity indicator? A college arts degree. Their report concludes, “...the arts—music, creative writing, drawing, dance—provide skills sought by employers of the third millennium.”

6. Improved academic performance... longitudinal data of 25,000 students demonstrate that students with an education rich in the arts have higher GPAs and standardized test scores, lower drop-out rates, and even better attitudes about community service. These benefits are reaped by students regardless of socio-economic status. Children motivated by the arts develop attention skills and strategies for memory retrieval that also apply to other academic subject areas such as math and science.

5. Arts in the schools = better SAT scores... students with four years of arts or music in high school average 100 points better on their SAT scores than students with one-half year or less. Better scores are found in all three portions of the test: math, reading, and writing.

4. Creative Industries... the creative industries are arts businesses that range from nonprofit museums, symphonies, and theaters to for-profit film, architecture, and advertising companies. An analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data counts 756,007 businesses in the U.S. involved in the creation or distribution of the arts that employ 2.99 million people—representing 4.14 percent of all businesses and 2.17 percent of all employees, respectively. (Contact [Americans for the Arts](#) for your local and state numbers.)

3. Arts are the cornerstone of tourism... arts travelers are ideal tourists—they stay longer and spend more. The U.S. Department of Commerce reports that the percentage of international travelers including arts and culture events during their stay has increased annually the last six years.

2. Arts are good for local merchants... the typical arts attendee spends \$27.79 per person, per event, not including the cost of admission on items such as meals, parking, shopping, and babysitters. Non-local arts audiences (who live outside the county) spend nearly twice as much as local arts attendees (\$40.19 compared to \$19.53)—valuable revenue for local businesses and the community.

1. The arts are an industry... arts organizations are responsible businesses, employers, and consumers. They spend money locally, generate government revenue, and are a cornerstone of tourism and economic development. Nonprofit arts organizations generate \$166 billion in economic activity annually, supporting 5.7 million jobs and generating nearly \$30 billion in government revenue. Investment in the arts supports jobs, generates tax revenues, and advances our creativity-based economy.