

June 7, 2011 Finance and Infrastructure Committee -- Hawaii State Board of Education

	First Name	Last Name	Organization	Subject/Agenda Item	Type testimony in the space below.
1	Hilary	Eldridge	KPAC	Program # 16770	Having played in the orchestra for the KPAC spring production, I was truly amazed by the commitment and energy the HS students brought to the stage. These young people were incredible. To cut funding for a program that teaches teamwork, mathematics (music reading) cooperation, responsibility, public speaking, consideration AND is a boost to the community would be criminal. IF we, as a society, do not support the arts with our wallets AND our hearts, we have no one but ourselves to blame for a bland, unchallenged, lacking world,
2	Linda	Silva	Teacher and parent	Learning Centers and the Weighted Student Formula	I am against lumping in the funding for the Learning Centers with the Weighted Student Formula. On Kauai, we have a wonderful Learning Center run by Dennis McGraw. If the funding is lumped in, the program will end as it would require all the principals from the 3 high schools to agree to "chip in" to keep the program running at the current school site at Kauai High where all the students rehearse. Every year they put on 2 incredible plays that are of New York quality. My son has participated in the program for the last 5 years and my daughter for the last 3 years (since middle school). I have enjoyed watching these amazing productoins for the last 30 years since Arnold Meister started the program. It gives these youths a chance to perform their incredible talents in singing, dancing, and acting rather than hanging out at the mall or getting into trouble. Many of these students are not competitive but artistic, like my children, and much prefer acting over sports. There is nothing to replace this program and principals are too strapped to be burdened with this decision. Please maintain funding for the program and keep it separate. We need quality youth programs. Mahalo, Linda Silva (Parent and Teacher)

3	James	Pena		16770 Moving Funding from PALCs into the Weighted Student Formula	<p>16770 I was involved in KPAC (Kauai Performing Arts Center) during my junior year at Kauai High School. It was one of the most beneficial activities I've ever participated in as a student. Through KPAC, I developed confidence, teamwork skills, and learned to build good relationships with others. I once considered myself a very shy person. I would have never imagined myself performing, and even further, singing on stage in front of an audience. In KPAC, I did just that. I built confidence through practice and the encouragement of other students and teachers. I learned that I can change from being a shy person. I am a human, a person, and I should have confidence in who I am and what I can do. The following year, I became the Student Body President and Leo Club President. By the end of the year, I had given a speech to my entire graduating class and all their families and friends that attended. I would not have had the confidence or boldness to even run for such positions had it not been for KPAC. When I think of KPAC, I also think of all the relationships that I built. Many hours are spent in rehearsal and class in which I was forced to interact with others. It was definitely different from traditional classes. I had to sing and dance in front of others, things that were uncomfortable for me. I learned to trust others in that way. We made so many memories and had so much fun because of KPAC. Memories that were established during the hours of the class itself, and others outside of the class (but because we had met each other through KPAC). By taking away funding from PALCs, the education system in Hawaii is bad if not worse. There are students who need to express themselves in creative ways such as through PALCs. If this is taken away, they majority of their time in school is through traditional classwork. The students of Hawaii cannot have their options limited once again. PALCs are a necessity and is one area in which budgets cannot be withdrawn from. I respectfully ask you to please not withdraw from the PALCs funding.</p>
4	Rachel	Meek		Funding for Performing Arts Learning Centers	<p>As a student who participated in the Kauai Performing Arts Center, I can testify to the value of the Performing Arts Learning Centers. In my experience, the Learning Center was one of the most positive, accepting environments in high school. It benefitted me socially and academically, providing me with life skills and extra motivation to excel in schoolwork. The Performing Arts Learning Centers allow students to gain appreciation for the art of theater. Students also gain valuable experience working under pressure, managing their time, and actually putting together a production. The Learning Centers need funding in order to continue bringing this invaluable experience to students</p>
5	Paul	Koulbanis		16770	<p>Please reconsider revoking funds to the ARTS program. In this case KPAC, in the Island of Kauai. I have had 3 children that have gone through this program and have been highly involved and have personally seen the value. One of my graduated children has gone on in the field of theatre and works professionally. The relationship formed, the theatre in the community and the value of the children engaging in these programs has been a part of the community and my family for 8 years. Please reconsider defunding any program that would halt the continuation of this program</p>

6	Lisa	Pollak		Learning Center Budget cuts	<p>It is with extreme sadness that I read of the possible budget cuts of the Gifted & Talented, Learning Center Programs, which include Kauai Performing Arts Center (KPAC) and AVID from the BOE funding for next school year. Parents on this island have fought hard the battle to reopen the schools on Fridays and now we are losing yet another valuable set of programs? This is like pouring salt into our already wounded spirits. Without programs such as GT, KPAC and AVID our kids are falling even further behind mainland schools. The latest studies have shown that Hawaii has the third lowest graduation rates in the country. Even if you dispute the studies, we still have anyplace from 25-36% of our students not going on to higher education and not even finishing high school. We need to look at reasons why this may be the case. One possible reason is that we are teaching the way we have always taught and not taking into account that the world around us has changed. Children have direct interests and often those interests lie outside of the bounds of the three Rs. Raising test scores is not having an effect on graduation rates over the years. Therefore, GT programs are desperately needed in schools. We need places for kids who want to thrive, to thrive and have access to a challenging environment that pushes them to succeed. All of these types of programs are vital to the success of students not only during middle and high school but well beyond and into adulthood. My son has been a GT student at Kapaa Middle School and he has been actively involved with KPAC this year, as he attended high school, and in years past during middle school. These programs are giving him real life skills. I can't say enough good things about these programs. It would be a shame not to have them available for the coming years. In my son's GT class, they made a resume and did mock interviews for jobs. They were responsible for the morning program of announcements with cameras. They worked with Power Point programs and other graphic programs in this class. How has this helped my son? He used these skills to present projects in other classes, like English, science and social studies. Having these skills has given him a leg up on other students and not to mention a long list of As on his report cards. The GT program increased his desire to succeed and he often goes well beyond what is required to meet his GLOs in each class now that he is in high school. The program has helped him to understand what being a good student is about and what it feels like to</p>
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7	Dennis	McGraw	Kauai Performing Arts Center (learning center program)	Program # 16770, Learning Centers	<p>Aloha B.O.E. members, I am aware that you have many difficult decisions to make as far as the D.O.E. budget is concerned. I am writing to urge you to keep the learning center program out of the Weighted student formula. To move this program into the weights will be its' death knell. Ours is a very valuable program that greatly enhances our student's lives as well as their life skills. They learn responsibility, teamwork and are taught to strive for excellence. A lot is expected of these students, and they deliver. Please do not take this valuable program away from the students.</p>
8	Teri	Skillman	UH Manoa	program number 16770	<p>Please do not move funding for the nine Performing Arts Learning Centers (PALCs) into the Weighted Student Formula. Students in the programs are doing significantly better in school than students in regular classes. Support the results that the statistics indicate. I am AGAINST moving funding for PALCs. Sincerely, Teri Skillman</p>

9	Miguel Bray	RR2 Box 3874		Defunding of 9 student Performance Arts Learning Centers (PALC's) statewide	<p>I strongly urge the BOE to abandon its plan to defund the PALC's in Hawaii and places the funds allotted thereto into the Weighted Student Formula instead. Such a decision would effectively kill these valuable programs which contribute to educational goals on many levels. The PALC's have consistently improved the performance, stability, resistance to risk factors, and chances for graduation among the students participating. In a time of financial difficulties in education, arts education is consistently the first area thrown to the wolves, and this practice has invariably illustrated the shortsightedness of sacrificing arts education by decreasing student motivation, student performance levels and graduation percentages. I work actively with the Big Island Dance Council, a non-profit organization that strives to deal with precisely this issue by providing dance education specialists to schools all over the Big Island to provide classes on an ad hoc basis because no Big Island Schools have the resources to provide any form of exposure to dance or dance education. Our organization has worked successfully many times with the PALC at Hilo High School to increase opportunities for performance education and experience for students at Hilo High as well as other area students in cooperative programs. It is impossible to overstress the inspiring and motivating effect that performing arts exposure imparts to impressionable young people and the positive effect it has in all areas of education of affected students. I urge the BOE to take a longer range view of the value of arts education, particularly education in the performing arts, and find a way to preserve the abundant opportunities which the PALC programs provide to students literally starving for arts education in the current educational and financial straits in which the state finds itself.</p>
10	David	Kila		Keep Cpac	<p>Dear Department of Education, I am here to convince you into keeping Cpac for many more years to come. I have been in Cpac for only one year and it has already changed my life. Cpac isn't all fun and games, Cpac teaches you to be responsible and respectful. I have been keeping up with my work and have been doing better in my academics ever since I have been in Cpac. I have also been more outgoing because of Cpac and I have met tons of new friends. Cpac expresses me in ways I never thought possible. Cpac has changed my life. Please take my testimony to heart.</p> <p>Sincerely, David Awo Kila II, soon to be a 6th grader</p>

11	Kamuela-Dawn	Napoleon	Central Theatre Arts Academy	The New BOE is Dissolving Learning Centers	<p>Hello, my name is Kamuela-Dawn Napoleon and I am a student at Mililani High School. I am fifteen years old and this past school year was the best year of my life. I have made so many friends, learned so many things and have been a part of shows and events that I wouldn't have dreamed of two years ago. My entire life changed once I joined Central Theatre Arts Academy, a learning center that is run by Jamie Rolfsmeyer Stroud dedicated to theatre and performance arts. This learning center has taught me how to act, how to speak, how to communicate, how to build, how to apply what I learn to real life and so many other things I cannot put to words. Last year, when I was a freshman, I had no ambition. I had nothing I wanted to do, no fire. I was just floating in my school work, doing mediocly in everything and not putting in an effort. In August of 2010 everything changed when I auditioned for The Laramie Project and got a role. I felt as though I had a purpose, I learned to fit in my awkward boots and walk in them. This learning center means so much to me. It is the thing I look forward to the most, the place where people like me, awkward little children with nothing, come to thrive. By taking away the funding for our place to be, our place to learn and prosper, you don't only take away a place I love, but you take away an opportunity for next years students. You steal a chance for the students who haven't yet found what they're looking for, for the weird little people who crave something that they don't know yet. Central Theatre Arts Academy is a place where I am important, where students from all over the island belong, feel a link to people they otherwise would never have met, heard of or care about. Everyone needs connections to survive, to grow larger, friends to help them and catch them when they fall. The learning center is a budding flower, taking away the funding is like depriving us of sunlight, or water. You're stomping on us when we've only just begun to bloom. Please, I beg of you, don't take away my home. I'm only a teenager who hasn't had a chance to develop, only a child who needs her friends to live on. Thank you so much, and please reconsider taking away our precious funding. Sincerely, Kamuela-Dawn Napoleon Mililani High School Class of 2013</p>
12	Kristi	Petosa-Sigel	Hawaii Arts Alliance	16770 WSF	<p>I am against moving funding for the nine Performing Arts Learning Centers (PALCs) into the Weighted Student Formula WSF. The performing arts learning centers represent an important educational tool. These centers also build life skills, confidence, and demonstrate the wider breadth of career possibilities to our youth who need to be creative thinkers for the future and wellbeing of our community. If the money is not earmarked for specifically towards special programs it will be sucked into the vacuum of general politics and the children will be the ones who suffer. It is proven that integration with the arts builds higher test levels and give at risk students a way to achieve within the school system.</p>
13	Susana	Browne	Maui Arts & Cultural Center	Program 16770 - Moving funding of PALC's to WSF	<p>I have witnessed many students thrive at Baldwin High Schools Performing Arts Learning Center. Often these are students who might otherwise be drop-outs. It is important that the PALC's in our state receive adequate funding for their success. Applying funds from Weighted Student Formula will be disastrous for these successful programs. The performing arts learning centers represent an important educational tool. These centers also build life skills, confidence, and demonstrate the wider breadth of career possibilities to our youth who need to be creative thinkers for the future and well being of our community. Thank you for your consideration! Susana Browne, Education Director, Maui Arts & Cultural Center</p>

14	Natalie	McKinney		16770 - Moving funding for the nine Performing Arts Learning Centers (PALCs) into the Weighted Student Formula	<p>Aloha, My name is Natalie Mihana McKinney. I was born and raised on the North Shore of Oahu. I graduated from Waiialua High School, went on to the University of Hawaii where I received a Masters of Fine Art in Theatre. I have had the privilege to teach performing arts to students throughout Hawaii for over 15 years. Since the implementation of No Child Left Behind we have seen a reduction in the number of hours spent in the classroom teaching the arts. Many students in Hawaii schools that have not met Annual Yearly Progress have little to no exposure to the arts. Students who are interested in the arts have been given the opportunity to attend Performing Arts Learning Centers (PALC) in Hawaii. The performing arts learning centers represent an important educational tool. These centers also build life skills, confidence, and demonstrate the wider breadth of career possibilities to our youth who need to be creative thinkers for the future and wellbeing of our community. PALC programs WORK! At Castle High, the 318 CPAC students from 12 schools have higher GPA's (2.667 vs 2.267) and higher HSA scores in both reading (81% meets or exceeds vs 61% for the school) and math (49% meets or exceeds vs 26%). At Nanakuli High, about 90 percent of students, many of whom are considered "high-risk," graduate, compared with about 60 percent for Nanakuli High on average. Eighty-seven percent of NPAC seniors who graduated in the last three years are registered or enrolled in college. These statistics are proof positive that PALC programs WORK! Please DO NOT place the funding for the Performing Arts Learning Center programs into the Weighted Student Formula. These programs are important and need to be kept on future BOE agenda's as we continue to talk about cuts and shifting funds. Mahalo for your time and dedication to education in Hawaii. Creative thinkers and problem solvers are our future and the arts are the breeding grounds for these skills. Aloha, Natalie Mihana McKinney</p>
15	Mark	Haworth		16770 (moving funding for PALCs)	<p>Distinguished members, I found out today that the Department of Education is considering moving targeted funding for the Performing Arts Learning Centers into the Weighted Student Formula, essentially stripping one of the few remaining vestiges of arts focused teaching in the public school system. At a time when our children in this state have fewer and fewer opportunities to excel in a focused program that not only teaches and reinforces the arts, but even further reinforces English skills, speaking skills, writing skills, all of which are the target of primary improvement in our school system with regard to the HSA scores and mandates for the No Child Left Behind program. If we continue to homogenize our teaching and cut off critical thinking choices, like the performing arts, for our children, you must realize that our schools will only be further weakened. Please do not cave into the easy way out, political pleasing decision to cut, cut, cut anything that is not in the "center". This program has consistently been a focal point of positivity of the schools that participate. It would be a devastating decision. I implore you not to move these funds. Thank you for your time. Mark Haworth (concerned citizen and voter)</p>

16	GORDON	WOOD		Program number 16770	I understand you are currently considering a DOE proposal to move funding for the nine Performing Arts Learning Centers (PALCs) into the Weighted Student Formula. If the funds are placed in the WSF, they are equally dispersed amongst ALL schools and nothing is earmarked for any special program. It would be up to each principal to designate the funds out of the school's general funds AFTER No Child Left Behind costs, mandated testing costs, restructuring and a host of things to do. Many, if not most programs will be forced to close. PALCs WORK. At Castle High, the 318 CPAC students from 12 schools have higher GPA's (2.667 vs 2.267) and higher HSA scores in both reading (81% meets or exceeds vs 61% for the school) and math (49% meets or exceeds vs 26%). At Nanakuli High, about 90 percent of students, many of whom are considered "high-risk," graduate, compared with about 60 percent for Nanakuli High on average. Eighty-seven percent of NPAC seniors who graduated in the last three years are registered or enrolled in college. I urge you to reject this proposal. The addition of PALC funding will have little impact on solving the finances involved in the Weighted Student Formula, but will almost certainly mean the end of PALC and the positive effects on the education and long-term success of Hawaii's children and young adults. Mahalo for your consideration.
17	Keith	Ideoka	Lahainaluna High School Agriculture Learning Center	Learning Centers Categorical Funding moved to WSF funding (All Learning Centers statewide)	Please reconsider the proposal by the Superintendent to move the Learning Center categorical funding to WSF. IF this proposal is approved, it will have dire consequences for our Agriculture Learning Center. We currently have 2 teachers in our Learning Center, 2 student helpers, 180 students in our school who will be enrolled in our Learning Center courses for the SY 2011-2012. With the loss of funding, we will be forced to discontinue our successful Animal Husbandry and Equine Management program, Plant Tissue Culture & Cloning program, and Aquaponics program. The Learning Center funding not only funds a 05 position for a Learning Center Program Coordinator, 2 student helpers who maintain our large Agriculture Lab facility (greenhouses, pastures, nurseries, Aquaculture tanks & ponds, etc.), but it also helps us purchase specialized equipment and supplies that are needed for these unique programs offered and provided to our students only through our Learning Center. These are all special programs and activities that support and meet our student's interest and helps them make better career choices. As a result of having these special programs offered through our Learning Center, many of our students have pursued higher education and careers in these areas as well as in the field of Agriculture. *Note: The Learning Centers are one of the few (maybe only) DOE categorical programs that collect and have data from our constituents through online surveys and reports that will show you the value of our Learning Centers (to students, parents, teachers, administrators, & community members). Contact Anna Viggiano, LC Program Coordinator for more information. Please keep the Learning Center funding categorical for the SY 2011- 2012 DOE budget. Mahalo.
18	Gina	Kerr		Program # 16770	Favoring maintaining funding for 9 performing arts learning Centers, rather than moving to the WSF. Please continue the discussion!
19	Kim	Baker		Program ID: 16770	

1670 (Learning Centers)

This may be late, but I wanted it on public record since we found out that testimony was supposed to go to the finance committee. Other testimonies on the learning center were sent to the General Business Meeting committee by myself, Andrew Baker, Judy Staples, and Thalia Woodward. Thank you again. Below is what I sent earlier: I am submitting a testimony on behalf of myself, my husband, and my children. We are indebted to Central Theatre Arts Academy (CTAA) for the opportunities it has provided for our son and daughter. NEW EXPERIENCES: My son joined CTAA two years ago as a junior in high school. He was never particularly interested in plays or musicals per se, but he always liked music. On a whim, he auditioned for a part in the fall play and became hooked. His experience at CTAA has dramatically changed his life for the better. He became more grounded in school due to his "family of peers" in CTAA, immersed himself in the arts (taking an intro to acting class in his senior year and having parts in each fall and spring play for his junior and senior years), and is now entering college looking at a minor in Theater. CONFIDENCE: As a parent I have seen his confidence grow. Because he had the opportunity to try something different the rest of his high school experience flourished. He was always a good academic student, but now he not only enjoyed school, but looked forward to it. It centered him. It made him feel like he had a purpose. He also became more of a risk-taker because he had the opportunity to try something new while in the comfort of his school setting. EXPANDED KNOWLEDGE: The culture of the arts academy also allowed him to learn technical aspects of the theatre world. The students did THEIR OWN lights, costume design, and set production. While other drama departments hold shows, CTAA was truly run by the students. There were always adult mentors, but the students themselves did this. Many of my son's friends are now going to design school or performing arts schools due to their positive experience and exposure to these areas from CTAA. ADVOCATE: My son's quest for learning was stirred by his involvement with CTAA. When he decided to do his Board of Education Senior Board project, he chose to do it on the benefits of theatre. Not only was this a topic of interest, but it was something he became so passionate about that he devoted his entire senior year to researching and collecting data for the arts. Ultimately he was awarded the certificate and graduated with honors as Magna Cum Laude this past May due in great part to his work on the arts. SENSE OF COMMUNITY: The great thing about CTAA is that it creates a community within communities. Although the home base is at Mililani High School. Students come from elementary, middle, and other high schools to take part in the production. Some schools in which CTAA students come from are Mililani Mauka El, , Mililani Ike El, Kipapa El, Waialua El, Mililani Middle, Wailua High and Intermediate, Moanalua High, and Kahuku High. It's not only CTAA, but other communities as well. Several CTAA students went to Nanakuli High to watch their productions of "Rent" and "Fame". Likewise students from that performing arts center have come to CTAA productions. As sense of extended community and friendship builds bridging the gaps between schools and communities. EDUCATION THROUGH ENTERTAINMENT: Over the last two years that I have been involved with CTAA as a parent, I have been overwhelmed with positive comments from the community. As a volunteer concession worker during the plays many people

shared comments with me during intermission. Some notable ones: Rep. Marilyn Lee told me how impressed she was with the talent and production of the musical "Aida" last year. A couple this May told me that they came to see the spring musical production. They compared it to their children's productions from Punahou and were "thoroughly impressed" with the quality and resources used to showcase the young talent in a public school setting. Another couple who recently moved to Honolulu from the mainland said they came because they saw an ad in Midweek for the musical "Thoroughly Modern Millie". After the show they shared with me how they were surprised that it was, in their opinion, "as good as some Broadway shows" they've seen. Someone from the Navy was so moved by last fall's production of "The Laramie Project" about the Matthew Shepard beating in Laramie, Wyoming that it led to an encore performance three months later with funding from NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).

GENERATING INTEREST: Through my son's involvement in high school, my 7th grade daughter has been intrigued about CTAA. It took her over a year to summon up the courage, but this year she tried out for the spring musical. She went to the high school, sang and danced for her auditions, and got a part in the ensemble. She was so happy and excited with her experience at CTAA that she chose to take acting in middle school and also started doing debates and speeches at school because she is less afraid of public speaking. One of my daughter's sincere wishes is to be able to take production classes and work, not just perform, but work in CTAA. I am not exaggerating when I say that she is counting down until she enters Mililani High in two years. The presence of CTAA has given her a tangible goal and makes her look forward to high school. Not only that, but she has already developed a strong base of friends who are around her age and also involved in CTAA.

AN EDUCATOR: I am not only a parent of two students involved in CTAA, I am a DOE teacher with my Masters in Elementary Education. As an educator, I see the growth and maturity in students who participate in learning centers. My understanding is that the goal of education is to get students intrinsically motivated to become life-long learners. Those who take part in learning centers get that experience. They not only learn the ropes, but apply their knowledge of set design, lighting, costume, prop design, orchestra playing (the musical uses student musicians in the orchestra pit), singing, dancing, and acting. My personal philosophy is that school is a venue for students to explore and learn different things. By cutting funding to learning centers, students are deprived of hands-on learning experiences. The fundamental nature of schools should be to develop the whole student. Academics is at the core of education, but beyond that students need to have something to be passionate about. Learning centers develop the whole student, give the students and community members a sense of pride, and broaden the experiences of the CTAA members as well as audience members. There are several commercials that highlight public high schools and their personal pride. Nanakuli High School's commercial showcases their performing arts center. It is such a sense of pride for the community and students that it was the highlight of their commercial. Cutting funds to Nanakuli, CTAA, and other learning centers is the wrong thing to do. As a parent, community member, and public school teacher I vehemently oppose the cuts to learning centers and passionately support the continued funding of these productive performance centers. Thank you for hearing my testimony.

Sincerely, Mrs. Kim Baker

20	Michelle	Brooke	16770 Learning Center Program Castle High School	16770 Learning Center program in Kaneohe	I urge you to reconsider this agenda and keep it in place as it is within the schools! This program actually was the catalyst to my daughter's career. She is now an actress recognized and scouted from O'ahu due to this program and many Hollywood contacts. She is making a living as an actress and recently worked with George Clooney, Carrie Underwood, Dennis Quaid, and was an actress on the recent big screen movie: Soul Surfer. It would not have happened if this program was not available to her within Castle High School;s fantastic program and Director, Karen Myer. My daughter was scouted for High School Musical Get in the Picture and worked with Kenny Ortega and Nick Lachey. on Primetime ABC shows. Their scouts, actors, judges and casting producers would have never found my daughter if they did not have the connection of her active roles on stage within the Learning Center Program! Please take action now against cutting this most wonderful community serving program that was was dubbed highly impactful by the President of the United States. This is a program that serves Kaneohe, and the surrounding communities well, as it invites other public school participants and keeps the communities interested in what the youth are doing. The youth learn to work together and it also brings an after school work ethic who's protocol is that of utmost academic achievement to be considered and stay within the program. It encourages good habits, community service, cohesion, skills, and keeps our teenagers off the streets and out of trouble. It also provides entertainment for the island to enjoy. Please do not let this program die. Mrs. Brooke Mother of Actress Christie Brooke www.christiebrooke.com
21	Brad	Dell	Student at Mililani High School	Funding Cuts for Central Theatre Arts Academy Program	Upon hearing from my play productions teacher, Mrs. Stroud, this morning that funding for our drama program may be cut, I felt my heart skip. Since the beginning of high school, CTAA has been a rock to hold onto in my life. Through all of the stresses and 'drama' of high school life, I always had my Theatre program to come back to. Something to make me feel like I was actually part of something. Something continuous, something that would never change. Having the funding cut for the program would do just that, however. Cause change. All through my life, I was one of those kids who quit at nearly everything without ever finishing. Soccer, Boy Scouts, band, etc.. never held my interest for very long. Upon joining up with the Theatre program, though, I knew that this was different for me. Drama was an activity that I knew would stick with me through all of my high school days, perhaps even through my adult life. I've sacrificed so much for this program, and leaving a testimony is the least that I could do. Please, reconsider any thoughts you may have of cutting the funding. There are dozens of students just like me, some even more passionate than I, that NEED this program. Thank you for reading. -Brad Dell, entering 12th grade at Mililani High School.
22	Gabriella	Munoz	CTAA 16770	dissolving learning centers in the DOE	Central Theater Arts Academy is one of the best things that happened to me. I just finished my freshman year at Mililani High, and at the beginning of the year i was so scared. Then I went to CTAA and met all these wonderful people that shared the same love of theater as I did. They were all so nice, and I didn't feel like a nervous freshman. CTAA gave me confidence; I felt proud when I finished a project and I saw it up on stage. It gave me even more love for the theater, because I not only grew as a performer, but I learned about all the back stage work. By doing all the crew work and building the sets, I felt a deeper love for the final product. Having CTAA at my school, is something I wouldn't trade for the world.

23	Daniel	Lyons	Central Theatre Arts Academy	Funding for CTAA	<p>Out of any activity that I have done in High School it is Central Theatre Arts Academy that has prepared me for the job market the most. It is here that i have learned the value of the phrase "The show must go on". As a teenager it was far too easy to call it quits and simply not fulfill my responsibilities but as a part of CTAA that simply is not an option. There is an entire group of people, cast, crew, teachers, students, and the entire community that spends money to see these plays that will all be affected by our choices. If we aren't ready then there is no show. This same mentality is absolutely vital to working in the job market. I'm a tutor at Wiz Kids Learning Center. If I don't show up then a student simply has no tutor and the parents have wasted their money. So once again I learn that "The show must go on". If I had not already learned this value in CTAA I most likely would have never gotten the job, but more importantly, even if I had gotten the job I can tell you absolutely that there is no way that I would have lasted in this job. Furthermore CTAA has taught me the value of problem solving. Very often we are put in high pressure situations where we have to come up with solutions on the fly. Failure is absolutely not an option. I can remember on one occasion I was running the sound board for a show. We had a problem with the wireless mics: normally we would tell the actors to put the mics in their pockets, but none of the actors had pockets in their costumes. So then our next option was to clip the mics to their costume. But the mic packs that we were using didn't have clips. So what we did was take clips from other mic packs and put them on the mic packs that we were using. But there was a problem, these clips were not designed for the mic packs that we were using and as a result they constantly snapped right off. It would have been easy to give up simply because it appeared that there was absolutely no solution but if we did that there would be no show. So the solution we came up with was to drill tiny holes into the mic packs so that the clips would fit in those holes. The solution worked beautifully. If there is anything I hope to communicate through this testimony it is that I hope you never underestimate the power of hands-on learning. Just because it may not look important because the majority of us will not be actors or go onto do anything in the entertainment industry does not mean that there is no value in it. What we are learning is life skills. Skills that cannot be taught in a math book or an english paper. They can only be learned through experience. Through hard work: failure and then triumph.</p>
24	Amy	Perruso	Central Theatre Arts Academy	Central Theatre Arts Academy	<p>My daughter is involved with Applause Academy, which has a strong relationship with the Central Theatre Arts Academy. This institution, through the hard work of Jamie Stroud and a growing arts and performance community, has been developing a critical community of engaged, active and happy citizens. This is the public good that the legislature was elected to uphold and continue to develop. You need to further develop this kind of institution building across as a preventative measure, to help young people explore further what it means to be human so that they will less drawn to self-destructive activities.</p>
25	Dominic	Kila		16770 - CPAC	<p>I am a parent of a child who has recently been selected to be a part of CPAC. Ever since my son David A. Kila joined CPAC his entire persona has changed for the better. My son is only in the fifth grade. He is an honor student in his school. But he lacked confidence after being involved in several of Castle Performing Arts Centers productions such as Brigadoon, 100 Years of Broadway and several more he has found his passion for the arts. And his confidence in speaking in public and not being shy has gone away. At this very moment heap rains an ME average with one of the highest grade averages in his class and he looks forward in being apart of CPAC in the near future. Don't Take CPAC away. Kaneohe and the windward aide of Oahu needs CPAC.</p>

26	Laura	Harada		Program #16770	<p>To Whom It May Concern, I am testifying to the positive attributes of Learning Centers such as Nanakuli High and Intermediate School's NPAC and to NOT move the Learning Centers to the Weighted Student Formula. I previously taught at NHIS for 11 years and witnessed the beginnings of this program and experienced the positive effect it has had on the participants as well as morale of the staff and community. The alumni are so affected by the program that many of them come back to help years after they've graduated; what better way to build a sense of community in an area that desperately needs that kind of positive energy. Programs such as the Learning Center at NHIS help students to add relevance and direction not only to their academics, but also to their own lives as they learn to develop strengths and face and work on weaknesses in a venue other than the classroom. So much research has been done to highlight the way the arts positively affect academics and so many programs for music, art and physical education have already been cut by the schools as they struggle to meet financial responsibilities. In communities along the Nanakuli/Waianae coast where they struggle with trying to raise scores, finding ways to keep the students from not attending class/school is a challenge and programs such as NPAC help to keep them engaged while working on their self-esteem and academics all at the same time which is a win-win situation for all involved. Please consider NOT moving the Learning Centers to Weighted Student Formula which would hurt programs such as Nanakuli HIS' NPAC and all the positive work they do for students on the Waianae Coast. Sincerely, Laura Harada Teacher, Kapolei High School</p>
27	Rita	Martin	Individual	Discussion/Recommendation for Board Action on the DOE Operating Budget	<p>I strongly oppose the BOE's recommendation to move the Learning Centers into the Weighted Student Formula. Simply put, the Learning Centers will lose all funding they now receive as each school that has a Learning Center will now be responsible to fund the LC's (my concern is for Nanakuli High and Intermediate School Performing Arts Center (NPAC)--funds NHIS does not have, as well as Castle LC, Kaimuki LC, Mililani Performing Arts Centers, Waianae's Marine Science, Waialua's Robotics and Pearl City's Band. NPAC opens its program to all students from other schools and I am in awe when I see students perform at their different gigs to raise the funds needed to attend the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland. Because of the tremendous community support, they raised the money needed (\$7,5000. per student), no easy task. I know. I am one of their volunteers from the Leeward Coast, the Community Relations Coordinator for one of the homeless shelters. 2,200 schools were nominated worldwide and 62 were chosen--NPAC was one of them. Robin Kitsu of NPAC, along with wife Michelle and his alumnae, work tirelessly to make a difference in the lives of these young people. Student achievement is commendable as the students learn to express themselves in a creative way, their grades are above average, many of their seniors go on to college after graduation and they enjoy being part of a top notch performing arts program. Their profile (that is usually presented to funders) is outstanding. Placing its however limited funds will essentially make it impossible for continuing these programs since principals will not be able to protect the funds from NCLB, restructuring and other necessities. Thank you for any help you can give.</p>

28	Joby	Celoza	Central Theatre Arts Academy	Funding and Space	I believe, that the Central Theatre Arts Academy program at Mililani High School, ran by Mrs. Jamie Rolfsmeyer Stroud, should have better more sufficient funding and space. This is a great acting program that offers students to follow their dreams of being in the performing arts. Although, we are not funded well the students and teachers involved in the CTAA programs can make do with what they have. They recycle backboards, props, etc. They also, use the most they can of the cafeteria at Mililani High School. The acoustics in the cafeteria are not the best, but the sound specialist which is ran by students, do the best they can to make it sound that best it can be inside a cafeteria. Another problem with using the cafeteria is the humidity inside. The cafeteria does not have central air, which makes the cafe. hot, and can distract audience from the show. Although we can open windows, the windows do bring in outside light which can also distract people from the show. The final problem that we do encounter from using the cafeteria is cleaning up. This is not our private cafeteria, this is a school cafeteria, so space is limited. We do need to clean up, then put everything back together when we are building the set, which can be a hassle. What makes a show, is the actors in it. But what makes a show phenomenal is how it looks. Which is what we as students aim for, a phenomenal show. The Mililani community, The Mililani High School, The Mililani High School students are very lucky and blessed to have CTAA. So CTAA should have a better more sufficient funding and space.
29	Daniel	Strimel	Central theatre arte academy	Central theatre arts academy	Please jeep the central theatre arts academy program open it has tought me so much about theatre and it showed me that I was interested in acting. Before this prpgram I didn't know how to operate a spotlight, a miter saw, a jigsaw, a table saw, or a light board. Central theatre arts academy is really fun but I learned a lot. I have never felt in the way if harm at central theatre arts academy. It is an exceptional program and should remain active so that other people can learn what I have learned and experience what I have.
30	David	Sikkink		16770	As a parent of a student, I can testify that this program is an incredible asset to the students of Oahu. No where else on island can students be involved and particpate is such a unique program taught by individuals with such knowledge and experience. Every year these students actively develop and create productions which rival any professional theatre. Productions such as this year's "Thoroughly Modern Millie" are a testament to that. I have been involved with the theatre arts for over 35 years and know from my own experience participating in a similar program when I was in high school has been in incredible asset to my life. I have seen many young students grow and develop life skills which cannot be found anywhere else. Governor Abercrombie has expressed his support for such programs, especially one targeted to enrich student's learning and their development in the arts. This CTAA program is in perfect alignment with the Governor's agenda.
31	Matthew	Ambrosecchio		Moving the Learning Center Budget: Central Theatre Arts Academy	The learning center programs aren't mundane novelties, they are intrepid passions. Throughout my four years of high school the Central Theater Arts Academy (CTAA), funded through the learning center, has given me experience no other class could provide. In all honesty I doubt I would have learned teamwork, responsibility, or collaboration as effectively as I did without CTAA. Through the after school work calls, rehearsals, and the like I have discovered my passion for theater. In many ways it's helped direct the path I've chose it's instilled an appreciation for art. Essentially that's what theater is the, "Ultimate Collaborative Art." Nowhere else can musicians, actors, architects, painters, and vocalists come together and produce an outstanding product: Theater.

32	sadman	mondalib	Castle performing Arts center	16770	As an alumni of Castle Performing Arts Center I would strongly request to continue this program. This program helped me in many ways,I was a part of its most recent production Brigadoon,even though I'm an exchange student from Bangladesh.I did not have any difficulties with other members and casts of the production more over it built a bridge of understanding between me and all the other people from this community. I got to know more about the performing arts and as a part of the play we all created an effective impact on the society and community.So,from my point of view I'll say its not only for the community this program is building a bridge with all the other countries and people form different part of the world and creating a positive impact.
33	Nick	Denzer		learning centers	I am so proud of my three children for the dedication and confidence they exude in the. Central Theatre Arts Academy. The learning is authentic and the integration of state standards with GLOs in all the hours that they collaborate as team players could not be duplicated in the classroom. Please keep Learning Center money in its place so that the performing ars programs offered at schools like Mililani and Castle High will be there for decades to come. Thank you for your careful consideration!
34	Emily	Makanani		16770 Central Theatre Arts Academy Learning Center	I'm terrified. I just woke up to a call telling me that the DOE is planning to dissolve all learning centers; Several calls from several people, actually. You must know that this issue is extremely important to me simply because of the fact that I would roll myself out of bed to take care of this matter. Currently, I'm doing the same as many of my friends, calling people. Texting people. Running next door to my best friend's house telling her to write you a passionate letter. Passionate. Lets talk about that word. Do you know what passion is? By definition, it is to have strong emotional feeling for something. I have passion for theatre, because of a learning center. I have passion for sewing, because of theatre. I have passion for acting, because of a marvelous teacher. The passion I have for these simple skills is because I was given the opportunity to do them. Me. Lets talk about me. Mililani High School is the first public school I ever attended. I came from a small Christian school in Wahiawa and knew 2 people going into a class of 584. Petrified doesn't even begin to describe my shock. However, on the first day of school, I went to the Central Theatre Arts Academy (then known as tri-school) meeting. I was hooked from the very first day. It seemed like no matter who my friends were or what my school schedule was like, I always had CTAA to fall back on. It was my safety net, my second family, my home. Today, that is threatened; Not for me, but for the future generation. Without its funding, there is no beautiful set to build, no gorgeous costumes to grace the actor's bodies, no tickets to be sold. We like to say in theatre that the show must go on, but it cannot go any further than the DOE lets it. I put my heart into the 8 shows I had a part in. I put my soul into the characters on that stage. I put my time and effort into those costumes you have seen for 4 years. My life was Central Theatre Arts Academy Learning Center; And although I just graduated, it's always going to be a big part of who I am. I know who I am because of this program; So let me leave you with a question: Would you risk letting a student like me lose themselves in the mass of a class?

35	Sarah	Huff	Central Theater Arts Academy	Central Theater Arts Academy	<p>Central Theater Arts Academy, formerly known as "Tri-School" had a great influence on the person I have become. Within that group there is a great sense of accomplishment and unity. There is a support system that helps its members succeed socially, academically, and creatively. I only got to spend two years in this wonderful program before I had to move overseas but I have never lost touch with the great people I met. Theater allows me to drop my problems at the door for a while and look at them later with a fresh outlook, it allows me to see different sides of people, and to look at myself constructively. Flaws become more noticeable onstage and performers mentally expose themselves to any criticism, eager to rid themselves of their flaws in character or for lack thereof. A person has to develop their character and their character's flaws to help the suspense of disbelief, where the audience believes everything in the show is possible. Each movement is meticulously planned and seemingly unintentional, and even the best planned movements can go awry, altering the final product. In this way, I feel that theater is a microcosm for life, and dealing with problems onstage can help people deal with situations offstage. It constantly amazes me how shows come together; each piece seemingly irrelevant, yet integral to the final product. Central Theater has provided me with opportunities to take responsibility for myself and my actions in a safe environment; it has taught me how to work with people I dislike, and how to watch myself and others constructively so we can improve. It has provided me with a goal: I want to help others gain access to the theater and the benefits it can provide, hopefully it will help improve the sense of responsibility and imagination in the people involved and maybe make a few lives a bit more enjoyable. Often, children are not given the opportunities they need to develop a sense of curiosity, imagination, and self-responsibility. From a young age they have entertainment thrust upon them, whether from constant protection and observation, or from television and video games. Kids need to be encouraged to develop their imagination, one of the only forms of entertainment they can completely control, but they are not because technology has been allowed to take the place of imagination. Access to theatrical endeavors would encourage children to develop as responsible people who can entertain themselves and who are eager to improve upon their faults, these types of people would help make the world a better place.</p>
36	Quinn	Philiposian	Central Theatre Arts Academy	16770 (Program ID)	<p>This may be a rather bold first statement, but I feel it serves as the best introduction: to cut funding for CTAA would absolutely devastate those students with a passion for theatre, especially in the Mililani complex. In my 3 years of participation in the program, I developed not only knowledge of construction and how a theatre functions, but leadership skills that I otherwise would not have found outside of that class. By nature I'm not a very assertive person, but CTAA forced me to branch out, especially in my second and third years as I was more responsible for showing less experienced students how to do things. My experience in the program was vital to finding my niche and being comfortable in High School, and I know that for many students, CTAA serves that same function; it's like a family of students all working towards the same finished product. And when that finished product finally does come to fruition, I see the incredible support that students and teachers not involved in the program give. The turnout for opening nights of shows is amazing, and to hear people talking about it afterwards is the most rewarding part, I think, for members. Please, continue funding the Central Theatre Arts Academy--it is such a unique program that provides opportunities for students, in both acting and set construction, that they would not have elsewhere.</p>

37	Rachelle	Joseph	CPAC	CPAC -- Finance	I was involved with CPAC and you cannot take it away! Many teens come to the performing arts to learn & express themselves...i did! It would be a shame to see this program go...if you take this away you might as well take all other sports away too...football, basketball, baseball...this IS our sport...It wouldnt be fair if you took ours away and not theres!
38	Andrea	Sikkink	Central Theatre Arts Academy	ID# 16770	As a parent of three children currently in the public school system I can testify to the critical importance of the arts in their education. My oldest child has participated in CTAA in Mililani High School for the past three years. The lessons she has learned and experience she has gained will last her a lifetime. There is no other curriculum available where she would be able to gain these skills. She has blossomed with these experiences while her overall school achievement has soared and as an incoming senior she is a cumulative GPA of 4.0 and the top of her class. The funding necessary for these programs is a minor investment that achieves a maximum result. If CTAA was not available you would find many more parents pulling their children out of the public schools and enrolling them in private schools. Please continue the funding for Central Theatre Arts Academy as it benefits so many students on Oahu and is a critical curriculum component.
39	Katrina	Gurdak		Central Theatre Arts Academy at its end?!	I don't want to sound corny but I OBJECT! This organization has helped me so much from my sophomore year all the way until my graduation. Seeing it about to be dissolved is simply preposterous...it's just...the amount of work put in by the students and the teachers involved is astounding and to see it end really makes me uneasy. I have been involved in a couple shows including the most recent Thoroughly Modern Millie and seeing its progress and all the hours until completion is a sight I want more and more students to see! The other students in this program became very close friends of mine and we always welcomed new students with joy. Please, I testify to continue the funding for Central Theatre Arts Academy. CTAA has done a multitude of good and while there is the quote that "All good things come to an end...", I don't want this program to be one of them. Thank you for reading my words, hearing my thoughts, and feeling my determination to keep this great organization alive.

40	Alana	Schumacher	Central Theatre Arts Academy	Dissolution of Learning Centers	<p>When I got out of bed this morning and checked my email, I immediately woke up when I read an email from my old Central Theatre Arts Academy teacher. In it she said that there was the possibility of Central Theatre Arts Academy being dissolved; and I, along with many of my classmates of CTAA, will say that we DO NOT want that to happen. Ever since I joined Central Theatre Arts Academy-formerly known as Tri-School and later on as Play Production-four years ago as a freshman, I knew that the program would help me. And now, a proud graduate of Mililani High School and of Central Theatre Arts Academy, I can confidently say that CTAA was one of the factors that made me who I am today. CTAA has taught me valuable life skills such as: communication, organization, leadership, responsibility and honesty. I learned communication when we had to lift heavy set pieces and we had to tell each other if it was getting too heavy for us or if there was something in the way. I learned organization when I helped clean and organize under the stage and in the tool room to make getting tools and other objects easier. I learned leadership because last year I was House Manager and was in charge of Ushers and of the audiences and I had to give orders to my Ushers and had to take care of audience members. With leadership came responsibility as I was responsible for my Ushers and the audience. I had to make sure that my Ushers weren't off wandering around during the show and I had to make sure that the audience had assistance when needed. I also had to take responsibility if something went wrong with one of my Ushers or with the audience. Finally, I learned honesty from my time in CTAA because if something bad or unseen occurred, I had to tell someone who could fix it or help me fix it instead of keeping it to myself or ignoring it as the problem could grow to a larger and potentially dangerous situation. Please do not get rid of Central Theatre Arts Academy as it teaches life skills and lessons to those enrolled in it. CTAA also makes and strengthens bonds between people, allowing people to make friends. CTAA also gives students opportunities to do something they never would have thought of or giving them experience in the career of show biz. This program also gives students something interesting to add onto college and work resumes. Central Theatre Arts Academy is very important to me, my family, my friends, and to my community and I hope that you won't get rid of it.</p>
41	Amber	Davison		16770	<p>The Central Theater Arts Academy Learning Center has been one of the most important aspects of my life for the past three years, back when it was called just Tri-School. I participated in two shows a year, acted in two, did technical work for the other four. Those shows are some of my proudest accomplishments. To deny that option to future students is unthinkable to me. CTAA is about more than just theatre. I used to hate working with groups; because of CTAA, I learned how to collaborate with others, how to be a leader and to be led. I learned how to expand my social circle to include all types of people, as well as develop some of my closest friendships. As an actor, I learned how to speak in front of an audience with my head held high. As a technician, I learned how to handle extreme responsibilities. I ran the light board one year and learned how lighting is one of the things that people always notice when it is bad, so make it good. I was props mistress for three shows and learned how to be resourceful when needing strange props, either where to find them or how to build them. I also became more organized, learning how to keep track of dozens of props. CTAA defined my high school experience. It redefined me, for good. Please, do not deny future students this program; some of them may need it more than I did.</p>

42	Taylor	Nguyen		Program 16770	Wow, really? As a former CPAC kid and Castle High School graduate, I'm appalled at this turn of events. CPAC was one of the only places I felt that I fit in during high school there, and taking part of the programs were beneficial on a number of levels. It's an accepting place, MUCH unlike the sports teams that are funded every year without fail. The arts are important- I don't understand why we have to keep convincing you people of this. You want to know why kids at that school have crappy reading and math levels? Brace yourselves, it's a shocking answer. The. Students. Don't. Care. It's seriously as simple as that--the vast majority of these polynesian kids (I hate to stereotype, but they were always the worst behaved) DO NOT CARE, and everyone else suffers for it. Up the ante on discipline. These kids are always friends with the security guards at school and get away with everything.
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43	Thomas	Holowach	Manager- Paliku Theatre- Windward Community College	16770.- Learning Center Funding	<p>This testimony is in strong support of Castle Performing Arts Center at Castle School in Kaneohe. I understand that you are deciding that to do with the limited funds you have available to each school. It is imperative that you understand how extremely valuable CPAC is to the community and to the students. It is critically important that you continue this fine program. In a visit to my Alma mater, I told students that of all the subjects I had studied in school, I continue to use what I learned in Theatre more than any others. After all, what other class prepares you to be thrown together with a group of strangers, be given a very important project on which you have to work cooperatively, with a limited budget, usually not enough time, requiring planning, exact retention of information, which has to be completed by an absolutely fixed deadline, upon which you are critically judged by a huge audience of your peers? It is my strong belief that theatre arts improves a students' academic scores because it engages the child fully and supports his/her self esteem. Learning to read and interpret scripts creates a love of reading and strengthens comprehension. Learning to dance engages a child's mind and body as he uses math to interpret the music. According to the director, the statistics support this theory. Here are the numbers: "While matching our host school students almost identically, ethnically and socio-economically, our 318 CPAC students from 12 schools have higher GPA's (2.667 vs. 2.267) and higher HSA scores in both reading (81% meets or exceeds vs. 61% for the school) and math (49% meets or exceeds vs. 26%.)" Students from CPAC are more likely to stay in school and continue on to higher education. Many continue their education at WWC or UH-Manoa or the mainland. Several have even gone on to be on Broadway and then come home to participate in local theatre. CPAC also engages the families of these students and brings them to the school to see shows and even participate backstage. Parent involvement is hard to foster in most schools so anything that gets the parents involved in their child's education is a good thing. The more parents are involved, the better the chances are that those parents are helping with homework and making sure the students' grades are good. In some cases, theatre is the only place where some children feel worthy and loved. Not all kids can be in sports so this gives them a creative way to be involved with the school and other students and supports their sense of belonging. Windward Community College has, for years, depended on Castle theatre students to work on our shows, both onstage and backstage. There is no better public school on the island for this training. As testament to that, more than two dozen Castle students have gone from here to Broadway to be in NY or touring versions of Broadway shows. On a percentage basis, the number of talented people coming from one school, Castle, is stunning. Theatre is not frivolous. It is a vital part of a child's education and growth. Karen Meyer is one of the best directors on this island and her program, Castle Performing Arts Center is held in high esteem throughout the island. PLEASE continue to fund CPAC! Thank you. Tom Holowach, Manager, Paliku Theatre, Windward Community College, Kaneohe, HI</p>
44	Grace	Humerickhouse	Alliance for Drama Education	Program #16770/Learning Centers	<p>I am strongly opposed to placing the Learning Centers into the Weighted Student Formula. Programs such as the Castle Performing Arts Center and the Central Theatre Arts Academy will surely suffer. These programs are very well supported by their respective communities, indicating how important they are to and for the students, the parents, and the culture of each of these communities. Thank you.</p>

45	Liam	deClive-Lowe	Castle Performing Arts Center	16770 - Keeping Castle Performing Arts Learning Center Alive	<p>Hello. My name is Liam deClive-Lowe. I am 11 years old and I have an eight year-old brother named Oliver. We have both been students in the Castle Complex and the Castle Performing Arts Learning Center for 3 years. The Castle Performing Arts Learning Center has made such a big impact on both our lives. CPAC allowed me to find and fully invest in my true passion for the performing arts. CPAC is one of the major reasons our family chooses public school. Not only have I been able to pursue my dancing, my singing, my acting, and overall performance, but I have been able grow as a person; I have grown academically, physically, mentally, and emotionally. The performing arts and CPAC specifically have helped my brother to be a better student. Having the ability to honestly express himself has improved his schoolwork over the last three years. Now, Oliver has the highest HSA scores in his class. The Castle Performing Arts Learning Center is an extremely valuable asset to many students in the Castle Complex. It has given my brother and me confidence in school and in life. The arts is such a large and important part of our family. If the Castle Performing Arts Learning Center does not stay alive, it is very likely that our family will leave to private school. I believe that the arts needs to be a staple in the public education system, and the Castle Performing Arts Learning Center is the best way to it. Please consider this -- for me and for all the thousands of kids who benefit from CPAC every year. Liam deClive-Lowe Grade 7</p>
46	Amy	Denzer		Learning Center funding	<p>As a mother of three and a teacher of twenty years, please know that the Learning Centers play a signifucant part in our children's public school experience. The Learning Centers that offer performing arts serve students who may not be atheletes or in academic clubs. These are hands-on opportunities for students to have meaningful experiences to be problem-solvers, produce quality work, be effective communicators and team-players, as well as be self-directed learners. These are the GLO's!! These programs make school meaningful to our students!!!! These students are building solid foundations for positive self-concepts, goal-setting, and confidence. These students get to network with students from all over the state, and experience autonomy and trust from their teachers who believe that they can accomplish amazing works of art! Please know that this is the stuff RESILIENCY is made of! Mahalo for you time and careful consideration of this very important matter.</p>

47	Deanna	Mutch		CPAC Funding	<p>I participated in my first CPAC production when I was 11 years old. Throughout the course of my intermediate and high school career, I continued to be actively involved in the performances put on by Ms. Karen Meyer, and the Castle Performing Arts Center. My involvement in this program taught me many valuable lessons which have helped mold me into the person I am today. I attribute my strong work ethic, diligence, and dedication to academia to the experiences I had during my time in the CPAC program. This program taught me that no matter what you do, whether your part is big or small, it is important to contribute your best at all times. This program not only taught me how to work well with a team of people, but it taught me the importance of time management and adequate study time. During the rehearsal process of a play, we were required to maintain good academic standing, and this principle has translated into my college career. Ten years after my first play at the Castle Performing Arts Center, I have successfully finished my third year of college at Louisiana College in Pineville, LA. I am a double major in Biology and Theatre Arts, and I will be applying for medical school in the in August. I am actively involved in the theatre program at my school while maintaining a 3.94 cumulative GPA. In the upcoming school year, I will also be the President for the Louisiana College chapter of Alpha Epsilon Delta, a national pre-med honor society. I would not have achieved these accomplishments without the life applicable lessons that I learned during my time in CPAC. It is because of my involvement in the CPAC program that I am able to be successful in my college career. Providing funding for this program should be a priority. All current and future students need to be provided with the opportunity to participate in CPAC. A monetary amount cannot be placed on the invaluable lessons that students learn from their involvement in CPAC.</p>
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48	Holly	Holowach		To fund or not to fund CPAC - that is the question!	<p>This testimony is in strong support of Castle Performing Arts Center at Castle School in Kaneohe. I understand that you are deciding that to do with the limited funds you have available to each school. It is imperative that you understand how extremely valuable CPAC is to the community and to the students. It is critically important that you continue this fine program. It is my strong belief that theatre arts improves a students' academic scores because it engages the child fully and supports his/her self esteem. Learning to read and interpret scripts creates a love of reading and strengthens comprehension. Learning to dance engages a child's mind and body as he uses math to interpret the music. According to the director, the statistics support this theory. Here are the numbers: "While matching our host school students almost identically, ethnically and socio-economically, our 318 CPAC students from 12 schools have higher GPA's (2.667 vs. 2.267) and higher HSA scores in both reading (81% meets or exceeds vs. 61% for the school) and math (49% meets or exceeds vs. 26%)." Students from CPAC are more likely to stay in school and continue on to higher education. Many continue their education at WWC or UH-Manoa or the mainland. Several have even gone on to be on Broadway and then come home to participate in local theatre. CPAC also engages the families of these students and brings them to the school to see shows and even participate backstage. Parent involvement is hard to foster in most schools so anything that gets the parents involved in their child's education is a good thing. The more parents are involved, the better the chances are that those parents are helping with homework and making sure the students' grades are good. In some cases, theatre is the only place where some children feel worthy and loved. Not all kids can be in sports so this gives them a creative way to be involved with the school and other students and supports their sense of belonging. Theatre is not frivolous. It is a vital part of a child's education and growth. Karen Meyer is one of the best directors on this island and her program, Castle Performing Arts Center is held in high esteem throughout the island. PLEASE continue to fund CPAC! Thank you. Holly Holowach</p>
49	Judith	Yoshioka		16770	<p>Taking monies from the Learning Center Programs and placing it into the Weighted Student Fund is yet just another knife into the heart of the arts in the Hawaii school system. I know of no better place to learn about how to budget your time than in an art program. Why? The students are involved in rehearsal time for these programs yet they still must get their core school work done. And done well or they will be pulled out. So the students learn how to prioritize their time and because of this, they tend to do better than they might otherwise have done. These students are passionate about these artistic programs and as educators it is your duty to nurture these passions. Where does the exhausted academic scholar go for rest and recuperation? He goes to some form of entertainment, ie., the arts. The artistic child needs to be able to start learning his or her craft at an early age just like any other endeavor. Take this away and we will be left with more and more brain dead children with no love for learning. Please reconsider and do not let this Agenda Item pass. Thank you.</p>
50	Kathryn Elizabeth	Moniz	CPAC	program number 16770	<p>CPAC is a very important program in the hearts if children and the community. It allows a students to learn values and morales that regular school classes are unable to provide. It reaches out to children who are barely making it by. And turns that around into success. I know i am great-full for all that CPAC has done for me and my family.</p>

51	George	Kon	Alliance for Drama Education	16770 - including CPAC in Weighted Student Formula	I have collaborated for over a quarter of a century with Karen Meyer and before her with Ron Bright in the invaluable Castle Performing Arts Learning Center. Several alumni of the 5th grade CPAC project teach with ADE as professional artist-educators giving back to their community. CPAC alumni have gone on to Broadway success, but more importantly, CPAC has motivated students to excel academically as well as artistically. While matching Castle High's student demographics almost identically, ethnically and socio-economically, the 318 CPAC students from 12 schools have higher GPA's (2.667 vs 2.267) and higher HSA scores in both reading (81% meets or exceeds vs 61% for the school) and math (49% meets or exceeds vs 26%). These positive outcomes are replicated in most Performing Arts Learning Centers across the country and in Hawaii. Placing the limited Learning Center funds into the general pool of Weighted Student Formula will essentially make it impossible for vital programs like CPAC to continue since principals won't be able to protect the funds from NCLB, restructuring and other 'necessities.'" Please vote to retain the integrity of Performing Arts Learning Center funding. Mahalo, George Kon
52	David	Stroud		Funding for Learning Centers	I have been involved in the Central Theatre Arts Academy program for the last three years. My Step-son graduated this year and has been involved since the 6th grade. In addition to being a parent, I volunteer time with set construction, set-up/strike, and many other odd jobs that are needed by the program. Since the beginning of my involvement, I have been impressed with the impact this program has on the students that participate. For many, it is an opportunity to express themselves when other venues at the school just don't fit. I have seen children who are very shy and reserved find in themselves the ability to step in front of a large audience and perform and really break out of their shell. You can see just looking at them the increase in confidence that comes from this experience and will last them a life time. I have also seen many many children learn woodworking and construction skills that will benefit them later in life with employment or home care. Most importantly, I see this program as one of the few arts programs at the school that allows students to express themselves and grow in the arts. Many of them are not geared toward traditional subjects and this allows them a venue where they can excel and grow in a way that other programs cannot. In the area in which I grew up, every school has a theatre and a drama program. I was shocked to find that there is so little opportunity in this area here in Hawaii. Central Theatre Arts Academy at Mililani High School is an outstanding program that provides a great benefit to the children of Hawaii. Funding should be continued. If it is not, the children will be worse off and that would be a shame.
53	Helen	Fong	CPAC	16770	Please do not do anything that will jeopardize funding for CPAC. Including Learning Ceenter monies in the Weighted Student formula will have a negative impact on the very vital drama program at Castle High. Without going into too much detail, the drama program at Castle was literally life changing for my 2 kids, one of whom is now a magna cum laude senior at Portland State and a member of Phi Kappa Phi honor society. Please. The Castle drama program leaves no child behind.

54	Papu	Ceruti	Nanakuli Performing Arts Center	Learning Centers	<p>Aloha, I am writing on behalf of the Nanakuli Learning Center (NPAC) and in favor of all Learning Center programs across the State of Hawaii. As a single mother raising four young children, finding credible programs to keep my children involved after school is hard to do, especially once they leave the elementary level and A-Plus is no longer an option. My eldest daughter who has now been involved with NPAC for the last three years now has just finished her freshman year in high school. As a result of her being in the program, she has been exposed to several subjects of learning and has taken what she's learned from being involved with the program into the classroom. One of the many examples include public speaking, project leadership, video and sound production as well as writing. Learning Centers provide a safe avenue in a comfortable environment where the kids are able to build positive social skills while gaining the necessary tools that will help prepare them for college and eventually the work force. Taking the funds away from these programs will mean taking away the opportunities that it provides to our children. My hope is that we all consider the cost, the true cost of what a Learning Center is and how great of an impact it has on the future of our keiki. Mahalo for your time and consideration. Respectfully submitted, Papu Ceruti</p>
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55	Jamie	Stroud	16670	Learning Center Program funds going to Weighted Student Formula	<p>Moving LC funds to WSF will mean an end to these important programs in their host schools. Central Theatre Arts Academy is the performing arts Learning Center at Mililani High School. We have students whose parents are willing to drive from as far as Kahuku to participate in a quality theatre program. Most schools don't have the extra money to provide a quality program. We have professionals who have worked on Broadway teaching our kids. This would not be possible without funds. I have students who believe participation in CTAA has been one of the greatest learning experiences in their lives thus far. One of those students, junior Bradley Dell has cystic fibrosis. Brad is often ill and spends a good portion of the school year in the hospital or at home recuperating. He has been involved in CTAA since his freshman year. He has worked in several different areas of the program depending on his interests, capability, and availability. He had a small role in the Seamus Heaney adaptation of Antigone (Burial at Thebes) his freshman year. He designed a logo and program cover for our musical, Once on This Island, he worked on the props crew of The Iliad, the Odyssey and all of Greek Mythology in 99 minutes or less, and last year he designed and created props for our fall play, The Laramie Project, facilitating a props crew of 3 other students. With the significant time Brad has to spend away from school, there are few other classes he could take in a regular classroom setting that could provide him with as many learning opportunities as he found at CTAA. CTAA is not just for high school students. We regularly invite children attending public schools in grades K-12 to join us in our programs. This is an excellent opportunity for older students to mentor the younger ones, fostering an understanding of the process and respect for the craft. One of my students, Colby Benson came to us when she was a 4th grader at Ike Elementary. She portrayed Annie in our musical, Annie. It was her first time on stage. Since then, Colby has performed in other shows for us and other groups on the island. She auditioned for American Idol last December and was invited to attend Hollywood Week based on her audition. This learning center program helped Colby find herself and the magnificent talent within which helped her soar. Colby will be a junior next year, and still has much to offer. Please don't put these funds in WSF where a principal will be forced to use them in NCLB or restructuring. I am confident that students in our program learn skills that are beneficial and pertinent to their lives post high school. Skills like oral communication, willingness to work cooperatively, ability to work independently, creative problem solving, ability to learn quickly, adaptability, concentration/focus, and leadership. Some traits that can be developed through a performing arts program are motivation, discipline, and initiative. Please do not end one of the most successful and beneficial programs the Hawaii DOE has developed. Keep it for our children who will be the leaders of tomorrow. I hope both Colby and Brad will be able to continue honing and developing their skills with us next year.</p>
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56	Julia	Rhan		Program #16770 Learning Center	In regards to the proposal for dissolution of the Center for Performing Arts at Castle High School, I am extremely disheartened at the thought of loss for such a program. I graduated a valedictorian at Castle HS. I have since graduated college, received a Masters in Education, taught, and am currently attending law school. Much of my confidence to speak in front of others and vibrant creative thinking can be traced back to my involvement in the performing art program there. I witnessed many of my peers, who would have likely fallen to drug use and depression, become involved and engaged in school because of this program. It is a treasure to the community and, for all it does, should never be considered an option to close on account of budgetary concerns. Please seek to preserve that which has served the community for many years, and enriched and improved the lives of the Kaneohe youth.
57	Michael	Krystoff		Castle High School CPAC program	I have had many friends who have been a part of the CPAC program and I can promise that it has had a positive impact on all of their lives. In addition, the CPAC program is widely known for its fantastic productions and the wonderful people that become a part of them. To dispose of such a wonderful program that gives children and young adults an avenue to express themselves, make wonderful memories and gain confidence would be tragic for us now and even more tragic for those yet to come. The programs that advocate and foster creativity, like the CPAC program, are becoming more and more rare. We are losing the programs that allow our students and children to build their creativity, which is essential for well-rounded, productive individuals. You may be evaluating the situation and figure that it's the "essential" programs that focus on math or english or the like that must be made the prerogative, however without stimulating art programs, like CPAC, I guarantee that the mental well-being of students and children will decline. With stagnation in typical classes and school subjects and no way for students to take part in something fun and expressive, how can there possibly be a positive effect? CPAC must be saved for all the above reasons and more. This note-worthy and well-established program has given so much to me and my friends growing up and still has an untold amount of value yet to give to the future.
58	Sayde	Carvalho		CPAC	CPAC while following the standards, teaches more then anyone would suspect. We learn about ourselves and the people around us (and then some). To some degree a main key to our future adulthood. CPAC also help's others, people come to see the shows and they're smiling. They're enjoying themselves. CPAC, doesn't just let the actors "escape" but the audience get's captivated in the magic.
59	Rachel	Wong		16770-Castle Performing Arts Center	CPAC has helped me meet new people and get along with everyone. It motivates me to improve in school and be the best I can be in order to do shows. CPAC teaches you responsibility skills, time management skills, team building skills, and most of all respecting others! I always look forward to CPAC! it's not only a theatre program but also a program where students help one another with math skills, reading skills, acting skills and homework in general when another student needs help.
60	Laulani	Teale	Peacemaking Project	agenda item #: 16770 Castle Performing Arts Center	Please support the continuation of Castle Performing Arts Center. As a resident of Windward O'ahu for many generations, I deeply appreciate the value that this Center has to our youth, and I want to see it continue to flourish in the future. Our youth are facing fewer resources to support their creative development; I feel that it is very important to turn this trend around, to help them to express themselves in excellence, as only a resource of this level of quality is capable of doing. Mahalo nui loa!

61	Irene	Ohashi		Learning Centers Funding	I was dismayed to learn that the BOE is thinking of putting Learning Centers under the Weighted Student Formula. In short, the response to this thought is: No, No, No, No, No! They are much too valuable to take away. As a former teacher at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School, I have seen the growth of the Nanakuli Performing Arts Center, both the program and students' personal growth. It would be such a shame to take away a successful program now after all the hard work that was put in all these years. If LC's are placed under WSF, the basic courses would understandably take priority, leaving nothing for the LC. It may be preferable to take away a few thousand dollars from each LC while keeping their funds separate than to kill the programs by burying them in WSF. Please give careful consideration to keeping the LC's alive and separate. Thank you for your hard work as volunteers. I appreciate the time you are spending on making good decisions.
62	Caitlin	Tong	CPAC	16770	CPAC is the only reason I found direction in my life. It kept me in school doing what I liked with people I would not have otherwise had the pleasure of meeting. It helped me to make connections to get work outside of school. I am much more well read because of CPAC, even my grasp on history grew due to this program. It is an important program to keep funded because statistically our kids are more confident and test higher, exactly what no child left behind tries and fails at. So, let's keep supporting a method that works, and try new things elsewhere.
63	Bilal	Naboulsy	Castle Performing Arts Center	16770	I'm an exchange student from Lebanon, I had the honor to get enrolled at Castle High School in Kaneohe HI. And for the first time ever, I got myself into the Drama class since I didn't use to have one at my high school back home, and I didn't regret it. I built a better personality, I learned that my other self that was hidden in me can finally come out, and where?! on the stage! I can now go home and say I ACTED, I got casted in one of the CPAC's plays which is Brigadoon then a dance concert (GEO Dance). I got a small part in both of them, but that made my year! I faced one of my biggest fears, to face an audience! And now as my last two weeks as an exchange student in Hawaii pass by, I look more forward to going home and finding the place where I truly belong, the theatre! With tears flooding my eyes and in the last day of school, I left the auditorium where my drama class was, never will I forget the doors that Miss Karen Meyer has opened for me, the door into her heart (because she made me feel warm and loved as if she was my mother) and the door into theatre. This is just a small little bit of the favor that I'm returning to Castle High School, its Performing Arts Center and Miss Meyer, please help me return the whole favor by keeping the doors for this organization opened for another students. Thanks for your time.
64	Talena	Kelln		Program Number 16770	All I can ask is that the BOE graciously takes a moment to consider all of the lives that programs like CPAC has touched. Taking away the funding for these programs will only hurt the community, as they benefit so many people already. CPAC has helped me as a student to grow in ways that I had never expected, and cutting the funding for this program would destroy me, as well as many others, inside. It's not right to kill something that is constantly helping others to learn and enjoy life! Please, please do the right thing here. Do not let this obstruction of justice pass!
65	Lennon	Kempf	Castle performing arts center	#16770	I've been with the Castle Performing Arts Center for 4 years and it's been the best experience of my life. It has taught me to be a better person and also skills that I could have not acquired if I hadn't been in the program such as time management, responsibility, and other real world lessons. The shows are also fantastic and very professional for a high school program. It's been my honor and pleasure to be a part of this program.

66	Mitchell	Fong		16770	<p>The CPAC organization gives blooming performing arts and technical students a major opportunity to explore and learn more about dance, theater craft, singing, and acting. It bridges the gap for theater technicians and performers by encouraging students to learn about all aspects of the performing arts. It not only teaches students about the technicalities of the performing arts, but also disciplines them in time-management, organization, teamwork, and commitment. CPAC is a staple of the community, and has thriftily survived despite dwindling funds. Thriftiness can only measure so much, and redistributing the funds will leave us unable to protect the funds from NCLB & the restructuring program. Hence, as a former CPAC student, I urge the committee to reconsider the decision that will essentially lead to the dissolution of a well-established program.</p>
67	Dana	Kiyabu	Castle Performing Arts Center	Keep the learning centers!	<p>Program 16770 Castle Performing Arts Center. Please continue to fund this incredible program. Students in the arts learn the same life-lessons as those in athletics: leadership, working as part of a team, discipline, focus, problem-solving in real time, and so much more. Students who perform on a stage overcome one of the greatest fears Americans have, which is speaking in public. These are the people who will speak up in the future, for they have learned how to find their voices. These are our future leaders. I have volunteered with CPAC since 2003, when my son started taking an interest in the theater. He was well on his way to flunking out of his freshman year of high school. There was nothing there for him, no reason to even pass his classes. And then he found a special place, one where other students accepted him as he was, where he was nurtured through his high school years and beyond, and where he continues to give of his time to nurture others now that he has become a role model himself. This young man would not have graduated without this program. It has been a long road for him, but he has now finished his associate's degree at WCC and plans to complete his bachelor's degree in theater at UH Manoa. He is now 22. His story is not unusual, and I have seen it played out year after year. We owe our children the opportunity to learn in this environment, to grow as individuals, and to pass it on to the next generation. The learning centers prove their worth every year, and yet every year we are called on to defend their very existence and beg for their survival. And so I will speak up every year. CPAC is a place where dreams come true. Please keep it so. Thank you.</p>
68	Lisa	Shimabukuro	Castle Performing Arts Center (CPAC)	16770	<p>Hawaii's learning centers have an impact on every student who participates them. If a student has a negative experience with their learning center, they are making a significant effort to be negative. The program I have participated in for four years is the Castle Performing Arts Center or "CPAC." This internationally recognized program has been a very useful motivation tool for me to keep my grades up and work harder to stay in the program. For all my years of high school I traveled from Mililani to Kaneohe five days a week to take part in this amazing program. This program not only gave me practical skills like time management but it also provided me with many social skills to help me function through life. CPAC has taught me to be accepting of all people, to view failure as an opportunity to work harder, and that family is what you make of it. After losing my own father two years ago, having a CPAC family to turn to helped me to cope. Without plays to channel my energy, without CPAC, I would not have made it through my loss. CPAC nurtures creative souls, creates better people, and gives our students a reason to exceed.</p>

69	Aaron	Tsuha	Castle High School Faculty	Program #16770-- Learning Center Funding	As a faculty member as well as an alumnus of Castle High School, I strongly urge the Board of Education to keep the Learning Center Funds separate from the weighted student formula. As a teacher at Castle, I have seen many of my students create the extraordinary productions done at the Ron Bright Theater. These productions are the ultimate "REAL WORLD" application of the complete education that Castle High School (and every other school in the state) strives for with our students. Just think: it is hard enough to have a student present a powerpoint in class, imagine how frightening it is to sing and dance in front of an audience of 500! The students that participate in CPAC consistently score higher in both Reading and Math HSA testing, as well as have overall higher GPAs than other students. There is a clear link between the multi-level learning that takes place through CPAC and student academic performance. This will be much harder to accomplish if the Learning Center funds are absorbed into the weighted student formula where a principal can use those monies for other programs. This testimony not only comes from what I observe my students do, but also from my own experience. I have participated in several productions during my high school years, and I can tell you first hand that the experience of standing on stage has prepared me for standing in front of the classroom. CPAC turned me from a shy bookworm into a confident young man who was not afraid to look up from my book and see the different worlds that the theater transports you to. I am the prime example of what CPAC does to students: it allows students to dream big and gives them the skills and tools to become whatever they want to be. I urge the Board of Education to keep the Learning Center funds intact to continue this legacy. Thank you for your time. Aaron Tsuha, Teacher, Castle High School
70	Callie	Doan		program number 16770	I am testifying AGAINST placing funding for the Learning Center Programs (including CPAC) into the Weighted Student Formula. As Musical Director for the CPAC Kidstart program for the past 3 years I can testify to the tremendous changes and growth I have been blessed to witness in the students involved in the programs. Boosts in confidence and leadership skills are expected in this sort of program and are definitely prevalent - but I was most impressed at the students academic achievement being above that of their peers. The one who stands out most in my mind is a girl whose teacher warned us she was SPED when we took a chance on her as a 5th grader. By her 6th grade year she was no longer considered SPED. Please consider this as a testimony on behalf of the students whose lives have been changed by Learning Center programs in ways that regular classroom instruction was unable to provide. Thank you.
71	Robert	Doan		16770	Please do not allow CPAC to loose funding. It is a wonderful EC event for our children. Every child in the program excels far beyond the average. While matching our host school students almost identically, ethnically and socio-economically, our 318 CPAC students from 12 schools have higher GPA's (2.667 vs 2.267) and higher HSA scores in both reading (81% meets or exceeds vs 61% for the school) and math (49% meets or exceeds vs 26%)... This is an extremely important program for our children. Thank you for your time. R. Doan

72	Alexandra	Zapata		Do not place Learning Centers in WSF	I'm an incoming 7th grader at Waianae Intermediate, but I'm in the Nanakuli High and Intermediate Performing Arts Center (NPAC). I'm very grateful to be accepted into this program, for it has taught me so much. I have learned a lot about dancing and acting, and also about the importance of teamwork in situations. This program made me a better person and student. Before I joined this program I was very shy and negative, I would not ever participate in class. After being in the program for a few months, I've gained confidence in myself and my work. This program has a very positive environment, so it helped with my negativity. Please don't put it in WSF, because I would like to continue to participate and grow in this program.
73	Tanya	Zapata		Keep funding for Learning Centers out of WSF	My daughter participates in the Nanakuli High and Intermediate Performing Arts Center (NPAC). This program does a great job at teaching her how to act and dance and sing. It also allows her to go to places and events that she otherwise wouldn't. But the real benefits to her are far more profound. It teaches her teamwork and responsibility. It has been instrumental in developing her self-confidence and interpersonal skills. Such confidence is priceless; it empowers her with the belief in herself, and allows her to be an individual rather than just follow the crowd. NPAC also provides her opportunities to get involved with the community. The program means a lot to her, so much that it also serves as a positive incentive for her to perform academically in school, and to be more responsible with her chores at home. I understand that there is a possibility that NPAC will be put into the "Weighted Student Formula" category, which would in effect diminish the program and eventually lead to its demise. Please keep funding for Learning Centers categorical, and let our children get the enrichment these programs can provide.