

June 7, 2011 General Business Meeting (Additional Testimonies) -- Hawaii State Board of Education

	First Name	Last Name	Organization	Subject/Agenda Item	Testimony
1	WALLIS	FERNANDES	KPAC	Program No. 16770 (Performing Arts Learning Centers (PALCs) into the Weighted Student Formula)	We are totally against the abovementioned from happening! Our son is not an athlete and is considered a "nerd" at school. High scholastically and teased by his classmates and other students until he entered the "Performing Arts" at his high school. He has since belonged to a group that accepts him for what and who he is. He thrives in the Arts and has made many friends and gained a new sense of confidence through this program. Please, please, please do not cut the Arts as students like my son will suffer for it! It will kill their dreams of being able to do anything they set their minds too and strive to better themselves as well as give them huge self confidence and the ability to perform ON STAGE in front of a bunch of strangers and pretend to be a totally different person (through his character). When I was going to high school, (approx. 20 years ago,) our curriculum consisted of a "happy medium" and Arts played a major part for us who also were not athletic or scholars. It gave the rest of the student body a sense of pride and purpose. Although my son is a scholar and gets all "A's" since he was in Middle School, he loves the Arts and performing and singing and dancing and it will just be so sad if that will be taken away from students like him. If we don't keep programs like this alive in our schools, that will mean more IDLE time for the students to get into trouble or be picked on by other students who just don't give a dang about education. Please do not touch anything in the school systems already! If you want to cut programs, truly consider looking at who's on welfare that doesn't belong there instead of constantly touching the educational programs! Thank you!
2	Chanel	Dias		KPAC	Why cut a great performing arts center for students because they didn't make enough money? I don't mean to be and sound rude, but this was my first and last (I graduated) year doing KPAC, and it was AMAZING!!! And I know for a fact it wasn't always this low of income. But please, don't cancel this program! Our Director is astounding, our Choreographer amazing, and the cast and shows MIND-BLOWING!
3	Carol	Fonseca		16770	As a lifelong educator and a musician I am appealing to the Board to seriously consider the importance of allowing students the opportunities to attend Performing Arts Learning Centers. In order to do this, it is critical to reserve the funding for the Performing Arts Learning Centers and not release these funds to the general funds where they may be used in the weighted student formula. It has been proven throughout time that individuals learn differently and have different intelligences. Students who are involved in the arts are often high achievers in many areas. And equally important, the arts offer an avenue for learning, expression, and motivation for students who may not be as successful. Please preserve the funding for the Performing Arts Learning Centers in Hawai'i. Thank you! Sincerely, Carol M. Fonseca, M.Ed Hawai'i Highly Qualified Teacher

4	margo	vitarelli	manoa heritage center	Performing Arts Learning Centers	Program #16770 I support keeping the funding for the nine Performing Arts Learning Centers separate and distinct from other programs, as it has been. We need to insure that there is funding specifically designated for the arts. The arts are threatened and in danger of being eliminated. Please do not merge funding into the "Weighted Student Formula" which would most likely water- down the funding for the arts. The Department of Education continues to suffer budget strains, and often, the arts are the first to leave the classroom. 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. Sincere thanks for listening, Margo Vitarelli Education Director Manoa Heritage Center 988-1287
5	Nancy	Wilcox	McKinley High School	funding for PALC's	At McKinley High School we do not have a performing arts center and we have a group of students who would benefit from that greatly. These are students that have motivation problems because their interests lie in the performing arts. As a teacher I try to direct those students to schools who have these programs and sometimes I succeed and they in turn succeed. As a teacher my main goal is to help students find their way in education and connect with something that gives meaning to the whole experience. This is working and if we are short sided about eliminating the funding for this.....our achievement level will drop. Is this what we want?
6	Jane	Campbell	HonTheatrefor Youth, ChamberMusichI, Windward ArtsCncil	16770 - student learning centers	In 40+ years as an arts administrator in Hawaii I have seen the powerful learning experience arts provides our children and young people. Not everyone is a mathematician; many many students learn by doing - whether by doing drama, music, visual arts, dance, creative writing, film making, whatever. Community arts programs (HTY, Chamber Music Hawaii, etc.) work hard to enrich teachers' work and to help teach skills, but without teachers, there is no entry to the student. There must be teachers and arts programs in the schools to develop what the students have inside them. What good is a big statewide school system if the students it "educates" are not ready to be thinking, discerning, creative adults who know how to question "facts" and dig out truths? Otherwise we are training robots. Thank you. Please keep arts programs active. Jane Campbell.
7	Ian	Cooke	none	Program 16770	It has been brought to my attention that there is a proposal to redistribute funds from support of the Performance Arts Learning Centers to the weighted student formula. The statistics quoted by the Arts Alliance on performance of the students involved in these centers vs. their peers or the overall average demonstrates a major benefit of the Centers for student present and future achievement. There is evidence over a much broader sampling of schools that availability and participation of students in arts and music programs enhance scholastic achievement and performance. Funding for the Performance Arts Learning Centers should be maintained, and, if possible, augmented. Respectfully, Ian M. Cooke
8	Michael	Kelso	Kelso Architects, inc.	Program Number 16770	I am against placing the funding for the Learning Center programs into the Weighted Student Formula. Thank you for considering my opinion Mike Kelso

9	Jeanne	Snell		16770 PALCs	Please take the time to evaluate this program in more detail. It appears that this program is helping many students to achieve the goals that we would like all students to accomplish. Please evaluate the quality of the programs before they are watered down and mean nothing and go nowhere. Obviously these programs are working with the numbers going on to colleges and succeeding in classes. The performing arts add a different dimension to a student's life. They give self confidence and allow more interplay with other people outside the regular school room. It is a positive in so many ways to shape a student to be a citizen of the islands and of the world.
10	ann	ogilvie	department of education - teacher	16770	I cannot imagine the sad ramifications if the learning centers funding are cut off. CPAC will surely lose its funding if monies go into the weighted formula. Students come from all schools. The quality of the shows are fine. The GPAs and test scores of these students are higher than those who do not participate. As I have heard before, "A great nation deserves great art." With this destruction of an established arts program by this definition we would no longer be a great nation. Theatre teaches responsibility and team work as well as any athletic sport. Please reconsider. I realize my testimony may be too little too late but I still wanted to go on record. Ann Ogilvie
11	Daniel	Bayot		Student Funding Cuts - Program ID: 16770	My name is Daniel, and I'm a student of Mililani High School and if this proposal becomes reality, I am quite literally dropping out of high school. My teacher brought to my attention the BOE's possible plan to dissolve all learning centers in the DOE and put that money towards the Weighted Student Formula. As a result, Central Theatre Arts Academy (CTAA), my school's theatre program, would dissolve. Throughout the last year I have been apart of this program, I've learned quite a bit more than most of my normal classes. Set building actually teaches me skills I've already had practical application with, acting has helped me IMMENSELY with public speaking and oral communication skills, and this program has enriched my life in a really positive way. High school has always been unenjoyable for me, and this brings something to look forward to. This program is the only thing keeping me from dropping out and getting my GED (which is an option my parents and I have discussed as a real possibility). If this proposal becomes reality, you are depriving students from schools around the island of something we all are extremely passionate about, something that often consumes and drives our lives. Please reconsider this plan.
12	Nicole	Enos	Castle Performing Arts Center	Student Achievement in the Castle Performing Arts Center	I am a fortunate student to have been with the Castle Performing Arts Center for over 8 years now. Not only is it a theatre program, it helps those students academically. When participating in musicals, dramas, etc. you learn methods of memorization. It comes in handy when you have mid terms, finals, tests, or even HSA's or SAT/ACT testing. According to our recent LC report, we have a total of 318 students from 12 different schools. Also our average GPA of 2.667 verses Castle High School's GPA of 2.267. Look at our reading and math scores in the HSA. CPAC students got an average of 81% in reading and 49% in math while Castle scores remain at 69% in reading and 26% in math. CPAC opens out to those who need academic help and it shows in our scores. We ask to continue with our program.

13	Patricia Jayne	Bopp	Parent of Castle Performing Arts Center	Program number 16770 - weighted student formula	Please do not place funds in the WSF and keep separate funding for the Learning Center Programs like the Castle Performing Arts Center. I have been a parent volunteer of this program since my child got involved his freshman year. I cant imagine what school would have been like for him without this program. He is senior now and has grown and flourished at school thanks to the hard work of Karen Meyer and others in the program. This program accepts students from those in special ed up to the "popular" athletes. It teaches everyone dignity and respect for others, hard work and responsibility. It has literally saved the lives of many students and allowed them to graduate and be successful. PLEASE DO NOT CUT THIS PROGRAMS FUNDING. Mahalo and Aloha for your consideration.
14	Sidney	Fowler		Why the CTAA should continue	This program has meant a lot to me in the past two years I have attended Mililani High School. It has helped me grow both mentally and spiritually. When I first came upon this program, I was astonished by the welcoming atmosphere and the encouragement provided by many individuals. One of these individuals was Mrs. Stroud. She never gave up or lost confidence in me. She has been a beacon to not only myself but many others that participate in the program. Through her, I was able to acheive my goals. She inspired me and through that inspiration pushed me from being ensemble in last years Aida to a lead in Thoroughly Modern Millie this year. Please take into account that this program has not only helped me make friends when I was new to the school but to many others. I've seen many people graduate from Mililani High School and say that they will miss the CTAA the most. Theater is an art form and like any art form, it will be questioned and depicted. However, it is also an outlet; to help young children explore their interests, express and learn about themselves and possibly take on a career in the field. It teaches us that through hard work, determination and courage, we can create something beautiful and learn to communicate effectively. It will devastate many students if you decide to pass this outrageous idea. Our budgets have been cut numerous times before and if we can no longer continue to be in this program...well, it would hurt a lot of students who have worked so hard to make this program what it is today. Thank you for your time and consideration.
15	Mark	Morrison		Transferring of funds from Castle Preforming Arts Center to the Weighted Student Formula	I have come to hear of the DOE plans to vote at 930 tomorrow to transfer the funds Castle Preforming Arts Center(CPAC) to the Weighted Student Formula. I must protest this moment of the stripping of funds from the program. As a student of castle high school and a member of this preforming arts center I know that the removal of financial support would hinder CPAC ability to function. CPAC students have overall higher test score then the rest of the school but CPAC students dont only reflect test scores but also life lessons and values gained though the program that overall help them function as better citizens of the state of Hawaii. Also CPAC is a community all in its own and taking that away would be a magician pulling out the tablecloth from the table out from under us leaving what once connected this community lost. Live theater is like an wounded animal, slowly dieing, crying out for help, there are those who want to help but cant ever get close enough but there are a few who can get close enough and they must face a choice either walk past let it die, or stop and help. So let me ask you since you are close enough, would you walk or stop?

16	Marlo	Ito	16770	Castle Performing Arts Center	I was a shy child and was bullied often until I got to high school and found the performing arts. Dance taught me the essence of communication. Theatre acting taught me that if accept myself, others will accept me as well. Singing taught me to love who I am, and to be bold. Depression was recurring problem in my life, but the performing arts helped me through it far better than the therapy I was regularly attending. CPAC gave me the opportunity to inspire my community to attack their passions and see that if you are confident enough to ask for help, anyone's goals are also possible. I have already been able to help my community, using the performing arts, by working with the Hawaii Meth Project and also by choreographing multiple routines in a concert to raise awareness for teenage depression. CPAC has, in more than one way, saved my life, and I know it has done the same for countless others. I am asking you all to help this wonderful program. CPAC inspires students to do well for themselves as opposed to sports, where students strive to do well for the gratification of others. I hope you all make the correct decision in keeping this life saving, character building, and community reaching program alive. Thank you for your time.
17	Alex	B.W.		CPAC Funding	Cutting funding for CPAC would deprive many students, of all ages, of an amazing learning experience, and an escape from the depravity of reality. CPAC is the one reason why I still go to J.B. Castle. I hated Castle my freshman year, I had just graduated from a middle school on the opposite side of the island, and I knew nobody. I had a G.E. to go to Roosevelt, the school where I could pick up the academic life I left behind, but instead I stayed at Castle. I stayed at Castle because when I went to the first thespian club meeting of the year, I found a group that I could call my friends. They didn't care that I was a seemingly creepy, overweight, long-haired, white kid with a deep voice, they accepted me without bias. For students who dont fit in at school, CPAC is like a home that welcomes every student with open arms, no matter their race, gender, sexuality, or handicap. CPAC teaches students real world skills, and challenges students to apply those skills onstage and backstage. By cutting CPAC, an internationally reconized program will be wiped from existance, as well as the oppertunity for hundreds of students to gain useful life skills (for free), and to discover themselves and their potentials.
18	James	Debzer		dissolving castle performing arts center	Fantastic opportunity to for all chilfren. The program teaching confidence to face teachers for help, how to stand up to peer pressure and how to grow as an individual. It also teaches students how to preserve and commit. The feeling of being apart of something big is very important to students of all ages.
19	Joshua	Patberg		Student Achievement	James B. Castle High School's CPAC should not be dissolved. This program encourages students to achieve their best not only within the performing arts, but academically as well. CPAC instructors teach students that academics and theatre go hand in hand. They encourage their students to be their best in school even if the student wishes to pursue Performing Arts after high school. Instructors point out that the best colleges that offer Performing Arts as a major requires students to be well educated. Being involved with theatre motivates students to come to school and meet the standards in all their classrooms. Students understand that passing grades allows them the privilege to participate in CPAC. The dissolving of this program may upset students, giving them nothing to look forward to through out the year, ultimately, providing an excuse to be lazy. With no motivation, grades will decline and their learning will suffer.

20	Jonathan	Miller		Program Number 16770	<p>Dissolving the Learning Center Program is one of the stupidest thing the BOE can do for the communities and for the students academically. I have personally seen programs turn lives around for the better. One program in particular, Castle Performing Arts Center (CPAC) has touched and changed countless lives over the years in the town of Kaneohe. Going through high school at Castle, I saw 3 lives forever changed because of this program. One of them became one of my dearest friends, and the path he was previously on could only lead to drugs, violence, and premature death. Now he's about to graduate with a Bachelor's in Psychology from UH Manoa. The one thing that turned his life around, was getting involved in CPAC. It's a FACT that programs like these work. If anyone just takes a look at the results, you will see that kids that are in Learning Center Programs have higher average GPA's than the rest of the school. I DARE you to look at any program's results. NUMBERS DON'T LIE. I must reiterate, Dissolving the Learning Center Program is the STUPIDEST thing you can do for America's future generations, especially academically.</p>
21	Kayleigh	Ovington		16770	<p>I am a graduate of Castle Highschool class of 2009, and one of the main reasons I can say this is because of my experience with Castle Performing Arts Center. I was new to Hawaii and familiar with performing and the theatre opened is friendly arms out to me. Karen Meyer pushed us to be the best we could be education wise, performance wise, and emotionally. Being in CPAC has given every student and alumn a sense of family and a sense of belonging to something big. I beg you to not cut their funds, these students would be completely devastated if not having a show, or acting classes to look forward too. This program gives student the push they need to excell and without it I fear there would be a major plumet in graduation statistics along with students drive to keep succeeding. Please think twice when wondering whether or not cut funding to art programs. Thank you</p>