

From: Sandy Calio [mailto:sandy.calio@hawaiiintel.net]

Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2013 6:04 AM

Cc: kpine1@honolulu.gov; Martin, Ernie; Anderson, Ikaika; Chang, Stanley; Kobayashi, Ann; Fukunaga, Carol A; Manahan, Joey; Harimoto, Breene; Menor, Ron

Subject: Council Meeting Testimony for Bill 11 (2013), CD2

To whom it may concern:

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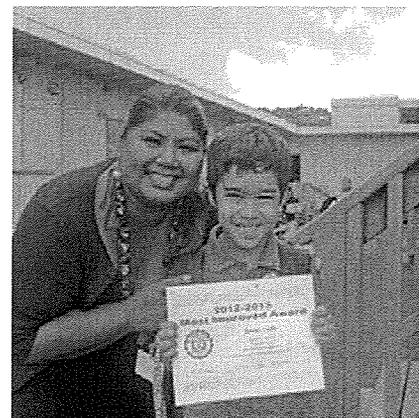
I am humbly requesting your support for Bill 11 (2013) CD2. I am the parent of a child that currently receives tutoring from the Dyslexia Tutoring Center of Hawai'i. Because of the tutoring my son receives, he was recently awarded Most Improved student in his class (see attached photo). My son has struggled with reading and writing for most of his life. And because of this struggle his self-esteem has suffered too. Thanks to the DTCH this has changed greatly.

The biggest improvement we have seen, has been his self-esteem. In a recent parent conference with his teacher, she stated that she has seen a dramatic change in his self-esteem and how he carries himself in school. She has seen him blossom and grow. He now even likes attending school. In the past, if he approached a reading situation, he would push it aside and say he can't do it. But now, he actually will try to read it first before he asks for help.

Although he has improved on his reading, he is still not at grade level and needs additional assistance. Finding a tutor that can meet his needs has been a struggle. I was very lucky to find DTCH, as they are able to work with my son. But it has not been easy. Since DTCH does not have a secure site, there is often a question that lingers monthly – will they be at this establishment next month? It is also difficult for DTCH, as I know there are many more students they would like to service but due to space constraints are often unable to service them. These issues can often cause additional stress or strain on both the center and families.

Going through the diagnosis process and becoming more aware of the signs of Dyslexia, I have seen many correlations between myself and my husband. I struggled greatly in school, as did my husband. I often wondered why I was accepted in a private school when I was no where near as intelligent as my peers. I often felt "stupid" or "dumb" because I couldn't grasp concepts as quickly as my peers and struggled with reading and comprehension. I now realize that I wasn't "stupid" or "dumb," but probably dyslexic and never diagnosed. As a current DOE teacher, I see students struggle daily in class. I wonder, if there were more centers, like DTCH to assist students, would I see the struggle these students go through daily diminish? Would I see their self-esteem grow like my own child has? Can centers, like DTCH, help stop children from feeling "dumb" or "stupid" and instead help them to see what a great future they have ahead of them? Yes! If not, the following individuals would not have been as successful as they are:

Whoopie Goldberg, Actor and Entertainer
Thomas Edison, Inventor
Albert Einstein, Scientist
Alexander Graham Bell, Inventor
Jay Leno, Entertainer
Tom Cruise, Actor
Leonardo da Vinci, Artist
Pablo Picasso, Artist
Charles Schwab, Investor
Ted Turner, President of Turner Broadcasting
Cher, Actor and Entertainer
George Patton, Military Leader
Muhammed Ali, Athlete
Richard Branson, Founder of Virgin Enterprises
Henry Ford, Founder of Ford Automobiles
Hans Christian Anderson, Writer.....to name a few.



Please help and don't allow any more children to grow up believing they are "dumb" or "stupid." Please pass Bill 11 (2013) CD2 and support organizations like DTCH in it's continuous effort in assisting children.

Sincerely,
Sandy Calio

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Council