

LAW OFFICE OF DENISE W.M. WONG, LLC
1188 Bishop Street, Suite 810
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-276-5836
denise.wong@pacificcypress.com

May 31, 2013

Sent via e-mail emartin@honolulu.gov

City Council Chair
Ernest Y. Martin
530 South King St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

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CITY CLERK
HONOLULU, HAWAII

Re: Support for Bill 11 (2013), CD2 and the Dyslexia Tutoring Center of Hawaii, Inc.

Dear City Council Chair Martin:

My name is Denise W.M. Wong and I am the current Vice-President and board member of the Dyslexia Tutoring Center of Hawaii, Inc. (“DTCH”). I have served as a board member since 2006. I served on the board of directors and continue to serve because I whole-heartedly believe in DTCH’s mission to serve and empower those who are dyslexic.

Through serving as a board of director, I have learned so much about dyslexia and understand that it affects approximately 20% of the population. Accordingly, approximately 1 out of 5 individuals in Hawaii are dyslexic. Although it cannot be cured, people with dyslexia can be empowered with specific tools to address their dyslexia, which is what DTCH has been and continues to do.

I have seen first-hand the results of on-going tutoring sessions where students once had low self-esteem at the start of tutoring and a few months later their demeanor has completely changed, they exude confidence and most of all, they enjoy reading and spelling. The impact on the individuals who have been tutored by DTCH and the greater community is beyond measure. Empowering an individual to read, spell, improve handwriting and do math, where he/she struggled with extreme difficulty in the past, equips such individual to change the trajectory of his/her life and possibly their family’s life. Since I have seen such positive impact in numerous individuals and heard testimonials from numerous parents/grandparents, I know the impact of DTCH’s services is truly immeasurable and greatly, greatly appreciated.

Since its inception, DTCH has provided its services to hundreds of individuals and served as a place with appropriate dyslexia tutoring services and a place for support for parents/grandparents/guardians of children with dyslexia and adults with dyslexia. DTCH has hosted numerous workshops/seminars since its inception to assist educators and professionals

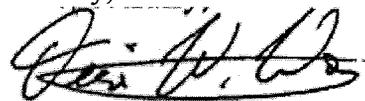
(DOE and private schools). DTCH has even hosted Susan Baron, Ph.D., an internationally recognized expert in dyslexia several times and several math seminars because there was a need in the community. DTCH has hosted numerous workshops/seminar for DOE teachers to assist teachers to raise awareness and to assist with teaching dyslexic students.

Raising dyslexia awareness is part and parcel to DTCH's mission and I strongly believe that if we can provide people with knowledge about dyslexia and raise awareness, more people with dyslexia can be identified and more people with dyslexia can be helped because the "sting" of any stereotype associated with dyslexia will be mitigated through, among other things, DTCH's efforts to raise awareness about dyslexia.

DTCH urgently needs its own property to allow it to facilitate all of the services it provides and to continue to put its mission of serving and empowering individuals with dyslexia into action. Providing DTCH with its own property will allow it to continue to provide invaluable dyslexia tutoring services to individuals with dyslexia and enable it to continue to engage in activities to raise awareness about dyslexia. Most of all, individuals with dyslexia would not need to worry that if funding runs out DTCH would have to close and they would be left without the invaluable tutoring services they have been receiving and no more support that DTCH had been providing. They can rest assured that DTCH stands on solid footing with respect to having its own property serving as a center for all of the services provided by DTCH.

Based on the foregoing, I respectfully request that the City and County of Honolulu City Council vote in favor of Bill 11 (2013), CD2.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise W.M. Wong", written over a horizontal line.

Denise W.M. Wong