

May 31, 2013

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CITY CLERK  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

TO: Council Chair Ernest Y. Martin

RE: Bill 11 (2013), CD2

Dear Council Chair Martin:

My name is Jerel Fonseca. I am writing in support of Bill 11 (2013), CD2. I am a board member of the Dyslexia Tutoring Center of Hawaii, and have been involved with the center since its inception, and have been fortunate to have served as its president for the last several years.

The Dyslexia Tutoring Center affords a unique and much needed tutoring and educational service to children, adolescents and adults who suffer from Dyslexia, in its program which includes the direct, 1-to-1 tutoring. While other organizations offer families and individuals with Dyslexia information and referrals, I know of no other center or organization which provides direct services to these individuals, by highly trained and certified tutors. Both Margarete Pang and her daughter Angelicca are the only certified Barton tutors in the State of Hawaii.

The lack of the ability to fluently read, not only is debilitating in and of itself, but creates issues of anxiety, loss of self-esteem and embarrassment with Dyslexic individuals. Over the years, the Dyslexia Tutoring Center of Hawaii has helped a large number of individuals, not only learn to read, but in many instance, catch up to their typically developing peers in the DOE setting. One can only imagine the related positive effects the ability to read has on our struggling youth.

The Dyslexia Tutoring Center of Hawaii is currently looking for a permanent location where it can continue to provide the same high level of services to a greater number of individuals who desperately need their services, but they cannot do it without the passage of Bill 11 (2013), CD2. While limited financial resources is always an issue in any administration, we must remember that our children, Hawaii's children, are our future, and that planning for that future, by investing in our children's education now when it will do the most good, is the most prudent use for these funds.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jerel Fonseca