

June 3, 2013

Council Chair Ernie Martin and Members of the City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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CITY CLERK
HONOLULU, HAWAII

Dear Mr. Martin and Members of the City Council,

I am writing to you because I am in support of Bill 11 92013, CD2.

My name is Frances Shimotsu and I serve on the board of Dyslexia Tutoring Center of Hawaii, Inc. (DTCH). I have been a staunch supporter of DTCH since its inception of July 2004. Knowing of the lack of attention given to students affected by dyslexia Mrs. Margarett Pang single handedly sought ways to find solutions to help children and adults with dyslexia. She studied about dyslexia, attended classes with Susan Barton, a world renowned international expert, who for many years studied and found ways to help children affected with dyslexia. To my knowledge, Mrs. Pang and her daughter Angelicca are the only two persons in Hawaii who have completed and are certified to diagnose and to tutor students with dyslexia. Dyslexia is not to be confused with students with attention deficit disorders.

Attending classes and years of training by studying and being certified is no easy task. I know this as a fact because I went through one of the courses in San Jose. To support Mrs. Pang my daughter Janet and I attended the class on diagnosing for dyslexia using my own funds so we can understand about what it takes to help dyslexics. I know that it is not an easy task. It takes many hours of attending classes, studying, and getting certified. To become a certified specialist is the key because dyslexic students need a specialized program.

Mrs. Pang is passionate about helping people with dyslexia. She established a non-profit organization 501(c) (3) and did a commendable job. She started by working with a few principals in the Leeward District of the DOE who felt the need to learn about dyslexia. She disseminated information about dyslexia to principals, teachers and parents with no charge to the participants.

Besides funding for dissemination, diagnosing and tutoring, a greater problem was obtaining funds for a permanent location to teach the students and to house the staff.

No wonder she has been recognized by the community for her untiring efforts to focus on the much needed cause for dyslexia. To name a few, in 2008 she was a recipient of the 2008 KOA Award for Education for outstanding service to Ewa Beach, Kapolei and Nanakuli areas, the 2009 Jefferson Award recognized for selfless dedication to community service, the 2009 Community Service Award from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Hawaii's Outstanding Advocates for Children and Youth 2010 presented by the Hawaii State Legislature, and in 2011-2012 Woman of the Year, National Association of Professional Women.

Mrs. Pang will not be stopped by adversity. She is a dedicated person who will continue to advocate for helping the students and community with the problem of dyslexia. She will continue to work with the Hawaii State Department of Education (DOE) to see what she can do to help administrators, teachers, parents, and most of all the students affected by dyslexia.

Your consideration for passage of Bill 11 (2013), CD2 will be greatly appreciated by all who are concerned with dyslexia. This will be a great boast for our future citizens,

Gratefully and with Aloha.

Sincerely,

Frances F. Shimotsu, signed//
Retired DOE, Educational Specialist

MISC. COM. 1199
COUNCIL