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CITY CLERK
HONOLULU, HAWAII

June 4, 2013

Dear Honolulu City Council Members,

I am writing in support of Bill 11 (2013), CD2, and on behalf of the Dyslexia Tutoring Center of Hawaii.

I am a parent of two children who were tutored by the DTCH. My older child, Hiilani, struggled as a student in the Hawaiian Immersion Program. Due to her struggles, I looked into Dyslexia and found the DTCH.

With little understanding of Dyslexia or learning disabilities, I found out that she would be extra challenged being bilingual. Her difficulties would be in both Hawaiian and English. I had allowed her to be tutored afterschool in Hawaiian, but worried that she would suffer in the aspects of English. After being screened at the DTCH, Hiilani was given tutoring through the support of grants. I was relieved that she could get support that we couldn't otherwise provide for her. Through her four years at DTCH she has grown tremendously as a student. As I read her homework today, I cry with joy. I am amazed how her reading and writing has improved! I know that this is attributed to the tutoring given by the DTCH.

The DTCH staff had also been a support system for Hiilani. Throughout time, they became her confidants and friends. They had helped my shy child open up and embrace her challenges. I never thought that "tutoring" could not only help her to read well, but to also give her confidence.

As much as Hiilani struggled, I did also. The DTCH Staff has been detrimental in teaching me and helping me to understand Dyslexia and other learning disabilities. Without their support, I as parent would not have been able to nurture my children's challenges.

My other child was not able to have the same tutoring experience as Hiilani. He was tutored for a few months but had to stop due to the lack of grants and funds. He does not struggle as greatly as Hiilani did but does have difficulties. I have noticed that he applies what he had learned in those few months while reading. Hiilani will at times help him read.

I humbly ask you to support Bill 11. The funds that could be granted can help other struggling kids. I have shared Hiilani's story with others and want them to benefit from the help she has received.

I believe that as a community, we are here to help others grow for the sake of simply making the community better! Please support the DTCH with their passion to help children and adults thrive.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Laverne Regina Maele