

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Saturday, May 30, 2015 9:28 AM
Subject: Budget Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

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Meeting Date (*) 2015-06-03
Council/PH Committee (*) Budget
Agenda Item (*) Bill 13
Your position on the matter (*) Support
Representing (*) Organization
Organization Assets School
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? (*) No

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Written Testimony

My name is Darlene Robertson, the Director of Professional Development and Outreach at Assets School. I am submitting this Testimony Request for City Council Bill 13, Executive Operating Budget, to help the office of Councilmember Pine better understand Assets School outreach in District 1 (Wai'anae). In the 1990's, the Assets Board of Trustees laid the foundation for an outreach program since our own school could only touch just a fraction of the thousands of struggling learners in Hawaii. Hence, the Assets Teacher Training and Outreach Program (ATTOP) was founded in 1999 to advance the school's work with students who struggle with learning in the larger community. Over the years, ATTOP has been fortunate to collaborate with other schools and non-profit agencies in addressing the needs of at-risk learners. This has and continues to include outreach on the Wai'anae Coast. On the Wai'anae Coast, we have been privileged to be part of a collaboration with a mutual interest in literacy and closing the achievement gap in reading, particularly for K-3 learners. One of these relationships of a public and private schools involves

ATTOP, Kamehameha Schools Ka Pua Initiative, and Ka Waihona o ka Na‘auao Public Charter School. The partnership started with an early reading screening pilot project in Spring 2012, and has since grown other programs. These combined efforts have resulted in the following programs: ➤ Early Reading Screening (Ongoing): This free early reading screening is open to families in the larger community with primary aged students (Mid Kindergarten to 3rd grade). The screening session takes approximately an hour and includes individualized feedback with parents. ➤ Summer Literacy Academy (Summer 2014): The 4-1/2 week Summer Literacy Academy was born out of the Early Reading Screening effort to support at-risk readers and the recognition of cultivating educators to increase professional capacity and sustainability in Wai‘anae. In this extension activity, teachers are provided an opportunity to learn the Multisensory Structured Language approach and work with a student in a practicum environment. The teachers increase their skills to work with struggling readers and students benefit from 1-1 instruction. ➤ Family Literacy Parent Workshop Series (October-November 2014): Parents of students who attended the Summer Literacy Academy were very interested in having their own workshops structured around the Multisensory Structured Language approach. We presented a series of four parent workshops. Session topics involved: (1) Literacy Experiences of the Young Learner, (2) The Speech Sounds of Language, (3) Practicing Decoding (Word Reading), and (4) Practicing Encoding (Spelling). ➤ Student Literacy Tutoring (January-May 2015): The Student Literacy Tutoring program continued the work of the Summer Literacy Academy. Struggling readers received direct instruction and tutors could access structured support as they continued to hone their skills using the Multisensory Structured Language approach. There is much that continues to happen with our present community partnerships and outreach efforts on the Wai‘anae Coast: • Added another series of four Family Literacy Parent Workshops modified for preschool families (March-May 2015), • Continue to do the Early Reading Screening for K-3 students on demand and plan to add an Early Reading Screening for four year olds next spring, • This summer, there will be a four-week Summer Literacy Academy involving Slingerland Literacy training for teachers and a two hour daily practicum for students, • Currently participating on the planning committee and will present at the Early Literacy Symposium for early learning educators in Wai‘anae (November 2015), • Potential collaboration with Kukuluao and Ka Lama Education Academy (KKLEA), a support group for potential teachers on the Wai‘anae Coast, to offer literacy training and cultivate tutors (Pending Summer 2016) • Member of Alignment Hawaii 96792- Early Learning Alignment Committee, a representative group of various non-profits operating in Wai‘anae as well as the DOE (ongoing) Additionally, thanks to the generosity of Kamehameha Schools, ATTOP has a designated office space at its Community Learning Center in Ma‘ili (CLCM). Outreach involves being part of a public purpose in the community. The Assets Teacher Training and Outreach Program (ATTOP) is fortunate for the educational partnerships and colleagues in the Wai‘anae community that have allowed us to increase our engagement with families and educators working with diverse and at-risk learners.

**Testimony
Attachment**

**Accept Terms and
Conditions (*)**

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