

From: [Ritchilda Yasana](#)
To: [DBEDT LUC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Meeting February 9, 2023, RE: Kūlanihāko‘i High School
Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 9:33:22 PM



Chair Giovanni and Members of the Commission,

I am Ritchilda Yasana, a teacher at Kūlanihāko‘i High School in Kihei. I was born and raised on the island of Maui and am a proud product of our public school systems. I appreciate you taking the time to reconsider the issue of the improvement Condition imposed by your Commission in 2013.

Much of the public seems unaware that our school is already operating, that our students understand the importance of safety, and that our students have pledged not to cross the highway on foot but to use the transportation provided by the school and parents. You have received plenty of testimony from adults who believe they know what our students will do and how, but I implore you to listen to the students themselves and the adults who work closely with them.

As the sole mathematics teacher at our school, I am responsible for building our students' confidence in math. Many of them come in with defeated attitudes and beliefs. I have spent time creating lessons that will meet the needs of my students. With years of professional development and training, I have learned essential systems and routines that would benefit our students. Our practices include collaborative teams, working on whiteboards, and making our learning visible. We have tried our best to adjust to a learning space for the first two quarters while still engaging in these activities. However, my students and I have found that we simply do not have enough room in our classes to carry out our innovative math tasks. I want my students to have math experiences that are fun, interactive, and inclusive, but we are limited in what we can do because we are lacking in space.

Our limited number of classrooms also affects the sections and classes we can offer our students. Our response to intervention math classes are offered to all students to address their remedial gaps in math. Due to our scheduling constraints and limited classrooms, we have to offer the sessions through our advisory classes once a week as opposed to a regular class three times a week. Students cannot access the remedial math support they need because we don't have the necessary classrooms.

Lastly, as a participant in the Kihei Complex Math task force, we aim to create opportunities for teachers in the Kihei Complex Area to collaborate and create vertical articulation in our K-12 continuum. Our elementary and middle school teachers have intentionally made efforts to improve the math curriculum for our students in Kihei. Kūlanihāko‘i High School will play a vital role in providing students with the mathematical skills needed for their post-secondary plans. The work I have done in the past ten years of my career has prepared me for this position. I am an enthusiastic, fierce teacher who is ready to face the challenges of mathematics education head-on. I need the space to meet the unique needs of my students.

Please consider those most affected by your decision and amend the 2013 Condition to allow us to safely use our campus while the quest for a grade-separated crossing continues.

Maraming Salamat,
Ritchilda Yasana

Kūlanihāko‘i High School | Mathematics
Education in Leadership Doctoral Candidate