

Testimonies for the Public hearing for school closure  
December 16, 2010  
Kalakaua Middle School

1. And 2. Affiliation: Representative Joey Manahan/Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland
  - a. Physical presence in a rapidly increasing urban environment
  - b. No qualitative data in the study.
  - c. Is the cost the only consideration in this closure.
  - d. Is there really a savings in the staff reductions
  - e. Community support for this school evidenced by presence of businesses, families
  - f. Long range plans for the community has some housing plans that will require needs for schools. (Senator)
  
3. Affiliation: Phyllis Sano, Teacher Puuhale
  - a. Instill the love of learning in all our students
  - b. Strived to improve, despite all the changes in our educational system
  - c. Not in restructuring,
  - d. Pursue high achievement, made AYP
  - e. Developed a true Learning Community
  
4. Affiliation: Mike Ibara, Teacher Puuhale
  - a. Let our words touch the hearts and minds of the ones that make the decision
  - b. Community that is culturally diverse but yet create the best learning environment for our students
  - c. We create a place of learning, healing.
  - d. Students want to come to school.
  
5. Affiliation: Sandra Kikina, 5<sup>th</sup> grade Teacher Puuhale
  - a. 80 years old
  - b. Legacy of previous students to continue
  - c. America's Choice model used to improve student achievement
  - d. Hard work to implement and continue to strive to improve education
  - e. Well-rounded student, with extra-curricular activities
  - f. Collaboration among teachers
  - g. Children first, we should show that we mean it.
  
6. Affiliation: Mr. Rei Corpuz, Teacher Puuhale
  - a. Research on closing a small school
  - b. Transferring to a large school with over 800 students will set them up for failure
  - c. The smaller the school the higher the achievement scores from a study.
  - d. U shaped curve of cost benefits for small schools vs large school
  - e. Debbie Meyer study found small schools.

7. Affiliation: Christine Portigo. Student Puuhale Student Council Representative
  - a. As an immigrant I was able to adjust within a small time because it was a small school
  - b. Please don't close our small school they help us to do well
  
8. Affiliation: Christina Kim, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher, Puuhale
  - a. We are working hard
  - b. Despite hardships of many families, Children are kind and try hard, the only form of stability for many of them
  - c. Example of a single parent of a disabled student, who was so grateful for the support from the school
  - d. Create a special place for our children
  
9. Affiliation: Mary Nakano, Custodian at Puuhale
  - a. Attended the school
  - b. Custodian Take was the coach for baseball.
  - c. My 3 children attended this school, I worked here for 25 years
  - d. Care and commitment of the people that worked here.
  
10. Affiliation: Craig Moats Kindergarten teacher, Puuhale
  - a. Learned about the culture there.
  - b. Proud to be called a Puuhale teacher
  - c. Children thrive in a small family type environment
  - d. Do you want to make a large school even larger?
  
11. Affiliation: Isaiah Sabey, Teacher, Puuhale
  - a. Research is supported by the results that Puuhale has improved
  - b. Hardships for the families in the area
  
12. Affiliation: Scott Kunihiro, Teacher Puuhale
  - a. Mother was a teacher
  - b. Story of a student on the first day, a student volunteered to do the pledge and sing a song, that solidified his desire to stay there for his career.
  - c. Look some place else for the money
  
13. Affiliation: Jaleah, Student, Kalihi elementary
  - a. Education is important
  - b. Please do not close our school
  
14. Affiliation: Amy Hardin, Parent
  - a. What's going to happen to the children when class sizes will be 50
  - b. What kind of quality of the education

15. Affiliation: Nancy Aloang, parent
  - a. Students paying the price
  - b. Teachers are struggling, parents are struggling,
  - c. Teacher kept changing, son has health issues, but school too big to address it
16. Affiliation: Jeanne Maeda, Teacher, Kalihi Elementary school
  - a. 19 years at the school, the student always came first.
  - b. \$981,000 spent on renovation of the school, one of several projects that improved the infrastructure, is an investment in the students education. Waste of this investment.
17. Affiliation: Demetry Shoaf-Clarke, 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Kalihi Elementary
  - a. Poem
  - b. Fight the system
18. Affiliation: Lori Eichler, Baker at Kalihi Elementary
  - a. Safety of the students, logistics if they have to cross the highway,
  - b. Increasing of class sizes, at Kalihi Uka, Kaewai
  - c. Lose the individual attention they get at the small school
  - d. Why budget cuts are at the cost of our children.
19. Affiliation: Naty Portigo, parent of Puuhale
  - a. School did so well in helping my daughter adjust when she came from another country, started at 1<sup>st</sup> grade
  - b. Break my heart to hear it is considering closing this school
  - c. School really helps our children to be better people, maybe be our future leaders.
  - d. Keep quality education for our children, because education can't be taken away from you
20. Affiliation: Inga, Parent of a young child, Kalihi Uka
  - a. 4 children to public schools, because we believe in public education
  - b. Schools average test scores, should not be used to determine the quality of schools
  - c. Test scores more a reflection of the socio-economic status
  - d. We should have more support, keeping schools smaller to better support the greater needs for this demographic. Richer language needs.
21. Affiliation: Aniez Guittu, Puuhale 5<sup>th</sup> grader
  - a. 25 book campaign celebration, other success for the school
22. Affiliation: Deborah Vicari, parent
  - a. Moving students to another environment will have a negative impact
  - b. Smaller class sizes teachers give more help
  - c. No child should be left behind
  - d. 3 daughters attended there, all are successful adults
  - e. Granddaughter a 1<sup>st</sup> grader
  - f. Commute harder with no bus lines
23. Affiliation: Kathleen Shinagawa. 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher at Kalihi Elementary
  - a. The research in the consolidation report, actually shows that we should not close the school

- b. The facilities report doesn't count the classroom needs for computer labs, PE classes, ELL classes. Criteria is not acceptable because use a class size of 33.
  - c. Housing project renovation will increase the need for school space.
24. Affiliation: Ashlee Silva, teacher at Kalihi Elementary
- a. Safety of students walking to and from school.
  - b. Sidewalks are broken, 2/10 of a mile, where there are no sidewalks, no traffic signals to help the students cross.
  - c. Dangerous traffic.
25. Affiliation: Eddie Kealanahele, parent of Puuhale, after school Sports coach volunteer
- a. Family at the school, my children attend there
  - b. Volunteer at the school for 13 years
  - c. Small class size for the children to learn
  - d. Dangerous to walk to school to Kalihi Kai
  - e. Green opportunity was by-passed during renovation that would have saved money that might have been enough to save the school. Why wasn't this considered, solar power.
26. Affiliation: Elbert Estes, Cook at Kalihi EI.
- a. DOE anticipates increase in enrollment
  - b. Millions of dollars spent on infrastructure seems wasteful.
  - c. 100% of the HQ teachers is an invaluable resource.
  - d. Students do well even though I am just the cook there
  - e. Spirit there
27. Affiliation: Karen Dyke, Kalihi Kindergarten Teacher
- a. 20 or less, individual attention, many come behind for Kindergarten, higher needs
  - b. 40% ELL students and need small group instruction, if classes are too big
  - c. Space of classes, equates to only 16 or 18 per class.
  - d. Closing schools, not in line with the current Hawaii leaders, (Governor)
  - e. Most students walk to school, dangerous.
28. Affiliation: Janet Cabanit, Kalihi EI
- a. Poor educational policy
  - b. Higher class sizes, bad, reduce class size for our students.
  - c. Cost for the students to ride bus to school, \$1500 for bus pass.
29. Affiliation: Kahalealii Muhlestein, ???
- a. Hawaii Revised Statutes, report can't be altered after the public hearing, this is the final edit . Including input from public hearing
  - b. Sites data in the report that is invalid, inadequate for determining a closure
  - c. Considering the severity to the public at large, it should be based on more than a guess.
30. Affiliation: Dennis Arakaki, graduate of Farrington High, lived in the community all his life, Education committee at the legislature
- a. Education is a priority for all of Hawaii
  - b. It should not be a factor of the economy
  - c. The future of our children should not be placed on the back of the schools, because it creates a nickel and diming of the system.

31. Affiliation: Dorothy Pregil, Restore Kalihi Valley
  - a. Concerned about the negative impact on Kalihi Uka Elementary
  - b. Size of the classes is important in education of the children
  - c. 150 more children will be moving into the Kalihi Valley homes when the renovations are done.
  - d. Safety for children, too much traffic in and around the school at Kalihi Uka.
  
32. Affiliation: Cecelia Hughes, Jolyn Morgan for Cecelia, Kalihi Elementary
  - a. Main concern is the loss of academic quality
  - b. Dangerous walk to school, going to Kalihi Uka
  - c. Increased class size, with a forecasted increase in enrollment
  - d. Economic hardships for the families
  - e. Emotional disruption for the students, families,
  
33. Affiliation: Julia Walker, employee, parent, grandparent puuhale
  - a. We are right size not small
  - b. Rail goes through Dillingham Blvd. so dangerous to send to Kalihi Kai
  - c. Sing Puuhale Alma Mater
  
34. Affiliation: Annabelle Calub, Student, president
  - a. Students are all kind to each other
  - b. 100% on the HSA trying hard to hit
  - c. Adults thinking of themselves not the children, I thought Children come first
  
35. Affiliation: Brandi Kealanahale, student of Puuhale
  - a. Dreams of the younger students are being crushed, because they think their school is closing
  - b. Our school is a big Ohana, this is how all schools should feel
  
36. Affiliation: John Brian Babad, student at Puuhale
  - a. 100% of 5<sup>th</sup> graders completed homework
  - b. It will take us longer to get to Kalihi Kai.
  - c. Great teachers, all students are kind
  
37. Affiliation: Ann Ziegler, Kalihi parent
  - a. Child is a sped student, smooth transition during the process
  - b. Teachers are wonderful in helping child develop the skills she needs.
  - c. Keiki O Ka aina program is at the school, but may not have it, if schools are so crowded.
  - d. Beautiful setting and safer.
  - e. Help our students early on is critical, and consolidation will hurt our children.
  
38. Affiliation: Lani Ishikawa, Kalihi El. Teacher
  - a. Sites HRS, fair equal opportunity,
  - b. High ELL populations hurts our AYP scores.
  - c. Research shows can take up to 10 years to achieve language, how can we ensure that our students receive a fair and equal opportunity
  
39. Affiliation: Ayianna, Puuhale student

- a. Great teachers and a great
40. Affiliation: Jay Harmon. Parent of Puuhale
- a. GE daughter to school, Miracle in the DOE
  - b. Bad to create a mega school.
  - c. Public Education, produces taxpayers.
41. Affiliation: Momi Akana, Keiki o Ka'aina
- a. Kalihi schools are far too vulnerable to bear the burden of the budget cuts
  - b. DOE status shows that Kalihi Schools have the highest ELL populations that have greater needs
  - c. High disadvantaged showing greater needs and challenges.
  - d. We need classroom space for the different programs for those needs
  - e. Costs for bus passes, etc.. greater hardships for the families
  - f. We need low student to teacher ratios.
  - g. Don't make over-crowding another problem a result of short sightedness.
42. Affiliation: Jenn Pangelino, Parent of Kalihi Elementary
- a. Son in robotics
  - b. Find the money elsewhere
43. Affiliation: Hal Fraser, 4 year old parent at Kalihi
- a. Personalization at the school, son recognized and greeted everyday.
  - b. SPED into DOE, transition was easy,
  - c. Educational system powerful, son made huge gains in half a year.
  - d. Schools were opened because of the needs of the community, growing population
44. Affiliation: Jeri Frazer, Teacher, but also a parent of a special needs student
- a. Teachers and program is excellent, but what will happen to son if have to be absorbed at another school.
  - b. Will son's needs
  - c. Bus costs, etc...
45. Affiliation: Mele Tau, Alumni of Puuhale
- a. Very angry
  - b. Kids will be separated from friends
  - c. I will support Puuhale to be a better place for students to be in, begin your dreams in elementary, now I am in college.
46. Affiliation: Sione Tau, Former Student, Now attending University of Colorado at Boulder
- a. It is a great school.
  - b. Learned to pursue and have a passion for what you love.
  - c. Seeing the children fight for their school, made me want to testify.
  - d. Numbers on a paper don't mean anything, numbers here do.
47. Affiliation: Ben Akana, parent of SPED child in Kalihi Elementary
- a. Needs met because of the special teachers at kalihi El.
  - b. Please find the money elsewhere, do what is right, pono
  - c.
48. Affiliation: Justin Kealanahale, Current student at Farrington High School

- a. In T-Shirt Theater, ROTC, alumni of Puuhale
  - b. Instilled values at Puuhale
  - c. I was the student that Mr. Kunihiro spoke about.
49. Affiliation: Precious Balguna, student puuhale
- a. I feel part of a family
  - b. Please don't close our school
50. Affiliation: Romy Cachola, Councilman
- a. Lend support to keep the schools open
  - b. School proven themselves
  - c. Should not balance the budget on the backs of the poor and the needy.
51. Affiliation: Vaeda, student of Puuhale
- a. A good school to be happy