

Testimony Summary

1. Students – 8 First Graders

- Sang “There’s a little word only five letters that will live forever . .Aloha”

2. Karen Tsuchiyama

- Former principal – supports maintaining the school
- QLS personally dedicated by the Queen – 100 years ago
- Lots of grants written to support the school – dedicated to the Queen
- QLS remains a model of the Queen’s love of children and learning – should be kept forever as a place of learning representing the Queen’s legacy
- Could be a great community center

3. Kauihe Kong

- Attended QLS 18 yrs ago
- Participated in several extracurricular activities such as PE and music
- Traveled to Washington D.C. as a 5th grader – books came to life with these experiences
- Went on to Jarrett Middle, Kamehameha (2005), UH – received a BA in Travel Industry management
- Keep QLS for its history and academics

4. Julia McCullen

- Retired librarian – 2000, GT teacher
- “deeply” opposed to closing
- Many attempts to close in past caused great sadness
- No other school here in Hawaii dedicated by namesake monarch
- “I strongly believe when Queen Liliuokalani laid the cornerstone she believed it would always be there to serve children”

5. Susan Mizukami

- Retired teacher, school counselor, works as a PTT at QLS
- Several issues to be considered
 - Financial savings – business needs to have monetary profit – not schools
 - Hard data vs. soft data – to stay open we need to commit to do better
 - Potential use of campus

6. Rick Jones

- Daughter Stephanie attends SPED pre-school
- Fears her environment will be changed and interactions with other students are important
- Closing would be disruptive to Stephanie
- Please don’t close school

7. Lyle Bullock

- Parent of first grader, business man, tax payer
- Doesn’t think school should close based on study – can’t understand it
- HAR 838 –
 - Classrooms used by outside organizations
 - Social impact on child, family, community
 - No talk about community
 - How staff is moved, adjustment
 - 60% of neighborhood students of QLS attend other schools
- We won’t save any money – QLS needs to stay

8. Emily

- Please keep my school open – we have the best teachers
- I've learned to read

9. Jan Bullock

- Member of FQLS (Friends of Queen Liliuokalani School)
- Strongly oppose closing – attended BOE, met w/ Calvin Say, Barbara Maramoto
- 10/20/10 – Kaimuki Neighborhood Board passed a resolution not to close QLS
- Group has written letters, waved signs, collected signatures, art work in support of keeping QLS open

10. Brian Kang

- Parent of 2 students at QLS, Parent rep on SCC
- Draft report only considers closing 1 school
- Public Hearing supposed to occur 60 days after the notice to public
- BOE has not taken action on PH – this night significantly beyond required date
- DOE needs to follow the rules “ I object to this hearing being held”
- Request – DOE should provide direct notice of the hearing to parents
- I hope board will vote not to close

11. Devon Peterson

- Parent of thriving student
- Perverse incentive to actively close thriving schools
- School is falling through the looking glass – starved for leadership
- Current principal stifled attempts of SCC to prevent closing
- Since 2000 – 9 principals – in 10 years
- This is an orchestrated attempt to make QLS a prime candidate for closure
- Where is the accountability?
- My child thrives – goal should be to return QLS to vibrant school it once was

12. Sanford Yee

- Attended QLS in 1952, returned to live in Kaimuki in 1980
- Began teaching as a PTT – taught ELL, SPED – taught for 20 yrs.
- Children became alumni of QLS
- QLS considered one of Hawaii's most endangered sites – Honolulu Magazine
- Urge to keep open

13. Calvin Say

- Representing himself and Scott Nishimoto – both oppose closure
 - QLS is a community fixture – brings a physical presence to the community
 - Neighborhood School – 63% enrolled come from the area
 - State Budget savings - \$370,000 due to small school adjustment – will this savings be realized ?
 - DOE – should consider using school to advance RTTT, as a preschool , for a pilot project or innovation

14. Nanette Cruz

- Representing Hawaiian Club (. . .didn't get name of club)
- Queen left special gift for all Hawaiians – Queen continually expressed aloha for children – DOE should recognize that maintaining her legacy is our mission
- Remove idea of closure from the table

15. Verne Williams

- Representing a Hawaiian Civic Club
- Cooperate with community to come up with solutions
- Here's an opportunity to do something different for our children

16. Lelia Ng

- Former student – 18 yrs. Ago, attended Jarett Middle, Kaimuki HS and UH. Competed for Miss Hawaii
- QLS had a sense of community and family. Numerous activities shaped who I am

- No other school dedicated by a Queen
- Unique environment – builds character and sense of community

17. Lynette Yuen

- Former Teacher at QLS
- Proposal – Charter School in the daytime, Hawaiian Cultural Center open after school, at night and weekends
- Center would curtail juvenile delinquency, drugs, prostitution - help youth be productive
- Call upon Kupuna, Boys and Girls Club, other foundations to help at the center

18. Dwight Synan

- Member of Palolo neighborhood board
- Kaimuki NB #4 and Palolo NB #6 passed a resolution to keep QLS open
- Neighbor parents greatly concerned about closure

19. Solomon Kam

- Kupuna from 1982-1997
- Opposed to closure – people want to disturb the Queen’s legacy

20. Michelle Puasa

- Single parent of three children who attend QLS
- QLS – a vital part of the community – small class size, close community- unique history, quality education
- 4th grade Isaiah – has some special needs – Teachers all help him, not identified as SPED

21. Tristan Puasa

- Siblings all attend(ed) – mom is single parent
- Siblings have all blossomed and grown at QLS – small nurturing environment
- Closure would affect our family – let’s make this about keiki not money

22. Lori Yamada

- Lifelong resident of Kaimuki, on the Kaimuki Neighborhood Board, active in the community
- Asking for support to not close the school
- Negative effect – elementary schools bring new families
- Savings of other schools should be shared with all – Use it or lose it
- Opposes closure of school

23. Andrea Kimura

- Parent of first grader
- Applied son to private schools – enrolled in QLS – happy with small class, family activities
- Give QLS a chance. Say you’re going to leave it open for a designated time – we can boost enrollment
- Enrollment is jeopardized if school is always under the threat of being closed.

24. Barbara Marumoto

- Believes in value of small schools, small classes – opposes closure
- History and tradition speak for themselves – will be 100 years old
- Suggested someone check on accuracy of savings
- Make sure proper procedure is followed for consolidation – call the AG – or she could write to the AG for an opinion

25. Wayne Watkins

- Head of UH Manoa Children’s Center – looked for a place to create an inclusion setting
- The school is a “holy” place, dynamic learning place, historic place
- 35 students – were welcomed into the Liliuokalani family when they came
- Consider children who need small intimate places to learn

26. Laurie S .

- Strongly opposed to closing
- Son Dylan attends QLS, several family members have attended over time
- She and husband work on campus as EAs – Transferring would be disruptive

27. **Pono Kealoha**

- QLS has a different meaning for me – the Queen is a saint
- I'm part of the Sovereign Nation of Hawaii – time to teach the children the real TRUTH

28. **Karen Murray**

- Substitute teacher for the last 4 years – been to many schools and in many different situations
- Niece attended QLS – had Down's Syndrome – had an amazing experience as a student
- QLS – an ideal we should be shooting for not closing down

29. **Kahu Manu**

- The Queen loves you all – she loved children – she's already been hurt – stop

30. _____ **Peterson**

- I like this school more than any school – Please keep this school open

31. **Stanley Chang**

- Supporting QLS – large number of other users – Jazzercise, polling place – important part of the community – is what makes Kaimuki special

32. **Michi** _____

- I urge you to keep the school open – attended school during the 90's
- Smallness contributed to nature of caring – easy to get lost in the system – parents emigrated from Japan – Teachers were very supportive
- Many leadership opportunities in the small setting that I wouldn't have tried at a larger school
- Kalani High grad, Georgetown University, and Richardson La wSchool second year
- Can't quantify caring at a school like QLS