

**BILL026(22)**  
**Testimony**

**MISC. COMM. 335**

EXECUTIVE MATTERS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

## **EXECUTIVE MATTERS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS Meeting**

Meeting Date: Aug 23, 2022 @ 10:30 AM

Support: 0

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

Name: Zhizi XIONG	Email: Alohdivinedesign@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: CARES Community Art Recreation Education Services	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Aug 23, 2022 @ 10:16 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Dear chair, vice chair &amp; members of the committee,</p> <p>I'm Zhizi Xiong and I'm testifying on behalf of CARES Community Art Recreation Education Services, our afterschool class is registered with the Hawaii Afterschool Alliance. HAA drafts and testifies for legislations at the Capitol in regards to education.</p> <p>For one of our concepts, we creat "CARE packages" to share with the community. We then give people in the community, neighbors, various organizations, nonprofits, churches, small businesses the gifts.</p> <p>We don't want our gifts to be seen as bribes but I understand why one may be hesitant to accept any kine gifts, especially in today's climate of corruption. So I'm wondering how is this resolution drafted, and is it an arbitrary decision to say, we will take gifts from the Royal Hawaiian Band because they are established and trustworthy but we won't take gifts from a grassroots organization or a small business because it could be a bribe?</p> <p>We hope to partner with our local representatives &amp; senators for fundraising opportunities as it will be mutually beneficial. Many of the representatives &amp; senators like to promote charitable causes. They like to get involved in our district &amp; our community. A lot of the legislators like to hear from our children about education. The legislators prioritize children &amp; youths. Without these opportunities to share what we do, our art classes and economic opportunities which are mutually beneficial will be limited to who it will reach. Policies like this have created what is an unintentional barrier for organizations like CARES.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to testify.</p>		