

Date of Hearing: Friday, February 1, 2008

Committee: House Committee on Education

Board: Education

Person Testifying: Donna Ikeda, Chairperson, Board of Education

Title of Bill: H.B. No. 3220, Relating to Education

Purpose of Bill: Amends the Charter School Law by: (1) Allowing the Board of Education (Board) to remove a member of the Charter School Review Panel (Panel) as may be necessary; (2) Amending the definition of "organizational viability" under the Charter School Law to include that charter schools are to comply with all Board policies; and (3) Specifying that the Panel is subject to the Sunshine Law (Chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes).

Board's Position: Chairperson Takumi, Vice Chairperson Berg, and members of the House Committee on Education, thank you for this opportunity to testify in **support** of H.B. No. 3220.

The legislation before you is a Board-initiated bill. Act 115, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007 authorized the Board with the power to appoint members to the Charter School Review Panel. The Board believes that there may be a time when there is compelling reason to remove a member or members from the Panel. Just as appointment power was granted to the Board, we believe that the Board should have the authority and responsibility to remove members from the Panel as necessary.

H.B. No. 3220 also amends the definition of “organizational viability” to include that charter schools are to comply with all Board policies. As the State Education Agency, the Board asserts that all public schools, whether they are charter schools or Department of Education schools, must comply with statewide educational policies.

Finally, H.B. No. 3220 makes existing statutes consistent by specifying that the Charter School Review Panel is subject to the Sunshine Law.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. No. 3220.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

Testimony to the House Committee on Education
Hearing Date: Friday, February 1, 2008
2:15p.m. – Conference Room 309

Shawn Malia Kana'iaupuni, PhD
Director, Public Education Support (PEdS) Division

Thursday, January 31, 2008

Re: HB 3220 – Relating to Education

Good afternoon Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Berg and members of the House Committee on Education. My name is Shawn Malia Kana'iaupuni, PhD, Director, Public Education Support (PEdS) Division of Kamehameha Schools. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB 3220.

We believe that the charter school review panel should be subject to Hawaii's sunshine law.

Kamehameha Schools has been a collaborator in the charter school movement for more than six years now. As part of our Education Strategic plan, KS hopes to significantly impact more Hawaiian children ages 0-8 and grades 4-16+, and their families/ caregivers over the next five years, in collaboration with others whenever possible.

Currently, Kamehameha Schools collaborates with nonprofit tax-exempt organizations, including `Aha Pūnana Leo, OHA, KALO and Ho`okāko`o Corporation, to assist a total of 14 start-up and 3 conversion charters. Kamehameha Schools believes that this collaboration provides more positive educational choices and ultimately academic achievement for Hawaiian students. Through these collaborations, Kamehameha Schools currently assists more than 3,000 students in 13 communities statewide within the public education system.

In a recently released report entitled, "Longitudinal Outcomes for Hawaiian-focused charter schools," the Kamehameha Schools research team concluded that Hawaiian-focused charter schools are implementing viable educational strategies, making significant gains over time for the lowest-achieving students. Supporting and replicating the successful strategies found in Hawaiian-focused charter schools may generate a promising return on investment for Hawaiian education throughout the public school system.

Kamehameha Schools supports the intent of HB 3220 which is to provide a greater measure of support for charter schools.

We appreciate this opportunity to submit comments on HB 3220 and support the initiatives of the legislature to further enhance charter schools.