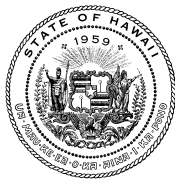


**HB 1686**



**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

Testimony of  
**Linda L. Smith**  
Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor

Before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING**  
Friday, March 20, 2009, 1:30 p.m.  
Room 225, State Capitol

**H.B. 1686, HD2 RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS**

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **opposition** to H.B. 1686, HD2. This bill repeals the charter school per-pupil funding formula and requires charter schools to follow the same budgetary request process used by other state agencies.

The Administration appreciates the Legislature's efforts this session to address longstanding problems with public charter school funding; however, this bill is not a viable remedy.

The current bill language repeals the per-pupil funding formula but does not provide statutory language detailing the alternative budget structure that will serve in its place. In the absence of key details, we have serious concerns that the bill may be interpreted to give either or both the Legislature and the Charter School Administrative Office (CSAO) line-item budget control over the individual budgets of Hawaii's public charter schools. In essence, this would take away charter schools' independence and fiscal flexibility.

It is beneficial to remember that charters, by their nature, are designed to exist outside the traditional school system. The underlying philosophy of charter schools is to provide, in the words of the original Act 62 passed in 1999, "truly flexible and self defining alternatives for public schools...free from bureaucratic red tape." The purpose of charter schools is to serve as the educational laboratories of our State. In order for charter schools to carry out this mission, they must be granted the authority to execute student-based budgeting, as is currently allowed under the per-pupil funding formula.

The Administration is cognizant that the per-pupil funding formula currently in statute is not perfect. For that reason we introduced Administrative bills S.B. 899 and H.B. 1081 which proposed dual formulas to meet per-pupil and facilities funding needs. These proposed amendments to the funding formula are attached for the Committee's consideration. We continue to support collaboration amongst stakeholders to craft an equitable funding formula.

Lastly, we request inclusion of general fund appropriations of \$12,000,000 for FY 2010 and FY 2011. This funding request was originally proposed in the Administration's charter school bills. Please note that the Department of Budget and Finance has included this funding for charter schools in their budget plan in recognition of the funding cuts that charter schools experienced last year as well as the increased enrollment of charter school students.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

SECTION . Chapter 302B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to read as follows:

**"§302B- Facilities funding.** (a) Beginning with fiscal year 2009-2010, and for each fiscal year thereafter, a facilities funding amount for charter school students shall be appropriated provided that:

(1) A facilities funding amount shall be funded based on actual lease and rent costs incurred by charter schools that are not conversion charter schools.

(2) Repair and maintenance monies for conversion and non conversion charter schools shall be based on the actual projected repair and maintenance needs for the budget period."

SECTION . Section 302B-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

**"§302B-12 Funding and finance.** (a) Beginning with fiscal year [~~2006-2007,~~] 2009-2010, and each fiscal year thereafter, [~~the office shall submit a request for general fund appropriations for each charter school based upon:~~] the per-pupil funding amount for charter school students shall:

(1) [~~The~~] Provide funding for actual and projected enrollment figures in the current school year for each

charter school[+], including projected enrollment counts for schools that have applied to the panel for a charter prior to August 31; and

- (2) A per-pupil amount for each regular education and special education student, which shall be equivalent to the total per-pupil cost based upon average enrollment in all regular education cost categories, including comprehensive school support services but excluding special education services, and ~~[for]~~ shall include all means of financing appropriated in the most recently enacted department of education budget except [federal funds, as reported in the most recently approved executive budget recommendations for the department; provided that in preparing the budget the executive director shall include an analysis of the proposed budget in relationship to the most recently published department consolidated annual financial report; provided further that the legislature may make an adjustment to the per-pupil allocation for the purposes of this section; and] fringe benefit costs, debt service, and federal funds.

~~[(3) Those fringe benefit costs requested shall be included in the department of budget and finance's annual budget request. No fringe benefit costs shall be~~

~~charged directly to or deducted from the charter school per pupil allocations unless they are already included in the funds distributed to the charter school.~~

~~The legislature shall make an appropriation based upon the budget request; provided that the legislature may make additional appropriations for fringe, workers' compensation, and other employee benefits, facility costs, and other requested amounts.~~

~~The governor, pursuant to chapter 37, may impose restrictions or reductions on charter school appropriations similar to those imposed on other public schools.]~~

(b) Beginning with fiscal year 2009-2010, and for each fiscal year thereafter, the office shall submit a request for capital improvement project funding based on a prioritized matrix of projects approved by the panel.

(c) Fringe benefit costs for charter school employees shall be included in the department of budget and finance's annual budget appropriation. Fringe benefit costs paid directly by a charter school to a payroll system provider shall be reimbursed by the department of budget and finance to the charter school on a quarterly basis. No fringe benefit costs shall be charged directly to or deducted from the charter school per-pupil allocation.

(d) The legislature shall provide funding for charter schools based upon the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) and (c); provided that the legislature shall make additional appropriations for fringe benefits, workers' compensation, and other employee benefits. The legislature may make additional appropriations for other requested amounts that benefit charter schools including capital improvement projects.

The governor, pursuant to chapter 37, may impose restrictions or reductions on charter school appropriations similar to those imposed on other public schools.

~~[(b)]~~(e) Charter schools shall be eligible for all federal financial support to the same extent as all other public schools. The department shall provide the office with all state-level federal grant proposals submitted by the department that include charter schools as potential recipients and timely reports on state-level federal grants received for which charter schools may apply or are entitled to receive. Federal funds received by the department for charter schools shall be transferred to the office for distribution to charter schools in accordance with the federal requirements. If administrative services related to federal grants and subsidies are provided to the charter school by the department, the charter school shall reimburse the department for the actual costs of the administrative services in an amount that shall not exceed six

and one-half per cent of the charter school's federal grants and subsidies.

Any charter school shall be eligible to receive any supplemental federal grant or award for which any other public school may submit a proposal, or any supplemental federal grants limited to charter schools; provided that if department administrative services, including funds management, budgetary, fiscal accounting, or other related services, are provided with respect to these supplemental grants, the charter school shall reimburse the department for the actual costs of the administrative services in an amount that shall not exceed six and one-half per cent of the supplemental grant for which the services are used.

All additional funds generated by the local school boards, that are not from a supplemental grant, shall be held separate from allotted funds and may be expended at the discretion of the local school boards.

~~(e)~~(f) To enable charter schools to access state funding prior to the start of each school year, foster their fiscal planning, and enhance their accountability, the office shall:

- (1) Provide fifty per cent of a charter school's per-pupil allocation based on the charter school's projected student enrollment no later than July 20 of each fiscal year; provided that the charter school shall



have submitted to the office a projected student enrollment no later than May 15 of each year;

- (2) Provide an additional forty per cent of a charter school's per-pupil allocation no later than November 15 of each year; provided that the charter school shall have submitted to the office:
  - (A) Student enrollment as verified on October 15 of each year; provided that the student enrollment shall be verified on the last business day immediately prior to October 15 should that date fall on a weekend; and
  - (B) An accounting of the percentage of student enrollment that transferred from public schools established and maintained by the department; provided that these accountings shall also be submitted by the office to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the start of each regular session; and
- (3) Retain the remaining ten per cent of a charter school's per-pupil allocation no later than January 1 of each year as a contingency balance to ensure fiscal accountability;

provided that the panel may make adjustments in allocations based on noncompliance with federal and state reporting

requirements, the office's administrative procedures, and board-approved accountability requirements.

~~(d)~~(g) The department shall provide appropriate transitional resources to a conversion charter school for its first year of operation as a charter school based upon the department's allocation to the school for the year prior to the conversion.

~~(e)~~(h) No start-up charter school or conversion charter school may assess tuition."

SECTION . In order to accommodate new charter school students, there is appropriated out of the general revenues of the state of Hawaii the sum of \$12,000,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010, and \$12,000,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011, for costs associated with the operation of charter schools. This appropriation is in addition to the monies appropriated pursuant to the state biennium budget enacted in the 2009 legislative session. The sums appropriated shall be expended by the charter school administrative office.

**Date:** 03/20/2009

**Committee:** Senate Education and Housing

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 1686,HD2(HSCR965) RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Eliminates the per-pupil method of funding for charter schools, requiring the charter schools to follow the same budgetary request process as other state agencies. Requires the Charter School Administrative Office to submit a report of all means of financing with its budgetary request to the Director of Finance. (HB1686 HD2)

**Department's Position:** The Department of Education supports HB 1686, HD2. The statutes regarding the calculation of charter school funding have been revised over time, as the state has attained additional experience with charter schools. In implementing Section 302B-12 for the past three years, there have been conflicting approaches to calculating the "per pupil" amount. This bill provides the Charter School Administrative Office the opportunity to develop and defend its own approach to calculating the budget for charter schools.



**H.B. 1686 H.D. 2, RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING**

Senate Committee on Education and Housing

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

March 20, 2009

1:30p.m.

Room 225

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Mahalo for this opportunity to advocate on behalf of our Native Hawaiian beneficiaries attending charter schools across these islands, and to provide testimony on this measure, The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **opposes** this amended legislation, **H.B. 1686 H.D.2.**

Since 2005, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs has been a supporter of the charter school movement, and has collaborated in partnership with the Kamehameha Schools' Ho'olako Like program, 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Ho'okāko'o Corporation and other non-profit organizations supporting 15+ Hawaiian-focused charter schools statewide, where Native Hawaiians make up about 88% of the student population. While we support the intent of this legislation to provide equitable funding and do appreciate the effort of the House members to recognize the need to fund charters in a fundamentally fair manner, we believe that the per pupil formula will provide the best mechanism to ensure that future student population increases in charter schools are addressed.

Although we oppose **H.B 1686 H.D.2**, OHA urges your support of measures intended to ensure equitable funding and the ongoing success of Hawaiian-focused charter schools. Mahalo.

Linda Lingle  
Governor



Vanelle Maunalei Love  
Executive Director

**Charter School Administrative Office**

1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Tel: 586-3775 Fax: 586-3776

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**FOR:** HB1686, HD2 Relating to Charter Schools  
**DATE:** Friday, March 20, 2009  
**TIME:** 1:30 p.m.  
**COMMITTEE(S):** Committee on Education and Housing  
**ROOM:** Conference Room 225  
**FROM:** Maunalei Love, Executive Director

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Testimony in **opposition** to H.B. No. 1686 HD2, **with proposed revision**

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

Aloha, I am Maunalei Love, executive director of the Charter School Administrative Office (“CSAO”). I want to thank the chair and the entire committee for the time and effort being spent to remedy the issue of properly funding the public charter schools. In all my years advocating for the charters, the statutory formula for funding the Public Charter Schools has never thoroughly been applied when making the Charter Schools’ appropriation.

This bill seeks to remedy this problem (and equitably fund the charter schools) by completely removing the formula funding mechanism for the charter schools, thereby requiring the executive director of the CSAO to submit a detailed, line item budget request (presumably based on the individual detailed budget requests of each of the 31 charter schools). Also, presumably, the CSAO would be required to determine and allocate whatever was appropriated. Although I appreciate the effort to look for a solution, I must oppose the bill in this form and this approach for the following reasons:

1. Diseconomies of scale – Charters are able to be efficient (i.e. they have thrived despite being under-funded all these years) because the formula causes the money to follow the child by providing educational services based on the number of students. The reason that DOE must look at closing schools is that they have individual schools that cost too much for the number of students that they are serving; they’re maintaining and running a big bus to serve a group that could fit in a van. As a matter of fact, the superintendent has stated that she would like to go to a per-pupil formula for the department schools.
2. Currently, charters get a per-pupil amount and then maximize the value that those funds can purchase to provide educational services. Being made a part of the “regular” budget exercises like other state agencies (not other public schools) will force them into the undesirable position of maximizing their spending rather than efficiency and thrift.
3. Even the DOE doesn’t use individual school budgeting for operational funding to the schools; they use the weighted student formula.

4. The unique approaches of each charter school leads to disparate needs in each area of their budgets. If B&F or the Legislature decides to cut one particular line item in the CS overall budget, it will severely impact some schools and have negligible effects on others. This circumstance would violate our state constitution by treating some students better/worse than others, solely based on the school and its type of educational and administrative model.
5. Size matters – because of the small size of most of our schools, and the unique and efficient ways that charters operate, they don't have any "hidden contingency" funds. For instance, many agencies can shift money from vacant positions or "other" unused funds in their department to make up for budget shortfalls in other line items. Individual charter schools (and probably small individual department schools) don't have the "hidden contingency funds" to do this.
6. It will greatly increase the workload of CSAO, B&F, WAM, and FIN and the Charter schools themselves.
7. Retaining the formula is essential to ensure maximum access to the federal funds in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for SY 09-10 and SY 10-11 (because a big chunk of money is allocated via statutory formula to ensure that school funding be maintained at the level of funding that the formula provided for SY 07-08).
8. Reverses the nationwide trend toward decentralization and moving decision-making as close to the classroom as possible.
9. Requires the CSAO to micromanage the schools and allocate funds pursuant to line item funding. This would be a substantial change in the authority and role of the CSAO and the Executive Director that is not authorized in the rest of the statute, nor is it appropriate.
10. We actually need to add a facilities support formula to allow us to pursue other federal grant money.

In President Barack Obama's speech to the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on March 10, 2009, regarding education in the United States, he mentions, "end(ing) what has become a race to the bottom in our schools and instead spur a race to the top...we are being outpaced by other nations. It's not that their kids are any smarter than ours—it's that they are being smarter about how to educate their children. They're spending less time teaching things that don't matter, and more time teaching things that do."

President Obama also states, "...the fourth part of America's education strategy- (is) promoting innovation and excellence in America's schools...One of the places where much of that innovation occurs is in our most effective charter schools...and these are public schools founded by parents, teachers, and civic or community organizations with broad leeway to innovate- schools I supported as a state legislator and a United States senator..."

Clearly, if we are to promote and support excellence in our schools, then Hawaii's charters, many on the cutting edge of innovation, deserve the equitable funding they have been struggling to achieve since their conception. Our public school students deserve to have an equitable amount of funding that is spent on education in our state.

Looking back on what has been appropriated to Hawaii's charter schools, we will see years of inequity in many areas of funding...from federal funds, Special Education and facilities, to the amount that goes to each pupil.

This current school year, Hawaii charter school students are receiving approximately 8.8% less per pupil than they did in school year 2007-08. With the amount approved by the Governor for the next biennium (approximately 60 million for SY 2009-10), charters will see a two year decrease (2008-09 & 2009-10) of 17.7%.

Facilities needs and support is another area where charters have felt the disparity. I do believe that this year, the legislature understands that funding support for facilities should be included in the appropriation to charter schools.

I ask that the Legislature remedy this disparity in funding and take an honest look at bringing parity to all public school students. We are all tired of having to address the issue of equal funding for charter schools year after year. Hawaii's charters are schools our state should be proud of. We should be saying, "Look at what Hawaii's charter schools are accomplishing. We are honored to call them ours!"

I continue to support the proper funding of the public charter schools and commend the committee for its attention and support to ensuring that this issue be resolved. However, I believe that the language of this approach will create more problems than solutions. For these reasons, **I respectfully ask that this bill be substantially rewritten to use the "dual-formula" approach of SB496 SD2, with edits proposed in our testimony before the house committee on education on March 18, 2009.** The CSAO is ready, willing, and able to help with such a revision.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

## **TESTIMONY OF Tom Macdonald in opposition to HB1686HD2 at Senate EDH Hearing on March 20, 2009 at 1:30 PM**

My name is Tom Macdonald and I am testifying on behalf of the Charter School Review Panel.

The Panel appreciates the continuing efforts of this Committee to come up with a workable per pupil formula to support Charter Schools.

The Panel was initially intrigued by the concept set forth in HB1686HD2, which abandoned the concept of a per pupil formula and called for the Charter School Administrative Office to submit a budget based on its needs like most other government departments do.

However, after extensive discussion with the charter school directors we came to share their concern that the downside risk of submitting a budget not tied to a per pupil formula was very high. This concern is primarily a result of several years experience with Budget and Finance arbitrarily cutting charter school funding even when a statutory formula existed. Charters have not received the amount called for in the statutory formula even once. For example, B&F deleted over \$170 million of debt service funds from the calculation base for the upcoming biennium, which resulted in a reduction of over \$1,100 per pupil in the approved charter budget.

So there is great fear at the schools that without a formula B&F might even be more arbitrary and the schools could receive even less than they are now receiving.

So we must **oppose** the funding concept contained in HB1686HD2 and ask that a per pupil funding formula be continued.

That being said, the Panel notes that the per pupil formula contained in SB496HD2 significantly reduces the base on which the calculation is made from the existing statutory formula by limiting the calculation to "general funds" only. The Panel will submit detailed testimony on this issue when SB496 is heard again.

Once again, the Panel appreciates all the time and effort this Committee and its Staff have put in on seeking equitable charter school funding.



HB1686 HD2

Testimony in Opposition

Aloha Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Kidani, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

It has taken us several years, but we have managed to drill down into the current public charter school statutory funding process in Act 115, and have come away with what we now believe is meaningful clarity. While the current proposal in HB1686 regarding the public charter school funding mechanism is interesting, we must note that it asks us to set aside known quantities in favor of a fresh set of unknowns.

We hope Sen. Sakamoto and his committee will understand our reluctance to embrace it.

Yet, we thank Rep. Takumi and House EDN for their willingness to continue work on the notion of fair and understandable funding for our students. We assure him, as well as this Committee and the entire legislative body, that we share in the frustration swirling around our little schools with regard to gnawing questions of fairness.

With that said, we respectfully ask the Committee to pardon the candor of the following:

There is a troubling misperception in some policy circles that public charter school leaders believe we are somehow exempt from the deep budget woes of these interesting times.

Without equivocation, this is simply incorrect.

When charter school leaders come before you, we are without exception advocating for the support of each individual student in our charge via the per pupil allocation in statute. In our understanding of our role, we are duty-bound to advocate persistently and passionately for fair support for the children and families we serve. Please note that educational dollars allocated to the public charter schools are not actually for *position counts, buildings, current service, workload increases, or other faceless budgetary nouns*. We further urge each member of this committee to consider that in 2007 students received \$8,149 each in support from the legislature. In the current year, it is about \$7,560. In the first year of the coming biennium, we expect that level to drop to well below \$7,000.

We strongly encourage all policymakers to contemplate what that means: each public charter school child and their taxpaying parent deserves a semblance of fair support on a consistent per child, per capita, per student basis. They also deserve access to school choice.

Let one thing be *perfectly* clear: Public charter school growth is driven by *public demand*. Enrollment waitlists at charter schools currently total in the thousands, which means

demand is clearly *not* in fact being met, and schools are not in fact taking more students than they should. Growing enrollments are tied by statute to growing budgetary requirements. Otherwise, setting a ceiling is just like pulling numbers out of the air.

That is not service to students. It is disservice. On top of this, the removal of support for SSC position means a further reduction of approx \$2mil, which equates to \$240 per pupil, which is an further cut of 3% off the present budget. It was the Department's decision to cut support for this essential Felix-related function by moving the positions our of EDN150 into a general education category, even though the SSC role is primarily to serve SPED functions, and was directly developed as a strategy for the Felix Consent Decree.

We have deep misgivings that the funding mechanism in HB1686 will promulgate another long round of guessing what level of support our students shall receive. We cannot in good conscience take on another long slog at the ongoing expense of our students and their families. On behalf of taxpaying parents, we continue to advocate that each of their children be funded as intended in statute. We respectfully point out that shortfalls per student cannot be reconciled as "budget increases". Declines in per pupil allocations do not short "schools", or some faceless "department", or us loud-mouthed principals—it boils down to support for each child.

In closing, please be assured that Hawai'i's public charter schools never—*ever*—think of themselves as exempt from the burden of sacrifice currently facing our entire state. We do not, however, believe our school children and their families should bear a disproportionate burden via significant reductions in per pupil support, nor should they be denied access to our schools as a strategy to artificially hold down EDN600.

Sincerely,

Alapaki Nahale-A, President  
Susan Osborne, Vice-President  
Curtis Muraoka, Secretary  
Steven Hirakami, Treasurer

***Hawai'i Charter Schools Network***

**Representing the Unified Voice of Hawai'i's 31 Public Charter Schools**

To: The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Education and Housing

From: Lynn Fallin, Executive Director  
Ho'okako'o Corporation

John Colson, Chief Education and Executive Officer  
Waimea Middle School

Glen Kila, Administrator  
Kamaile Academy

Clarence DeLude, Administrator  
Kamaile Academy

Lydia Trinidad, Principal  
Kualapu'u School

Date: March 20, 2009

Time: 1:30 pm

Location: State Capitol  
Room 225

Subject House Bill (HB) 1686 HD 2 Relating to Charter Schools

The Ho'okako'o Corporation (HC) and its' partner schools – Waimea Middle School, Kamaile Academy and Kualapu'u School, thank the legislature for its efforts and support over the years to clarify and to resolve many of the policies that affect charter school students.

HB 1686 HD2 raises many questions and concerns. We appreciate the bill recognizing the need to fund charters in a manner that is fundamentally fair; however, we believe that the per pupil formula will provide the best mechanism going forward to ensure that future student population increases and needs are addressed. Therefore, we do not support the proposed changes in HB 1686 HD 2. HC and its partner schools raise questions and concerns in good faith and in the interest of seeking resolution to funding for charter schools.

The creation of conversion charter schools was made possible in 2002 when the Hawaii legislature passed Act 2. The Act expanded education choices through charter conversion schools in Hawaii and allows eligible non-profit organizations to manage and operate conversion schools and to provide a \$1 match for every \$4 state dollars. The matching funds are intended to enrich and not to supplant state funding of public schools.

Conversion charter schools have a unique role in the charter world because we are the feeder schools for the geographical communities like our DOE counterparts. We accept all children residing within the public school service area and very sensitive to fluctuations in student enrollment. During the 2008-2009 legislative session, the charter schools budget allocation resulted in a actual/real reduction of the student per pupil allocation from about \$8150 per pupil for SY 2007-2008 to about \$7588 per pupil for SY 2008-2009. Further reductions would be very detrimental and challenging to the schools.

### Three HC Conversion Charter Schools

The three HC conversion charter schools are in communities with significant socio-economic need. On October 15, 2008, the official student enrollment count date for charter schools, the three schools enrollment for SY 2008-2009 is 1444 students or almost 19% of the charter school enrollment.

- Waimea Middle School, a 6 - 8 grade conversion charter school in Waimea on Hawai'i Island, 357 students
- Kualapu'u Elementary School, a K-6 conversion charter school on Molokai, 375 students
- Kamaile Academy, a K-8 conversion charter school in Waianae on Oahu, 712 students

#### School Concerns:

In SY 2006-2007, the state BOE made a decision to support Waikoloa Elementary School expansion on the Big Island from a K-5 school to a K-8 school. Waikoloa was a feeder school to Waimea Middle School, a public conversion charter school. Waimea Middle's enrollment has been reduced significantly due to the expansion. The Waimea school community is pleased that the students of Waikoloa now have a community school and do not have to commute to Waimea; however as a result of the K-8 expansion, Waimea Middle's student enrollment has been reduced from about 530 students in the first year of conversion in SY 2004-2005 and decreased about 70-80 students from each school year to about 280 students anticipated in SY 09-10. The reduction in student enrollment is forcing WMS to reduce its budget and to make deep and painful cuts in faculty, staff and programs for students in SY 09-10.; Further cuts will be extremely detrimental to the school being able to deliver services to its' students and fulfill the terms of the charter and meet NCLB requirements.

Kamaile Academy's (KA) enrollment fluctuates dramatically during a school year because of the large number of houseless and homeless families and therefore it is very difficult to project the student enrollment. In addition to big fluctuations in enrollment, two of the five state's new homeless shelters and housing are located within the school's boundaries. HC is very concerned that the children that Kamaile serves need many more student support services i.e. enrichment activities and health and social services. KA is being very proactive in redesigning the school to meet the needs of the neediest of students and their families. Further reductions will seriously affect their plans.

When Kualapu`u School was faced with NCLB sanctions and school reconstitution, KUU chose to convert to charter status. KUU become school in good standing after making NCLB AYP for two consecutive years in SY 2006-2007 and 2007-2008. . Cuts erode Kualapu`u's School (KUU) to maintain its' excellent progress and its' ability to deliver services to the students it serves in very challenging economic times for the Molokai community. KUU employs 70 full and part time employees. The cuts may send a message to the school community and students that the hard work, commitment, performance and the positive results achieved by becoming an NCLB AYP in good standing do not matter.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Ho'okako'o Corporation is a private, non-profit organization established in 2002. Our mission is helping HC conversion chart schools reinvent themselves for the purpose of improving the academic achievement and

personal growth of their students. Collaborating with communities, educators, and families, Ho'okako'o provides conversion charter schools with expertise and resources to improve student achievement.

HC was established with a partnership between HC's volunteer board of directors and Kamehameha Schools. The non-profit HC volunteer board serves as the school board for the conversion charter school. HC provides and/or brokers technical support in organizational change, instructional expertise, organizational systems and supports, policy and interface with major stakeholders. As an HC partner, KS has contributed technical support and funding. HC and the partner conversion charter schools leverage resources and support from many additional partners, including philanthropic foundations and trusts, government, unions, business and family/community volunteers in order to benefit the conversion charter school as the school implements its plans..

As an education change agent, HC seeks partnerships with public school communities committed to implementing the following necessary conditions for conversion school success:

- Effective school leadership
- Capable teachers with high expectations and the skills to work together in focused learning communities
- Curriculum that is aligned, articulated, and integrated
- Parents and the greater community with a sense of ownership in the school and willingness to be part of the change process
- Personalized schools
- More time on instructional and co-curricular activities
- Data and results driven
- Supportive and effective policies and regulations

#### **Examples of School Outcomes/Results**

Overall each school has shown a trend of steady growth. Initial measures of success include:

##### **School Year 2006-07**

A growth in reading and math scores (at Kualapu'u); increased student attendance at Kualapu'u and Waimea; a decrease in the special education population due to improved identification, remediation, and curriculum (at Kualapu'u); new programs offered (at Kualapu'u and Waimea); greatly increased family involvement (Waimea); Waimea and Kualapu'u achieved NCLB AYP

##### **School Year 2007-08**

Kualapu'u met federal NCLB AYP targets for two consecutive years and was awarded school in good standing status.

HC, Waimea Middle School, Kamaile Academy and Kualapu'u School thank the legislature for the opportunity to provide information about HC and HC schools and to testify on this legislation.



March 18, 2009

## Testimony on HB1686

Committee: EDH  
Room: 225  
Hearing Date: 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM  
Bill: HB1686  
Position: Oppose

To the honorable Senator Norman Sakamoto, Senator Michelle Kidani, and other members of the EDH:

Charter schools are vital components of the Hawai'i's public education system, operating as centers for education innovation, with the goal of improving public education for all the keiki of Hawai'i.

In order for charter schools to perform this vital task, they must be funded equitably. While I **oppose** HB1686, I appreciate the diligent efforts of members of the EDH to simplify and clarify the funding mechanism for public charter schools. It is critical that charter school funding is transparent and understandable to the citizens of our state.

During these difficult economic times, it is incumbent upon our elected leaders to manage state funds prudently. The charter school community is not requesting that the legislature increase per-pupil funding. Rather, we ask that funding is maintained at the current per-pupil amount for the increasing charter school student population.

The intent to provide equitable funding embodied in HB1686 is laudable, but I believe that the per pupil formula provides the best mechanism to ensure that charter school enrollment growth increases are addressed.

Many thanks to the esteemed members of EDH for your ongoing support of the keiki enrolled in Hawai'i's public charter schools; the children are our future.

Sincerely,  
Chris Hecht  
Business Manager/Development Director  
Kona Pacific Public Charter School

**Testimony on HB1686**  
Pamela Hicks  
Kona Pacific PCS, SASA  
Hawaii County Democratic Party Secretary

Committee: EDH  
Room: 225  
Hearing Date: 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM  
Bill: HB1686  
Position: Oppose

To the honorable Senator Norman Sakamoto, Senator Michelle Kidani, and other members of the EDH:

I **oppose** House Bill 1686. I support Charter Schools and would like to see equitable funding for Charter Schools. I believe that the per pupil formula will provide the best mechanism going forward to ensure that future student population increases are addressed. I would like to see funding increased for Charter Schools through enrollment increases. Thank you for all the hard work you have done on behalf of our Keiki, Hawaii Charter Schools, and the future of our State.

Sincerely,  
Pamela Hicks  
Kona Pacific PCS, SASA  
Hawaii County Democratic Party Secretary



## Innovations Public Charter School

75-5815 Queen Ka'ahumanu Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740  
PH: 327-6205 FAX: (808)327-6209

March 17, 2009

Senate Education and Housing Committee  
March 20, 2009 1:30 PM

HB1686

Dear Chairman Senator Norman Sakamoto and Committee Members:

I am writing to **oppose** HB1686. I do support charter schools receiving equitable and fair funding but feel this bill falls short of our goal. Charter school enrollments are growing which will mean the budget for charter schools will need to increase. This increase needs to be tied to the increased enrollment. If you increase charter funding without considering the increased enrollment in charter schools, it is possible schools would end up with a decrease in per pupil funding. Our goal is to get to a sufficient per pupil amount that will sustain our schools and we are not yet at that point.

I applaud the hard work of the House Education members who recognize that public charter schools deserve fundamentally fair funding support. I appreciate that the ideas in HB1686 are attempting to provide equitable funding but at this point the per pupil formula appears to be the best mechanism to ensure that future student population increases will be addressed.

I thank you all for your continued support of public charter schools.

Much aloha,

Barbara Woerner  
Director  
Innovations PCS



## Testimony on HB1686

Diana Oshiro  
Principal

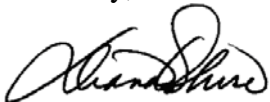
Committee: EDH  
Room: 225  
Hearing Date: 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM  
Bill: HB1686  
Position: Oppose

Chairperson Senator Norman Sakamoto, Senator Michelle Kidani, and members of the EDH:

Thompson Academy, like many other charter schools in Hawaii, is an “incubator” of ideas, environments and instructional strategies that, hopefully, will address school reform. We all strive to provide high quality standards-based curriculum to all students across the state. Thompson Academy seeks to provide access to special populations of students that include home-schoolers, at-risk populations, long-term hospitalized or home-hospital students, and students in very remote areas that do not have certain areas of coursework available to them through their traditional school. Without charters the needs of diverse population of students who flourish in non-traditional environments will not be met.

We **oppose** HB1686 but support the intent of equitable funding. We appreciate the hard work of the House Education committee but further desire your support for an increase of the per-pupil allocation or that the allocation not be decreased further. Thank you for your continued support for charters and the education of all students in the state of Hawaii.

Sincerely,



Diana Oshiro  
Principal  
Myron B. Thompson Academy



# K A W A I K I N I

*A New Century Public Charter School*

Senate Committee on Education & Housing

Hearing Date: March 20, 2009

1:30 p.m. – Room 225

*Mohala Aiu, Development & Community Liaison  
Kawaikini New Century Charter School*

Re: HB 1686 Relating to Charter Schools

Aloha Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Education & Housing,

My name is Mohala Aiu and I am the Development & Community Liaison for Kawaikini New Century Charter School. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **opposition** of SB 1686. Kawaikini supports the intent of equitable funding. We appreciate the willingness of both the House and the Senate Education Chairs to meet with us early in this process and acknowledge the hard work of the House Education Committee members, who appear to recognize the charter schools need for fair support. We would like to reiterate that per pupil funding did not increase although the overall allotment did due to increased charter school enrollment. We appreciate the ideas put forth in this Bill to attempt to provide equitable funding, but believe that the formula in place, if its intent is followed, will provide the best mechanism to ensure that future student population increases are provided for.

Kawaikini New Century Public Charter School is a K-12 Hawaiian medium school located in Puhi, Kaua'i. We currently serve 79 students from communities of Hanalei through Kekaha. We are one of the 14 Hawaiian-focused charter schools located on Hawai'i Island, O'ahu, and Kaua'i. We are also part of the Hawai'i Charter School Network which represents all 31 charter schools statewide. Our focus is the children and communities we serve.

Charter schools have been a part of the educational landscape since 2000. Through research done by the Kamehameha Schools, we know that we are making a difference in our children, communities, and family systems. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



# Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau

Laboratory Public Charter School

45-037 Kāne'ohe Bay Dr., Kāne'ohe Hawai'i 96744 \* Phone: 808.235.9175 Fax: 808.235.9173 \* [www.kamakau.com](http://www.kamakau.com)

## Testimony

Committee: EDH  
Room: 225  
Hearing Date: 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM  
Bill: HB1686  
Position: **Oppose**

To the honorable Senator Norman Sakamoto, Senator Michelle Kidani, and other members of the EDH:

Public Charter Schools provide an option for public education to our families. It meets the needs of many families that our traditional school system cannot. Charter schools can be an innovative place for education to be delivered.

I am pleased to see that our legislators are taking a careful look at providing fair funding for our charter school children. I oppose this bill but support the intent which is to provide equitable funding.

We must remember that unlike other state agencies, funding is provided on a "per-student" basis, not as a lump sum. Therefore due to increases in enrollment, funding must be provided to cover these additional students.

Mahalo,

Marci Wai'ale'ale Sarsona, MBA

Director

E mālama 'ia ana ka mauli ola o kākou mai kēlā hanauna a i keia hanauna.

Our spirit of being is nurtured from generation to generation.



# HAWAII TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY<sup>SM</sup>

Hawaii Public Charter School #551

94-810 Moloalo Street  
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797  
808-676-5444  
808-676-5470 (Fax)

March 20, 2009

Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Education and Housing

**Re: HB 1686, HD2 - Relating to Charter Schools - Support with Amendments**  
EDH Committee - Conference Room 225 - Friday, March 20, 2009 – 1:30 PM

Aloha Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Hawaii Technology Academy, one of 31 of Hawaii's charter schools that are part of the state's public school system, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the intent of HB 1686, HD2. However, we prefer the language in SB 496 SD 2, Relating to Charter Schools with amendments offered by the Charter School Administrative Office (CSAO), that clarifies the per pupil funding formula, adds a separate funding formula for facilities support, provides for CIP improvements for public charter schools, and clarifies policies and directives between the State and Local Education Authorities.

Hawaii's public charter schools are part of the state public school system. So, there is no tuition to attend any public charter school. Like traditional public schools, public charter schools rely on the same funding sources, which is why we are respectfully asking for more equity in the distribution of funding for all public charter school students.

Over the past five years there is significant growth in enrollment in public charter schools, but per pupil, charters have not experienced an increase in funding. Concurrently, although enrollment in traditional public school slightly decreased, per pupil funding has increased and is significantly higher than it is for public charter school students.

In his speech on education issues last week, President Barack Obama touched upon the considerable friction over charter schools, which are publicly funded but operate independently, free from some of the rules that constrain regular schools. Obama said state limits on numbers of charter schools aren't "good for our children, our economy or our country." He said many of the innovations in education today are happening in charter schools.

Hawaii Technology Academy is one of those innovators. We feature a combination of online learning facilitated by a parent or other responsible adult with weekly face-to-face interaction with a state-certified teacher and activities. We utilize a combination of both online curriculum and offline materials, including textbooks, CDs, videos, and hands-on manipulatives, to complement interactive online elements to address different learning styles and maximize the

learning experience for all students. We believe that this approach helps to build on the previous grades' teaching and to weave an ever-richer tapestry of knowledge to meet each individual student's needs. This approach also inspires and cements the importance of the 'Ohana to the educational outcomes expected of the children. The tradition of involving the 'Ohana in the student's education is important and leads to the improved education of all who are involved.

Since the first public charter schools were established in 2003, we have seen a rapid growth and strong demand for the individualized education a public charter school can provide. But public charter schools continue to struggle to establish funding parity with traditional public schools.

Therefore, we support the following amendments recommended by the CSAO, which is supported by the majority of our stakeholders:

- Relating to “**board policies/department directives**”, we propose the following changes to the bill:
  1. Replace the proposed subparagraph (2) of the definition of “local school board” (page 3, lines 6-13) with the following:

“(2) Possesses the independent authority to determine the organization and management of the school, the curriculum, virtual education, and compliance with board policies and department directives made in the board’s and the department’s role as state education agency, as agreed upon in a separate Memorandum of Agreement, for a period of one year, between the board and the panel, identifying those policies and directives, and applicable federal and state laws[~~-, [and] has~~]; and”
  2. Replace the proposed subparagraphs (12) and (13) of the definition of “organizational viability” (page 5, lines 1-6) with the following:

“(12) Complies with board policies made in the board's capacity as the state education agency regarding special education and federal programs as agreed upon in a separate Memorandum of Agreement, for a period of one year, between the board and the panel, identifying those policies and directives; and

(13) Complies with department directives in the department's capacity as the state education agency regarding special education and federal programs as agreed upon in a separate Memorandum of Agreement, for a period of one year, between the board and the panel, identifying those policies and directives.”
  3. Replace the newly proposed language (page 17, lines 12-14) with the following:

“board policies and department directives made in the board's and the department's role as state education agency, as agreed upon in a separate Memorandum of Agreement, for a period of one year, between the board and the panel, identifying those policies and directives,”
- Regarding the “facilities funding” “budget item” in **Section 4** of the bill, we recommend revising it so that the facilities funding mechanism be placed in Section 302B-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”), rather than Section 302B-8, HRS.

- Remove the “on a portion” language from the facilities funding formula (page 8, line 20). This language creates an undefined quantity in the facilities funding formula that will only lead to confusion.
- Replace the word “requested” with “appropriated” in the facilities funding formula (page 9, line 2) so that the split in allocation be based on the actual amount of money made available in any given year, rather than basing the split on the amount *requested*.
- Regarding SD2 **Section 5** (page 12 etc.) amending Section 302B-12, HRS, the following issues must be addressed:
  1. While charters willingly pay for administrative services provided by the department for administrative support of federal funds, the language of this draft would mandate a 5% tax on every federal dollar received by the charters, even when the department provides no administrative support. In addition, this would leave little or no administrative support for the charters to administer their federal grants. Most importantly, this proposed change to the charter statute would violate federal law when applied to many federal grant programs that specify that less than 5% of a grant may be applied to administrative support.
  2. It is necessary to retain the “regular education and special education student” language (page 12, lines 15-16) in the per-pupil formula because, historically, when that language was missing, the special education students were not included in the enrollment count and so the **special education students did not receive funding**.
  3. The inexplicable proposal to retain the last 10% of the Charter Schools’ allocation until June 30, after the school year has ended, would effectively restrict each charter school’s operational budget by 10% until after their year is over. This date must be kept at January 1 as it currently is in statute.
  4. Only applying the formula to “general funds” of the department excludes large sums of money (in special, revolving funds, etc.) that the state spends on public school students’ education, approximately \$1200 per-pupil in the current year. This limitation is inequitable for public charter school students and must be removed. For these reasons, we recommend that the following language be inserted to replace Section 5 of SB496 SD2:

“SECTION 5. Section 302B-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

**"§302B-12 Funding and finance.** (a) Beginning with fiscal year [2006-2007,] 2009-2010, and each fiscal year thereafter, [~~the office shall submit a request for general fund appropriations for each charter school based upon:~~] the non-facility per-pupil funding request for charter school students shall not be less than the per-pupil amount to the department in that same year, as set forth in paragraph (2); provided that:

- (1) The [actual and] per-pupil funding request shall include funding for projected enrollment figures [in the current school year] for each charter school; and
- (2) [A] The per-pupil request [amount] for each regular education and special education student, [which shall be equivalent to the total per-pupil cost based upon average enrollment in] shall:
  - (A) Include all regular education cost categories, including comprehensive school support services, but excluding special education services[;]; provided that special education services are provided and funded by the department;
  - (B) Include all means of financing except federal funds, as reported in the most recently-approved executive budget recommendations for the department; provided that in preparing the budget the executive

director shall include an analysis of the proposed budget in relationship to the most recently published department consolidated annual financial report[; ~~provided further that the legislature may make an adjustment to the per-pupil allocation for the purposes of this section~~]; and

(C) Exclude fringe benefit costs and debt service.

~~[(3) Those fringe]~~ (b) Fringe benefit costs [requested] for charter school employees, regardless of the payroll system utilized by a charter school, shall be included in the department of budget and finance's annual budget request. No fringe benefit costs shall be charged directly to or deducted from the charter school per-pupil allocations [unless they are already included in the funds distributed to the charter school].

The legislature shall [make an appropriation based upon the budget request;] provide funding for charter schools based upon the requirements of this section; provided that the legislature [may] shall make additional appropriations for fringe, workers' compensation, and other employee benefits[;] and facility costs[; and]. The legislature may make additional appropriations for other requested amounts[;] that benefit charter schools.

The governor, pursuant to chapter 37, may impose restrictions or reductions on charter school appropriations similar to those imposed on other public schools.

~~[(b)]~~ (c) Charter schools shall be eligible for all federal financial support to the same extent as all other public schools. The department shall provide the office with all state-level federal grant proposals submitted by the department that include charter schools as potential recipients and timely reports on state-level federal grants received for which charter schools may apply or are entitled to receive. Federal funds received by the department for charter schools shall be transferred to the office for distribution to charter schools in accordance with the federal requirements. If administrative services related to federal grants and subsidies are provided to the charter school by the department, the charter school shall reimburse the department for the actual costs of the administrative services in an amount that shall not exceed [six and one-half] five per cent of the charter school's federal grants and subsidies[;]

Any charter school shall be eligible to receive any supplemental federal grant or award for which any other public school may submit a proposal, or any supplemental federal grants limited to charter schools; provided that if department administrative services, including funds management, budgetary, fiscal accounting, or other related services, are provided with respect to these supplemental grants, the charter school shall reimburse the department for the actual costs of the administrative services in an amount that shall not exceed ~~[six and one-half]~~ five per cent of the supplemental grant for which the services are used-

All additional funds generated by the local school boards, that are not from a supplemental grant, shall be held separate from allotted funds and may be expended at the discretion of the local school boards.

~~[(e)]~~ (d) To enable charter schools to access state funding prior to the start of each school year, foster their fiscal planning, and enhance their accountability, the office shall:

- (1) Provide fifty per cent of a charter school's per-pupil allocation based on the charter school's projected student enrollment no later than July 20 of each fiscal year; provided that the charter school shall have submitted to the office a projected student enrollment no later than May 15 of each year;

- (2) Provide an additional forty per cent of a charter school's per-pupil allocation no later than November 15 of each year; provided that the charter school shall have submitted to the office:
  - (A) Student enrollment as verified on October 15 of each year; provided that the student enrollment shall be verified on the last business day immediately prior to October 15 should that date fall on a weekend; and
  - (B) An accounting of the percentage of student enrollment that transferred from public schools established and maintained by the department; provided that these accountings shall also be submitted by the office to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the start of each regular session; and
- (3) Retain the remaining ten per cent of a charter school's per-pupil allocation to be provided no later than January 1 of each year as a contingency balance to ensure fiscal accountability~~;~~ and compliance;

provided that the panel may make adjustments in allocations based on noncompliance with ~~[federal and state reporting requirements,]~~ board policies and department directives made in the board's and the department's role as state education agency, as agreed upon in a separate Memorandum of Agreement, for a period of one year, between the board and the panel, identifying those policies and directives, the office's administrative procedures, and board-approved accountability requirements.

~~[(d)]~~ (e) The department shall provide appropriate transitional resources to a conversion charter school for its first year of operation as a charter school based upon the department's allocation to the school for the year prior to the conversion.

~~[(e)]~~ (f) No start-up charter school or conversion charter school may assess tuition."

We appreciate the ideas offered in HB1686 HD 2 to set aside the funding formula and to reconstruct the current formula so that it is equitable for students. But at this time we strongly urge you not to cast aside the current per pupil formula and to replace this bill with SB496 SD2 instead. With additional amendments to provide more equity in resources and to clarify the relationship between the SEA and LEAs, this is the best solution that we have going forward to ensure that public charter school inequity issues are addressed.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge members of your committee to support the passage of HB 1686 HD2 with the amendments offered by the CSAO.

As always, mahalo for the opportunity to share our views with you.

Sincerely,

Jeff Piontek  
Head of School  
Hawaii Technology Academy



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [nialovell@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:nialovell@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1686 on 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2009 8:21:23 AM

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Testimony for EDH 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM HB1686

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: **oppose**  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Nia Lovell  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 73-4158 Kaala Place Kailua-Kona, HI  
Phone: 808.325.0618  
E-mail: [nialovell@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:nialovell@hawaiiantel.net)  
Submitted on: 3/17/2009

Comments:

With respect to HB 1686 I proposed that testimony be submitted to oppose BUT also I support the intent of equitable funding. I appreciate the hard work of the House Education members who appear to recognize that public charter schools deserve fundamentally fair support. But support for each child is NOT being increased. Increased total funding is ONLY due to increased enrollemnt. I appreciate the ideas witnin the bill that they are attempting to provide equitable funding but I believe that the per pupol formula will provide the best mechanism for going forward.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [konakaye@yahoo.com](mailto:konakaye@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1686 on 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2009 10:02:32 AM

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Testimony for EDH 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM HB1686

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: **oppose**  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kaye Levine  
Organization: Individual  
Address: PO Box 391145 Keauhou, HI  
Phone: 8083294151  
E-mail: [konakaye@yahoo.com](mailto:konakaye@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 3/17/2009

Comments:

I support the intent of equitable funding, but with respect to HB 1686, I propose that testimony be submitted to &quot;OPPOSE.&quot;

Please note that SUPPORT FOR EACH CHILD is NOT BEING INCREASED, but that total funding is increased ONLY DUE TO INCREASED ENROLLMENT.&quot;

I appreciate that ideas in HB1686, such as setting aside the formula, are attempting to provide equitable funding, but I believe that the per pupil formula will provide the best mechanism going forward to ensure that future student population increases are addressed.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR OUR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL KEIKI- THIS FUNDING IS ULTIMATELY FOR OUR CHILDREN!

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [paulashine@hotmail.com](mailto:paulashine@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1686 on 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2009 10:46:17 AM

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Testimony for EDH 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM HB1686

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: **oppose**  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Paula Boyer  
Organization: Individual  
Address: PO Box 395 Kailua-Kona, HI 96745  
Phone: (808) 896-8663  
E-mail: paulashine@hotmail.com  
Submitted on: 3/17/2009

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to HB 1686. However, I do support the intent of equitable funding. Thank you for the House Education members who appear to recognize that public charters deserve fundamentally fair support.

The support for each child (per pupil) in charter schools is NOT being increased. Increased total funding is ONLY due to increased enrollment, not a budgetary increase per se.

I appreciate the ideas in HB1686 (for example, setting aside the formula) which attempt to provide equitable funding, but that I believe that the per pupil formula will provide the best mechanism to ensure that future student population increases are addressed.

Thanks to all committee members for their continued support of public charter schools. KEIKI—after all funding is not for grown-ups and school buildings, it is ultimately direct support students.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [riktaylr@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:riktaylr@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1686 on 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2009 11:01:07 AM

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Testimony for EDH 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM HB1686

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: **oppose**  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Rick  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 75-5256 Mamalahoa Highway Holualoa, HI  
Phone: 808-987-8217  
E-mail: [riktaylr@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:riktaylr@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 3/17/2009

Comments:

I am intensely interested in the quality of education available to my 10 year-old daughter, Maianna. Last year she attended 1 of 2 "Blue-Ribbon" Public Schools in Hawai'i, Holualoa Elementary. We were on the waiting list for Innovations Public Charter School for 3 years before her recent admission (In the interim, she attended Ehu Nui Kaimalino Hawaiian Language Immersion School and learned to speak and read Hawaiian). "Innovations" is also a "Blue Ribbon" school, although in the Public Charter category at BOE. I can testify from personal knowledge that the education provided at IPCS is superior to that provided at Holualoa, and I have heard from both parents and students that Holualoa is having increasing difficulty in maintaining their level of proficiency. Please oppose the provisions of HB1686, but continue to work to benefit ALL schools with proportionate financial assistance based on "Per Student" funding to provide consistent support for schools experiencing fluctuating enrollment.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [phart@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:phart@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1686 on 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2009 11:07:22 AM

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Testimony for EDH 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM HB1686

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: **oppose**  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Pam Hart  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 73-1095 Mahilani dr Kailua Kona  
Phone:  
E-mail: [phart@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:phart@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 3/17/2009

Comments:  
The per pupil formula is best to keep the population growing.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [joanngk@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:joanngk@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1686 on 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2009 11:31:02 AM

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Testimony for EDH 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM HB1686

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: **oppose**  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: JoAnn Grahn- Kaneshiro  
Organization: Individual  
Address: P.O. Box 3399 Kailua-Kona  
Phone: 808-329-6188  
E-mail: [joanngk@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:joanngk@hawaiiantel.net)  
Submitted on: 3/17/2009

Comments:

Although I am opposed to this issue, I am in support of the intent of equitable funding. I appreciate the hard work of the House Education members who seem to recognize that public charter schools deserve fundamentally fair support. The increased total funding is due ONLY to increased enrollment, NOT due to increased support for each child. I believe that the per pupil formula will provide the best mechanism to ensure that future population increases are addressed. I certainly appreciate the support of the committee members for the public charter school children who benefit directly from this funding.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [lorykennard@msn.com](mailto:lorykennard@msn.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1686 on 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2009 11:55:12 AM

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Testimony for EDH 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM HB1686

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: **oppose**  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Lory Kennard  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 77-248 Holomakani St. Kailua Kona, Hi.96740  
Phone: 322-3599  
E-mail: [lorykennard@msn.com](mailto:lorykennard@msn.com)  
Submitted on: 3/17/2009

Comments:

With respect to HB 1686, we propose that testimony be submitted to “oppose” , but also we support the intent of equitable funding.

We acknowledge the hard work of House Education members who appear to recognize that public charters deserve fundamentally fair support.

We want to raise the further points that:

Support for each child (per pupil) is NOT being increased. Increased total funding is ONLY due to increased enrollment.

We appreciate that ideas in HB1686 (such as setting aside the formula) are attempting to provide equitable funding, but that we all believe that the per pupil formula will provide the best mechanism going forward to ensure that future student population increases are addressed.

Thanks to all committee members for their continued support of public charter school KEIKI—after all, funding is not for grown-ups and school buildings, it is ultimately direct support for children.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [SandraScar@aol.com](mailto:SandraScar@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1686 on 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2009 12:13:31 PM

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Testimony for EDH 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM HB1686

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: **oppose**  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Sandra W. Scarr  
Organization: Kona Pacific Public Charter School  
Address: 78-6915 Palekana road Holualoa, HI 96725  
Phone: 8083229445  
E-mail: SandraScar@aol.com  
Submitted on: 3/17/2009

Comments:

Re HB1686

We support the idea of equitable funding for charter schools and believe that the fairest funding, now and in the future, will come from per pupil allocations. Charter schools' enrollments are increasing, so that total budgets for charter schools are naturally increasing. Per pupil allocations to charter schools have not been increased.

We appreciate the hard work of House Education Committee members to insure fair funding for charter schools. We appreciate the ideas in this bill but disagree with setting aside the per pupil formula.

Aloha,  
Sandra Scarr



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Jeffreysmith@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:Jeffreysmith@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1686 on 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2009 1:56:25 PM

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Testimony for EDH 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM HB1686

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: **oppose**  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jeffrey Smith  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 73-1082 Ahikawa Street Kailua Kona, HI 96740  
Phone: 808-325-2275  
E-mail: [Jeffreysmith@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:Jeffreysmith@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 3/17/2009

Comments:

I do support the intent of equitable funding.  
The hard work of House Education members who appear to recognize that public charters deserve fundamentally fair support is commendable.

Support for each child (per pupil) is NOT being increased. Increased total funding is ONLY due to increased enrollment.

We appreciate that ideas in HB1686 (such as setting aside the formula) are attempting to provide equitable funding, but that we all believe that the per pupil formula will provide the best mechanism going forward to ensure that future student population increases are addressed.

Thanks to all committee members for their continued support of public charter school KEIKI—after all, funding is not for grown-ups and school buildings, it is ultimately direct support for children.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [kmarks@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kmarks@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1686 on 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2009 2:59:31 PM

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Testimony for EDH 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM HB1686

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: **oppose**  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Wendy Marks  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 73-4364 Hau Nani St Kailua Kona, HI  
Phone: 808-333-5588  
E-mail: [kmarks@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kmarks@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 3/17/2009

Comments:

Although I oppose HB1686, I do support the intent of equitable funding. I would like to acknowledge all of the hard work of House Education members who appear to recognize that public charters deserve fundamentally fair support. I want to raise the further points that:  
Support for each child (per pupil) is NOT being increased. Increased total funding is ONLY due to increased enrollment.

I appreciate that ideas in HB1686 (such as setting aside the formula) are attempting to provide equitable funding, but that we all believe that the per pupil formula will provide the best mechanism going forward to ensure that future student population increases are addressed. Thank you to all committee members for their continued support of public charter school KEIKI—after all, funding is not for grown-ups and school buildings, it is ultimately direct support for children.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [doshiro@ethompson.org](mailto:doshiro@ethompson.org)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1686 on 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2009 3:09:41 PM

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Testimony for EDH 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM HB1686

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: **oppose**  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Diana Oshiro  
Organization: Myron B. Thompson Academy  
Address: 629 Pohukaina St. Honolulu, Hawaii  
Phone: 808-441-8001  
E-mail: [doshiro@ethompson.org](mailto:doshiro@ethompson.org)  
Submitted on: 3/17/2009

Comments:

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [cpcs3@aloha.net](mailto:cpcs3@aloha.net)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1686 on 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2009 6:54:17 PM

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Testimony for EDH 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM HB1686

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: **oppose**  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: William Lloyd  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [cpcs3@aloha.net](mailto:cpcs3@aloha.net)  
Submitted on: 3/17/2009

Comments:

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [lollydavis@yahoo.com](mailto:lollydavis@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1686 on 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 18, 2009 7:20:57 AM

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Testimony for EDH 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM HB1686

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: **oppose**  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: charlotte nottage davis  
Organization: Individual  
Address: box 626 holualoa, HI  
Phone: 8089874891  
E-mail: lollydavis@yahoo.com  
Submitted on: 3/18/2009

Comments:

The ideas in HB1686 (such as setting aside the formula) are attempting to provide equitable funding, but I believe that the per pupil formula will provide the best mechanism going forward to ensure that future student population increases are addressed.

I appreciate your support for Public Charter School children as the funding is directly for the children, not for buildings or staffing. It must be separate.

Mahalo.

**From:** [Jody Galinato](#)  
**To:** [EDH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** HB1686  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 18, 2009 5:27:37 PM

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Aloha to our Honorable Representatives....

I am writing to beg you to reconsider funding for charter schools. My daughter attends Kawaikini School on Kauai, it is a Hawaiian Immersion School. She attended Punana Leo O Kauai Preschool immersion that helped insure her admission to Kawaikini. This is our first year, we parents and kumu have worked so hard, our keiki go to school in tents with porta-potties, we go pick up lunch at the nearby public school and deliver it...we are teaching so many great cultural and family values and our keiki have been together since preschool. It is the true ohana spirit. PLEASE DO NOT CUT ANY FUNDING FOR US....we are making do on so little now but our keiki are getting so much. We invite you to come see what a community can do for the school and keiki....we have had so much help....please vote against this bill....Jody Galinato, 1922 Hokulei Place, Lihue, HI

**From:** [Robert Moody](#)  
**To:** [EDH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mohala82@yahoo.com](mailto:mohala82@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** HB 1686  
**Date:** Thursday, March 19, 2009 8:39:32 AM

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**Committee:** EDH  
**Room:** 225  
**Hearing Date/Time:** 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM  
**Bill:** HB1686  
**Position:** **Oppose**

To the honorable members of the EDH:

Aloha. I would like to express my feelings regarding HB 1686. My daughter Haunani attends Kawaikini New Century Public Charter School on Kauai.

The current growth in public charter school enrollments is a positive sign that families are taking a broader interest in the education of our children. I fully support equal, 'per pupil' funding for all students in Hawaii and any increase in funding would not be due to the amount per student being raised; rather it would be due to increased enrollment in public charter schools. I humbly ask that you submit testimony to oppose this Bill.

Mahalo nui.

Robert Moody  
P.O. Box 748  
Anahola, HI 96703  
808-822-3110  
[moody5150@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:moody5150@hawaiiantel.net)

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [steffi@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:steffi@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1686 on 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM  
**Date:** Thursday, March 19, 2009 9:05:07 AM

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Testimony for EDH 3/20/2009 1:30:00 PM HB1686

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: **oppose**  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Stephanie Chaikin  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [steffi@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:steffi@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 3/19/2009

Comments:



**From:** [Marie Bailey](#)  
**To:** [EDH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** testimony re: HB1686  
**Date:** Thursday, March 19, 2009 10:14:53 AM

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Aloha Senators Sakamoto and Kidani,

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the second draft of HB1686 in regards to per pupil funding for charter schools.

All Hawai'i public school students, whether they are charter schools students or are 'traditional' public school students, deserve equitable funding. They are all public school students, so the funding should be the same. Due to the increase in the number of students enrolling in charter schools, a budget that reflects this increased charter school enrollment that is the same as the 'traditional' public school per pupil allotment is needed. There should be no difference; the money should follow the child. This would be the same for public school students leaving charter schools to attend 'traditional' public schools.....the money should follow the child.

Special education funding as well as facilities funding should also be included; there should be no reason that the SAME public school students receive different per pupil funding depending on what public school they attend: charter or traditional. There should be no reason for some of the public school students to go to school in modernized buildings while others are in tents, having to scrounge for funding. Please keep the focus on the children.

Mahalo for your support for our future leaders that are enrolled in all of the different public school options in Hawai'i.

Marie Bailey