

LATE

SCR 188

Linda Lingle
Governor



LATE

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Executive Director

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FOR: SCR188, SD1 Requesting the governor to accept the recommendations of the working group formed by Hawaii's congressional delegation to determine the most appropriate uses of state fiscal stabilization fund moneys, and authorize the expenditure of state fiscal stabilization fund moneys in accordance with the recommendations of the working group.

DATE: Wednesday, April 8, 2009

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE(S): Committee on Ways and Means

ROOM: Conference Room 211

FROM: Maunalei Love, Executive Director

Comments in **strong opposition** to S.C.R. No. 188, S.D. No. 1

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Members of the Committee:

Aloha, I am Maunalei Love, executive director of the Charter School Administrative Office ("CSAO"). This bill requests that the governor accept the recommendations of a working group as the most appropriate uses of SFSF moneys and authorize the expenditure of SFSF moneys consistent with the recommendations of the working group (i.e. split between the department of education and university of Hawaii). I strongly oppose this resolution for the following reasons:

1. The working group "includes representatives of Hawaii's congressional delegation, the University of Hawaii, the Department of Education, and the Legislature, thereby capturing the intent and recommendations of the Legislature at both federal and state levels, and by the lower and higher education executive departments that stand to directly benefit from the use of the SFSF moneys." However, the **Charter School Administrative Office and the charter school community were not included** in this working group despite being a state educational agency that would directly benefit from the use of the SFSF moneys. Indeed, it is unclear who actually sat on this committee.
2. 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% and more in 2010-11. **Despite the fact that charter schools are the one eligible educational group that can demonstrate the cuts in per-pupil funding for the applicable years, the working group's recommendations completely exclude any restoration funding for Hawaii's public charter schools.**
3. Facilities needs and support is another area where charters have suffered disparity in funding. The SFSF funds could be used to make up for this historical disparity. Again, **the working group's recommendations completely exclude any facilities funding for Hawaii's public charter schools.**

This approach flies in the face of both President Obama's and the U.S. Department of Education's purposes for the SFSF moneys. President Obama 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, especially when the funding is specifically tailored to addressing the needs that the charters have.

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 this approach has once again completely excluded the charter schools rather than providing equitable solutions. **For these reasons, I must strongly oppose this resolution.**

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments.

kim3 - Frances

From: Kate_Stanley/LILI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2009 8:17 AM
To: Sen. Russell Kokubun; Sen. Shan Tsutsui; sensakamoto@captiol.hawaii.gov; Sen. Donna Mercado Kim
Cc: hibr@aol.com; Robert_E_Campbell/OIS/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us; Adele_Chong/BUDGET/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us; James_Brese/LILI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us; Stafford_Nagatani/LILI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Subject: SCR 188 SD 1
Importance: High

Senators:

SCR 188 SD 1 is scheduled for decision making in WAM this morning. DOE has submitted comments in support.

However, after UH and DOE worked out this plan we received the letter from the Secretary of Education and the guidance on use of the SFSF funds.

Because the requirements for progress on the four reform areas are quite extensive both UH and DOE need to relook at the current plan reflected in SCR188 SD1. Adjustments in funding and items to fund may well have to be made.

Kathy Matayoshi is in the process of contacting the UH to look at this plan.

Keeping this resolution moving is important. I wanted you all to know that amendments may be suggested to the House.

kate stanley