

Date: 02/08/2010

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn Matayoshi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2267 RELATING TO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the Department of Education to provide an early and equitable distribution of grant moneys received to the Hawaii Charter School Administrative Office when charter school enrollment numbers were used to secure federal grants.

Department's Position: The department of education supports the intent of this bill to ensure the charter schools receive their "fair share" of federal funds as quickly as possible. However, the bill is based on an assumption that all federal funds have some sort of instructions regarding distribution, and that the funds give the State Education Agency and Local Education Agency a great deal of discretion regarding the use of the funds. Some of the larger federal grants, such as IDEA and Title I, are not based on head count. When public charter schools receive federal funds, they will need to meet all of the federal requirements of the program and provide the department with accurate data required for timely reporting within the stated deadlines.

berg1-Matthew

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 2:10 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: director@whea.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2267 on 2/8/2010 2:05:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 2/8/2010 2:05:00 PM HB2267

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Curtis Muraoka
Organization: Hawai`i Charter Schools Network
Address: 73-4460 Queen Kaahumanu Hwy #105 Kailua Kona, Hawaii
Phone: 808-987-2522
E-mail: director@whea.net
Submitted on: 2/5/2010

Comments:

Testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Charter Schools Network.

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Berg and Esteemed Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Charter Schools Network supports and encourages proportional and equitable distribution of public educational resources under the broader Hawai`i Department of Education's obligations as the State Educational Agency.

Further, under President Obama's Race to the Top program, HCSN encourages proportional and equitable distribution of fiscal resources across all of public education, inclusive of public charter school children, without discernible differences related to the type of public school the child attends.

The spirit and intent of HB2267 is a step in that direction. The HDOE's Consolidated Plan for federal programs is disadvantageous for students in public charter schools, and this should simply not be the case. An equitable distribution of funds for public charter school students requires an equitable proportion per pupil between the total enrollment in department schools and public charter schools.

We appreciate your collective interest and sincere work toward building a better Hawai`i by nurturing the next generation.

Mahalo Nui Loa,
Curtis Muraoka, Vice President
Hawaii Charter Schools Network
The Unified Voice of Hawai`i's 31 Public Charter Schools

berg1-Matthew

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 12:45 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: sandoherty8@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2267 on 2/8/2010 2:05:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 2/8/2010 2:05:00 PM HB2267

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sandra Doherty
Organization: Individual
Address: 75-5949 Pumehana Way Kailua Kona, HI 96745
Phone: 808 345-2117
E-mail: sandoherty8@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2010

Comments:

Support equity and social justice for public charter school children. Support our charter schools according to Federal Race to the Top guidelines for potential funding of \$75MIL. Support equity in funding for all public school children. Support a facilities allowance and allow growth. Lift the 'CAP'. Provide an equal amount per student for all "special needs" students in ALL public schools, charter schools and regular schools....Thank you..



WAIMEA MIDDLE SCHOOL

(A Conversion Charter)

67-1229 MAMALAHOA HIGHWAY

KAMUELA, HAWAII 96743

PHONE: (808) 887-6090

FAX: (808) 887-6087

February 7, 2010

The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair
The Honorable Lyla B. Berg, Vice Chair
And House Committee On Education Members

RE: HB 2267 – Relating to Public Charter Schools
Hearing Mon., Feb. 8, 2010 – 2:0 5p.m. – Conference Room 309

On behalf of the students, families, faculty and staff of Waimea Middle Public Conversion Charter School in Kamuela, Hawai'i, we are writing to express our support for this draft bill because it echoes USDOE funding mandates for equitable distribution of federal tax dollars for all of the public school children of Hawai'i.

As a public conversion charter school – *which takes all students in the region regardless of need or circumstance* -- our students are no different from any other public school students in Hawai'i. In fact, they are very much like public school populations across the state in that we have serve:

- Special Education students including those severely impaired physically, socially and mentally;
- English Language Learners (ELL) who have little prior English language exposure and whose families speak and read little or no English;
- Migrant Education students whose families move frequently to secure agricultural employment; and
- Immigrants with little or no prior school experience.

Our students deserve to receive equitable distribution of funds for busing and food services under Title 1, and all of the other streams of funding and grants available in a transparent and expedient manner.

We urge that this bill move forward quickly for further consideration this legislative session. It is a matter of social justice that our children receive the full range of federal funding available to all public school students in the State of Hawai'i.

Malama pono –

John R. Colson

Chief Education and Executive Officer/Principal

cc: All Hawai'i Island Legislators
Charter School Administrative Office
Kathy Matayoshi
Keith Vieira & Lynn Fallin, Ho'okako'o Corporation (our not-for-profit Local School Board)



HAWAII TECHNOLOGY ACADEMYSM

Hawaii Public Charter School #551

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

February 8, 2010

Honorable Roy Takumi, Chair
House Committee on Education

Re: HB2267, Relating to Public Charter Schools - Support
EDN Committee – February 8, 2010, Conference Room 309, 2:05 PM

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Berg and Committee members:

On behalf of the Hawaii Technology Academy, a public charter school which serves students in Oahu, Kauai, Hawaii Island and parts of Maui, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony.

This bill would ensure that the distribution of funds received goes to the charter schools in an equitable distribution when charter enrollment numbers are included to secure additional funds. Already federal regulations are in place requiring states that receive Title I funds to distribute those funds within 45 days of receipt, this includes public charter schools. We would like to see this policy executed to provide fair funding for all public schools, including charter schools.

Since the first public charter schools were established, 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.

HTA is one of Hawaii's 31 public charter schools that are part of the state public school system. Like Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) schools, charter schools comply with federal and state educational standards and rely on the same funding sources. That is why we support this bill which bridges the gap to provide more equity in the distribution of funding for all public charter school students.

Most of all, we endorse changes that create equitable funding and a supportive environment for all DOE and public charter schools to better position Hawaii in competition for U.S. Department of Education's Race to the Top (RTT) initiative. States with policies in place supporting equitable funding for all public school students are at greater competitive advantage to qualify for RTT and other federal grant programs.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge members to support the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Jeff Piontek
Hawaii Technology Academy Head of School