

Date: 02/23/2010

Committee: House Finance

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 this bill to ensure the charter schools receive their "fair share" of federal funds as quickly as possible, with the following concern. 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. In actuality, that may not be the case. In addition, when public charter schools receive federal funds, they will need to be accountable 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.

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

FOR: HB 2267 Relating to Public Charter Schools
DATE: Tuesday, February 23, 2010
TIME: 11:30 a.m.
COMMITTEE(S): Finance
ROOM: Conference Room 308
FROM: Maunalei Love, Executive Director

Written testimony in **support** of H.B. No. 2267

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee,

Aloha,

I am Maunalei Love, executive director of the Hawaii 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 adequately providing needed resources to all public schools. The CSAO supports providing Hawaii's charter schools with access to available federal funds for our students, giving them the educational opportunities that will enable them to succeed.

We support the intent and language of HB2267, requiring the Department of Education (DOE) to equitably distribute federal funds in a timely manner for any funds that the DOE receives to which charters are eligible. Historically, federal funding is received by the DOE based on the total enrollment of students, including the charter school students, but this funding is not always distributed equitably to charter school students. While this has been improving over the years, this bill will serve to expedite the proper equitable and timely distribution of these funds within the public education system in Hawaii.

We support this bill for the changes it makes towards providing 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. The CSAO agrees that as a part of the assurances of RTT, accountability and transparency are an important component of educational outcomes, and that this is also tied to equitable funding and overall support from the state and federal government.

The CSAO is ready, willing, and able to help with any revisions. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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 Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
And House Committee On Finance Members

RE: HB 2267 – Relating to Public Charter Schools
Hearing Tues., Feb. 23, 2010 – 11:30 a.m. – Conference Room 308

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 public school 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.

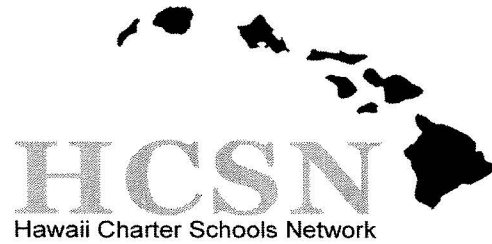
We urge that this bill move forward quickly for further consideration this legislative session. It is a matter of social justice that our children receive the full range of federal funding available to all public school students in the State of Hawai'i.

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 Charter Schools Network
Office of the Executive Director
PO Box 1689
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
808-769-2102
paki@charterschoolshawaii.org
www.hawaiiicharterschools.org



Senate Committee on Finance

DATE: Tuesday, February 23, 2010
TIME: 11:30 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 308

We are commenting on HB 2267, relating to public charter schools, on behalf of the Hawaii Charter School Network.

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 Hawaii Charter School Network represents all of Hawaii's 31 public charter schools, serving more than 8,000 students, their families and the community. We strongly believe that Hawaii charter schools offer community, choice and quality education and play an important role in the future of our state.

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

On behalf of the Hawaii Charter School Network, mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Community. Choice. Quality.



Kanu o ka 'Aina Learning 'Ohana

Grows womb-to-tomb models of education that advance Hawaiian culture for a sustainable Hawai'i

President
Kū Kahakalau Ph.D.

FEBRUARY 22, 2010

Vice President
Darryl Wise

TESTIMONY OF: Taffi Wise, Executive Director

Treasurer
Nancy Levenson

REGARDING THE FOLLOWING MEASURE: HB2267

Trustee
Guy Kaulukukui Ph.D.

BEFORE THE: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010 TIME: 11:30AM

LOCATION: Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the committee:

My name is Taffi Wise and I am the executive director of the Kanu o ka 'Aina Learning 'Ohana (KALO), which supports thousands of lifelong learners from multiple communities throughout Hawaii.

KALO is encouraged by this proposal and in **support of the intent that HB2267** brings; we stand behind the position that federal monies allocated to the Department of Education should move with the child if they choose to attend a Public Charter School.

We believe this is the beginning of needed language within the Hawaii State law that supports the Federal position for facilitating and managing Federal funds. Having services provided in lieu of allowing the allocation to follow the student is ineffective for the learning outcomes of the student. Allowing the federal monies to follow the child to other public schools within the Department of Education including charter schools allows the school to properly meet the needs of the individual student. We strongly believe that allocating the federal funds in this manner will also reduce the need for a high indirect cost rate for facilitating and managing the federal funds allowing for a larger amount to directly impact the services of the child.

KALO supports and encourages changes that create equitable distribution of public educational resources under the broader Hawaii Department of Education's obligation as the State Educational Agency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of the intent** of this measure, respectfully submitted.

P.O. Box 6511
Kaanapali, Hawai'i 96743
Phone: 808-887-1117
Fax: 808-887-0030

www.kalo.org

Honoring The Past...Addressing The Present...Serving The
Future



HAWAII TECHNOLOGY ACADEMYSM

Hawaii Public Charter School #551

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

February 22, 2010

Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance

Re: HB2267, Relating to Public Charter Schools - Support
Finance Agenda #2 – Conference Room 308, February 23, 2010, 11:30 AM

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee 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,

Stephan Meyer
Sophomore and HTA Local School Board Student Representative

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 8:47 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: steve_hirakami@notes.k12.hi.us
Subject: Testimony for HB2267 on 2/23/2010 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/23/2010 11:30:00 AM HB2267

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Steve Hirakami
Organization: Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science PCS
Address: PO Box 1494 Pahoehoe, HI 96778
Phone: 808-965-3730
E-mail: steve_hirakami@notes.k12.hi.us
Submitted on: 2/23/2010

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill. As with EDN 150 funds, all Federal funds are not included in our funding formula (which hasn't even been used for two years). We have been especially concerned with "formula" grants to the State whereby all public school students are included in the count. In EDN 100 there is \$96.7M, EDN 150 has \$63.2M, Edn 200 has \$.3M, and EDN 400 has \$24.3M in formula grants for a total of \$184.6M in formula grants. Charter school students should have access to these funds. As Interim Superintendent Matayodhi states: "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." Charter Schools would like the opportunity to prove that they can meet the requirements given the chance to participate in these grants. Charter schools have met the conditions of the larger formula grants such as Title I and IDEA and can and should meet the requirements of the other formula grants. Thank you for this chance to testify.

Sincerely,
Steve Hirakami

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 3:09 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jasherinhi@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2267 on 2/23/2010 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/23/2010 11:30:00 AM HB2267

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jane M. Asher
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jasherinhi@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/22/2010

Comments:

I support this bill on public charter schools; that the DOE provide anearly and equitable distribution of grant monies received by the Charter School Administrative Office, when charter schools enrollment numbers were used to secure the Federal grants.