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Governor



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FOR: SB 2124 SD2, Relating to the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund
DATE: Thursday, March 25, 2010
TIME: 3:30 p.m.
COMMITTEE(S): Committee on Finance
ROOM: Conference Room 308
FROM: Maunalei Love, Executive Director

Testimony in support of the intent of S.B. No. 2124 S.D. No. 2

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, 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 adequately funding all public schools. The CSAO supports restoring furlough days and providing every public school student with the educational opportunities that will enable them to succeed.

The charter schools were impacted by the furlough savings as a reduction to the charter school allocation (as did the Department of Education) - with charter schools either downsizing or taking furloughs. The Governor's restrictions imposed upon the charter schools' allocation amounted to a reduction of \$3,791,952.

While some charter schools have not implemented any furloughs, nearly half of them have been forced to implement some level of furloughs this year. Next year's calendar is still in question. The public charter schools have reduced their spending using varied approaches, including raiding facilities funds, reducing services, and reductions in their staff. Overall, the schools have reported reduction in staff equivalent to 123.75 FTEs and 7 PTEs.

Thank you for including the public charter schools in any funding mechanisms for restoring furlough days. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.