

LATE TESTIMONY

Linda Lingle
Governor



Vanelle Maunalei Love
Executive Director

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FOR: SB 2436, Relating to Education
DATE: Monday, February 1, 2010
TIME: 1:15 p.m.
COMMITTEE(S): Education and Housing; Human Services; and Commerce
and Consumer Protection
ROOM: Conference Room 225
FROM: Maunalei Love, Executive Director

Testimony in **support** of S.B. No. 2436, **with proposed revisions**

Chairs Sakamoto, Chun Oakland, and Baker; Vice Chairs Kidani, Ihara, and Ige; and all the Members of the Committees:

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.

We do request that this bill's language be amended to include restoring the reductions and cuts that were suffered by the public charter schools. 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.

Restoring funding to the charter schools on a pro rata basis with the department (charter school enrollment is approximately 4.5% of all public school students) is the right thing to do to enable our students to continue in their education. We humbly request that you amend this bill by **inserting the following language to the end of the sentences on page 3, line 21 and page 4, line 16: "except that 4.5% of the sum appropriated shall be expended by the Charter School Administrative Office."**

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



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The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Education and Housing
Committee on Human Services
And
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
February 01, 2010

LATE

S.B. 2436 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

The Hawaii Government Employees' Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO opposes S.B. 2436 in its present form. We understand and appreciate the concern raised over restoring lost instructional days from the 2009-2010 school year. However, we believe that using the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund (HHRF) to pay for the restoration of furlough days only within the DOE is much too limited.

Last session, the legislature chose not to use the HHRF to address the budget shortfall. With the governor's determination to realize savings through workers, negotiations resulted in wage cuts, furloughs and layoffs. And while no one likes the effects of the furloughs in the DOE and elsewhere, they were part of the agreements negotiated under Chapter 89. It would be irresponsible for the legislature to limit its attention to only the DOE without addressing the loss of services in all vital programs that impact public health and safety throughout the state.

A number of other states have use rainy day and other special funds to mitigate the effects of budget cuts and furloughs on state programs, not just education. For example, Okalahoma use \$160 million in state reserves to prevent more drastic cuts in budget allocations. Pennsylvania took its entire rainy day fund of \$755 million to fund its budget. There are many other essential state programs handicapped by furloughs and layoffs where services should be restored through the use of the rainy day fund, the HHRF and other means of funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to S.B. 2436.

Respectfully submitted,

Leiomalama Desha
Executive Assistant