

SB 2567

Late Testimony

Linda Lingle
Governor



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FOR: SB2567 SD1, Relating to Education
DATE: Wednesday, February 24, 2010
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
COMMITTEE(S): Committee on Ways and Means
ROOM: Conference Room 211
FROM: Maunalei Love, Executive Director

Comments **opposing** S.B. No. 2567 S.D. No. 1

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, 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 by positioning Hawaii to compete for federal grants, including the Race to the Top. The CSAO supports providing all of Hawaii’s students the educational opportunities that will enable them to succeed.

While we support the intent of this bill to provide Hawaii’s public school students with the best education opportunities possible by ensuring Hawaii’s competitiveness for federal grants, we cannot support this bill’s approach because it would inhibit the autonomous ability of charter schools in providing instruction, even with the waiver language. This bill is problematic because it seeks to standardize curricula statewide and charter curricula, by its very nature is individualistic and unique (e.g. under project based instruction). Nor do we believe that a standardized curriculum is the goal of the federal government as enunciated in the Race to the Top. Transparency, accountability, and successful outcomes (as often embodied in charter schools) are what are encouraged by the Race to the Top and other federal incentive grants. For these reasons, we cannot support this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.