

**SB2588**



# HAWAII TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY<sup>SM</sup>

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February 8, 2010

Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senate Committee on Education and Housing

**Re: SB2588, Relating to the Charter School Administrative Office - Support**  
EDH Committee – February 8, 2010, Conference Room 225, 1:45 PM

Aloha Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Kidani and Committee members:

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

We support this bill to require the Charter School Administrative Office (CSAO) to withhold funds for its operational expenses, including salaries for staff and the executive director. We also support that the total amount of withheld funds shall be determined by the Charter School Review Panel (CSRP) and shall not exceed two percent of the total charter school general fund appropriation.

While defer the CSAA on this matter, we believe this change streamlines a needed source of funding for the operation of the CSAO and supports CSRP functions, which we rely upon for the smooth functioning of Hawaii's public charter school system.

HTA is one of Hawaii's 31 public charter schools that are part of the state public school system. Like Hawaii DOE schools, charters comply with federal and state education standards. We support efforts like this to improve Hawaii's public education system.

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 passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Jeff Piontek  
Hawaii Technology Academy Head of School