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Governor

Vanelle Maunalei Love  
Executive Director



**Charter School Administrative Office**

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**FOR:** SB 2589 Relating to Charter Schools  
**DATE:** Monday, February 22, 2010  
**TIME:** 10:20 p.m.  
**COMMITTEE(S):** Ways and Means (WAM)  
**ROOM:** Conference Room 225  
**FROM:** Maunalei Love, Executive Director

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Written testimony in **support** of S.B. No. 2589 S.D. No. 1

Senate Ways and Means Committee  
Honorable Chair Donna Mercado Kim  
Honorable Vice-Chair Shan Tsutsui  
Esteemed Senators Suzanne Chun Oakland, J. Kalani English, Carol Fukunaga, Brickwood Galuteria, Clayton Hee, Gary L. Hooser, Michelle Kidani, Russell S. Kokubun, Jill N. Tokuda, Fred Hemmings

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 facilities to maximize the use of facilities for our students, giving them the educational opportunities that will enable them to succeed.

We support the intent of SB2589 SD1, requiring the Department of Education (DOE) to make public school facilities available to charter schools when such facilities are closed, and establishes a process for the DOE and the Charter School Review Panel to review, approve or deny applications for such facilities. Also in need of support is being able to allow Hawaii's charter schools access to underutilized DOE and state facilities. We do request that this bill be amended on page 4, lines 20-21, to read as follows:

"(e) The panel shall adopt policies and procedures necessary to carry out the purposes of this section, including, but not limited to:"

This bill serves to benefit the public charter school system, the DOE, and the state- which has to maintain public facilities, without creating a significant fiscal impact on the state budget.

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 and facilities 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 government.

We believe that this bill is a good approach to providing charters with access to educational facilities and will assist to address and clarify issues regarding facilities support. The CSAO is ready, willing, and able to help with any revisions. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**Date:** 02/22/2010

**Committee:** Senate Ways and Means

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn Matayoshi, Interim Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 2589, SD2 PROPOSED RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the DOE to make available vacant school facilities or portions of school facilities for use by charter schools. Requires the charter school review panel to compile a prioritized list of charter schools that wish to use vacant school facilities or portions of school facilities. Makes changes to charter school funding. Takes effect 7/1/2050. (SD2)

**Department's Position:** The Department of Education (DOE) is concerned about possible consequences coming from those sections of SB 2589, SD2 PROPOSED, that relate to the closure of a regular public school. Sections 2, 3 & 4 of SB 2589 are based on the premise that the DOE is the owner of its school sites and would not have a use for the property after the school were closed. For example, the DOE now pays rent to private landlords for space it could vacate and relocate to a to-be-closed school. The DOE is also contemplating the use of a portion of a to-be-closed school as a site for an alternative school. We suggest that sufficient flexibility be included in the bill to allow these post-closing uses.

The DOE is very supportive of the use of portions or all of to-be-closed schools by charter schools and will work closely with the Charter School Review Panel to implement the intent of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



February 22, 2010

Senate Ways and Means Committee  
Honorable Chair Donna Mercado Kim  
Honorable Vice-Chair Shan Tsutsui

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Aloha Chairperson Mercado Kim and members of the Senate Ways & Means Committee,

The Hawaii Charter Schools Network (HCSN) represents the unified voice of all 31 public charter schools in our state. We thank the Committee on Ways and Means for this opportunity to speak on their behalf. We support SB 2589.

HCSN believes that SB 2589 should be considered favorably as it improves Hawaii's charter school system by increasing the likelihood that charter schools will have access to facilities. And these improvements are in line with the expectations of the Obama Administration's Race to the Top (RTT) program. With continued work, legislative actions this session could better position Hawaii to successfully secure an expected \$75million dollars in federal education support.

RTT validates what charters have been saying for years: Provide equitable resources, including facilities support, and in return charter schools must provide accountable and transparent governance and academic success benefiting kids.

Sincerely,

Alapaki Nahale-a  
Executive Director  
Hawaii Charter Schools Network

Curtis Muraoka  
VP of Legislative Affairs  
Hawaii Charter Schools Network

*Community ♦ Choice ♦ Quality*

*Hawaii Charter Schools Network PO Box 1689 Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
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## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Hearing Date: Monday, February 22, 2010  
10:20 a.m. – Conference Room 211

Kalei Kailihiwa  
Director, Ho‘olako Like  
Kamehameha Schools

Good afternoon Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. My name is Kalei Kailihiwa Director of Ho‘olako Like of Kamehameha Schools. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2589 SD1 which would require the Department of Education to consider making available vacant school facilities or portions of school facilities for use by charter schools.

Kamehameha Schools supports promoting the achievement and success of Hawaii public school students and, as such, has been a collaborator with the Hawaii public charter schools. As part of our Education Strategic plan, KS hopes to significantly impact more Hawaiian children ages 0-8 and grades 4-16+, and their families/ caregivers over the next five years, in collaboration with others whenever possible.

Currently, Kamehameha Schools works with 13 nonprofit tax-exempt organizations, including `Aha Punana Leo, OHA, KALO and Ho`okako`o Corporation, to assist a total of 14 start-up and 3 conversion charters with special projects, professional development, and technical assistance.

Kamehameha Schools believes that these efforts provide more positive educational choices and ultimately enhances academic achievement and greater school engagement for Hawaiian students. Through these collaborations, Kamehameha Schools currently assists more than 3,600 students in eleven communities on 4 major islands, within the public education system.

In summary, supporting and replicating the successful strategies found in Hawaiian-focused charter schools is a good way to invest in education that has potential benefits for the entire public school system.

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**SB 2589 SD2**  
**RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS**  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 22, 2010

10:20 am

Room: 211

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** the proposed SB2589 SD2, which requires the Department of Education to make available vacant school facilities or portions of school facilities for use by charter schools and which now requires the charter school review panel to compile a prioritized list of charter schools that wish to use vacant school facilities or portions of school facilities. This measure also makes appropriate changes to bring parity and per pupil equity to charter school funding. These proposals would alleviate pressures to charter schools and help ensure that they continue to succeed.

OHA does, however, have concerns with the bill's proposed amendments to Hawaii Revised Statutes 302A-1151, Sale of school lands unnecessary for school purposes. We note that the sale of school lands must comply with Act 176, Session Laws of Hawaii 2009. Among other things, Act 176 requires a two-thirds majority vote of both houses of the Legislature before any specific lands controlled by the State can be sold (this includes but is not limited to ceded lands). We ask that appropriate consideration be given to the requirements of Act 176 when amending §302A-1151.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to PASS SB 2589 SD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.