



LATE TESTIMONY

Linda Lingle
Governor

Vanelle Maunalei Love
Executive Director

Charter School Administrative Office

1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: 586-3775 Fax: 586-3776

FOR: SB 2589 Relating to Charter Schools and
SB 2590 Relating to Education
DATE: Monday, February 8, 2010
TIME: 1:45 p.m.
COMMITTEE(S): Education and Housing
ROOM: Conference Room 225
FROM: Maunalei Love, Executive Director

Testimony in **support** of S.B. No. 2589 and S.B. No. 2590.

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Kidani, 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 providing needed resources to all public schools. The CSAO supports providing the charter schools access to available facilities to maximize the use of our facilities for our students to give them the educational opportunities that will enable them to succeed.

We support both SB2590, requiring the Department of Education (DOE) to consider making public school facilities available to charter schools when such facilities are closed, and SB2589, requiring to make such facilities available and establishes a process for the DOE and Charter School Review Panel to review, approve or deny applications for such facilities.

Both bills serve 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 these bills for the changes they make towards providing 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 and facilities for all public school students are at greater competitive advantage to qualify for RTT and other federal grant programs.

Please include any revisions necessary to include the public charter schools in these funding mechanisms. The CSAO is ready, willing, and able to help with any revisions. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**SB 2590****RELATING TO EDUCATION**

Senate Committee on Education and Housing

February 10, 2010

1:20 p.m.

Room: 225

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB 2590, which requires the Department of Education to make available vacant public school facilities for use by charter schools. As the Department of Education closes non-charter public schools due to financial restraints, those available spaces are school-safe and ready for use by public charters. A public school provides safe and sound structures for students to learn in, but public non-conversion charter schools have had to do without some basic facilities for years, such as: food service facilities, libraries, health rooms and playgrounds. All of these kinds of facilities are normally built into or are proximal to public schools.

Furthermore, in requiring the DOE to make available vacant school facilities or portions of facilities for use by public charter schools, the bill also enables charter schools to expend their much needed funds on curriculum and learning rather than on exorbitant rents and other facilities-related costs. This policy, when adopted, will ameliorate the per-pupil allocation inequity between mainstream public schools and charter schools. In the 2009-10 school years, the charter school per-pupil allocation is \$5,536. The mainstreamed public schools' per-pupil allocation is \$11,060.

Since 2005, OHA has assisted Hawaiian-focused charter schools as they also struggled with rent, permits, and locating sites conducive to learning. Through innovation, collaboration and the application of Hawaiian cultural values, these charter schools have made significant gains in learning and achievement (Kana'iaupuni et. al, 2005). This bill will greatly enable the charter schools ability to make further advancements in student achievement by redirecting rent to student learning and by making

available school-ready facilities, previously unavailable, for the benefit of students.

Therefore, OHA urges the committee to PASS SB 2590. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.