

SB2901

## sakamoto2 - Erin

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 06, 2010 7:00 PM  
**To:** EDH Testimony  
**Cc:** director@whea.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2901 on 2/8/2010 1:45:00 PM

Testimony for EDH 2/8/2010 1:45:00 PM SB2901

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Curtis Muraoka  
Organization: Hawai'i Charter Schools Network  
Address: 73-4460 Queen Kaahumanu Hwy #105 Kailua Kona, Hawaii  
Phone: 808-987-2522  
E-mail: [director@whea.net](mailto:director@whea.net)  
Submitted on: 2/6/2010

Comments:

Dear Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Kidani, and Esteemed Senators Chun-Oakland, Galuteria, Tsutsui and Hemmings of the Senate EDH Committee,

HCSN supports the intent of SB2901, but speaking as a public charter school operator, I personally question the implementation. In my experience, just transferring student files can be susceptible to lag times and mislaid information.

The idea of money following the child is one whose time has come, but the implementation of a pro rata disbursement needs careful deliberation and roll out of a system that tracks where any given student is on any given day.

In addition, the DOE weighted student formula contains a loss threshold capacity that appears to function similarly to the escrow account idea in SB2901, except that it is simply a protection for schools that lose a given percent of funding due to decreases in enrollment. Perhaps this could be a model to stabilize the transfer of funding as students move between schools without regard for whether the school is a traditional district school or a public charter.

Most importantly however, a uniform per student allocation would appear necessary for this arrangement to work.

If such a uniform pupil amount is established, perhaps an additional "count day" some time later in the school year would be a more efficient mechanism, albeit less accurate.

However, HCSN supports this bill moving forward.

Sincerely,  
Curtis Muraoka, Vice President  
Hawaii Charter Schools Network  
The Unified Voice of Hawaii's 31 Public Charter Schools



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

*Hawaii Public Charter School #551*

*94-810 Moloalo Street  
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797  
808-676-5444  
808-676-5470 (Fax)*

February 8, 2010

Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senate Committee on Education and Housing

**Re: SB2901, Relating to Funding of the Charter Schools – 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 also would like to thank the bill introducers for considering how to provide true funding parity and a mechanism to reconcile funding for charter and Department of Education (DOE) schools.

We support the passage of this bill, which provides reconciliation of funding for charter and DOE schools to obtain a pro rata share of per pupil funds when a student transfers from a DOE school to a public charter school or vice versa.

This bill provides fiscal accountability to accommodate instances when a student transfers from a DOE school to a public charter school and vice versa. The intent is to provide a reconciliation of the student funding so that it follows the student in the event of transfer during the school year. It also affirms student support, so that resources truly follow the student. These are underlying foundations of funding and student support parity that are cornerstones of the federal “Race to the Top” (RTT) initiative.

HTA is one of Hawaii’s 31 public charter schools that are part of the state public school system. Like Hawaii DOE schools, charter schools 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 an equitable funding and a supportive environment for all DOE and public charter schools to position Hawaii to compete for U.S. Department of Education grants. States with policies supporting equitable funding for all public school students in place are at higher 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