

Linda Lingle  
Governor



Vanelle Maunalei Love  
Executive Director

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**FOR:** SB2903 SD2, Relating to the Hawaiian Language College  
**DATE:** Tuesday, March 9, 2010  
**TIME:** 2:05 p.m.  
**COMMITTEE(S):** Education and Higher Education  
**ROOM:** Conference Room 309  
**FROM:** Maunalei Love, Executive Director

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**LATE TESTIMONY**

Comments on S.B. No. 2903 S.D. No. 2

Chairs Roy Takumi and Jerry Chang,  
Vice Chairs Lyla Berg and Mark Nakashima,  
and Members of the Committees:

Aloha, I am Maunalei Love, executive director of the Charter School Administrative Office. I want to thank the chair and the entire committee for the time and effort being spent to remedy the issue of providing funding and resources for the public charter schools.

This bill seeks to build upon the successes achieved by Nawahiokalani'opu'u and the Hawaiian Language College at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. They have shown a model for maintaining and, indeed, promoting the resurgence of the teaching of the Hawaiian Language while demonstrating overall educational achievements by their students. The CSAO lauds these accomplishments and believes that they should be celebrated. However well this bill is intended, we must oppose it for the reasons noted below:

- The bill seeks to impose a requirement that the DOE and CSAO provide to the college "all written...organizational, operational, and management materials and communications, as applicable." This would not only create an onerous task upon the parties involved but would seriously delay the turnaround on time sensitive communication.
- It seeks to transfer functions to the college that are the legal responsibilities of the DOE and CSAO.
- Some of the supports that the college seeks to give can be provided already without any changes to the statutes.
- The state and Federal Governments are asking that the CSAO demonstrate more authority and accountability, not less.
- The bill seeks to enable the transfer of funds from the CSAO to the college. The CSAO does not have the resources to be transferring any funds to the college.

We continue to advocate for support of the public charter schools and maintaining their independence and innovation with accountability and commend the committee for its attention and support to ensuring that such issues be addressed. As always, the CSAO is ready, willing, and able to help with any questions and/or revisions. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.