

SCR108

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Date: 03/17/2010

Committee: Senate Education and
Housing

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn Matayoshi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 108 REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO ESTABLISH A CONSISTENT FUNDING FORMULA, PROCESS, OR BOTH, BY WHICH EQUITABLE FUNDING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS IS DETERMINED.

Purpose of Resolution: REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO ESTABLISH A CONSISTENT FUNDING FORMULA, PROCESS, OR BOTH, BY WHICH EQUITABLE FUNDING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS IS DETERMINED.

Department's Position: The Department supports SCR 108. There have been previous informal attempts to develop an equitable funding methodology. The issue of equity of funding is very complex and requires in-depth analysis. The probability of reaching agreements regarding equitable funding is much greater with the key decision-makers who would be members of this task force. The Committee may want to consider adding the Executive Director of the Hawaii Charter School Network as a member of the task force.

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: SCR 108 Requesting the Convening of a Task Force to Establish a Consistent Funding Formula, Process, or Both by Which Equitable Funding to Charter Schools is Determined

DATE: Wednesday, March 17, 2010

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

COMMITTEE(S): Education and Housing

ROOM: Conference Room 225

FROM: Maunalei Love, Executive Director

Testimony in **support of the intent** of S.C.R. No. 108

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 charter school and all public schools students to give them the educational opportunities that will enable them to succeed.

We believe that the transparency and understanding of the public education that has been resulting from the ongoing work of many stakeholders will and must necessarily continue. As such, we support the intent of this measure to continue that work.

We do believe that the following sentence be added to recognize the accomplishments of that group:

“Whereas, numerous stakeholders from the Department of Education, the Charter School Administrative Office, education community, charter schools, and the legislature have been meeting regularly to resolve these issues;”

We also recommend that the Charter School Review Panel be represented on the Task Force.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



Ho'okāko'o Corporation

Wednesday, March 17, 2010
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 225

TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING

To: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair, Senate Committee on Education and Housing
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Education and Housing
Members of the Committee on Education and Housing

From: Lynn Fallin, Executive Director
Ho'okāko'o Corporation

RE: SCR 108

The Ho'okāko'o Corporation (HC) supports the intent of SCR 108 – **REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO ESTABLISH A CONSISTENT FUNDING FORMULA, PROCESS, OR BOTH, BY WHICH EQUITABLE FUNDING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS IS DETERMINED.**

HC looks forward to the opportunity to serve on the task force and to work together with members to determine a consistent and equitable funding formula for charter schools.

The following is the history of the amount per pupil allocation from 2003-2010.

| | |
|------------|---------|
| 2003-2004: | \$5,355 |
| 2004-2005: | \$5,736 |
| 2005-2006: | \$5,570 |
| 2006-2007: | \$7,332 |
| 2007-2008: | \$8,150 |
| 2008-2009: | \$7,590 |
| 2009-2010: | \$5,753 |

The drop and fluctuation in funding makes it very difficult to plan and to implement plans. The drop and fluctuations have been as high as 24% (from SY 2009 to SY 2010). If a consistent funding formula and/or process are determined, charter schools will be able to better plan for and to deliver services to the students the schools serve.

Background About the Ho'okako'o Corporation: HC's mission is to help schools reinvent themselves for the purpose of improving the academic achievement and personal growth of their students. The Ho'okako'o Corporation (HC) is implementing Act 2 (2002) that enables a Hawaii based nonprofit corporation to operate and manage conversion charter schools and the nonprofit board to serve as the local school board. HC collaborates with communities, educators, and families to provide conversion charter schools with expertise and resources to improve student success. HC schools are fortunate to receive funding from Kamehameha Schools. These funds are intended to enrich and supplement state funding. HC and the schools have used the funding to implement innovative programs such as PreK, expanded learning time, and Ike Hawaii.

HC was established in late 2002 and began operating in 2003. Three partner schools converted with HC - Waimea Middle School on the Island of Hawaii in 2003, Kualapu'u School on Molokai in 2004 and Kamaile Academy in Leeward Oahu in 2007. The three schools are located in communities of significant socio-economic need and are Title 1 schools. The total enrollment of the three schools is about 1500 students. As conversion charter schools, like their DOE counterparts, the schools continue as the public community feeder school, and also serve the broader public as emergency shelters, election voting locations and other public facility services that state DOE facilities may need to provide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. HC looks forward to serving on the task force.



March 17, 2010
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 225

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING

RE: SCR 108 – Requesting the Convening of a Task Force to Establish a Consistent Funding Formula, Process, or Both, by Which Equitable Funding to Charter Schools is Determined

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Witt and I am executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 elementary and secondary students statewide.

The Association is in **strong support** of **Senate Concurrent Resolution 108**, which requests to convene a Charter School Funding Task Force to establish a consistent funding formula and/or process by which equitable funding to Charter Schools is determined. **Along with this support our association is recommending some additions to the composition of the Task Force on page two of this written testimony.**

As active participants in the educational dialogue in our community, our association advocates for the well-being of all school-aged children in Hawaii, inclusive of their right to an education sufficient to prepare them as graduates of public, charter, parochial, private and independent schools for success in college, in careers, and citizenship.

To these ends, our association has been a steadfast advocate for charter schools given the promise they offer, particularly to underserved children in more rural communities; thus our active engagement with the Ho'okako'o Corporation and with those Hawaiian culture schools working closely with Kamehameha Schools Public Education Support Division.

Our association also believes that charter education represents an urgently needed research and development function with the potential to enrich and advance practice and policy for public education in our state; thus also our more general support for the CSAO and the Charter School Review Panel, on which we have a representative member, and the new Charter School Network.

The added value of charter schools to our community is already in evidence; however, it is our observation that the education establishment has had a tendency over the past ten years to treat charter education more as a liability, and less as an asset.

Our strongly held belief is that unless and until we begin to view charter schools as a social and intellectual asset capable of improving education for all children in our state, and unless and until we assure ourselves as policy-makers and professional educators that these schools are receiving not only equitable funding, **but also ample funding** to experiment, innovate, explore, discover and then share results – we lose the potential for the kind of “action research” so needed during the “reinvention” process for our public schools.

To fully examine the funding of Hawaii’s charter schools, HAIS supports SCR 108 while also strongly recommending that the proposed composition of the Task Force be expanded to include the following:

- (1) A representative from the Hawaii Business Roundtable with policy-level financial expertise (perhaps from one of the big accounting firms);**
- (2) A representative from Kamehameha Schools at the executive policy level;**
- (3) A representative from the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools from a business office at one of its schools;**
- (4) A representative from Hawaii’s philanthropic community;**
- (5) A representative from an accredited institution of higher education based in Hawaii (i.e. Chaminade, UH, or HPU colleges of education).**

Given the prominence of charter schools on neighbor islands, we also recommend that consideration be given to comprising the Task Force with a balanced membership with equitable representation from all islands.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

TO: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING
Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: Wednesday, March 17, 2010
TIME: 1:15 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 225

SUBMITTED BY: Linda Elento, parent of children in public, private and charter schools,
and board member of the Hawaii Down Syndrome Congress

IN SUPPORT OF SCR108 (Charter Schools)

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO ESTABLISH A
CONSISTENT FUNDING FORMULA, PROCESS, OR BOTH, BY WHICH
EQUITABLE FUNDING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS IS DETERMINED

Dear Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the EDH committee:

Please also consider adding the following to SCR108:

1. Add Director of Special Education as a member of the task force;
2. Review options such as a “high-risk” special education fund/budget account (per IDEA federal special education law) that could be shared among all regular and charter schools, which might allow for a per-person cost that would be very helpful in preparing a budget for each charter school, with the added protection of the high-risk fund that is available to all schools outside of the annual budgeted cost;
3. Propose revisions to Charter School law in respect to providing funding to Charter Schools for special education services in HRS 302B that would be consistent with the state’s definition of charter schools and allow for autonomy and flexibility in the provision of special education services and training (not just a duty to provide DOE personnel to the Charter Schools).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony to the committee.

sakamoto2 - Erin

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2010 9:13 AM
To: EDH Testimony
Cc: annie@schha.org
Subject: Testimony for SCR108 on 3/17/2010 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDH 3/17/2010 1:15:00 PM SCR108

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Annie K. Au Hoon
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Submitted on: 3/17/2010

Comments: