



**HAWAII
TECHNOLOGY ACADEMYSM**

Hawaii Public Charter School #551

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LATE TESTIMONY

February 7, 2011

Honorable Roy Takumi, Chair
Honorable Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

Re: HB 159, Relating to Charter Schools - Support
Conference Room 309, 2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Belatti and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Hawaii Technology Academy (HTA), a public charter school with learning centers in Waipahu and Princeville serving students on Oahu, Kauai, Hawaii Island and parts of Maui, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

We support HB 159, which establishes a funding formula for charter school facilities.

This bill is an outcome of the collaboration from the Charter School Funding Task Force (established by SCR 108), to look at detailed information on existing funding sources for charter schools, look at the Department of Budget and Finance's calculation for DOE and charter school per pupil allocations, review discrepancies between these allocations, and examine whether a portion of the debt service, repair and maintenance and capital improvement expenses should be paid by charter schools.

We would like the opportunity to collaborate with members of this committee and other hybrid schools like HTA to provide information about average facilities funding costs needed to support hybrid or "distance-learning" facilities. HTA uses technology to deliver Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Creative Media, and Math-focused curriculum through online and face-to-face instruction with our teachers. As such, we do have certain space and facilities requirements that are unique to online learning.

For these reasons, we respectfully request to provide members of the committee with additional information to help refine this bill for passage.

Sincerely,
Jeff Piontek
Hawaii Technology Academy Head of School

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 3:08 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: salefamily_msbd@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for EDN 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM HB159

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shawna Sale
Organization: Individual
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Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:

I am a concerned parent speaking on behalf of all the keiki at the public charter school my child attends. I feel so fortunate that we have this option for our keiki. Our school has a rich, multi-layered curriculum that allows the children to thrive academically and socio-emotionally. Our children feel part of a community that is intimate, cohesive, and supportive. Our school, Innovations Public Charter, abides by all the expectations and rules set forth. They do audits every year, they adhere to all record keeping and DOE policies, and they stay true to the charter that was approved 10 years ago. As a law abiding tax payer, I feel that as far as public school is concerned, my children deserve fair and equal funding Across the board whether they attend DOE or Charter schools. I know we have definitely taken our fair share of budget cuts to schools. I plead, please ensure that all choices for government approved public schooling are funded equally and that no matter what you keep public charter funding at no less than \$6,500 per student for the coming school year.