

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



ROGER MCKEAGUE
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
CHARTER SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: 586-3775 Fax: 586-3776

FOR: HB 159 Relating to Charter Schools
DATE: Tuesday, March 1, 2011
TIME: 12:00 p.m.
COMMITTEE(S): Committee on Finance
ROOM: Conference Room 308
FROM: Roger McKeague, Interim Executive Director

Testimony in support of the intent of H.B. No. 159

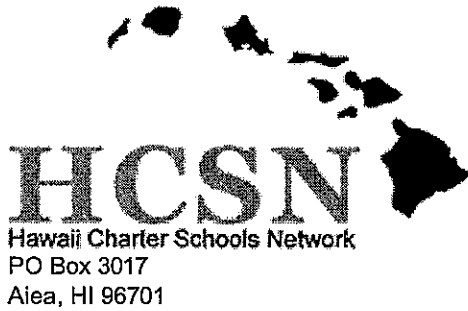
Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

Aloha, I am Roger McKeague, interim 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 addressing the facilities needs for public charter schools.

This bill seeks to establish a new funding formula for charter school facilities.

The CSAO continues to support the intent of this bill and any others that seek to provide charter schools with additional opportunities for access to facilities.

The CSAO is ready, willing, and able to help with any language that will strengthen this bill as it advances forward. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Tuesday, March 1, 2011
12:00 P.M.
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: HB 159

Testimony: In Strong Support

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee and Esteemed Committee Members,

HCSN is a 501c3 educational quality initiative representing 31 Hawai`i public charter schools.

On behalf of the Hawaii Charter Schools Network, we wish to thank Chair Oshiro for his role in the Charter School Funding Task Force, and for putting forward a facilities funding formula based on that work via HB159.

We realize that the formula as proposed may have been initially viewed as unusual, and quite unlike what is generally seen in legislation. However, we wish to respectfully point out that there are precedents to such an approach in other states and municipalities, most notably Washington DC, which provides a facilities allowance in addition to the support offered by their Uniform Per Student Funding Formula.

HCSN Treasurer Steve Hiramami has been working with Assistant Superintendent Randy Moore to examine capacity requirements for a group of East Honolulu schools. As such, we hope the formula in HB159 is viewed in the spirit in which it was offered: a categorical baseline illustrating support for children. Please note that HCSN and its member schools realize fully that "Lump Sum" funding is something that provides a level familiarity for those who manage the budget, and therefore, please be assured that the CSAO and CSRP can implement a needs-based formula to such a lump sum if that approach is the best option under current fiscal conditions. Moving forward, under Race to the Top, this type of support will also help Hawai'i align with national trends in education.

In closing, please know that all charter stakeholders are thankful for the sincere discussion, and remain hopeful that our children will receive a meaningful level of facilities support.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB159.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis Muraoka". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Curtis Muraoka
Vice-President

Date: 03/01/2011

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0159(hscr296) RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a funding formula for charter school facilities.

Department's Position: HB 0159 requires the Department of Education (DOE) to allocate funds to charter schools for facilities in an amount per sq.ft., determined by DAGS, for the number of sq.ft. not provided by the state, determined by DOE based on space in DOE schools provided for elementary and secondary students. Adjustments will also be made for space needs of distance-learning schools. The effective date of HB 0159 requirements if adopted is SY 2012-13.

DOE supports the intent of HB 0159, which is to provide funds to the charter schools for facilities, but recommends the following amendments:

1) Provide that the charter school administrative office (CSAO) allocate funds to start-up charter schools for facilities from lump sum appropriation to CSAO for this purpose. Facilities for conversion charter schools are already provided by DOE.

2) Provide for the appropriated amount to CSAO to be based on the per-student amount that is provided to DOE schools and conversion charter schools, equal to the annual debt service attributable to DOE, as determined by the Department of Budget & Finance, divided by the total

number of students in DOE and conversion charter schools.

Thank you for considering our testimony.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 1, 2011
12:00 p.m. – Conference Room 308

Kalei Kailihiwa
Director, Ho'olako Like
Kamehameha Schools

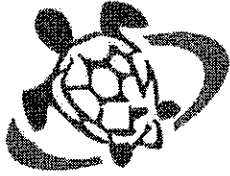
Good afternoon Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and members of the House Committee on Finance. My name is Kalei Kailihiwa Director of Ho'olako Like of Kamehameha Schools. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 159 which establishes a funding formula for charter school facilities.

Kamehameha Schools supports promoting the achievement and success of Hawaii public school students and, as such, has been a collaborator with the Hawaii public charter schools. As part of our Education Strategic plan, KS hopes to significantly impact more Hawaiian children ages 0-8 and grades 4-16+, and their families/ caregivers over the next five years, in collaboration with others whenever possible.

Currently, Kamehameha Schools works with 13 nonprofit tax-exempt organizations, including 'Aha Punana Leo, OHA, KALO and Ho'okako'o Corporation, to assist a total of 14 start-up and 3 conversion charters with special projects, professional development, and technical assistance.

Kamehameha Schools believes that these efforts provide more positive educational choices and ultimately enhances academic achievement and greater school engagement for Hawaiian students. Through these collaborations, Kamehameha Schools currently assists more than 3,600 students in eleven communities on 4 major islands, within the public education system.

In summary, supporting and replicating the successful strategies found in Hawaiian-focused charter schools is a good way to invest in education that has potential benefits for the entire public school system.



HAWAII TECHNOLOGY ACADEMYSM

Hawaii Public Charter School #551

94-810 Moloalo Street
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797
808-676-5444
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March 1, 2011

Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Re: HB 159, Relating to Charter Schools - Support
Conference Room 308, 12:00 PM (Agenda #3)

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee 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.

HTA supports establish a needs-based-funding for charter school facilities. Facilities costs easily take up a large portion of funding per pupil, in addition to our personnel costs for teachers and administrators. With cuts totaling more than 30 percent since the recession began in 2007, we humbly request that funding for charter school facilities should be separate and not come out of per pupil funds.

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.

For these reasons, we respectfully request for the committee to pass a needs-based funding bill for charter schools this session.

Sincerely,

Jeff Piontek
Head of School
Hawaii Technology Academy

State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Tuesday, March 1, 2011
12:00 P.M.
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: **HB 159**

Testimony: **In Strong Support**

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am in strong support of a mechanism that funds facilities needs for charter school students. I think that whatever funds are provided to EDN 600 identified as facilities funds can be fairly distributed among the charter schools by the CSAO and CSRP. The formula is already in progress with a report from the DOE on facilities in the Kalani/Kaiser complex. This study was recently conducted among eight schools in the district to possibly create a consolidation plan. Special consideration would be made for all distance learning students based upon a percentage of the square footage needs of a traditional "bricks and mortar" school student. Deductions would be made from the formula for facilities already provided by the State. This formula could be proportionally applied to any amount of funding, in the scenario that facilities funding would take incremental steps to reach full funding.

One caveat: in computing a "needs based formula" you cannot fund equitably if you only "reimburse" schools for facilities costs. Charter schools have had to "make do" with all kinds of creative structures due to the fact that we have had no facilities support except for SY 2007-08 when we received \$674 per student for facilities. So if a school could only afford to buy a large circus tent to house classes, it would not mean that its facilities needs are to reimburse the school for that structure. "Needs based" means: the amount of space and/or money that it takes to adequately and safely provide educational space for children. The charters could use that facilities money to upgrade, rent new appropriate learning spaces, or construct proper facilities.

Article X of the State Constitution states: The State shall provide for the establishment, support and control of a statewide system of public schools free from sectarian control, a state university, public libraries and such other educational institutions as may be deemed desirable, **including physical facilities therefor**. It is a very important part of educating any child that the right environment be provided. Let's make a difference in over nine thousand public education children's lives.

Respectfully,

Steve Hirakami, Director Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science PCS, Treasurer HCSN

February 28, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: Tricia Wright, MD MS FACOG, Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Women's Health, University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine. Medical Director Path Clinic. Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Addiction Medicine

Re: In strong support of House Bill 129 Relating to Perinatal Care *

Dear Mr. Oshiro, Ms. Lee and Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am writing to urge support for the passage of this bill. The Path clinic was established in 2007 through Acts 248 and 147. Since that time, we have seen almost 200 women, and helped over 120 women have healthy babies. The clinic is very cost effective; the cost of the clinic is \$200,000/year, less than the cost of one premature baby in the first year of life. Our preterm birth rate is less than or equal to the state and national averages of 12%. Women who obtain clinic services would otherwise be expected to have a preterm birth rate of 18-25%. In the three years of operation, we have saved the state approximately \$208,000 in the cost of caring for preterm births in the first year of life alone**. This is not including the savings from child welfare, as 96% of our women maintain custody at 8 weeks, whereas 57% of the women lost custody of a previous child. Women overwhelmingly decrease use of substances, and the majority become abstinent. They go on to parent their children, use long-term contraception and become productive members of society. I believe this is a small investment that leads to long-term rewards.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

* This is not an official position of the University of Hawaii.

** (120 women X 0.18)-(120 women X 0.12) x \$32,000/baby

February 28th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair; Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-Chair;
and Committee on Finance Representatives

Re: Strong Support of HB 129

Thank you for this opportunity to express my strong support of HB 129 to fund Path, a perinatal addiction clinic in Kaimuki which serves women from all areas of Oahu.

Providing effective support to pregnant women who struggle with alcohol and substance use is not just compassionate – it is cost-effective, both short and long term.

The Path Clinic has demonstrated that this model works in improving the health of infants and in changing the trajectory of women's lives so that they can capably parent their children. When most pregnant women who use substances are effectively supported, they are very likely to achieve their goals of delivering healthy infants that they are able to keep and parent. The women who receive Path services that maintain custody of their infants (95%) have a very low repeat pregnancy rate (lower than national average). The women that lose custody of their infants have an extremely high repeat pregnancy rate at 9 months after delivery (60%). **When a pregnant woman who is using substances receives services at Path, everyone wins – infants, women, families, the Departments of Human Services, Public Safety, Health and Education!**

The Path Clinic effectively addresses a complex problem in a manner that saves dollars and also invests in women, families and community. It needs funding this year to provide services to the increasing number of women who are seeking its services.

Sincerely,

Renee Schuetter, RN, M.Ed.
Executive Director
The Path Clinic

House of Representatives

Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair

Tuesday, March 1, 2011; 12:00 p.m.
Capitol Conf. Room 308

Testimony
HB 159

Chair Oshiro and members of the Committee on Finance.

My name is Jim Williams and I am testifying as an individual in strong support of House Bill 159. I urge your committee to move this bill forward for further consideration by this Legislature.

The purpose of this bill is to establish a formula for State funding of facilities costs for charter schools located in private facilities.

As a co-founder and board member (currently vice-chair) of Voyager Charter School, I am acutely aware of the need for facilities funding for public charter schools that do not have the good fortune to be located in a State facility. Voyager is one on those schools, and it is a big challenge for our local school board to budget for both the school program and facilities costs in those years (which historically have been most years) in which no funds are provided to offset the costs of leasing space for the school.

The formula set forth in HB 159, clearly and fairly sets forth a method for determining how much each qualifying charter school will receive. This bill represents a major advance in providing equitable funding for charter schools.

I urge this committee to approve this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 159.

Jim Williams
Honolulu

Testimony in Support of HB159 and HB625

February 28, 2011

Aloha Representative,

My name is Kalalea Ka'uhane, and I am a Sophomore at Kanuikapono Public Charter School (KPCS). I have attended KPCS since the very first year and I have watched it change over time and know first hand how much we have struggled and persevered in over the last eight years.

Our school is steadfast. We strive to instill the importance of cultural values, traditions, and practices in the youth of today. We may be a Hawaiian Culture based school but our dream is to mold the Hawaiian culture with the 21st century so that we can take our culture to greater heights.

I am amazed with what we are able to do with minimal resources. We have learned to make the best with what we have, little or a lot. Every need is opportunity to learn how to solve problems that benefit the school. I believe that the school is thriving today because everyone does their part in making sure the school moves forward.

As a student I have learned science through the propagation of native plants and soil remediation. I have also saved the school money and learned about landscaping by helping to plant the native plants around the school campus. I have learned math and engineering by assisting with the schools irrigation, again looping back to the plants. I have gained 21st century skills by documenting my learning with media storytelling, of course with Hawaiian language subtitles and original compositions of song to show my knowledge and appreciation of the Hawaiian culture.

This year I am in a planning and design class with an expert architect. I am a part of the Anahola regional planning process, and my classmates and I are designing and building actual structures for our campus. You should come and visit us. Last year the middle school students constructed two yurts that the 2nd and 3rd graders now use. I hope to be a part of constructing new classrooms for the elementary. It excites me to imagine modern classroom buildings that will allow us to focus on the 21st century skills necessary to thrive in this ever-changing world.

Our school is one without limits or boundaries and we do not settle for average or mediocre. Every student succeeds at Kanuikapono. My intent is not to ask you in desperation of our needs, and desires. My purpose is to let you know that we are thriving ever upwards and it that it would be very supportive and substantial for everyone if we could gain your support to further develop our facilities. Mahalo for the good work that you do, and we hope to have you visit our campus soon.

Mahalo,

Kalalea Ka'uhane

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 8:34 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mmcorrison@hookakoo.org
Subject: Testimony for HB159 on 3/1/2011 12:00:00 PM

Testimony for: FIN 3/1/2011 12:00:00 PM HB159

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: comments only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Megan McCorrison
Organization: Ho'okako'o Corporation
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: mmcorrison@hookakoo.org
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:
Aloha:

Should you have any difficulty accessing the document, please contact Jennifer Higaki at jhigaki@gmail.com.

Mahalo!