

Date: 03/01/2011

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0625,HD2(hscr385) RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires land and facilities under the jurisdiction of the DOE not being used to be transferred to the DLNR; provided that the land or facilities is first offered to, or used for charter schools, other educational purposes, or to an eligible county where the land or facility is situated.

Department's Position: The DOE supports this bill as amended in HD2.
Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony

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 625 HD2 Relating to Education
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 H.B. No. 625 H.D. No. 2

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 enables the transfer of DOE lands to the DLNR provided that charter schools or other education programs be given the highest priority as an alternative use of these lands prior to their transfer.

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.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, March 1, 2011 at 12:00 p.m.

By
Virginia Hinshaw, Chancellor
and
Christine K. Sorensen
Dean, College of Education
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 625 HD2 RELATING TO EDUCATION

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

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's College of Education supports HB 625 HD2.

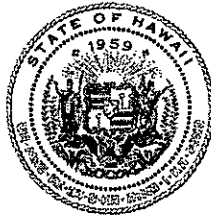
The University understands that there are a number of vacant buildings in the possession of public schools. Given that these buildings are standing empty, it is rational to institute procedures to return those buildings to constructive use.

Friendly Amendment:

However, we would like to suggest a friendly amendment to the bill. While priority first goes to charter schools and other educational programs, we think the bill should explicitly indicate *public* charter schools and other *public* educational uses as top priorities. In the current language, the buildings should be offered to "other education programs," which could include private, non-profit, or alternative users. If the legislative intent is for public educational use, we would recommend being explicit in that language. If non-public educational use is also intended, then those options should exist only after exhausting all public charter school and public educational options. Following exploration of possibilities for educational use, we would support the buildings being offered to the county, preferably for public use.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Tuesday, March 1, 2011
12:00 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 625, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO EDUCATION**

House Bill 625, House Draft 2 requires the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Chairperson), upon recommendation and approval of the Department of Education (DOE) Superintendent, to accept the transfer from the DOE to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) any state land under DOE's jurisdiction and set forth priorities for alternate uses. The Department supports this measure, but offers the following comments and suggested amendment.

In particular, the Department supports the amendments to Section 171-19, Hawaii Revised Statutes, proposed in House Bill 625, House Draft 2. Once lands are returned to the Department, proceeds resulting from future dispositions of the lands would support the Department and the Special Land Development Fund (SLDF). The SLDF provides financial support critical for the Department to fulfill its fiduciary duty, including but not limited to the management and preservation of the State's cultural, historic and natural resources.

However with respect to Section 2 of the bill, although the Department does not object to Counties having priority over the State for lands the Counties holds the fee title, the Department does object to the Counties having priority over the State for those lands held in fee title by the State of Hawaii. Accordingly, the Department recommends the following amendment to Section 2 of the bill that would make clear that the Counties would have priority over those lands in which they own the fee.

“2) The county where the land or building is located; provided that the county is willing to accept the land and the land is held in fee title by the county and was previously under the jurisdiction of the county.”

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

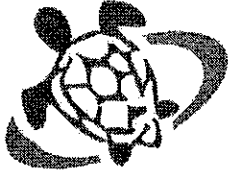
GUY H. KAULUKUKUI
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

The Department believes that State lands that are no longer needed for school purposes ought to be returned to the public trust to allow the lands to be available for other agencies and departments that may have a need.

Accordingly, the Department asks that House Bill 625, House Draft 2, be amended as noted above.



HAWAII TECHNOLOGY ACADEMYSM

Hawaii Public Charter School #551

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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 625, HD2, Relating to Education - 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.

This bill requires land and facilities under the jurisdiction of the DOE not being used to be transferred to the DLNR; provided that the land or facilities is first offered to, or used for charter schools, other educational purposes, or to an eligible county where the land or facility is situated.

We support legislation authorizing public charter schools to have first access to all or a portion of DOE school facilities in the event of a closure. Currently, many start-up public charter schools must go into the market to find and renovate commercial space to accommodate classroom, library and other work space to support an environment for learning. This investment in facilities is costly and must be balanced along with providing curriculum, personnel costs and other expenses required to run a school.

HTA is one of Hawaii's 31 public charter schools that are part of the state public school system. Like Hawaii DOE schools, charters comply with federal and state education standards. We support efforts like this to improve Hawaii's public education system.

For these reasons, we respectfully request for the committee's support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Jeff Piontek
Head of School
Hawaii Technology Academy



Ho'okāko'o Corporation

Transforming Public Education
in Hawai'i's High-Need Communities for the 21st Century

Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

Re: HB 625 HD 2 – Relating to Education

Tuesday, March 1, 2011, at 12:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

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

Aloha, my name is Megan McCorriston, executive director of Ho'okāko'o Corporation (HC), a 501(c)(3) charter support organization that serves as the local school board for three public conversion charter schools — Waimea Middle School on Hawai'i Island, Kualapu'u Elementary School on Moloka'i, and Kamaile Academy in Wai'anae — which educate nearly 1,600 students, or roughly 19 percent of the total public charter school student population in Hawai'i.

Ho'okāko'o Corporation supports House Bill 625, House Draft 2 – Relating to Education, which proposes to make land and school facilities under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) that are unused for school purposes available for the use of public charter schools and other educational programs.

All of HC's public charter schools share a vision of a comprehensive educational experience that involves a rich offering of academic and enrichment programs and a variety of learning environments for learners of all ages. Although each of HC's public charter schools has its own unique plan for making this vision a reality, all three schools — as well as the students, families, and communities that they serve — have a strong interest in expanding their instructional space and the number of grade levels that they teach; however, the growth and development of these schools, like the rest of the State's public charter schools, are severely constrained by the availability of land and facilities.

By giving public charter schools an opportunity to make use of unutilized HIDOE land and any of its pre-existing school buildings and facilities, HB 625 HD2 would not only keep land designated for educational purposes in active use by public schools, but it would also open up significant possibilities for the growth of all of Hawai'i's public charter schools.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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