

**HAWAII  
TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY<sup>SM</sup>**

*Hawaii Public Charter School #551*

*94-810 Moloalo Street  
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797  
808-676-5444  
808-676-5470 (Fax)*

**LATE**

February 25, 2011

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**Re: SB 1174 SD1, Relating to Charter Schools - Support**  
Conference Room 211, 9 AM

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani 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 SB 1174, SD1, to establish a needs-based-funding for charter school facilities. Facilities costs easily take up a large portion of funding per pupil. 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.

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

Sincerely,

Jeff Piontek  
Hawaii Technology Academy Head of School



**LATE**

**SB1174 SD1**  
**RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS**  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 25, 2011

9:00 a.m.

Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB1174 SD1 because it recognizes the need for a funding formula for charter schools, simplifies the process, and further empowers the executive director of the Charter School Administrative Office. OHA is disappointed that the formula could not be codified at this time but also supports the continuation of the task force and commends them for their hard work in bringing the charter school community together and in striving to achieve funding parity with the Department of Education's regular schools.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to PASS SB1174 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to present this testimony.

**SB 1217**

**Testimony before the  
Senate Committee on**

**Ways and Means**

**S.B. 1217 -- Relating to Education**

**Friday, February 25, 2011  
9:00 a.m., Conference Room 211**

**By Robbie Alm  
Executive Vice-President  
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.**

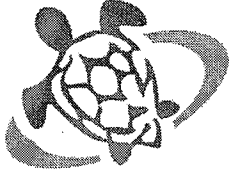
Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

This testimony is being submitted on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company and its subsidiary utility, Maui Electric Company.

We support S.B. 1217, which establishes a virtual learning network and e-school pilot project for Lanai High and Elementary School. During community meetings on the proposed wind farm project and in discussions during the community's visioning process residents raised concerns about the quality of education and educational opportunities available on Lanai. One of the issues that has been raised by educators that this bill will address is the availability of courses required for graduation, most of which must be taught by teachers that are qualified in accordance with federal guidelines. According to educators from small, rural schools the present Weighted Student Formula method of allocating funds does not provide sufficient funding to support the staffing of these "Highly Qualified" teachers. The creation of an enhanced distance learning pilot project for Lanai will enable the Department of Education to address this concern by offering the requisite courses online and it could also provide other virtual learning opportunities for students.

This bill is among several bills that have been introduced this legislative session which address some concerns and desires raised by residents during community discussions on the wind farm project. If the wind farm is built on Lanai and the power sent to Oahu, it seems only fair to provide the island with the resources necessary to meet critical community needs. We strongly urge the committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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**LATE**

February 25, 2011

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**Re: SB 1217, Relating to Education – Support with amendment**  
Conference Room 211, 9 AM

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani 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 SB 1217, which establishes a pilot project that expands the e-school program offered by the Hawaii Virtual Learning Network and the DOE to Lanai High and Elementary school.

Currently, the key partners of Hawaii Virtual Learning Network are the DOE, E-School, Teleschool, Myron B. Thompson Academy and the University of Hawaii Online Learning Academy. We are respectfully requesting that your committee consider amending this bill to allow other qualified online partners that provide robust course offerings that are taught by teachers qualified in accordance with federal guidelines.

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

We thank the committee's consideration of our request for this amendment. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide you with any further information.

Sincerely,

Jeff Piontek  
Hawaii Technology Academy Head of School