

SB807

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



MAUNALEI LOVE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
CHARTER SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
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FOR: SB 807 Relating to Charter Schools
DATE: Monday, January 31, 2011
TIME: 1:15 p.m.
COMMITTEE(S): Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 225
FROM: Maunalei Love, Executive Director

Testimony in support of S.B. No. 807

Chair Tokuda, 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 addressing governance within the public charter school system.

This bill clarifies the appeals process with regard to reauthorization and/or revocation, prohibits the relative of a school head or employee from serving as the chair of the local school board (“LSB”) and requires charter schools and their LSB’s to develop internal policies and procedures consistent with ethical standards of conduct.

The CSAO supports these clarifications in the law. These changes will address some outstanding issues that have raised concerns lately.

The CSAO is ready, willing, and able to help with any revisions to clarify the details in these drafts. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



State of Hawaii
Charter School Review Panel
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Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740
Tel: 808-721-8615 Email: csrpf.hi@gmail.com

JANUARY 31, 2011

1:15 P.M.

Rm. 225

**TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

RE: SB807

The Charter School Review Panel (CSRP) supports SB807

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

Aloha,

I am Ruth Tschumy, Chair of the Charter School Review Panel. This bill provides needed changes regarding who may serve as chair of charter schools' Local School Boards. Excluding both employees of the school and relatives of the head of school from serving as the LSB chair will enhance the ability of LSB's to provide objective oversight of their schools and increase their accountability for the governance of their schools.

HRS §302B-3.5 provides for an appeals process for three decisions by the CSRP: revocation of charter, denial of an amendment to a school's detailed implementation plan, and denial of a charter to an applicant group. SB807 provides for an appeals process for charter schools denied reauthorization by the panel. Since denial of reauthorization closes the school, it is tantamount to revocation of charter. The panel believes charter schools should be able to appeal a non-reauthorization decision and may have grounds for a legal challenge if they are not allowed to appeal.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Ruth Tschumy, Chair
Charter School Review Panel



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education

Hearing Date: Monday, January 31, 2011

1:15 p.m. – Conference Room 225

Kalei Kailihiwa
Director, Ho‘olako Like
Kamehameha Schools

Good afternoon Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Senate Committee on Education. My name is Kalei Kailihiwa Director of Ho‘olako Like of Kamehameha Schools. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 807 which clarifies that charter schools that have their charter revoked or reauthorization denied may appeal to the board of education for a final decision; prohibits a relative of a designated head of a school or employee of a school from serving as the chair of the local school board; requires charter schools and their local school boards to develop internal policies and procedures consistent with ethical standards of conduct, pursuant to chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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 for over eight years. 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 3,800 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.

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Ho'okāko'o

Corporation

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Re: SB 807 – Relating to Charter Schools

Monday, January 31, 2011, 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

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

Aloha, my name is Megan McCorrison, 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 Senate Bill 807, in particular its added provisions for the development of internal policies and procedures regarding the ethical conduct of public charter schools and their local school boards.

In its role as both a local school board and an educational non-profit organization, HC is subject to the ethical codes of conduct, accountability measures, and transparency requirements stipulated by not only the Hawaii Revised Statutes and the state's Sunshine Law, but also by HC's board of directors and private funders and the Internal Revenue Service rules governing 501(c)(3) organizations. Likewise, HC's three partner schools are held to similarly high ethical standards, and all undergo comprehensive annual audits of both their finances and operations.

As demonstrated by its own existing policies and practices, HC believes strongly in the importance of accountability and transparency in both public charter school and local school board management and operations, and supports the efforts of SB 807 to strengthen the requirements in these areas for all public charter schools.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HAWAII TECHNOLOGY ACADEMYSM

Hawaii Public Charter School #551

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LATE TESTIMONY

January 31, 2011

Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

Re: SB807, Relating to Charter Schools - Support
Conference Room 225, 1:15 PM

Aloha Chair Tokuda, 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 807, which clarifies that charter schools may appeal to the BOE for a final decision on a revoked charter or denied reauthorization; prohibits a relative of a designated head of school or employee of a school from serving as the chair of the local school board; requires charter schools and their local school boards to develop internal policies and procedures consistent with ethical standards of conduct, pursuant to Chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Many of you know that Hawaii's public charter schools are research and development laboratories of public education. By having flexibility with curriculum and direct management of energy and resources, we are able to demonstrative innovations in education public school students. Charter schools offer families the opportunity to choose the school most suitable for their children's educational needs.

HTA is one of Hawaii's 31 public charter schools that are part of the state public school system. We focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Creative Media, and Math.

Like Hawaii's DOE schools, charters adhere to the same federal and state regulations and standards (No Child Left Behind and the state's Content and Performance Standards), abide by state health and safety standards, and are subject to Collective Bargaining. Unlike DOE schools, charters are held to higher reporting standards and must submit annual financial audits.

As charter schools continue to grow, we support enhancements like the establishment a standard code of ethics so that all public schools may be better served now and in the future.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge members to support the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,
Jeff Piontek
Hawaii Technology Academy Head of School