

**Date:** 02/07/2011

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 0159 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, but recommends the following amendments:

1) Provide that the charter school administrative office (CSAO) allocate funds to charter schools for facilities from a lump sum appropriation to CSAO for this purpose.

2) Provide that if the appropriated amount exceeds the amount to be allocated, the excess be lapsed to the general fund.

3) Provide for DOE to provide CSAO with the square feet per student in DOE elementary and secondary schools in the following categories:

- a) Classrooms
- b) Libraries
- c) Cafeteria/kitchens
- d) Administrative offices
- e) Locker/shower facilities
- f) Playgrounds
- g) Playcourts
- h) Gymnasiums
- i) Stadiums
- j) Tennis courts
- k) Swimming pools
- l) Paved parking stalls

- 4) Provide for DAGS to provide to CSAO the rental rates per sq.ft. for categories (a) through (l) above.
- 5) Allow DAGS to determine as the rental rate 5% of the cost of a facility, if market rates are not available (e.g., for cafeterias and athletic facilities).
- 6) Provide for each charter school to report to CSAO annually the sq.ft. of various types of space provided by the state, as of a date to be determined by CSAO.
- 7) Provide for CSAO to make an appropriate adjustment in the space needed by distance-learning schools.



**State of Hawaii**  
**Charter School Review Panel**  
73-4460 Queen Ka'ahumanu Hwy. #128  
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740  
Tel: 808-721-8615 Email: csrp.hi@gmail.com

February 7, 2011

2:00 P.M.

Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY TO THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**RE: HB 159**  
**Relating to Charter Schools**

**The Charter School Review Panel (CSRP) supports HB 159.**

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Belatti, and Members of the Committee:

Aloha,

This bill provides for a funding formula to be used for allocating funds for charter schools' facilities costs. This formula is the result of the work done by the Task Force for Charter School Funding under the direction of chairs Sen. Donna Mercado Kim and Rep. Marcus Oshiro.

The Charter School Review Panel supports HB 159 because it provides for charter schools' needs with regards to facilities costs.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Ruth Tschumy, Chair  
Charter School Review Panel



**HB 159**  
**RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS**  
House Committee on Education

February 7, 2011

2:00 p.m.

Room 309

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB 159, which seeks to establish a facilities funding formula for charter schools.

HB 159 would help address the longstanding budget shortfalls faced by charter schools. Since 2005, OHA has provided \$8.5 million in grants to Hawaiian-focused charter schools. As a result of OHA's funding and the funding of other educational partners, we have seen growth in the number of Native Hawaiian students attending charter schools as well as improvement in achievement and success among Native Hawaiian students. Notwithstanding this supplemental funding, however, charter schools still face major budget shortfalls.

SCR 108, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, requested that a task force be convened to establish a consistent funding formula by which equitable funding to charter schools could be determined. Among other things, the Charter Schools Funding Task force found that:

- While the changes in statute made during the 2010 Legislative Session to clarify the calculation of per pupil funding for charter school operations, the next step is to develop a formula for funding charter schools needs.
- There are some variations in the appropriation of funding for charter schools, specifically variation in federal funding, SPED and other non-general fund appropriations.
- The Department of Education public schools routine repairs and maintenance costs are only partially reflected in the Department of Education's budget.
- In the 2010 Legislative Session, a portion of charter school operating funds, calculated per statutory formula, was redirected, per budget proviso, to provide a funding source for charter schools facilities leaving charter schools with the difficult task of reducing the amount of resources available for operations below the comparable amount provided to the Department of Education per statutory formula.

HB 159 addresses a key recommendation of the Charter Schools Funding Task Force: to develop a facilities funding formula distinct from the formula used to appropriate

operational funding for charter schools. Adoption of this measure would bring all charter schools closer to funding parity with their Department of Education counterparts.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to PASS HB 159. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

Testimony to the House Committee on Education  
Hearing Date: Monday, February 7, 2011  
2:00 p.m. – Conference Room 309

Kalei Kailihiwa  
Director, Ho'olako Like  
Kamehameha Schools

Good afternoon Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Belatti and members of the House 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 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.

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 03, 2011 11:48 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** director@whea.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Curtis Muraoka  
Organization: Hawai'i Charter Schools Network  
Address: 73-4460 Queen Kaahumanu Hwy #105 Kailua Kona  
Phone: 8089872522  
E-mail: [director@whea.net](mailto:director@whea.net)  
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

**Comments:**

HCSN supports facilities funding for public charter school children aligned with the intent to move states toward equity for charter school students under Race to the Top, and also under Article X of the Hawai'i State Constitution.

This is a good, timely bill that puts children first.

Testimony  
House Committee on Education  
February 7, 2011 Room 309  
2:00 PM  
Strongly Support

Dear Chair Takumi and committee,

I am in strong support of this bill that creates a funding formula for charter schools facilities. Two years ago, language was inserted into 302 B-8 that said facilities funding shall be based on the department of budget and finance's debt service appropriation for the department of education divided by the department of education's actual enrollment that school year. This methodology has been disputed by Budget and Finance and the legislature.

As a result of study done during the waning days of the Charter School Funding Task Force, which was created via a Senate resolution, a needs based approach was devised to try and come up with the answer to the question: "How much space is needed to educate a student adequately?" The study included 6 different states and a national average. This bill supports the study.

Adjustments to the formula can be made addressing the lower facilities needs of distance learning students which can vary from a small percentage per school to an entire charter school's student body. Also adjustments and reductions can be made so that charters already occupying State facilities, like conversion charters, and charters in other State facilities will receive far less or in some cases, no additional per pupil support.

The study could not find any statistics on Hawaii schools, but there have been new Hawaii schools added to the system that would have that current data. If this data were available, then we could actually equate the square footage per student to our State's needs. This is a starting point and there will be adjustments made, but the important thing is to get a consistent, reliable amount that start up charters can budget on. Currently, one Honolulu charter school has an enormous burden with monthly lease payments and these costs are currently taken from its educational operating funds.

Most of the variables have not been filled in at this point and we can facilitate the process. One strategy is to use the existing square footage at a conversion charter school or an average of the five conversions to come up with the average square footage per student. This would eliminate all other square footage of the department's administrative and support space and only concentrate on the school's needs. We can make this a graduated process where we would take intermediate steps until we are comfortable with the formula. The needs are real and immediate, so any progress will be greatly appreciated by the charter school students and their families.

Sincerely,

Steve Hirakami, Director

Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science PCS

Treasurer,

Hawaii Charter Schools Network





# Innovations PCS Foundation



75-5815 Queen Ka'ahumanu Hwy Kailua Kona, HI 96740

[www.ipcs.info](http://www.ipcs.info)

A 501c(3) corporation EIN # 30-0218474

## TESTIMONY OF BARBARA WOERNER, IPCS FOUNDER / INNOVATIONS PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL FOUNDATION DIRECTOR

### IN SUPPORT OF HB 159

HEARD BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

on Monday, 02-07-11 2:00 PM

House Conference Room 309

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Au Belatti and Members of the Education Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 159 and the favorable consideration and approval of HB 159 establishing a facilities funding formula for charter schools.

Innovations has been in operation for 10 years. It is an award winning school providing quality education to 185 public school children in West Hawaii. IPCS students consistently score in the top 10% on the state's standardized testing for reading and math. In addition to academic excellence, students contribute to their community and are being groomed as future leaders of our community and state. IPCS is very proud of its accomplishments.

The IPCS ohana needs your support for facilities. With the drastically diminished per pupil funding and no facility funding support, reduced services to students have been necessary. The school does its best to continue to provide quality education to students but the last two years have been more than challenging. Positions were cut to balance the budget. This has put a strain on teachers as well as students. Having financial support for facilities would be a step in the right direction. Providing adequate facility funding for these public school students is the right decision to make and would help IPCS continue to provide excellent learning opportunities for Hawaii's future citizens.

Innovations is not the only charter school struggling with funding. All public charter schools in the state work tirelessly to provide the best education for their students with inadequate funding.

On behalf of Innovations PCS and all charter schools in Hawaii, I humbly ask that your committee support and approve HB 159 which establishes a formula for funding charter school facilities.



# Ho'okāko'o Corporation

Testimony to the House Committee on Education  
Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair

Re: HB 159 – Relating to Charter Schools

Monday, February 7, 2011, 2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Belatti, 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 the intent of House Bill 159, which proposes the inclusion in statute of a funding formula to determine the allocation of facilities funds for charter schools.

As a member of the Charter School Funding Task Force, HC supports the recommendations made by the Task Force in its report to the 2011 Hawaii State Legislature, in particular the implementation of a needs-based facilities funding formula that is applied independently of the formula used to allocate operating funds for charter schools.

Not only would such a funding formula help to address the pressing facilities needs of Hawai'i's public charter schools, but it would also begin to redress the funding inequities inherent in the methods used to allocate facilities funds for these schools in years past. In fiscal year 2010-11, a portion of the per-pupil allocation for public charter schools' operating funds was redirected, per Budget Proviso 39.1 (Act 180, SLH 2010), to provide funding for charter school facilities costs. This redirection of funds was essentially a deduction from the operating funds available to public charter schools, which, as described in the Charter School Funding Task Force's report, "had the effect of decreasing the amount of resources available for the charter school for operations below the comparable amount provided to the DOE per statutory formula." Unlike this previous practice, a needs-based facilities funding formula would provide public charter schools with facilities funds that are separate from their per-pupil allocation and would leave their operating funds — which are greatly needed to support teaching and learning — intact.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 05, 2011 11:49 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** laara@halaulokahi.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Laara Allbrett  
Organization: Halau Lokahi Public Charter School  
Address: 401 Waiakamilo Rd Unit 1A Honolulu, Hawaii  
Phone: 832-3594  
E-mail: [laara@halaulokahi.com](mailto:laara@halaulokahi.com)  
Submitted on: 2/5/2011

**Comments:**

Aloha,  
Please support adequate and fair facilities funding for charter schools as mandated by Article X of the Hawaii Constitution for public education.  
Mahalo

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 8:01 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** kuaokala@ilhawaii.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kua O Ka La PCS  
Organization:  
Address: 14-5322 Kaimu Kapoho Rd. HI  
Phone: 808 965-5098  
E-mail: [kuaokala@ilhawaii.net](mailto:kuaokala@ilhawaii.net)  
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

**Comments:**

Please support facilities funding for Charter Schools. These are public schools. Facilities are the greatest challenge for the Charter Schools.

## TESTIMONY OF JIM SHON

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**RE: HB 159 RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS**  
**FEBRUARY 7, 2011 2PM ROOM 309**  
**POSITION: SUPPORT**  
**MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

I am aware there has just concluded a working group to make recommendations on funding for facilities. This bill is the result. It is a good bill. It should not impose on the time or resources of DOE. It is workable.

During the recent gubernatorial campaign, Governor Abercrombie made it clear that charter schools, their students and their families, would not be considered "second class" in terms of state funding. This was welcome news as the gap between charter and DOE general funds appropriations has grown significantly in the last few years.

I wanted to provide you a perspective on this based on a thorough historical and current understanding of that gap.

Recently I chaired the LSB negotiation team at the UH Lab school in reaching an agreement with HSTA. This provided an important insight into the relationship of the obligations of charters to pay salaries consistent with the HSTA Unit 5 Master agreement, and the overall cost of running a school. UH Lab is an interesting example because we try to replicate DOE classroom circumstances in order to more validly test new curriculum for use in the DOE. Therefore, our teacher-pupil ratio is pretty close to that of the DOE for most grade levels.

To be specific, we found that just our Unit 5 salary costs amounted to **nearly 80%** of our per pupil allocation. To put this in perspective, for many years the Institution of Education Sciences (IES) has been tracking public school expenditures. Nationally and in Hawaii the level of expenditures dedicated to *Instruction and Instructional related expenses* in right around 60%. This means that we allocated about 40% of the DOE budget for everything else. For salaries only, this would be approximately 50% of our general funds in the DOE.

The reality is that in order to meet collective bargaining obligations charter schools must allocate a much greater percentage of their general fund support than that of the DOE, and thus there is much less to spend on direct classroom instructional support, not to mention other bargaining unit employees. Of course, we all are aware that for startup charters there has been little to no separate allocation for rental of facilities over the years, let alone actually building facilities as we do for the DOE. One charter school must pay over \$800,000 just to rent facilities. Another, West Hawaii Explorations Academy, is forced to move due to the extension of the Kona airport runway, yet the State has not offered any relocation or rebuilding support.

I am not suggesting that meeting the HSTA and HGEA master contract obligations in themselves should be the sole basis for calculating and equitable funding formula, only that we should keep these in mind in “testing” the basic equity we seek.

Tracking the Research

The following is the Summary of Disparity in the Percentage of general funds required for collective bargaining.

See recent report:  
**Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary School Districts: School Year 2007-08**  
 nces.ed.gov

[http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2010/revexpdist08/app\\_b.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2010/revexpdist08/app_b.asp)

You can see below that the definition used by NCES includes much more than just teacher salaries, and yet amounts to 64% of ALL expenditures (including federal funds) and about 60% of Hawaii’s reported non federal expenditures.

**“instruction and instruction-related expenditures—**

Include expenditures for instruction and instructional staff support services. These are expenditures that are directly related to providing instruction and for activities that assist with classroom instruction. These include salaries and benefits for teachers, teaching assistants, librarians and library aides, in-service teacher trainers, curriculum development, student assessment, technology (for students but outside the classroom), and supplies and purchased services related to these activities.”

The Education Laboratory as a Case Study. The Education Laboratory Charter School, often called the UH Lab School, has been a charter school since 2001. During the last legislative session the per-pupil allocation appropriated by the Legislature was set at \$5,363.

UH Lab Current Contract. \$5,363 per pupil cap X 444 students = \$2,381,172.00. This figure represents our entire allocation from general funds. The following represents our current salaries.

HSTA Salaries	\$1,888,104.00
HGEA Salaries	\$461,932.00
Total Salaries	\$2,350,036.00
	<b>98.69%</b>

It is quite obvious that of the general fund allocation for DOE schools, salaries alone do not represent 98% of the appropriations or costs. The UH Lab Unit 5 contracts only = \$1,888,104 = 79% of per pupil allocations, not 64%, not 60%, not 55%; certainly not 50%, which would be closer to the percent of general funds for DOE schools. (I am excluding Federal funds, Stimulus funds, Special Education support) Consider the following calculations:

**IF DOE Teacher Salaries (Unit 5) represent 64% of DOE general funds, then the \$1,888,104.00 should also represent 64%. The total PP allocation for UH Lab should then be \$2,950,162, and we are \$568,990 short. The appropriate per pupil allocation should then be \$6,644, not \$5363.**

**IF DOE teacher salaries represent 60%, the total pp allocation should be \$3,146,840, or we are \$765,668 short. The appropriate per pupil allocation should then be \$7,087.**

**IF DOE Unit 5 salaries represent 55%, the total pp allocation should be \$3,432,916, or we are \$1,544,812 short. The appropriate per pupil allocation should then be \$7,732.**

**IF DOE Unit 5 salaries represent 50%, the total pp allocation should be \$3,776,208, or we are \$2,003,551 short. The appropriate per pupil allocation should then be \$8,505.**

Conclusion If the % of DOE general funds allocated only for Unit 5 salaries is 50%, the gap between how the State supports charter school students and how the State supports DOE students is significant.  $\$8,505 - \$5,336 = \$3,168$  per pupil short of parity!

Today the enrollment in charter schools is nearly 10,000 students, with many more on waiting lists. Historically, charter school per pupil funding peaked in 2006 at about \$8,000. Since then the per pupil allocations has nose dived to \$5,336 this year. No other department has absorbed such a large percentage drop in support.

The last Consolidated Annual Financial Report of DOE Expenditures available on the web was for 2008-2009. Adding up general funds for DOH support under Instruction and Related Services, Instructional support, School support services and administration (see attached) this totals \$1,970,302,091. Divided by the number of DOE students enrolled (179,478) the calculated general fund "per pupil" support for DOE was just over \$11,000 per student. That same year the charters received a little over \$7,000. This is a gap of between \$3,000 and \$4,000!

With the prospects of increased funding for public education in general and the DOE in particular, clearly the Administration's budget request for charters should be well above last year's appropriation, and well above the Lingle Budget. This bill will help.

Sincerely,

*Jim Shon*

Jim Shon

162 Forest Ridge Way

Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

(Tel: 946-7878 Cell: 282-1509)

jshon@hawaii.edu

## **EDNtestimony**

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**From:** Tony Lenzer [Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 3:20 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of House Bill 159

Chairman Takumi and Members of the House Committee on Education:

My name is Anthony Lenzer. I am writing to strongly support the provisions of House Bill 159, which creates a much-needed, fair formula for calculating facility rental costs for Hawaii's Public Charter Schools. I base my support on having watched one such school, Voyager Public Charter School, struggle to find, and pay for, a facility which can provide a decent learning environment for its students and teachers. As you may know, up until this year, Voyager was housed in a strip mall, with some classes held in another commercial development across the street. There was no gym, no real cafeteria, few enclosed classrooms, and none of the other "amenities" typically found in DOE public schools. The School's Board and Administration have struggled to find sufficient funds to cover rent and other expenses. Voyager is now in the process of moving to another facility which should offer a better learning environment, but the cost issue will continue to be critical to the School's survival and further development.

In the interest of full disclosure, I should explain that two of our grandchildren have attended Voyager, where they have received an excellent education. One of our daughters is also a teacher at the school. Am I therefore "biased" in supporting this legislation? Absolutely! But, I would not be doing so were I not convinced of the value and importance of charter schools, and of the need to provide them with adequate funding.

I therefore ask your support for HB 159, and thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

Anthony Lenzer, Ph.D.



House of Representatives

Committee on Education  
Representative Roy Takumi, Chair

Monday, February 7, 2011; 2:00 p.m.  
Capitol Conf. Room 309

Testimony  
HB 159

Chair Takumi and members of the Committee on Education.

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

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 6:54 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** konamarlene@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Marlene Elia  
Organization: Individual  
Address: Po Box 1028 Kailua-Kona, HI 96745  
Phone: 8088964429  
E-mail: [konamarlene@yahoo.com](mailto:konamarlene@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

Comments:

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 7:49 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** geligad001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kathryn Geliga  
Organization: Individual  
Address: Kailua Kona, Hawaii  
Phone:  
E-mail: [geligad001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:geligad001@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

**Comments:**

Please support facility funding for charter school. I am a product of the Hawaii public school system, my father taught for the DOE for 30 years and my children are attending a public school, it just happens to be a charter school. We are tired of being treated as if we are not part of the public school system, particularly when it comes to funding. Please support funding for our school, Innovations Public charter School, and all charter schools. Mahalo.

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 8:57 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** elizaroo2@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Eliza Wille  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 75-5595 Mamalahoa Hwy. Holualoa  
Phone: 808-324-6066  
E-mail: [elizaroo2@yahoo.com](mailto:elizaroo2@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

**Comments:**

I write to voice my strong support for equitable funding for Hawaii's charter schools. Our charter schools are exceptional models of educational innovation and must be treated as equal to all public schools. Charter schools can not educate children without adequate resources, and currently receive about half of the per pupil allowance that children in traditional public schools receive. How can our state justify this discrepancy? Charter schools must be funded equally, if we are to realize their full potential to offer choices to Hawaii's keiki. Thank you for your support of this measure.

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 9:41 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** pammywong@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Pamela Wong  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 75-5591 Palani Rd. #3008 Kailua Kona, HI 96740  
Phone: 808-331-0888  
E-mail: [pammywong@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:pammywong@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

**Comments:**

I support equal funding for charter schools vs. "regular" public schools. Our family's experience at Innovations Public Charter School has been a remarkably positive one, comparable to prior private school attended, and the current budgetary inequalities for charter schools make it very difficult to function as effectively as possible, ie, no facilities funding, per-capita funding. Please support full and equal funding to our Charter Schools.

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 9:49 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** Michelle.conrey@altres.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Michelle Conrey  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 78-1012 Bishop Rd Holualoa, Hawaii  
Phone: 8089603153  
E-mail: [Michelle.conrey@altres.com](mailto:Michelle.conrey@altres.com)  
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

**Comments:**

I support this bill as both a parent and the LSB Chair for Innovations Public Charter School. I believe finally having a formula that will remain consistent and calculated in a fair and equitable manner is imperative to ensure that my daughters will receive funding for facilities which will allow the Charter Schools to use their per pupil funding for the educational items and programs that they so need and excel in. thank you for your consideration regarding this so needed bill. Aloha

February 4, 2011

Aloha,

I am writing in support of Bill HB159, Charter School Facilities; Funding. This Bill addressed the need to establish a funding formula for charter school facilities.

Currently, the state of Hawaii provides public charter schools less than half of the money per student they do their traditional DOE counterparts. As a parent of a charter school student, I have seen the benefits of such an environment and know that more funding is necessary for these types of schools to reach their full potential. Every child who attends this school is a resident of Hawai'i who has parents that are taxpayers. The administrations, teachers, families, and children deserve to send their child to a public charter school that is receiving equal funding as other state run schools. There should not be a limited budget, but rather a specific formula that provides public charter schools with the same amount of money given to other DOE schools.

I ask that you carefully review this Bill and support giving Hawaii's public charter schools the funding they need and deserve. As a parent and Master degreed educator, I know that public charter schools are teaching children using methods that are research based and providing the most comprehensive education available within the DOE system. To sustain such programs, public charter schools need to be supported throughout the legislative system. Please show your support by passing this Bill.

Sincerely,  
Wendy Marks  
Educator and Parent

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 11:52 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** jeon@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Diana Jeon  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 2714 Kahoaloha Lane, PH7 Honolulu  
Phone: 808-599-0758  
E-mail: [jeon@hawaii.edu](mailto:jeon@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

Comments:  
Testimony Re: HB159

My name is Diana Jeon and I am testifying as an individual in strong support of Senate Bill 1174. 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 parent of a student at 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. As a college instructor, I wish for students in my classroom that are as responsible as Voyager teaches it's students to be.

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

Diana Jeon  
Honolulu, HI



## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 11:58 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** sandoherty8@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Sandra Doherty  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 75-5949 Pumehana Way Kailua Kona, HI 96745  
Phone: 808 345-2117  
E-mail: [sandoherty8@yahoo.com](mailto:sandoherty8@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

**Comments:**

Please support this bill for fair and adequate facility funding for our children and our children's public charter schools....

HB159

Facilities Funding for Public Charter Schools  
Feb. 4, 2011

I write to support this bill on behalf of our own children, Julia and Grace Schnetzler, and on behalf of all charter school children throughout Hawaii. Julia and Grace are in the seventh and eighth grades at Voyager Public Charter School. After much thought and deliberation we chose Voyager Public Charter School nine years ago, despite its facilities, for my oldest daughter when she was going to kindergarten. We still find it our best available option for our two daughters. Voyager School has been a stable feature of its Kakaako neighborhood, though neighboring lessees have changed through the years. Many of the lessees have not fit well next to a school, from a lingerie store to a liquor store. In addition my children play in a Mother Waldron Park, a public park inhabited by an almost equal amount of the chronically homeless population, some of which we have seen continuously for the last nine years. Voyager has been repeatedly foiled in its attempt to lease under-utilized state lands and facilities, and though it has finally found a permanently property to lease, it is at an exorbitant price which severely strains its budget from the already substandard per/pupil allotment.

Voyager adheres to its promise of a quality education for all students, from all backgrounds and has cultivated a diverse student population. The children's test scores prove it. Likewise DOE teachers looking for a school committed to their chosen craft have gathered to make the quality of teaching what it should be. The parents' commitment is shown in their financial and volunteer support. The administration has made the facilities work on a shoestring, and has a good fiscal track record made available to audit and open to review.. Defying logic and with incredible effort, Voyager strains to operate in the black. And as we all should, Voyager teachers, administration and parents continually strive for improvement in all areas and set that example for our children.

This wonderful place, and others like it, deserves, under law, to have the facility match the standards that it has set. Currently the facilities are eating a huge chunk of the monies that should be dedicated to the school's educational viability. The administration and board of the school should be able to focus on education, not real estate **We urge you to take this yearly issue out of the political arena and pass it into law. Please vote in favor of this bill.**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joanne Williamson and Kurt Tanumafili Schnetzler

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 12:24 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** lisents@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Lisen Twigg-Smith  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [lisents@gmail.com](mailto:lisents@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

**Comments:**

I'm writing in support of fair and adequate facility funding for charter schools. My son is currently in a charter school in Kona and is getting an exceptional education (WHEA). Charter schools need our government support.

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 12:29 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** Shnla23@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Heather Nakakura  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 7710B Kalaniuka St, Holualoa  
Phone: 8089877309  
E-mail: [Shnla23@gmail.com](mailto:Shnla23@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

**Comments:**  
Please support charter schools with facilities money!

Denisa M. Matsuda  
1511 Punahou Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

February 4, 2011

Re: House Bill 159  
Hearing scheduled for February 7, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Denisa Matsuda and I am writing in support of House Bill 159. Please do whatever is necessary to move this bill forward so that it may be considered by the Legislature this session.

My daughter, Maggie has been a student of Voyager Charter School for the past five years. She is now in the sixth grade and has gained so much from being at Voyager. Not only is she a better student but also a better person as a result of being at Voyager School

I have been so impressed by what Voyager has been able to accomplish with their students, and it amazes me that this is a public school. Although I could never afford a private school education for my daughter, I wanted her to have the best education possible. At Voyager, she has had learning opportunities which she may only have had by going to a private school.

Facilities funding is so important to the continued survival of not only Voyager, but all charter schools. Voyager receives less per pupil funding, and operates in a warehouse in an industrial district. While many public schools are struggling to provide a quality learning environment with limited resources, learning is thriving at Voyager. Voyager's students surrounded by teachers who love what they do. My daughter comes home each day excited about what she has learned. How much more would Voyager's students reap if the school received adequate funding? Receiving facilities funding would go a long way to helping Voyager survive and focus on providing its children with a quality public education.

Another reason that facilities funding is important is because charter schools give alternatives to the traditional public school education. With all of the problems which are plaguing Hawaii's public school system, is it not possible that some charter schools may provide models of possible solutions? Before charter schools are written off, these possibilities need to be fully explored. And the only way to do that is to increase their chances of survival by ensuring that HB 159 is passed.

Your approval of this bill is one step to that solution.

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

Denisa M. Matsuda  
Makiki

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 1:28 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** lmahi@westhawaiiitoday.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Leah Mahi  
Organization: Individual  
Address: Alii Drive Kailua- Kona, Hawaii  
Phone: 808 990-0170  
E-mail: [lmahi@westhawaiiitoday.com](mailto:lmahi@westhawaiiitoday.com)  
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

**Comments:**

I am absolutely for this bill to help fund our island charter schools and remain open. My son Shawbaz Soaia has attended West Hawaii Exploratory Academy since seventh grade and is currently a 10th grade student. WHEA is a detrimental part of my son's academic success and future. He is diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyper Disorder (ADHD) and needs WHEA's way of teaching and outside classes. I owe a great deal of thanks to WHEA and any other charter school for creating a unconventional way of learning for those who would not be able to learn in a conventional setting. The small class sizes, hands on learning and extra attention the teachers and faculty provide makes a huge difference in my son's ability to focus and retain information. If WHEA and other charters are not able to remain open due to funding you would really be closing the doors completely on the kids chance to graduate and stopping the success of their futures. Do the right thing and pass HB159 and keep the kids are future.

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 1:52 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** layla@bellapietra.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Layla Detrick  
Organization: Bella Pietra  
Address: 701 N Nimitz Hwy Honolulu HI  
Phone: 808-220-4119  
E-mail: [layla@bellapietra.com](mailto:layla@bellapietra.com)  
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

**Comments:**

Charter Schools deserve fair and adequate facility funding. Charter schools are efforts to reform and improve public education and need sufficient support.

Committee on Education

Monday, Feb 7, 2011  
Capitol Conf. Room 225

Testimony

HB 159

Committee on Education.

My name is Nick Alvarez 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 parent of a Voyager Charter School student, 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.

Nick Alvarez  
Honolulu





*Kristi and Dion Dagdagan*

LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair

Monday, February 07, 2011, 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 309  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

HB159

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Au Belatti, and members of the Committee on Education:


My name is Kristi Dagdagan and I am testifying as an individual in strong support of House Bill 159. I strongly 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 parent of two students of Voyager Charter School, we are made acutely aware of the need for facilities funding for public charter schools as Voyager does not have the good fortune to be located in a State facility. It is something we discuss at nearly every PTSO meeting, particularly in reference to the school's fundraising efforts and the ways in which lack of government funding affects future of our school. In a May 2010 article on hawaiiibusiness.com, our own Principal Sue Deuber is quoted as saying that rent for Voyager is \$360,000 per year (link: <http://www.hawaiiibusiness.com/Hawaii-Business/May-2010/Innovation-Academies/index.php?cparticle=2&sjarticle=1#artanc>). She goes on to state that she could hire six (6) teachers with this amount, adding that this is the "biggest single challenge as movement." In the same article, Halau Hu Mana, another charter school in Makiki, is stated as holding classes in portable buildings and tents. It seems clear that establishing a formula to determine State funding will allow charter schools such as these to not only defray facilities costs, but ultimately focus their efforts and available funding on educating our children.

The formula set forth in HB159 seems to clearly and fairly sets forth a method for determining precisely how much each qualifying charter school will receive, representing a major advance in providing equitable funding for charter schools on this administrative level. As such, I strongly urge this committee to approve this bill.

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

 2011.02.04  
15:52:54 -10'00'

Kristi Dagdagan  
Ewa Beach, HI

91-202 Wailohia Place, Ewa Beach, HI 96706

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 4:39 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** rickyp@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position:  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Richard Patacsil  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [rickyp@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:rickyp@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

**Comments:**

My name is Richard Patacsil Jr. and I am testifying as an individual in strong support of Senate Bill 1174. 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 parent of a student at 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. As the parent of a Voyager student, and the husband of a college instructor, I urge you to approve this bill. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 159.

Richard L. Patacsil Jr.  
Honolulu, HI

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 5:37 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** compliments3@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: J Mulvihill  
Organization: Individual  
Address: pmb 416 75 1027 henry 111a kailua kona hi  
Phone: 808-936-7715  
E-mail: [compliments3@yahoo.com](mailto:compliments3@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

**Comments:**

Charter schools on the Big Island are such positive educational entities, and the students achieve solid structural roots of knowledge with dedicated teachers. We support HB159

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 7:25 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** tropica2@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: howie simon  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 73-5617maiau st kailua kona hi  
Phone:  
E-mail: [tropica2@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:tropica2@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

**Comments:**

please approve adequate funding for charter schools in Hawaii.  
Fair and adequate finding for my childrens' school is critical to their getting a proper education. Dont pass the buck, its your chance to take a stand and approve adequate funding for facilities and programs.

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 8:47 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** jeffreysmith@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jeffrey Smith  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 73-1082 Ahikawa Street Kailua Kona, HI 96740  
Phone: 808-325-2275  
E-mail: [jeffreysmith@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jeffreysmith@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

### Comments:

It is so important that each and every child in the Hawaii Public School system has fair and adequate funds distributed to them. This includes Charter schools which have been proven to be effective in the state assessment tests, but also in the success of these students in higher education. Please allow the funding of our charter schools to be fair and adequate. These students are caring enough to seek out alternative methods of education, and it works for them. Aloha and mahalo to you and your constituents. Jeffrey Smith, parent of 2 West Hawaii Explorations Academy high school students.

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 9:57 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** marygarris@earthlink.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Mary Garris  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 74-5605 Alapa St. #105 Kailua-Kona, HI  
Phone: (808) 640-4483  
E-mail: [marygarris@earthlink.net](mailto:marygarris@earthlink.net)  
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

**Comments:**

As a parent of a 4th grade student at Innovations Public Charter School, I believe that our school is entitled to the same funding as any other public school in Hawaii. Our school is currently experiencing significant financial hardships to due unfair and inadequate facility funding.

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 11:12 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** CAROLSTRIPP@GMAIL.COM  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: CAROL TRIPP  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 2233 KAPAHU STREET HONOLULU, HI 96813  
Phone: 808-389-1358  
E-mail: [CAROLSTRIPP@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CAROLSTRIPP@GMAIL.COM)  
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

### Comments:

My Voyager kindergartener after only her first trimester here tested at end-of-the-year reading levels. She loves this school, the teachers, and activities and takes fundraising efforts seriously such that she says, "so my school will still be there for me to go to next year." The only subject she comments on is the presence of the homeless at the local park which is used as their playground. Even though Voyager is located in a warehouse and the kids walk 1.1 miles to the McCoy Pavilion and another 1.1 miles back, to rehearse for school performances such as WinterFest, my daughter is completely happy and well cared for because the faculty and staff make every experience a positive one. This charter school has brought out the best in my daughter both in character as well as in academic performance. We were denied acceptance to neighboring public schools and the D.O.E. 2009-2010 Accountability Report for our complex school Lincoln Elementary, scored 68% Proficiency in Reading, and 59% Proficiency in Math so my husband and I refuse to enroll our daughter there, yet we cannot afford private school tuition. Voyager has a majority meeting or exceeding proficiency levels in reading as stated in the 2010 D.O.E. Hawaii State Assessments. Facility funding will make a great difference for Voyager and that will in turn benefit the children.

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 05, 2011 7:41 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** sfigueroa\_1@juno.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Sergio Figueroa  
Organization: Individual  
Address: PO Box 4443 Kailua-Kona Hawaii  
Phone: 8083457020  
E-mail: [sfigueroa\\_1@juno.com](mailto:sfigueroa_1@juno.com)  
Submitted on: 2/5/2011

**Comments:**

A Charter School makes a huge difference, there is a one on one help given to a child.



## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 05, 2011 10:22 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** NORTHPEMELA50@YAHOO.COM  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: PAMELA NORTH  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 68-3890 Lua Kula St. WAIKOLOA, HAWAII  
Phone:  
E-mail: [NORTHPEMELA50@YAHOO.COM](mailto:NORTHPEMELA50@YAHOO.COM)  
Submitted on: 2/5/2011

**Comments:**

THE CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITIES NEED FAIR AND ADEQUATE FUNDING. MY DAUGHTER HAS NEVER LOVED SCHOOL SO MUCH IN HER LIFE. HER LEARNING IS APPLIED AND HER 4.0 ASPIRATIONS ARE HIGH IN ENGINEERING AND PHYSICS. WHEA IS A SCHOOL THAT IS IN A TENT THAT INSPIRES SO MUCH, BUT WITH MEAGER FUNDING AND A MILITARY RUNWAY THREATENING TO BREAK GROUND THROUGH WHAT HAS INSPIRED HER TO SERVE HER COMMUNITY AT 11 YEARS OF AGE, OUR HOPES FOR SO MANY LIKE HER STAND IN JEOPARDY IF SUCH FUNDING TO BUILD A NEW FACILITY DOES NOT COME TO FRUITION. I HUMBLY ASK THAT YOU SERIOUSLY SUPPORT OUR FUTURE WITH THIS BILL.

House of Representatives  
Committee on Education  
Representative Roy Takumi, Chair

Monday, February 7, 2011; 2:00 pm  
Capitol Conference Room 309  
Testimony  
HB 159

Chair Takumi and members of the Committee on Education:

My name is Claudine Kimura, MD 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 parent of a Kindergarten student at Voyager Charter School, I am acutely aware of the need for facilities funding for public charter schools that do not reside in a State facility. As parent who graduated from Kaimuki High School, then from the University of Hawaii at Manoa with my Bachelor's degree, and then from the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, I am a firm believer in the ability of our public schools to provide a solid education to the children of Hawaii, despite the obstacles we face as a state and as a country. I thought long and hard before enrolling my daughter in school and chose Voyager Charter School for their philosophy of education, their unique and challenging curriculum and their excellent teachers, and I have not been disappointed. There is no question, however, that our school faces many difficulties as far as facilities as we are not located in a State building. It continues to be a big challenge for our local school board to budget for both the school program and facilities costs, because in most years 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 the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 159.

Sincerely,  
Claudine Kimura, MD  
Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, Department of Pediatrics  
Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine  
John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii at Manoa

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 05, 2011 2:50 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** nahele58@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Bruce Ah Chong  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [nahele58@aol.com](mailto:nahele58@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 2/5/2011

**Comments:**

My wife is a charter school employee and I have seen the faculty and students struggle with adequate facilities. The school is spread out in four different learning sites through out the community. Transporting the students from one site to another takes at least two hours away from their academic learning day. Teachers and students must set up and break down chairs, tables, and equipment at the end of the day because the rented facilities are used by the owners in the evenings. They are displaced and are in desperate need of buildings to house their entire school. Your kind consideration will be most appreciated. Bruce Ah Chong-Charter School supporter

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 05, 2011 7:22 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** kten@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kristen Kalilikane-Lau  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [kten@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kten@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/5/2011

**Comments:**

As public schools of choice, students, staff and families of charter schools ask for your support of HB159 for fair and adequate facility funding.

Mahalo  
Kristen Kalilikane-Lau  
kumu/parent/Local School Board  
member

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 05, 2011 7:23 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** laulautv@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jason Lau  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [laulautv@gmail.com](mailto:laulautv@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/5/2011

**Comments:**

As public schools of choice, students, staff and families of charter schools ask for your support of HB159 for fair and adequate facility funding.

Mahalo,  
Jason Lau  
parent

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 05, 2011 7:24 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** georgeka@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: George Kalilikane  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [georgeka@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:georgeka@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/5/2011

**Comments:**

As public schools of choice, students, staff and families of charter schools ask for your support of HB159 for fair and adequate facility funding.

Mahalo,  
George Kalilikane  
Grandparent of charter students

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 05, 2011 7:26 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** kuualohalau@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Aloha Lau  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [kuualohalau@gmail.com](mailto:kuualohalau@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/5/2011

**Comments:**

As public schools of choice, students, staff and families of charter schools ask for your support of HB159 for fair and adequate facility funding.

Mahalo,  
Kuualoha Lau  
charter school student

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 05, 2011 8:16 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** kaseyschultz@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kathryn Schultz  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [kaseyschultz@yahoo.com](mailto:kaseyschultz@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/5/2011

**Comments:**

I am a concerned parent who is concerned about the quality of education that my child will receive if school funding continues to be cut. I believe education of all our children whether in public or charter schools should be a top priority in this country as well as this state. Please help provide fair and adequate facilities funding for charter schools. Mahalo for your Kokua. Kasey Schultz



## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 05, 2011 8:52 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** hula\_hathaways@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Michael & Brenda Hathaway  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 734357 Lula St Kailua Kona Hi  
Phone: 8089894940  
E-mail: [hula\\_hathaways@yahoo.com](mailto:hula_hathaways@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/5/2011

**Comments:**

We have two children who attend WHEA. They both have 4.0 grade point averages. This school is the best. The school is so unique, they have the best teachers who really love their jobs and love to teach children who want to learn. This school challenges their minds. Our children could not get this education from the traditional classroom. Please give this school fair and adequate funding so my children can continue to learn, and grow to become vital adults.

Thank you for your time.

Michael & Brenda Hathaway

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 06, 2011 8:04 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** surferg@aloha.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Cleon M. Bailey  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 62-2495 Haleola Place Kaunuela, Hawaii  
Phone: (808) 880-1532  
E-mail: [surferg@aloha.net](mailto:surferg@aloha.net)  
Submitted on: 2/6/2011

**Comments:**

Dear Hawaii State Legislature,

I ask you to please contemplate the mechanism of implementing this bill HB159 and the benefits it will provide for the future citizens of this unique state by bolstering the state's charter school facilities funding. I am asking for your help in bring this bill to fruition.

Yours Truly, Cleon M. Bailey (Big Island resident)

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 06, 2011 10:46 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** tcmbigisland@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM  
**Attachments:** wheatestimony.doc

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Tamar Atsumi  
Organization: Individual  
Address: Waikoloa, HI  
Phone: (808) 883-1135  
E-mail: [tcmbigisland@aol.com](mailto:tcmbigisland@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 2/6/2011

**Comments:**

Thank you for reading my testimony. This is a very important matter.

## Testimony in Support of House Bill #159 (HB159)

At this point in time, both of my children attend West Hawaii Explorations Academy (WHEA) a public charter school. Both began attending in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and my son will be graduating this year and going to UH Hilo and my daughter is a freshman in high school at WHEA with aspirations of going to college on the mainland.

First of all, my son was in special ed beginning in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade through 6<sup>th</sup> grade in elementary school and his first year of middle school. Most of the time his curriculum would be modified so that the work was easier for him. I always contended that he learned differently and didn't need less work just a different approach to how the material was presented. He got in special ed through testing because his IQ was so much higher than his performance and was considered a gap student. He was actually one of few that was in the gifted and talented program and special ed. He never really liked school.

We were so thrilled to get him into WHEA in 7<sup>th</sup> grade (at the time the first year he could attend). The work was very challenging and I said that he was a special ed student and that he needed special assistance. The teachers didn't understand why he was a special ed student and tested him again. He actually tested out of special ed! He has thrived at WHEA with teachers telling me either that he is a perfect student for WHEA or that WHEA is a perfect school for him.

It was a very difficult decision for me to have my daughter attend in 7<sup>th</sup> grade because her elementary school was now offering middle school. I knew how different the curriculum was at WHEA and knew I did not want her going to Kealakehe High School so we took the plunge and put her in WHEA. She also is thriving. She says that her peers admonish the students who don't do their work.

I am a substitute teacher and sometimes substitute at the middle school level. I am disappointed with the lack of respect students have for education and their work and their teachers. Also with the students lack of motivation to succeed. I wonder what our world will be like when I am older.

At WHEA the students are so different. They are motivated, happy, engaged. I know that this is because WHEA is a charter school and can offer different curriculum.

In my son's senior year he was having some difficulties and his advisor was able to completely revise his curriculum. She said if WHEA were not a

charter school she would not be able to do this. He is much happier now and is excited to learn and go onto college next year.

Please support charter schools!

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 05, 2011 2:42 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** tkalohaau4ks@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Tymmie Keala-Ah Chong  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [tkalohaau4ks@aol.com](mailto:tkalohaau4ks@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 2/5/2011

**Comments:**

As a charter school employee I am asking for fair/equal funding for facilities. As a school we struggle with paying for the considerably high rent for the facilities we operate in and the space we occupy is not a conducive learning environment, but we are unable to find adequate space at the right price. The elementary utilizes two community halls where the acoustic noise level is very distracting when 40 children are in there. Please give us funding so we can find an adequate facility to house our entire school. Mahalo for your careful consideration! Tymmie Keala-Ah Chong, kumu/administrator

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 7:50 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** gingerln@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: ginger lima-naki  
Organization: charter schools in hawaii  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [gingerln@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:gingerln@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:  
support of fair & adequate facility funding for Harlem Lima-Naki & Halau Lokahi Charter School

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 9:08 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** brent.a.carman@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Brent Carman  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 73-1094 Hamanamana st. Kailua Kona  
Phone: 1-808-989-4770  
E-mail: [brent.a.carman@gmail.com](mailto:brent.a.carman@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

**Comments:**

All schools regardless of their classification with the exception of private schools should be equally funded. Most PCS are doing a much better job at educating our keiki than the public schools system and so we should support them and expand these opportunities where possible. Please support our childrens right to an equal education in PCS. Unequal funding is not equality. Mahalo



## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 2:59 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** dtwiggsmith@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB159 on 2/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

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

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: comments only  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Desmond Twigg-Smith  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 77-6261 Mamalahoa Hwy. Holualoa, Hawaii, 96725  
Phone: (808) 896-3349  
E-mail: [dtwiggsmith@gmail.com](mailto:dtwiggsmith@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

**Comments:**

Aloha Representatives: My son attends West Hawaii Explorations Academy charter school in Kona. He likes school and is getting a good education (grade 6). This school has some of the most minimal infrastructure/facilities in the state. Please keep in mind the disparity in the amount the State spends per charter school student and the amount spent on DOE students when you are filling out the formula in HB159. Thank you!

Desmond Twigg-Smith