

belatti2 - Kate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:57 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: tammi.chun@hawaii.gov
Subject: Testimony for HB2008 on 2/1/2012 2:00:00 PM
Attachments: HB2008_gov_20120201.pdf

Testimony for EDN 2/1/2012 2:00:00 PM HB2008

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Tammi Chun
Organization: Office of the Governor
E-mail: tammi.chun@hawaii.gov
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

Wednesday, February 1, 2012, 2:00 PM
State Capitol Room 309

Testimony of
NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawaii

To the House Education and Labor and Public Employment Committees
Representative Roy Takumi, Committee on Education Chair
Representative Della Au Belatti, Committee on Education Vice Chair
Representative Karl Rhoads, Committee on Labor and Public Employment Chair
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Committee on Labor and Public Employment Vice Chair

HB 2008 - Relating to Charter Schools

Chairs Takumi and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Belatti and Yamashita, and members of the
Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2008.

HB 2008 provides for a transition to implement provisions of HB 2008. I support the revisions proposed by HB 2008 to clarify and strengthen accountability and governance of our public charter schools, and HB 2010 provides for an orderly and thoughtful execution of changes in the structures and expectations related to our public charter school system.

Thank you for your consideration.

belatti2 - Kate

From: Kenyon Tam [kenyon@hcsao.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:57 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony for Feb. 2 EDN/LAB Joint Committee Meeting on HB2010 and HB2008
Attachments: 2012-02-01 EDN-LAB Testimony HB2010 & HB2008.pdf

Aloha Chairs Takumi and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Belatti and Yamashita, and Members of the Committees,

Please accept the attached testimony for tomorrow's joint committee meeting.

Mahalo,

Kenyon Tam

Communications and Legislative Coordinator
Hawaii Charter School Administrative Office
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516
Honolulu, HI 96813
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NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



ROGER McKEAGUE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

FOR: HB2010 Relating to Charter Schools
HB2008 Relating to Charter Schools

DATE: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE(S): House Committee on Education
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

ROOM: Conference Room 309

FROM: Roger McKeague, Executive Director
Charter School Administrative Office

Testimony in support of the intent and goals of HB2010 and HB2008

Chairs Takumi and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Belatti and Yamashita, and Members of the Committees:

Aloha, I am Roger McKeague, Executive Director of the Charter School Administrative Office (CSAO).

The CSAO actively participated in the Charter School Governance, Authority, and Accountability Task Force (CSGTF) established by Act 130/2011 with myself serving as a member on the task force. The CSAO supported the intent and goals of the CSGTF, and we now support the intent and goals of HB2010 and HB2008 (the result of the CSGTF) to increase the autonomy and accountability for charter schools.

However, we do have a concern. While there are some responsibilities that could be moved to the governing board and charter school level as discussed in the CSGTF, there are certain CSAO functions that need to be maintained as some level. Centralizing certain functions is often times more efficient and in many cases, necessary, and some charter schools – and even some departments and state offices – may not have the capacity to effectively carry them out.

There are certain parts of HB2010 that we strongly support such as providing the Commission with authorizer staff support. The current operations of the statewide authorizer are unsustainable without support.

We are currently going through the “weeds” of the bills as this process goes forward, and we will be putting forth more detailed testimony as this major rewrite of the charter school law requires in depth analysis. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

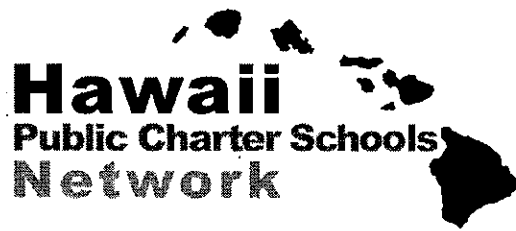
belatti2 - Kate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:28 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: lynn@hawaiiicharterschools.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2008 on 2/1/2012 2:00:00 PM
Attachments: HB2010 & HB2008 Testimony - FINAL.pdf

Testimony for EDN 2/1/2012 2:00:00 PM HB2008

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Lynn Finnegan
Organization: Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network
E-mail: lynn@hawaiiicharterschools.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:



Hawaii State House of Representative
Committees on Education and Labor & Public Employment

DATE: Wednesday, February 01, 2012

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

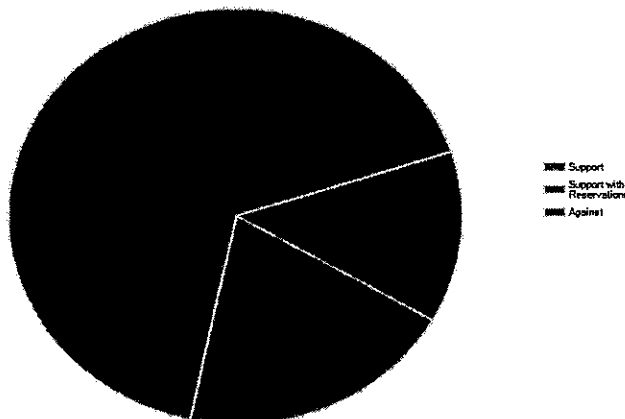
PLACE: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

Chair Takumi, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Belatti and Vice Chair Yamashita,

Re: HB2010 & HB2008, Testimony in Support w/reservations

The Hawaii Public Charter School Network (Network) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that exists to advance high quality public education in Hawaii by advocating for, and providing supports to, public charter schools. The HPCSN represents all 31 of Hawaii's public charter schools, and their 9,000+ public charter school students. So far half of our schools have responded to our poll regarding this bill: 20% support, 67.7% support with reservations and 13.7% against.

SB2116 - Charter School Governance Authority and Accountability Task
Force recommendations bill



This process started over a year ago; even before the Charter School Governance, Authority and Accountability Task Force was created. Charter school leaders and communities have been meeting to unify around charter school commonalities for charter school quality.

We strongly supported the purpose of the Charter School Governance, Authority and Accountability Task Force (CSGAATF) and appreciate the tremendous amount of time and effort invested by Co-Chairs Sen. Tokuda and Rep. Belatti, along with the esteemed and knowledgeable members of the task force. Rest assured, HPCSN recognizes the depth, sincerity, time and work invested in the resulting proposed legislation now before you.

We are heartened that during the CSGAATF discourse, the matter of trust was acknowledged openly, while discussion over the session was encouraged, not discouraged. We are thankful for the opportunity to continue exchanging ideas, information and viewpoints.

We respectfully point out that this bill proposes significant changes to the charter school law, and will cause charter schools to adjust to another governance framework. The good news is that this time, the change elements are largely based on national lessons learned.

With change however, there is fear of the unknown; leaps of faith are never easy, therefore, our collective "support with reservations" expresses optimism, but communicates responsible caution as well. One obvious source of reluctance to leap is the lingering question of funding children fairly, equitably and adequately. Charter schools have historically dealt with increasing demands and reporting while funding continues to be cut. Without acknowledging and addressing the issue of charter school funding, it would be difficult for charter schools to absorb new reporting, accountability, and transparency requirements, while also meeting and exceeding student performance standards and dealing with facility and other operational costs.

There are a number of national models to support charter school students that would significantly improving funding for charters, which is a stated concern in Hawaii's Race to the Top evaluation. The work of the previous charter school funding task force, while arduous and inclusive, has not yet resulted in equity, and we hope it is understandable we hold this as a major concern.

While charter school enrollments have continued to increase each year, the per pupil funding to the charter schools has declined significantly since fiscal year 2007-08. For example, since 2007-08 total charter school enrollment has increased by 3,208 students or 52.3%. During that same time per pupil funding for these students has declined from \$9,063.89 to \$5,933.50, a decrease of \$3,130.39 or 34.5%. This past year, state support for charter students continued to drop significantly.

As the legislature considers moving forward with these recommendations to fix the charter school governance system, please also consider that the need to equitably fund charter schools works hand in hand to provide the best outcomes for our students.

Therefore, in addition to passing bills HB2010 & HB2008, we humbly request the committee members, to:

1. Lift EDN600 budget provisos 19 & 20 for school year 12-13;
2. Use moneys currently held in the "under/over appropriations account" to support the CSAO's needs-based facilities funding formula, in part, and HB2008;

3. Support SB 2537 - Collective Bargaining, Master Agreements;
4. And support SB2598 - SPRBs for Charter Schools.

The funding increases can happen with funds already appropriated and without pulling from the already strained state general fund budget.

While the charter schools support creating a quality control governance structure to meet public accountability needs, **the following general overarching reservations with respect to HB2010 and HB2008 were shared by many:**

1. Carefully addressing and supporting the charter school sector should the CSAO be eliminated due to the vacuum of services that will occur with the elimination of that office, and;
2. Whether or not this new governance structure would further peel away at charter school autonomy.

However, please be assured that charter schools also see these changes as an opportunity to improve, which is the reason they wish to continue operating autonomously, and why the original intent of the law must be preserved. Charter schools, like those who have put in so much time and effort into the Task Force, want this legislation and system it sets up, to succeed.

Specific comments for HB2010:

The overarching task force goals reiterated the original intentions of Hawaii's charter school law, therefore please consider retaining language from Hawaii's original public charter school bill (Act 62/1999) as a way to make explicit, the intent of charter schools and to offer an assurance that successful, innovative strategies are shared with all public schools. Suggested language from Act 62/1999 that should be inserted in the draft bill:

- a. "to create new approaches to education that accommodate the individual needs of students and provide the State with successful templates that can dramatically improve Hawaii's educational standards for the twenty-first century"
- b. create "genuine opportunities for communities to implement innovative models of community-based education"

S5 Authorizer power, duties, and liabilities. (pg 14, line 1)

*Clarification: Could conflict with S10 (page 17, line 10). Technical supports vs. services? Section 5, subsection (f) clearly prohibits an authorizer from providing technical supports to a charter school, and this is in line with the Model Law. However, Section 10 allows for the purchase of services from its authorizer, which is also allowed under the Model Law. Perhaps clarifying that Section 5, subsection (f)'s technical support prohibition is limited to the application process is needed.

S13 Start-up charter schools; establishment. (pg 26, line 9)

Please consider removing the word "interim", as it may not be needed.

S23 Uniform education reporting system. (pg 48, line21)

While well intended, we have concerns about pertaining to the Uniform Data Reporting requirements and use of school data. Charter schools have lingering challenges with access and control of their student data. We have reservations about this particular provision and ask that it be deferred until a more comprehensive review of the data collection systems can be completed as a part of the planned transition.

S28 Funding and finance. (pg 60 &61)

*Amend language to allow funds in account for the needs based facilities formula and HB2010.

In conclusion, charter schools are generally in support of these sweeping changes and the reservations are mostly due to the support that is needed for implementation of, and transitioning to making these changes.

Thank you for your support of Hawaii's public charter schools.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Finnegan", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Lynn Finnegan
Executive Director



HAWAI'I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER
Informing the Education Community

Written Testimony
presented before the
House Committee on Education
Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. Rm 309
by
Donald B. Young, Director
Hawai'i Educational Policy Center

HB 2008 RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS

Position: Support with Reservations

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Au Belatti, and members of the House Committee on Education, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2008.

My name is Donald Young. I am Director of the Hawai'i Educational Policy Center. HEPC supports HB 2008 with reservations.

The purpose of this bill is to require the Hawai'i Board of Education to contract for an implementation and transition coordinator to assist in creating a comprehensive transition framework to implement the recommendations of the Charter Schools Task Force, included in S.B. No., Regular Session of 2012.

HEPC supports the need for careful transition from the current law to the major revisions of HB 2010 should it pass as introduced. Clearly, HB 2010 represents a major revision for the charter community and the support system for the 32 charter schools. However, we have some concerns. These include

1. Because the scope of the work will be extensive and ongoing it may be more appropriate for the Hawai'i State Board of Education to hire someone to conduct this work as well as strengthen relationships with the new Commission, Charter Schools, and other departments. While a consultant can produce a product, the importance and scope of the work is so crucial for the implementation of HB 2010 that there needs to be more accountability built into what is likely to be a two- or three-year effort. It is evident from HB 2010 that the Commission itself will be prohibited from providing technical assistance to charters, and the elimination of the Charter School Administrative Office and its director will leave a great deal of liaison work to chance. There also could be a conflict of interest with some organizations or individuals who might bid on the contract.

2. It is not clear what the role of the national organizations should be with such a contract. Clearly, they have contributed to the final product, but what the Legislature envisions for their continuing role, and whether their views of an ideal system is consistent with Hawai'i's views remains to be seen. (For example, several national organizations have been very clear in their opposition to the application of collective bargaining in schools. They are predisposed to favor outsourcing as many governance functions as possible. This might create tension and conflicts with our public sector unions.) It appears that if transitional efforts are implemented through a contract, national organizations or others involved in developing a request for proposals could potentially become bidders on that contract. This could be a conflict. We also are not clear if an entity in Hawai'i, such as our College of Education or another unit of the University, could bid on such a contract.
3. There will be uneven impact on charter schools by the elimination of the CSAO and its executive director as a charter schools advocate. There are many charters who are dependent on the services of the current support structure, as well as the leadership provided by the CSAO executive director on policy issues. Therefore, we would like to see some capacity for support and advocacy in the state system, and perhaps this is best placed under the Board of Education as permanent staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



Ho'okāko'o Corporation

Testimony to the House Committee on Education
Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair
Re: HB 2008 & HB 2010 – Relating to Charter Schools

Wednesday, February 1, 2012, 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Position on the Recommendations of the Charter School Governance Task Force

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

As the representative of Ho'okako'o Corporation (HC) participating on the Charter School Governance Task Force, I strongly supported the purpose of the Task Force to: "provide clarity to the relationships, responsibilities, and lines of accountability and authority among stakeholders of the charter school system" (Act 130, SLH 2011). Understandably, this was no easy task; however, with due diligence and perseverance, the Task Force was able to move forward with the intent to create a positive environment in which Hawaii's charter schools can operate and thrive. Most critically, the Task Force addressed issues such as strong governance models, meaningful accountability, and increased flexibility and autonomy of charter schools which is closely aligned to national charter school systems. Ho'okāko'o Corporation supports these goals as they are closely aligned with our strategic priorities to engage our community-based, conversion charter schools in innovative teaching and learning opportunities that set high expectations for student outcomes.

The Task Force discussions were often characterized by healthy debate about complex issues that confront our public education system in Hawaii however members can be commended for reaching agreement about nationally recognized, successful models for charter school governance and accountability, and the need for a set of defined expectations for student and school performance.

This document summarizes our position with respect to the proposed legislation:

1. In keeping with the original intentions of Hawaii's charter school law, we would like you to please consider retaining language in Hawaii's original public charter school bill (Act 62/1999) to ensure that emphasis is placed on public charter schools as community-based schools of

innovation with high expectations for academic achievement. Suggested language that should be inserted in the draft bill:

- a. "to create new approaches to education that accommodate the individual needs of students and provide the State with successful templates that can dramatically improve Hawaii's educational standards for the twenty-first century"
 - b. create "genuine opportunities for communities to implement innovative models of community-based education"
2. HC strongly supports recommendations #1 and #2 to introduce a performance-based charter contract, in place of the Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP), to strengthen the reauthorization process and articulate expectations for charter school eligibility. If well-planned, this document should set clear expectations for student outcomes and allow individual charter schools flexibility in defining their own metrics for student and teacher success. We feel that this measure adds value and meaningful accountability to the process of reauthorization, and highlight this as a priority in the redesign of the new charter governance structure.
 3. HC strongly supports recommendation #3 and the proposal of a charter school governance model that is closely aligned to that of the National Charter School Model Law. As the Local School Board for three (3) public conversion charter schools it is clear to us the need for a strong governance model and fiscal accountability.
 4. We support the renaming and reconstitution of the Local School Boards, especially as it relates to being qualification-based, as outlined in recommendation #4. We would also like to acknowledge that alongside increased accountability for governing bodies, this language also strengthens the autonomy with which boards govern charter schools in their local communities.
 5. HC generally supports recommendation #5 with our own recommendation that members of the charter school community be involved in this process.
 6. HC supports recommendations #6 and #7, in particular removing the cap on charter school applications including measures to ensure that this process does not inadvertently lead to under-funding of existing charter schools. We also support the concept of multiple authorizers as long as we have successfully reconstituted the authorizer or 'Commission' with adequate staffing and resources to govern an increasing number of charter schools in Hawaii.
 7. In regards to recommendations #8 – 11, we support the 'nuclear model' because it most closely aligns with the national Model Law; however, we would feel most strongly about the concept with more detail as to the process and timeline in respect of the Charter School Administrative Office transition. We would also strongly support this concept with further clarification about assurances that federal funding will be made available and accessible to public charter schools.
 8. We support recommendations #12 and #13 to increase measures of accountability by ensuring a reporting mechanism is in place for both the Authorizer and the BOE. While we support this, we express some concern that this would be the only means of identifying inadequate levels of federal funding to charter schools. Rather, we suggest a more clearly defined process that

ensures that appropriate levels of federal funding reach the children in charter school communities for which they were intended.

9. HC has reservations about recommendation #14 regarding the establishment of a uniform data reporting system to include fiscal, personnel, and student data. The manners in which charter schools operate vary greatly among individual schools. It would seem the conformance to a single data reporting/management system would compromise charter school autonomy and create issues in regards to control of the data.
10. We support the general intent of recommendation #15 to ensure that procedures are in place to govern the Board of Education hearing process in its role as final arbitrator.
11. Similar to our response to recommendation #5, HC generally supports recommendation #15 however we do have some concerns. The Transition Coordinator position would be funded by the charter schools, yet the incumbent would be selected by the Board of Education. While we support the BOE as the ultimate authority in the public charter system, we also request that careful consideration be given to developing a set of competencies for this position that demonstrate a deep understanding of the charter schools sector, and specifically that of Hawaii's charter system. Further, we would like to request clarification regarding the recruitment process for the Commission staff. While we support this intent, we would like more specifics in terms of the process and timeline for recruitment of the Commissioner staff.

We respectfully acknowledge that the Task Force was not charged with addressing funding and facilities issues, however we would like to reiterate our position as a matter of social justice that public charter schools be equitably resourced in order to succeed and be sustainable.

Finally, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to Senator Tokuda for facilitating this task force and both the Senator and Representative Au Bellati for their tireless work over the course of this process. Thank you for this opportunity to express our concerns and show our support for increased measures for quality and accountability in Hawaii's public charter system.

Respectfully,



Megan McCorrison
Executive Director
Ho`okāko`o Corporation

belatti2 - Kate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:47 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: info@schha.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2008 on 2/1/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 2/1/2012 2:00:00 PM HB2008

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Annie Au Hoon
Organization: Individual
E-mail: info@schha.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
LSB Member, Support with Reservations