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

**LATE TESTIMONY**

February 1, 2012

Honorable Roy Takumi, Chair
Honorable Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

LATE TESTIMONY

Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

**Re:** **HB 2008 and HB 2010, Relating to Charter Schools – Support Intent**
Conference Room 309, 2:00 PM

Aloha Chairs Takumi and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Belatti and Yamashita and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Hawaii Technology Academy (HTA), a public charter school with learning centers in Waipahu and Princeville serving students on Oahu, Kauai, Hawaii Island and parts of Maui, thank you for the opportunity to testify support the intent of this bill.

Since returning to Hawaii to take on this new role at HTA, I have not yet had the opportunity to work side by side with many of the charter school supporters throughout the state. But I am a firm believer that we need to improve the educational outcomes of Hawaii's students. As such, I look forward to assisting with the advancement of the purpose of this legislation to create a solid governance structure for Hawaii's charter school system with clear lines of authority and accountability that will foster improved student outcomes.

I do appreciate all the work that has been put into this tremendous effort to elevate and to recast a strong foundation for Hawaii's public charter schools. However, there are serious concerns regarding the chasm in funding for public charter school students which has declined significantly since Fiscal Year 2007 by 34.5% from $9,063 to $5,933 this Fiscal Year.

As the legislature advances public charter school legislation this session, we urge legislators to also provide adequate funding to support the advancement of our public charter school students.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Sincerely,

Leigh Fitzgerald
Executive Director
Hawaii Technology Academy