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**LATE TESTIMONY**

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
The House of Representatives  
Committee on Education  
Testimony by  
HGEA/AFSCME Local 152  
February 01, 2012

**H.B. 2010 - Relating To Charter Schools**

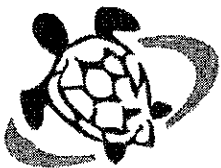
The Hawaii Government Employees Association, HGEA/AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the intent of H.B. 2010 to adopt the recommendations of the task force by repealing chapter 302B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and establishing a new charter school law that creates a solid governance structure for Hawaii's charter school system with clear lines of authority and accountability that will foster improved student outcomes.

We recommend that the bill be amended to include language on page 56, (e) the department shall establish a process that permits employees of department of education schools that become conversion charter schools to remain with a department of education school.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Leiomalama E. Desha  
Deputy Executive Director



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

Hawaii Public Charter School #551

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## 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



STATE OF HAWAII  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**House Committee on Education**  
Representative Roy Takumi, Chairperson  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Vice Chairperson

**House Committee on Labor & Public Employment**  
Representative Karl Rhodes, Chairperson  
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chairperson

Wednesday, February 1, 2012  
2:00 p.m.  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 309

**Testimony of Don G. Horner, Chairperson**

Testimony in SUPPORT of the intent of HB 2010, Relating to Charter Schools

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

The purpose of the bill is to establish a solid governance structure for Hawaii's charter school system with clear lines of authority and accountability that will foster improved student outcomes.

It is unclear that the State Public Charter School Commission is the equivalent of an "Authorizer" under the current version of this bill. Thus, the role of the Commission should be clarified.

With regard to allowing multiple authorizers, given the expectations of the Board of Education under the current version of this bill and the Board's lack of capacity to meet such expectations, it is preferable that the bill focus on the accountability aspects of governance and the work of the Commission. As such, it is requested that the decision regarding additional authorizers be deferred to a later date.

Due to the Board's responsibility for oversight of the statewide education system, it is respectfully requested that HB 2010 clarify that standards of student achievement are Board defined or approved and that charter schools whether existing or approved by the Commission must apply Board policies, procedures and directives.

The Commission's authority over existing charter schools is unclear. Defining this relationship is important for accountability and oversight not only by the Commission but also by the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2010.

LATE TESTIMONY