

Date: 02/02/2011

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

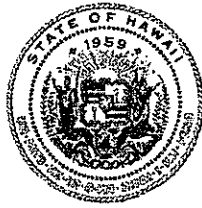
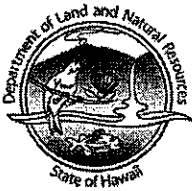
Title of Bill: HB 0625 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Purpose of Bill: Requires land and facilities under the jurisdiction of the DOE not being used to be transferred to the DLNR; provided that the land or facilities is first offered to, or used for charter schools, other educational purposes, or to an eligible county where the land or facility is situated.

Department's Position: DOE supports this bill and suggests an amendment. This bill provides that upon recommendation and approval of the Superintendent of Education, DLNR shall transfer school lands that have not been used for educational purposes for 20 years from DOE to DLNR . Priorities for disposition by DLNR are (i) charter schools or other educational programs and (ii) counties, if the land was once county land and the county is willing to accept the land.

DOE's suggested amendment is to delete the 20 year language. Little public purpose is served by having DOE retain for 20 years facilities it does not need.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
EDUCATION**

**Wednesday, February 2, 2011
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 625
RELATING TO EDUCATION**

House Bill 625 requires the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Chairperson), upon recommendation and approval of the Department of Education (DOE) Superintendent, to accept the transfer from the DOE to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) any state land under DOE's jurisdiction and set forth priorities for alternate uses. The Department supports the general intent of this measure, however, the Department respectfully requests that any DOE request to "transfer back" any lands be subject to the review and approval of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR), and under such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon by BLNR and DOE.

Such terms and conditions may include, but shall not be limited to DOE's prior removal of improvements and mitigation of environmental conditions, if any, resulting from or occurring during DOE's use and management of the premises (i.e. lead paint, asbestos, releases of hazardous materials or fluids, etc.).

The Department supports the amendments to Section 171-19, Hawaii Revised Statutes, proposed in House Bill 625. Once lands are returned to the Department, proceeds resulting from future dispositions of the lands would support the Department and the Special Land Development Fund (SLDF). The SLDF provides financial support critical for the Department to fulfill its fiduciary duty, including but not limited to the management and preservation of the State's cultural, historic and natural resources.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



Ho'okāko'o Corporation

Transforming Public Education
in Hawai'i's High-Need Communities for the 21st Century

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

Re: HB 625 – Relating to Education

Wednesday, February 2, 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 McCorrison, executive director of Ho'okāko'o Corporation (HC), a 501(c)(3) charter support organization that serves as the local school board for three public conversion charter schools — Waimea Middle School on Hawai'i Island, Kualapu'u Elementary School on Moloka'i, and Kamaile Academy in Wai'anae — which educate nearly 1,600 students, or roughly 19 percent of the total public charter school student population in Hawai'i.

Ho'okāko'o Corporation supports House Bill 625 – Relating to Education, which proposes to make land and school facilities under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) that have long been unused for school purposes available for the use of public charter schools and other educational programs.

All of HC's public charter schools share a vision of a comprehensive educational experience that involves a rich offering of academic and enrichment programs and a variety of learning environments for learners of all ages. Although each of HC's public charter schools has its own unique plan for making this vision a reality, all three schools — as well as the students, families, and communities that they serve — have a strong interest in expanding their instructional space and the number of grade levels that they teach; however, the growth and development of these schools, like the rest of the State's public charter schools, are severely constrained by the availability of land and facilities.

By giving public charter schools an opportunity to make use of unutilized HIDOE land and any of its pre-existing school buildings and facilities, HB 625 would not only keep land designated for educational purposes in active use by public schools, but it would also open up significant possibilities for the growth of all of Hawai'i's public charter schools.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.