



888 Mililani Street, Suite 601
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2991

Telephone: 808.543.0000
Facsimile: 808.528.4059

www.hgea.org

LATE TESTIMONY

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

S.B. 2115 - Relating To Charter Schools

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, HGEA/AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the intent of S.B. 2115 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 55 under section ___-26 Civil service status; employee rights, (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 ACADEMYSM

Hawaii Public Charter School #551

*94-810 Moloalo Street
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797
808-676-5444
808-676-5470 (Fax)*

LATE TESTIMONY

February 1, 2012

Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

Re: SB 2115 and SB 2116, Relating to Charter Schools – Support Intent
Conference Room 225, 1:15 PM

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani 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



LATE TESTIMONY

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

Senate Committee on Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chairperson
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chairperson

Wednesday, February 1, 2012
1:15 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 225

Testimony of Don G. Horner, Chairperson

Testimony in SUPPORT of the intent of SB 2115, 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 SB 2115 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 SB 2115.