



KANEOHE
RANCH

February 2, 2011

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair and Members
Senate Committee on Education
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair and Members
Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Hawaii State Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony on SB2115 & SB2116 Relating to Charter Schools

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you to Committee members and members of the Charter School Governance Task Force for tireless work between sessions to “provide clarity to the relationships, responsibilities and lines of accountability and authority amongst stakeholders of the Charter School system”.

The proposed legislation strongly aligns the State of Hawaii’s charter school laws with the National Charter School Model law. Alignment is encouraged wherever possible.

The undersigned strongly supports the introduction of a performance-based charter contract in place of a detailed implementation plan (DIP), as the going forward document, to strengthen the authorization and re-authorization process and to articulate expectations for charter school eligibility.

The writer believes that funding currently available to the Department from charter schools to pay for the charter school administrative office should be discontinued with the discontinuation of that office. The charter schools should be able to use the funds previously provided to support the charter school administrative office to hire consultants to help implement programs at their respective schools.

The writer supports detailing qualifications for membership in the Commission (authorizer) aligned with provisions for qualification to serve on the State of Hawaii Board of Education. The writer also believes that constituencies for the Commission should not be established and that members of the Commission should represent the best interest of the entire system, not any particular group.

It is suggested that the legislation be clarified to identify the commission as the authorizer. It is suggested that the commission remain the only authorizer for the first two or three years after it is in place. With respect to multiple authorizers, there should be clearer standards as to what the requirements and qualifications for a second authorizer would be.

Finally, it should be clear that the standards and measurements set for public schools generally by the State of Hawaii Board of Education (for example, common core State standards and the smarter balance assessment) be the standards to measure performance by charter schools as part of the public school system.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony and for your kind consideration of these matters.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Mitchell D'Olier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "H".

H. Mitchell D'Olier
President and
Chief Executive Officer

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 05, 2012 11:07 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: info@schha.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2116 on 2/6/2012 1:35:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 2/6/2012 1:35:00 PM SB2116

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Annie Au Hoon, President
Organization: Kewalo Hawaiian Homestead Comm Assoc, SCHHA
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Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments: