



**SB 2527, SD 1**  
**RELATING TO EDUCATION**  
Committee on Ways and Means

February 23, 2012

9:00 a.m.

Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **OPPOSES** SB 2527, SD 1 and its amendment removing language giving charter schools and pre-plus programs the right of first refusal to occupy all or a portion of public school facilities the Department of Education is considering for closure.

SB2527, SD 1 does not realize the original intent of Act 144. Charter schools have long faced challenges with securing facilities that accommodate their basic needs. Act 144, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, was intended to address this issue by allowing charter schools the opportunity to move into closed public school campuses. Unfortunately, SB 2527, SD 1 continues to afford the DOE the same discretion that has resulted in no closed schools offered to charter schools. In addition, schools targeted for closure may never be offered to charter schools thereby minimizing Act 144.

Therefore, OHA urges the committee to HOLD SB 2545, SD 1 until the right of first refusal is addressed. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.