

SB2527

Education; Facilities;
Pre-plus Programs; Charter
Schools

EDU, WAM

Date: 02/06/2012

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2527 RELATING TO EDUCATION. Education; Facilities; Pre-plus Programs; Charter Schools

Purpose of Bill: Amends section 302A-1151.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to require the department of education to give charter schools and pre-plus programs the right of first refusal to occupy all or a portion of public school facilities the department is considering for closure. In the event that no charter school or pre-plus program accepts an offer to use the public school's facilities, the facilities may be used for any other purpose the board of education deems appropriate. Requires the department to identify unused public schools facilities for possible use by charter schools, early learning programs, or for any other purpose the board of education deems appropriate. Repeals sections 302A-1506.5 and 302B-3.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

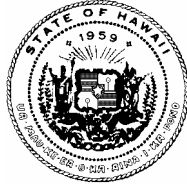
Department's Position:

The Department of Education (DOE) does not support this bill.

This bill would give charter schools and pre-plus programs the right of first refusal to use the facilities of a public school that is under consideration for closure. While the DOE does not necessarily object to charter schools using the facilities of a closed public school, the DOE does object to charter schools and pre-plus programs having the right of first refusal to use the facilities of a public school on school closure.

The closure of a public school could provide the DOE the opportunity to become more cost-effective and efficient. For example, the DOE intends to use a portion of Liliuokalani Elementary School as a data center. The DOE has staff located in offices in private buildings, for which it is paying rent. The DOE may move some of these personnel from private office spaces to Liliuokalani Elementary School, resulting in a cost-savings to the DOE and to the State. The DOE would like to retain the opportunity to use the facilities of a closed school to improve the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of its operations, and for that reason the DOE respectfully requests that this bill be held.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 6, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2527 - RELATING TO EDUCATION**

Hearing: Monday, February 6, 2012; 1:35 p.m.
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 2527 is to amend section 302A-1151.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to require the Department of Education to give charter schools and pre-plus programs the right of first refusal to occupy all or a portion of public school facilities the department is considering for closure. In the event that no charter school or pre-plus program accepts an offer to use the public school's facilities, the facilities may be used for any other purpose the board of education deems appropriate. Requires the Department to identify unused public schools facilities for possible use by charter schools, early learning programs, or for any other purpose the board of education deems appropriate. Repeals sections 302A-1506.5 and 302B-3.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill as it allows for expansion of the pre-plus program and early learning opportunities for four-year olds.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.



SB2527
RELATING TO EDUCATION
Senate Committee on Education

February 6, 2012

1:35 p.m.

Room 225

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB2527, which amends section 302-A-1151.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to require the Department of Education (DOE) to give charter schools and pre-plus programs the right of first refusal to occupy all or a portion of public school facilities the department is considering for closure.

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, the statute affords the DOE a significant amount of discretion to determine which facilities it makes available to charter schools. Consequently, schools are closed and apparently never offered to charter schools, much to the confusion and disappointment of the charter schools.

SB2527 will help better realize the original intent of Act 144 and ensure that closed public schools will be made available to charter schools.

Therefore, OHA urges the committee to PASS SB2527. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

The Senate
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Committee on Education
February 6, 2012
1:35 p.m., Room 225

Statement of the Hawaii Carpenters Union on SB 2527

The Hawaii Carpenters Union opposes SB 2527 in its current form. It is not consistent with the substantial, directional decision we support in SB 2534, which establishes a schools facilities special fund with proceeds from the lease and/or public private development of school lands.

Pre-plus and charter schools can otherwise benefit from unused portions of operating schools, or unused schools lacking development potential to generate funds for new school facilities. It is also possible that they can benefit as community users of 21st Century Schools that are eventually developed with a viable schools facilities special fund.

To be viable, the schools facilities special fund needs the ability to consider all school lands in its planning. If viable, it is a vehicle for transformative change in the education of Hawaii's children.

We urge the Committee to hold SB 2527, or make amendments that will allow Pre-plus and charter schools to utilize facilities without hollowing out one of the major opportunities for a breakthrough in our education system.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 05, 2012 11:11 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: info@schha.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2527 on 2/6/2012 1:35:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 2/6/2012 1:35:00 PM SB2527

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Annie Au Hoon, President
Organization: Kewalo Hawaiian Homestead Comm Assoc, SCHHA
E-mail: info@schha.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments: