

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: 586-3775 Fax: 586-3776

FOR: SB2516 SD2 Relating to Facilities Funding for Charter Schools
DATE: Friday, March 14, 2014
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
COMMITTEE(S): House Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 309
FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Testimony in support of SB2516 SD2

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission is pleased to submit this testimony in strong support of this measure, which would make a general fund appropriation for the Commission to allocate to charter schools for facilities projects, based, in part, on the need and performance of the respective schools.

The need to address facilities costs is arguably the single greatest unaddressed challenge for Hawaii’s chartering system. Currently, start-up charter schools must pay for the costs of their facilities from out of their already stretched operational funds.

As noted in the bill’s findings, the Commission currently is implementing a Facilities Pilot Program for the awarding of funds to charter schools for relatively small-scale facilities projects and has allocated approximately \$680,000 of federal Impact Aid funds to this program from out of a temporary but sizable increase in such funds for the current fiscal year. Funds for the pilot program are planned for distribution around the beginning of the 2014 academic year.

Despite some controversy among some schools over this initiative, the Commission has seized this opportunity to move ahead, in an attempt to demonstrate that a program of investing in charter school facilities will prove a sound investment for the public, and, importantly, to allow

the system to work through any legal and practical issues before any additional state funds are invested.

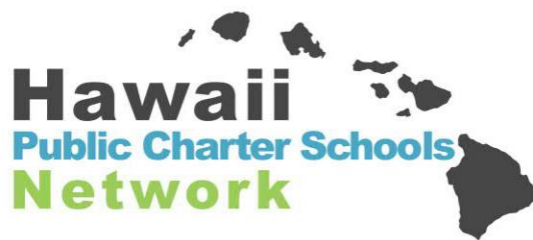
The appropriation envisioned in this bill would enable the Commission to continue this program after the federal Impact Aid funds awarded in the pilot are exhausted. The proposal is the outgrowth of an informal interagency working group convened by Education Committee Chair Tokuda after the 2013 legislative session to explore funding options for charter schools. The Commission is grateful for the contributions of legislative members and staff, the Office of Governor, the Departments of Education and Budget and Finance, the Hawaii Charter Schools Network, and the charter schools, among others, to those discussions.

We note that this year, as in past years, the Commission also submitted on the schools' behalf capital improvement project (CIP) requests totaling some \$31 million. Eligibility for these requests is limited to start-up charter schools located on state land. We believe that these projects are meritorious, but, as in past years, so far none has been included in the budget. The Commission recognizes that there have been some questions regarding CIP funding for charter schools, and we welcome the opportunity to collaborate with the Legislature, the Department of Budget and Finance, and others to identify and work through those questions. If in the meantime, however, traditional charter school CIP projects are not to be considered, and because such financing cannot be utilized by some schools, in our view it is all the more important that other means of providing incremental support for the charter schools' facilities needs be implemented.

In this regard the Commission notes that another measure before this Committee, SB 2517 SD2, Relating to Charter Schools, would authorize the Commission to request the issuance of general obligation bonds from the Director of Finance for charter school facilities needs. We address this proposal in separate testimony, but to the extent that the financing mechanism proposed under that measure would be unavailable for certain types of equally compelling charter school facilities costs, we would respectfully request that, at least for discussion purposes at this stage in the legislative process, the Committee consider the two proposals to be complementary, rather than mutually exclusive.

The Commission also believes that a third proposal for charter school facilities support that was reported out by this Committee is worthy of the Legislature's continued consideration. HB 2576 HD1, Relating to Education, would make an appropriation for a charter school facilities funding but also would establish an income tax credit for taxpayers who make contributions to the development of charter school facilities and allow funds to be used for credit enhancement as well as project financing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



State of Hawaii, House of Representatives
Committee on Education

DATE: Friday, March 14, 2014

TIME: 2:00 pm.

PLACE: Conference Room 309, Hawaii State Capitol

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the Committee on Education,

Re: SB2516 SD2 – Strong Support

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on SB2516 SD2 Relating to Education. Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network (HPCSN) is committed to quality education for all public school students in Hawaii through our support of, and work with, Hawaii's public charter schools. The number one priority for HPCSN this legislative session is to help make progress to address the financial challenges, most especially with facilities, that exist for Hawaii's public charter schools. Our objectives are:

- 1) to gain facilities funding/support for charter schools in a variety of scenarios;
- 2) to reassure legislators that the charter accountability system is fair, strong and getting stronger;
- 3) to make reasonable and incremental progress on facilities funding; and,
- 4) during the process, to provide transparency and good data to help inform decisions.

In 2005 the Legislative Reference Bureau in its report entitled, *On the Level? Policy, Law and the Charter School Movement* stated, "Unlike their public school, conversion school, and school-within-school counterparts, start-up schools must rent or build facilities, or ask the public to donate facilities, or both. The cost of building public schools is usually spread out over twenty years through the issuance of general obligation bonds. Neither the BOE, the HIDOE, nor individual public schools are responsible for debt service—or the payment of principal and interest on these bonds. These bonds are the responsibility of the State, and are backed by it's the full faith and credit (i.e., taxing power)." Some charter schools have facilities on state land and have access through the normal CIP process - others do not (see attachment).

Solutions are not easy given the state's many priorities for funding. This bill is one part of a small group of bills to address funding and facilities support for charter schools. Previously, stumbling blocks would

be identified during discussions that would stop progress instead of work toward solutions. Now, the DOE, BOE, Dept. of Budget and Finance, State Public Charter School Commission and charter schools, through an informal working group, expressed their willingness to work through these challenges. HPCSN strongly supports the following bills as they relate to funding and facilities support:

- SB2516/HB2438 is funded by general funds and has the flexibility to provide facilities funding to charter schools that are currently not on state land. This solution also moves from previous efforts to obtain per pupil facilities funding to all charter schools to a more nuanced process that considers charter school performance and need.
- SB2517 proposes to address a more consistent way to fund charter school facilities for charter schools on state land.
- SB2518/HB1789 adds a line item to the state budget separate from the charter school per pupil funding to acknowledge the significant and growing responsibilities of each and every charter school governing board since the passing of Act 130 SLH of 2012. The charter school governance structure is very different from the HIDOE model. This will allow charter schools additional funds to start to build a shared system of supports that charter schools lost when the Charter School Administrative Office was eliminated.
- HB2576 proposes a special fund and a tax credit system to support charter school facilities.

Attached is additional information that could be helpful to your decision making process.

Mahalo for your support of Hawaii's public students, their families and public charter schools.



Lynn Finnegan
Executive Director

Attachments

Charter Schools Facilities Bills

Disclosure: Confirmation of data is in progress with schools.

			SB2517	SB2516/ HB2438	HB2576
			CIP (G.O. Bond)	Facilities Pilot (Gen Funds)	Tax Credit/ Special Fund
On state land	Lease	Kawaikini, Kekaha+, Kanuikapono, Halau Ku Mana, ULS, Hakipuu, Ka Waihona,	P	A	A
	USDA loan	Kamakau, WHEA~+, Kanu o ka Aina, Volcano ~+	P	A	A
	Conversions	Kualapuu, Lanikai^, Waialae^, Kamaile, Waimea Middle^, Lapahoehoe	P	A	A
Not on state land	Lease	Kihei, KANAKA, MBTA, HTA, Voyager, Halau Lokahi, Connections+, Na Wai Ola, Kua o ka La, HAAS, SEEQS		P	A
	USDA loan	Kona Pacific, Innovations.		P	A
Facilities are on both on state land and not on state land		Nawahi	A	P	A
Checking status		Ka Umeke, Laahana		A	A

Note: Leases could be held by non-profit, school enters lease with non-profit

Blue = Checking/verifying with schools

P = Priority

A = Applies

+ Received GIA

^ Received CIP and/or upgrades through the DOE system

~ USDA in process

McKeague and Roberts. Memo to Karen Street – Chair Hawaii Public Charter Schools Commission, CSAO, Honolulu, HI 11 October 2012.

Attachment 2

Lump-sum Funding Request For Facilities

Act 130 Section 3(b)(1) provides the following with respect to a needs based facilities funding request:

“... in preparing the budget request with regard to needs-based facilities funding, the executive director shall ensure that, as a budget item separate from other operating costs, the request is accompanied by a detailed explanation of the formula used and a funding request breakdown by school;”

On September 17, 2012 the CSAO distributed an email to all charter schools requesting that they submit to the CSAO their projected facilities related expenses for FB13-15. The email included a spreadsheet for each charter school to use in providing their projected facilities expenses to the CSAO. The CSAO requested that charter schools provide all projected facilities related expenses, including utility costs, maintenance costs, custodial costs, etc.

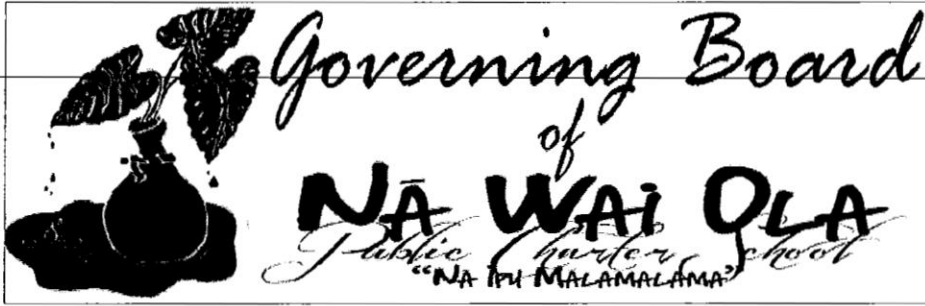
The following table summarizes the data that was submitted by the charter schools. Four schools did not respond to the CSAO’s request, for those four schools their projected facilities related expenses were estimated by the CSAO using actual FY11-12 facilities costs. The data was summarized into three different columns for each year: Projected lease/rental of building and grounds costs; adjusted projected facilities expenses and total projected facilities expenses. The CSAO has based the lump-sum facilities budget request on the adjusted facilities expenses columns.

The column labeled Rental/Lease of Building and Grounds is the most restricted of the columns. It reports only projected lease/rental of facilities costs as reported by the charter schools. The column labeled Adjusted Proj. Facilities Expenses includes rental/lease of buildings and grounds plus rental/lease of building/grounds equipment, depreciation of equipment and buildings and maintenance of building and grounds. The total projected facilities expenses column also includes projected utilities, maintenance and operations salaries and custodial supplies expenses.

This request is described as a “lump-sum” request because many of the charter schools, should this item be funded, would like to further develop a more precise distribution methodology different from the projected expense amounts per the attached schedule. The charter schools, with the HPCSN and the CSAO have not developed a methodology at the time this request was prepared. However, there is precedence for this based on the distribution methodology used in FY 10-11 and 11-12 for the small carve out funding for facilities in those fiscal years. Any distribution methodology so developed would be subject to Commission approval.

School Name	ORGID	Reported Projected Facilities Expenses FY13-14			Reported Projected Facilities Expenses FY14-15		
		Rental/Lease of Building & Grounds	Adjusted Proj. Facilities Expenses	Total Projected Facilities Expenses	Rental/Lease of Building & Grounds	Adjusted Proj. Facilities Expenses	Total Projected Facilities Expenses
			FY 13-14	FY 13-14		FY 14-15	FY 14-15
Waialae-PCS	149	\$0	\$3,500	\$316,634	\$0	\$3,710	\$335,632
Kamaile	275	-	50,000	705,000	-	50,000	750,000
*Lanikai-PCS	320	-	15,034	178,468	-	15,034	178,468
Laupahoehoe Community PCS	377	-	64,000	420,513	-	69,120	334,604
Waimoa Mid-PCS	394	-	25,000	218,494	-	25,000	221,605
Connections-PCS	396	501,600	549,900	971,300	501,600	549,900	971,300
Kanu O Ka'a'ina-PCS	397	537,500	582,500	786,000	537,300	583,300	790,000
Waters of Life-PCS	398	29,050	64,050	119,595	29,050	65,396	125,990
West HI Explor-PCS	399	10,000	29,000	221,869	70,000	110,000	393,369
Kualapuu-PCS	411	-	-	298,614	-	-	275,614
KANAKA - PCS	466	45,000	69,000	103,100	45,000	69,000	103,700
Halau Ku Mana-PCS	540	300	399,678	521,898	300	399,878	521,898
Voyager-PCS	541	643,600	697,500	717,500	669,800	724,800	746,000
Halau Lokahi NC-PCS	542	321,780	334,280	434,588	321,780	334,280	434,588
Educ Lab: A Hawaii NC-PCS	543	100,000	125,000	125,000	100,000	125,000	125,000
Myron Thompson Acad-PCS	544	371,798	442,298	481,298	385,487	455,987	494,987
*Ka Waihona O Ka Naa'ua-PCS	545	-	298,257	895,247	-	298,257	895,247
Hakipu'u Learning Ctr-PCS	546	17,021	53,181	80,681	18,000	56,000	84,000
Ke Kula O Kamakua Lab-PCS	547	144,105	174,447	385,617	144,105	174,447	416,517
Innovations-PCS	548	360,000	395,000	560,000	360,000	395,000	560,000
Ke Ana La'ahana-PCS	549	15,000	29,000	127,000	17,250	33,450	142,150
Hawaii Technology Academy	551	295,000	598,800	830,800	309,750	615,350	833,250
Kihei-PCS	554	816,000	1,139,000	1,454,000	900,000	1,240,000	1,574,000
Ke Kula Ni'ihau Kekaha-PCS	556	-	42,200	96,555	-	43,500	272,450
Kua O Ka La-PCS	557	147,615	153,615	225,115	167,615	179,615	270,115
Volcano Sch of A&S-PCS	560	36,918	66,918	198,268	38,764	70,265	208,183
Hi Academy of A&S-PCS	561	365,000	469,000	803,000	385,000	496,000	850,500
Ka 'Umeke Ka'eo-PCS	562	207,420	231,420	379,965	207,420	231,420	391,815
*Ke Kula Nawahi Iki Lab-PCS	563	133,632	162,246	358,347	133,632	162,246	358,347
*Kanuikapono-PCS	564	1,690	8,434	50,038	1,690	8,434	50,038
Kawaikini	565	72,000	95,400	132,400	72,000	95,400	132,400
Kona Pacific	566	167,100	189,100	243,178	167,100	189,100	243,178
TOTALS		\$5,339,129	\$7,556,758	\$13,440,082	\$5,582,643	\$7,868,889	\$14,084,945

* These schools did not submit estimated FY 14 & FY15 facilities related costs. Therefore, their estimated costs were based on actual FY11 facilities costs.



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2516 SD2

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FUNDING FOR
CHARTER SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE EDUCATION
Senator Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Senator Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

Friday, March 14, 2014, 2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Honorable Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committee on Education, Maurice C. Messina, Na Wai Ola Public Charter School (PCS) Governing Board Chair submits the following testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2516 SD2.

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds for the State Public Charter School Commission to allocate to Charter Schools for facilities projects based, in part, on the need and performance of the Charter Schools.

The need to address facilities costs is arguably the single greatest unaddressed challenge for Hawaii's Charter Schools - Na Wai Ola PCS is no exception. Our school is classified as a "Recognition School" and the only Charter School in the state to be ranked in this first tier; however, our students and staff must endure daily hardships that are directly tied to a lack of facilities funding.

The costs of facilities construction, rental, maintenance and repair directly impacts and limits the funds Charter Schools can access for student education. With instructional budgets already seriously under resourced, every dollar spent on facilities are taken directly from our funding for classrooms. Charter Schools currently receive less funding than their DOE counterparts and are left to their own devices to raise additional capital to make up the difference.

For these reasons, I STRONGLY SUPPORT the passage of Senate Bill No. 2516 SD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,
Maurice C. Messina
Chair, Na Wai Ola PCS Governing Board



Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Education
March 14, 2014

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Members of the Education Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB2516 SD2 and SB2517 SD2. This testimony is in support allowing charter schools access to facilities funding both through the charter commission and through general obligation bonds.

I am the Founder and School Leader for SEEQS, the School for Examining Essential Questions of Sustainability. We are the state's newest public charter school; we were authorized in December 2012 and opened our doors to our founding class of more than sixty 6th and 7th graders in August 2013. While we are incredibly proud of the work our students are doing and have done thus far, the intent of my testimony is to provide a first-hand account of the desperate financial challenges of finding an appropriate facility--especially in Honolulu--that we can afford on the meager existing per-pupil funding.

As a brand new school, we began with a small founding class; this enabled us to begin our school with just a few classes, and develop our systems, processes, and school culture before we grow to a larger school, as is consistent with best practices in charter schools across the country. However, we face with a serious financial challenge. Sixty-five students multiplied by the per-pupil allocation of approximately \$6000 gives us an operating budget of approximately \$400,000. With those funds, we must pay our five core teachers--as a secondary school our students need access to Science and History in addition to English Language Arts and Mathematics, plus Arts--as well as our two administrators. Our school is run by a School Leader/Principal and a School Manager. As you can estimate, paying fair salaries for our employees uses up the bulk of our revenues provided by per-pupil allocation. We also had to purchase curricular materials, technology, infrastructure, and provide professional development for our teachers. And then we must pay rent! Our current facility, in which we will barely fit by the end of our second year, costs us more than \$9,000 per month in rent and utilities.

By full size, our school will reach approximately 420 students. Accordingly, by full size we will need on the order of 25,000 to 35,000 square feet to house our facility. Commercial real estate prices ranging from \$1.35 to \$2.00 per month and up per square foot. There is no doubt--we cannot afford a facility of that size at this point, and even in the future this will stretch our budget beyond our capacity to handle.

Unless we are able to find a rent-free facility, which we have not been able to do, we will need to do significant fundraising in order to cover our facilities costs regardless of the rent price. Any fundraising we do--and any extra time we spend searching for a facility year after year--is time that we spend away from working with students.

Our school was authorized, through an incredibly rigorous process, based on our vision for a school that is based on best practices in education, as well as community need and interest. Our successes already in this first year, as well as the already high demand for next year's enrollment (more than 100 applications for sixty spots with still a few days left of open enrollment!) are a testament to the great success our school can be as part of the Hawaii state public school system. We want to spend as much time as possible making our school successful for our students, and we believe that our primary role as a school is to focus on what's happening **inside** the school, working with teachers, students and content. Facilities support and funding from the legislature will enable us to do the work we set out to do, and that we were authorized to do.

Mahalo for your consideration.
Buffy Cushman-Patz
SEEQS Founder and School Leader



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House of Representatives
Twenty-Seventh Legislature 2014
State of Hawai'i

TO: Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Honorable Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Education

DATE: March 14, 2014
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 309
Hawai'i State Capitol

FROM: Kamehameha Schools

RE: SENATE BILL 2516, SD2, RELATING TO FACILITIES FUNDING FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 2516, SD1, relating to facilities funding for charter schools. Kamehameha Schools offers comments in support of appropriating funds for the state public charter school commission to allocate to charter schools for facilities projects based, in part, on the need and performance of the charter schools. This bill also requires annual reporting to the legislature.

Kamehameha Schools supports promoting the achievement and success of Hawai'i's public school students and, as such, has been a collaborator with the Hawai'i public charter schools for over a decade. Through our work with public charter schools, we hope to significantly impact more children and their families through education. We believe charter schools provide positive choices for education and ultimately enhance both achievement and engagement for students across Hawai'i.

Financial support for the charter school system is crucial in maintaining the services these schools provide. We ask that you help to provide our state's most innovative educators with the strong support and stable foundation they need continue their positive growth. We believe efforts to improve the public charter school system improve access to education and, ultimately, enhance education for all of Hawai'i's children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Friday, March 14, 2014
2 PM
Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 2516 SD2– Relating to Facilities Funding for Charter Schools

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Witt, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaiian Educational Council (HEC). In a partnership between HEC and the Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS), Nainoa Thompson and I have founded the Mālama Honua Learning Center (MHLC), a public charter school committed to providing the students of Hawai`i a rigorous, values-based, and place-based education. MHLC stands to provide the community with a school dedicated to indigenous cultural values that nourish goodness; in addition to helping students develop into wise, compassionate navigators of their learning, lives and 21st century global world.

HEC is in strong support of SB 2516 SD2, a bill for an act which would appropriate funds for the state public charter schools for facilities projects.

HEC, as well as the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), an organization of which I am the Executive Director, believe in the public purpose of education and that families should have choices when it comes to the education of their children. Charter schools in Hawaii provide that option for our families who otherwise may not be able to find a school that shares their educational values.

Charter schools currently receive less funding than their DOE counterparts for the education of their students and are left to their own devices to raise additional revenue to make up the difference. More importantly, charter schools must use these same operational funds to build new facilities or for the upkeep of their current ones, thereby stretching their already limited funds further.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 10:19 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: wheapcs@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2516 on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM

SB2516

Submitted on: 3/12/2014

Testimony for EDN on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Curtis Muraoka	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Many of your high-performing bricks-and-mortar start-up charters are struggling the most due to lack of facilities funding. True to the original vision of teacher-led community-based schools, programs like West Hawaii Explorations Academy have done extremely well despite operating in tents and outdoors. With the implementation of the ACT test and its stricter protocols, our students have, for two years now, had to take tests under tents and sitting at picnic tables. This year, the day before testing, WHEA closed due to heavy rains. If it had rained on testing day, most of the students would not have shown up, and even if they did, teachers would not have been able to administer the test. Please note that in the initial ACT testing last year, WHEA's students outperformed their their district peers in overall college readiness 75% to 30%. Please provide facilities support for charter students. It is a necessity, not a luxury.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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S.B. NO. 2516 S.D. 2

Related to facilities funding for Charter Schools

March 13, 2014

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am a parent of boy and girl 5 year old twins who currently are enrolled as Kindergarteners at Innovations Public Charter School in Kailua Kona on the Big Island of Hawaii and we love our school. Upon deciding to relocate to the Big Island from Boston 3 years ago the issue of available schooling options weighed heavily on my wife's and my mind as we have two sets of boy/girl twins that are currently 4 and 5 years old.

After getting settled here on the Big Island we discovered that Innovations Public Charter School (IPCS) was the most respected school option in West Hawaii amongst public and private schools here. Not surprisingly, the ability to enter IPCS through the annual lottery is quite difficult as I believe there are typically over 100 applications for 7 open Kindergarten spaces which places the acceptance rate on par with that of Harvard.

IPCS is currently undertaking a project to expand its facilities and I am aware the ability to fund such projects remains a daily challenge for IPCS leaders. Given the demand demonstrated in the annual lottery clearly IPCS is a tremendous asset to the West Hawaii community and by approving the ability to make the funding of facilities for Charter Schools in Hawaii broader the legislature will succeed in making available high quality education opportunities to more children.

IPCS has been a great blessing to our family as the high quality education curriculum it provides coupled with an emphasis of providing numerous activities to help shape a child's character have been greatly appreciated. On a daily basis our children look forward to attending school and miss their friends and teachers when the day is over. Further the IPCS Ohana has been a real asset to the school with parents playing an active role in a variety of school related activities. For example, on Friday's children have an interest group from 10:30am-12:30 pm that can range from Surfing to Tennis to Star Wars interest groups and IPCS parents play a very active role in volunteering to help make these groups possible.

In short, I strongly support the passage of S.B. NO 2516 S.D. 2 as in so doing it will allow other families in Hawaii to experience the blessing of having your children in a stimulating and enriching education experience that our children and family have experienced at IPCS.

Sincerely,

M. Eoin Mast

808-769-4450

ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 1:39 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: joannaschiller1@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2516 on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM

SB2516

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for EDN on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joanna Schiller	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: To Whom It May Concern, I am a public charter school teacher. I am writing to ask you to please consider allocating funds to charter schools for facilities. It is in our children's best interest that funds are allocated to charter schools for facilities projects. Many charter schools are forced to use funds from their operating budgets for facilities because they are not allocated state facility funds. This means that students are then not receiving the type of educational resources that they deserve in other ways, such as proper staffing or materials. Secondly, it is unfair that certain children receive funding for facilities in public schools and others do not. It simply goes against one of the main values we teach in schools: fairness. I appreciate your time and dedication to making our educational system the best that it truly can be. I hope you approve bill SB2516 which will support the allocation of facility funds to charter schools. Sincerely, Joanna Schiller

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

March 11, 2014

I strongly support increased funding to charter schools. My son is one of the fortunate few who gets to go to a charter school; in his case, Innovations Public Charter School. The long waiting lists to get into these schools speak for themselves; clearly the community seeks this type of education for their kids and understandably so. Charter schools offer a greater sense of community, vision, and a more flexible curriculum that enriches kids with a wider spectrum of learning and experiencing and certainly instills in them a greater self worth. I have seen all the kids flourish at this school and have heard kids that go to places like WHEA (West Hawaii Exploratory Academy) talk enthusiastically about all the unique programs they offer there.

Besides being a parent of a charter school student, I am a part time teacher (PTT) at the local public elementary school (not a charter). I have seen first hand how much more valuable the charter school experience is than the traditional public school path.

Charter schools should get at least equal funding to regular public schools! At Innovations, we have to park in the dirt, have to have tent classrooms, have very little funding for our amazing music program (two of the best teachers/musicians on the island). Charter schools seem to have fundraisers all the time just to meet the needs of their schools; I have been involved in two fundraisers just for the music program that doesn't get enough funding for the instruments it needs.

The community knows! All the parents are clamoring to get into these schools and yet they don't even have the same funding as public elementary schools. Imagine what they could do with equal (or even more) funding!

Please support the charters!

Thank you,

Loren Wilken

Parent of student at Innovations Public Charter School
Part Time Teacher at Kahakai Elementary
Private Piano Teacher and Professional Musician

ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 9:08 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: artbymalia@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2516 on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM

SB2516

Submitted on: 3/13/2014

Testimony for EDN on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malia Rideout	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need proper facilities for our children to go to school. We also need these facilities to be provided to our great Charter Schools of Hawaii! We need Charter Schools! Thanks, Malia

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 9:38 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: petersmarkus@mac.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2516 on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM

SB2516

Submitted on: 3/13/2014

Testimony for EDN on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
markus peters	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Charter schools provide important options for families and students WHEA is consistently among the top high schools in the state Aloha Markus Peters

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 10:38 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: phart@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2516 on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM

SB2516

Submitted on: 3/12/2014

Testimony for EDN on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pam Hart	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please allocate facilities funding for Charter Schools. As a tax payer and mother I feel these funds need to be shared. Charter schools provide an invaluable service to the children of Hawaii. Please don't continue to burden the Charter Schools with inadequate funding. Sincerely, Pam Hart

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 5:23 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: skaye@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2516 on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM

SB2516

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for EDN on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Springer Kaye	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a Punahou school graduate and professional holding a MS degree, I have been dismayed by the public education options available for my children. The only schools at which my children seem to be physically and emotionally safe, nevermind well educated, are charter schools. Our options include an hour's drive to a volcano charter school held in tent buildings, an urban school in Hilo housed in an old movie theater, with no sports area or grounds at all, or the single charter school with a complete campus, La upahoehoe CPCS, which my children now attend. Laupahoehoe is a true conversion charter school, meaning the same students that went there before it became a charter school still go there--not a special select few. Most of the same staff is still there. The publicity surrounding conversion brought in top notch teachers, so things are looking up. But the charter conversion resulted in the loss funds needed to maintain buildings designed by a world-renowned architect. Why is a school servicing the same kids, the same families, in the same buildings suddenly subject to neglect and decay for lack of funds? The facilities still belong to the state, the kids are still part of the public education system, the teachers are still paid by the DOE...what possible reason could there be to deny facilities maintenance? Thank you for considering this bill to support safe structures on real campuses for all students.

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 12:04 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: jow@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2516 on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM

SB2516

Submitted on: 3/13/2014

Testimony for EDN on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wohl	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please help your children. Thank you so much.

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 10:24 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: jegrossart@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2516 on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM

SB2516

Submitted on: 3/13/2014

Testimony for EDN on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Grossart	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this Bill so that my hard earned tax money can be used for facilities in my childs school.West Hawaii Explorations Academy is a excellent school and a excellent example of why this bill is important. Our children are using port a potties and can't attend school on days with bad weather because they have no shelter. This is a very important bill,please help it pass. Sincerely.
Jennifer Grossart

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 10:47 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: vanbakel2000@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2516 on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM*

SB2516

Submitted on: 3/13/2014

Testimony for EDN on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jo van Bakel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 5:04 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: kapalikai@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2516 on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM

SB2516

Submitted on: 3/13/2014

Testimony for EDN on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
michelle BANAGAN	Individual	Support	No

Comments: WHEA is an awesome school. I completely support them.

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ohno2-Rexie

From: EDU Testimony
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 8:48 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 2516 and 2517

Aloha,

Erin Conner

Office of Senator Jill N. Tokuda
Senate District 24 * Kaneohe * Kailua
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218
Phone: 587-7215 * Fax: 587-7220

From: jeff or jan [mailto:citron@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 5:24 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Senate Bill 2516 and 2517

I am in favor of both these bills. I am 68 years old and am raising five grandchildren ages 4,7,12, 13, and 14. I have the older three in West Hawaii Exploration Academy, which is a charter school. All 5 grandchildren have been taken away from their parents, and I adopted the three older ones. The three were exposed to Ice, and the 12 year old has significant learning disabilities. The 12 year old was treated meanly at the elementary school by the special education teacher. He shut down, wasn't able to learn, and the vice-principle concentrated on his behavior problems which were created by them. Fortunately, he was chosen to go to WHEA to start 6th grade this year. During the transitional meeting I had with WHEA and the elementary school, the psychologist, vice-principal, and others said he would not make it at WHEA. I said, if you have a positive environment, you'll have positive results. Since, the 12 year old has been at WHEA, he has excelled with their great staff and the special educational teachers. He proved his skeptics wrong, and I am so grateful to the charter school WHEA. They need help in their funding and support. Please pass these two bill.

Mahalo Nui Loa
Jeffrey M. Citron (a 43 year resident)