



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

**Date:** 03/14/2014

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 2421, SD2(sscr2715) RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes an interagency working group consisting of the chair of the senate committee on education, chair of the house of representatives committee on education, superintendent of education, and comptroller, or their designees, and any other relevant parties. Establishes an interagency working group consisting of the chair of the senate committee on education, chair of the house of representatives committee on education, superintendent of education, and director of health, or their designees, and any other relevant parties. Tasks both interagency working groups with discussing various issues relating to Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004. Appropriates funds to the department of accounting and general services for additional positions on the islands of Maui, Hawaii, and Kauai. Appropriates funds to the department of education to establish the interagency working groups and for two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) positions. Effective 07/01/2050. (SD2)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports the substance of this bill. The re-establishment of the working groups will provide a venue for all related agencies to address issues specified in this bill. The Department is also appreciative that there is an appropriation section in the bill for an amount yet to be determined. As the implementing offices (OSFSS and OCISS) will not be able to divert current resources, having the ability to hire or contract persons that can carry all workload that will be generated from the separate working groups. The Department will be requesting the Finance Committee for an appropriation of \$180,000 to fund two positions from FY14-15 and we ask this Committee's favorable consideration as well.

Thank you for your considerations and the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2517, S.D. 2

March 14, 2014

RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS

Senate Bill No. 2517, S.D. 2, authorizes the State Public Charter School Commission to request the issuance of general obligation bonds from the Director of Finance for the planning, construction, repair, and maintenance of public charter school facilities and provides an unspecified appropriation for this purpose.

The Department of Budget and Finance does not take any position on the policy of issuing general obligation bonds for this purpose. For your information, charter schools already have the ability to request capital funding as part of the budget process through the proposed charter school programs budget submittal. The availability of general obligation bonds and/or funds for capital projects is competitive across all programs of the State - including, the Department of Education, the State Library System and the University of Hawaii, and every other program in the State.

In determining the appropriateness of general obligation bonds to any charter school, the Legislature should consider the following issues related to startup charter schools: a) the issuance of long-term debt (general obligation bonds) and the site control aspects of occupancy of a property consistent with the duration of this long-term debt; b) disposition of buildings and land back to State ownership should a

public charter school discontinue its operations; c) with limited general obligation bond capacity, the policy of giving priority to charter schools over other state programs; and d) the major financial commitment of funding capital improvements for start-up public charter schools as well as the recurring repair and maintenance costs associated with these facilities.

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

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FOR: SB2517 SD2 Relating to 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

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**Testimony in support of SB2517 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 authorize the Commission to request the issuance of general obligation bonds from the Director of Finance and to allocate the proceeds for public charter school facilities needs.

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.

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 to support charter school facilities needs 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.

This legislation is the outgrowth of discussions by 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 WAM and other 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.

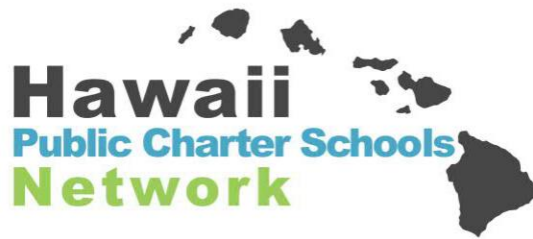
We note that this year, as in past years, the Commission also submitted on the schools' behalf capital improvement project (CIP) requests totaling some \$31 million. Eligibility for these requests is limited to start-up charter schools located on state land. We believe these projects to be meritorious, but, as in past years, so far they have not been include in the budget. The Commission recognizes that there have been questions regarding CIP funding for charters and welcomes the opportunity to identify and work through those questions with the Legislature, the Department of Budget and Finance, and others.

In that regard, we particularly welcome the provisions of this legislation that (1) would create a charter school facilities funding working group, including the Director of Finance and the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the House Committee on Finance, to determine criteria for and to prioritize the allocation of the bond proceeds to the schools, and (2) stipulate that public charter school facilities funded in whole or in part through the bond proceeds shall be owned by the State.

The Commission notes that another measure before this Committee, SB 2516 SD2, Relating to Facilities Funding for Charter Schools, would make a general fund appropriation for charter schools. We address this proposal in separate testimony, but to the extent that general obligation bond financing or traditional CIP funding would be unavailable for certain types of compelling charter school facilities costs, we would respectfully request at this stage in the legislative process that the Committee consider these two proposals to be complementary, rather than mutually exclusive.

In addition, the Commission also believes that a third proposal for charter school facilities previously reported out by this Committee, remains worthy of the Legislature's continued consideration. HB 2576 HD1, Relating to Education, would make an appropriation for a charter school facilities costs but also would establish an income tax credit for taxpayers who make contributions to the development of charter school facilities. That measure also would expressly authorize the use of funds for securing loans from private lending institutions for financially stable charter schools, another promising proposal.

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 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 309, Hawaii State Capitol

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

Re: SB2517 SD2 – Strong Support

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on SB2517 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.

This bill authorizes the state public charter school commission to request the issuance of general obligation bonds from the director of finance and to allocate the proceeds for the design, planning, construction, repair, and maintenance of public charter school facilities.

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 HDOE 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 might be helpful to the 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 FY 13-14	Total Projected Facilities Expenses FY 13-14	Rental/Lease of Building & Grounds	Adjusted Proj. Facilities Expenses FY 14-15	Total Projected Facilities Expenses 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
Waimea 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
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$5,339,129</b>	<b>\$7,556,758</b>	<b>\$13,440,082</b>	<b>\$5,582,643</b>	<b>\$7,868,889</b>	<b>\$14,084,945</b>

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



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 2517, SD2 RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS**

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 2517, SD2 relating to charter schools. Kamehameha Schools offers comments in support of authorizing the state public charter school commission to request the issuance of general obligation bonds from the director of finance and to allocate the proceeds for the design, planning, construction, repair, and maintenance of public charter school facilities. This bill creates a working group to determine criteria for and to prioritize the allocation of general obligation bond proceeds to the public charter schools. Further, this measure specifies that public charter school facilities funded through the proceeds of general obligation bonds are owned by the State and requires the state public charter school commission to report annually to the legislature. Additionally, this measure authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds to the state public charter school commission.

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.



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

**ohno2-Rexie**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 12, 2014 10:20 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** wheapcs@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2517 on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM

**SB2517**

Submitted on: 3/12/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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 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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

S.B. NO. 2517 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 more effective and efficient with the issuance of GO bonds 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 2517 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

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**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 13, 2014 9:38 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** petersmarkus@mac.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2517 on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM

**SB2517**

Submitted on: 3/13/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
markus peters	Individual	Support	No

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

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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**ohno2-Rexie**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 13, 2014 12:05 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** jow@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2517 on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM

**SB2517**

Submitted on: 3/13/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wohl	Individual	Support	No

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

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**ohno2-Rexie**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 13, 2014 10:46 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** vanbakel2000@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2517 on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM\*

**SB2517**

Submitted on: 3/13/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jo van Bakel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**ohno2-Rexie**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 13, 2014 5:04 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** kapalikai@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2517 on Mar 14, 2014 14:00PM

**SB2517**

Submitted on: 3/13/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
michelle BANAGAN	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Supporting

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## ohno2-Rexie

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**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

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**From:** jeff or jan [mailto:[citron@hawaii.rr.com](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)