

SB362

Relating to Charter Schools
EDU, WAM

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 362

February 1, 2013

RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS

Senate Bill No. 362 requires the Board of Education, in consultation with the Department of Education (DOE) and the State Public Charter School Commission, to develop a formula that will provide charter schools with equitable facilities funding. Additionally, this bill requires the Legislature to make an appropriation based upon the facilities funding formula.

Given the diverse financial and educational structures of the various charter schools, we offer the following comments for consideration:

1. Charter schools are not all similarly situated and, as such, the rent or lease requirements for these types of charter schools would differ:
 - Conversion schools
 - Start-up schools
 - On-line schools
2. The cost to rent or lease facilities differs based on location (e.g., Oahu versus the neighbor islands, difference between neighbor islands, and rural versus urban sites).
3. Space needs for a charter school would differ based on enrollment and program requirements.

4. Regular maintenance costs for schools (with the exception of neighbor island schools) are already included in DOE's operating budget and, as such, are part of the current charter school per student allocation.

Given the numerous variables that needs to be considered, we suggest that the most appropriate method of budgeting for the charter schools facilities would be to review actual needs and expenditures, similar to the budgeting method for other State departments.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



KAREN STREET
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: 586-3775 Fax: 586-3776

FOR: SB362 Relating to Charter Schools
DATE: Friday, February 1, 2013
TIME: 1:30 p.m.
COMMITTEE(S): Senate Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 414
FROM: Roger Takabayashi
State Public Charter School Commission

Testimony in support of SB362

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

Aloha, I am Roger Takabayashi, a member of the State Public Charter School Commission.

SB362 recognizes the need for facilities funding for charter schools through a formula to be developed by the Board of Education, in consultation with the Commission and the Department of Education. The Commission supports this measure to provide long term viability to successful charter schools by allowing them more equitable access to funds that other public schools receive.

The Commission has one suggested amendment for the sake of consistency. Subsection (c) of the new section (page 2, lines 11-12) states "The legislature **shall** make an appropriation based upon the facilities funding request pursuant to subsection (b)." (Emphasis added in bold)

To remain consistent with aforementioned subsection, we recommend that subsection (b) of section 302D-28 be amended as follows:

"(b) Fringe benefit costs for charter school employees, regardless of the payroll system utilized by a charter school, shall be included in the department of budget and finance's annual budget request. No fringe benefit costs shall be charged directly to or deducted from the charter school per-pupil allocations.

The legislature shall make an appropriation based upon the budget request; provided that the legislature [may] shall make additional appropriations for [facility] facilities, pursuant to section 302D- , and may make additional appropriations for any other costs.

The governor, pursuant to chapter 37, may impose restrictions or reductions on charter school appropriations similar to those imposed on other public schools.”

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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

FROM: Alex Medler, National Association of Charter School Authorizers

DATE: Friday, February 1, 2013

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 362

Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

I am the Vice-President of Policy for the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA), and I am writing to voice NACSA's strong support of Senate Bill 362.

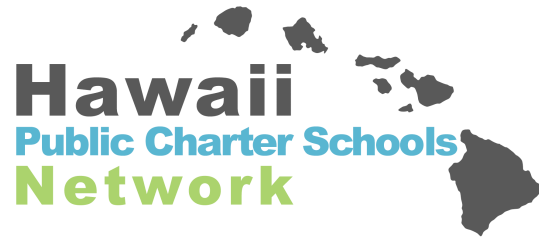
NACSA is devoted to improving public education by improving the policies and practices of the organizations responsible for authorizing charter schools. NACSA works with local experts to create the conditions needed for quality charter schools to thrive, including by working to create environments with expectations, relationships, practices, policies, and resources that allow authorizers to excel.

We push for high standards for authorizers and help to define successful authorizer practices through our *Principles & Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing*. NACSA believes that genuine reform through charter schools occurs when authorizers adhere to three principles: maintaining high standards for schools, upholding school autonomy, and protecting student and public interests. Part of the work of protecting the interests of students involves ensuring all schools have the resources necessary to do their work. To help achieve that goal, charter schools require equitable funding, and funding for facilities is a key part of that. Without facilities funding, charter schools must transfer dollars from their programmatic activity to support facilities costs.

The legislation before you would strengthen Hawaii's charter school sector by increasing the likelihood that schools will receive appropriate support for facilities funding. NACSA supports Senate Bill 362 in ensuring that funding formulas present charter schools with equitable funding to comparable public schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important legislation.





Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Education

DATE: Friday, February 1, 2013
TIME: 1:30 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 414, Hawaii State Capitol

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

Re: SB362 – Support

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on SB362 Charter Schools Facilities Fund Formula. The number one priority for the Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network (HPCSN) this legislative session is to make progress with funding charter schools' facilities needs.

The legislature has acknowledged the importance of facilities funding support for charter school students; the People of Hawaii through the State Constitution voice the state's broad obligation to public schooling of keiki and assurance to families to provide for facilities. While we are grateful the legislature has provided partial facilities support to charter schools in some years past, currently, there is no funding for facilities to charter schools.

HPCSN expresses resolute support for language that would establish a fund or account to deposit charter school facilities funding appropriations by the legislature. Furthermore, we support having this fund dispersed to schools through a transparent needs-based process controlled by the State Charter School Commission, provided the distribution method is brought through proper public process.

HPCSN would also like to humbly request a needs-based facilities appropriation amount of \$7.5m for FY 2013-14 and \$7.5m for FY 2014-15. Our numbers are based upon projected charter school facilities costs most recently reported by schools and consolidated by your CSAO¹. The chart is attached and includes "Total Projected Facilities Expenses" columns that, in taking a conservative approach, HPCSN has not

¹ McKeague and Roberts. Memo to Karen Street – Chair Hawaii Public Charter Schools Commission, CSAO, Honolulu, HI 11 October 2012.

included in the appropriation request, as some of the items may contain costs already included in the general fund per pupil that charter schools receive.

As we continue to do the challenging but worthwhile work to determine fair, adequate and a consistent means of funding charter schools, HPCSN expresses our gratitude for the progress that the legislature made through the “money follows the child” language of Act 130 of 2012.

Thank you for your support of Hawaii's public charter schools.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Finnegan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lynn Finnegan
Executive Director

Attachment

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
Waiālae-PCS	149	\$0	\$3,500	\$316,634	\$0	\$3,710	\$335,632
Kamālie	275	-	50,000	705,000	-	50,000	750,000
*Lanikai-PCS	320	-	15,034	178,468	-	15,034	178,468
Laupāhoehoe Community PCS	377	-	64,000	420,513	-	69,120	334,604
Waiāmea 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'āina-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
Kualāpuu-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	399,878	521,898	300	399,878	521,898
Voyager-PCS	541	643,600	697,300	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 Waiāhona O Ka Naauāo-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 Kamakau 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'āhana-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'iāhu 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
*Kanuiākapono-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.

SB362

Submitted on: 1/28/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Hawaii Island School Garden Network	Support	No

Comments: Testimony: SB 362
Facilities Funding for Charter Schools

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kidani, Members of the Committee,

It is a commonly held belief in Hawai'i , that without funding for facilities or transportation and with reduced per pupil funding, Charter Schools may not last as an educational alternative in today's world. Although we know that Hawai's students learn best through hands-on, place-based, and experiential learning, it is the Charter School that has taken that knowledge and woven it into the core curriculum. Charter Schools deserve to have parity with public schools. Their current disadvantage creates enormous stress on Administration, faculty, students and parents. This added stress could begin to be alleviated through proper facilities funding.

I have been a teacher all my life, and currently I spend a great deal of time in the 65 schools on Hawai'i Island public/private/charter that are part of the Hawai'i Island School Garden Network. Charter Schools need the support of the Legislature to insure that they will thrive, expand, and become all they can be. Charter Schools are creating future leaders.

I urge you to support this bill, and find the funding necessary for our 31 Charter Schools facilities that will free up other funds for assisting in their delivery of the 21st Century Learning Skills, critical thinking, innovation, and problem solving that are so needed for the future. Mahalo to those who introduced this Bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,



Nancy Redfeather
Program Director
Hawai'i Island School Garden Network
www.kohalacenter.org/HISGN/about.html
nredfeather@kohalacenter.org

Senate Committee on Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chairperson
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chairperson

Friday, February 1, 2013
1:30 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 414

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 362, Relating to Charter Schools

My name is Don Horner, and I serve as chair of the Board of Education. Our board has not had an opportunity to meet to discuss the proposed legislation; therefore, I am testifying as a private citizen.

As we ask schools through the newly enacted law, Act 130 (2012), to improve accountability and student performance, it is incumbent on us to take a closer look at what schools ultimately need to be successful. Historically, facilities funding that does not meet charter school needs has made it challenging for the schools to appropriately support all aspects of operations.

Therefore, this bill is one step in the right direction and provides the means to better analyze the particular needs of charter schools and better monitor use of funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Testimony on SB 362

Friday, February 1, 2013

1:30 pm, State Capitol Room 414

By LYNN HAMMONDS

January 31, 2012

Dear Chair Takuda:

I am writing in support of SB362 Relating to Charter Schools. As Hawaii public schools, charter schools and the students and families they serve deserve equitable funding for facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony SB362

Senate Committee on Education

February 1, 2013 – Room 414 1:30pm

Strongly Support

Dear Chair Tokuda and Committee,

I cannot express how strongly I support this legislation. As a teacher in the state of Hawaii – working for the Hawaii Public Education System, I have always felt like each and every student should have the opportunity to succeed. This success should not revolve around the area they live in, the public school they attend, or the socioeconomic standing of their community. As a teacher I have always believed in the power of change and equality. Sadly, equality does not exist among schools in the Hawaii Public Education System.

Schools with more funding have always been proven to do better on standardized tests and produce students who come into the workforce more prepared. This idea of funding is so important that it even made it into the state of Hawaii Constitution (Article X), which proclaims that the state will establish and support schools. The fact that the state has decided not to fund all public schools equally, (charter or not), shows that we as a state are in direct violation of the intent and word of Article X.

While some may be disillusioned into thinking that facilities funding may not directly support students, I would like to point out that it is quite hard to learn in a poorly funded building – if that building exists at all. During my first year at the Hawaii Academy of Arts and Science I taught half of my classes in either an open air shelter with a canvas top with no side or power access, or in a pavilion. I would like to challenge anyone to teach a group of 20 children algebra I while worrying about rain coming in from the sides of the cover, the extreme heat when the trade winds died out, and the bites from fire-ants that could barely be kept in check.

The purpose of this letter is not for me, but to try to raise awareness for the inequality that does exist for students in certain schools in the Hawaii Public Education System. First and foremost, I am a professional, and I will continue to teach my students to the best of my ability regardless of the buildings that I am provided. I am grateful that I work at a school that offers such a safe environment in one of the poorest areas of the state. I love my job and cannot imagine doing anything else, but I do not think that I can stay silent on such an important issue.

Should you ever want to come and see what is going on at a charter school on the outer islands, please do not hesitate to come visit my classroom.

Richard Tumin MEdT

Mathematics Teacher, Hawaii Academy of Arts and Science

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: Ralphmichaelis@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 2:44:13 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ralph Michaelis	Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences	Support	No

Comments: No student in our state should be forced to learn in substandard facilities. We deserve the same facility support as the public schools.

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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Cc: chinooker@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM*
Date: Monday, January 28, 2013 11:13:20 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/28/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: jennaway@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 5:40:38 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenna Way	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this bill. As a parent of a child in a charter school, I cannot think of anything that could improve his education more than this.

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
SCOTT STODDARD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Hawaii State Senate:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Members:

The Charter schools here in Puna routinely outperform the public schools. I am in favor of this measure, to help create parity between public school funding and charter school funding. Children attending charter schools should not be considered second class citizens.

Sincerely,

Scott Stoddard

Orchidland Estates,

Hawaii County, Hawaii

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: beachesbigisland@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 8:30:58 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thalia Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support SB362 that allocates equitable facilities funding for Hawai'i Public Charter Schools. As a parent, I've been on the Local School Board and helped with fundraising events for many years. My experience shows that facilities funding is a constant issue for most charter schools. Passing of SB362 could make a huge difference in the lives of many children. Thank you!

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Cc: dcretton@realclasshaas.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 10:18:57 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denim Cretton	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a charter school teacher, I feel we need facility funding to continue to provide quality, innovative education to our students, while dealing with increased budget constraints. Access to appropriate public education for all students needs to be funded. Public Charter Schools provide the appropriate access points for many students that do not get their needs met in their home schools. Meet the needs of all our students! They are our future. Create an equitable formula for facility funding.

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From: [Gail Clarke](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#); [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: SB 362 Relating to Charter Schools
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 9:16:03 AM

Aloha,

I support this legislation to facilitate funding for PUBLIC charter school students and their education in appropriately funded facilities. Please support the bill and the work required WHEN it is passed.

Mahalo,

--

Gail Clarke

Resource Developer, Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science (HAAS) PCS

President, Arts & Sciences Center, 501c3

[808-938-2933](tel:808-938-2933) (m), 965-3730 x237 (w-HAAS), 965-3733 (fax)

PO Box 2091, Pahoehoa, HI 96778

www.ascpuna.org

'Providing support and infrastructure for community based learning'

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kirt Nieft	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a parent of a 15 year old Charter school student. I am sick to my stomach that the money spent on rents and mortgages comes out o the classroom. How unfair is that?

This bill is long long long overdue.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: dmpase@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM*
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 10:20:55 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Douglas M. Pase	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM*
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 10:29:21 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendy Pase	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 10:31:28 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Clause	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I support this legislation to facilitate funding for PUBLIC charter school students and their education in appropriately funded facilities. Please support the bill and the work required WHEN it is passed. Mahalo, Elizabeth Clause

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Cc: hunybabe@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 10:50:07 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Kraft	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Two of my children attend Hawaii Academy of Arts and Science PCS. My other two children graduated from the school and are now at UH Hilo. The buildings they were taught in and the campus they attended are not a figment of your imagination. The staff that assisted the teachers, maintained the grounds, fed the children and kept the records are not figments of your imagination. Please help fund the facilities. My children deserve to have adequate school funding. HAAS is a bright light in a economically dismal space. It is "home" and security to many students who have little to feel secure about. Remember it is easier to build strong children than to mend broken men. Please help HAAS build strong healthy children who have hope and light. Beth Kraft

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heidi Saufferer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB362!

Facilities funding should be a given for all public schools! I pay my taxes like everyone else, yet the public school I choose for my kids gets less funding than other schools? How is that fair or right?

Why are children in charter schools expected to get by with tents for school houses? Classes in a shopping center?

As a parent of three children in Hawaii's charter school I feel like the state is punishing me and my children for choosing this option. It makes no sense to me but, it seems as if the state is setting up these schools to fail.

The bill is long over due – please pass it – Tell my kids that Hawaii values their education just the same as everyone else's. Tell them they are just as valued by their community as kids in non-charter schools. Tell them that choosing a something new and innovative, like a charter school, won't be punished, starved, and met with opposition.

Tell them that they are still equal, and respected, if they choose to do something innovative.

That is Hawaii's values, right? That is Aloha, isn't it?

We're not a state that punishes new ideas and fresh thinking, are we?

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: ll.myers@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 11:14:32 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
elizabeth myers	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I believe my tax dollars should be used to support charter school buildings or other efforts needed by charter schools. Its prejudicial and favoritism to supply public but not charter. I have 5 children 3 of which have been educated in the charter school system. Their education in the charter system surpassed the public school system. One has gone onto the university level and done very well. The other two are still attending the charter school.

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: nancyseifers@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 11:54:13 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Seifers	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please allow allocation for charter school funding to be equitable to that of all other public schools. They are held accountable for all of the state mandates and testing requirements, so CS'should receive the resources to support those expecations as well as a fair and equitable operating budget per pupil! Mahalo

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jack Little	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SB362.

My child has been a student at the Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science, PCS since he was in Kindergarten. He is now in the fourth grade and loves school.

I am a Hawaii State worker and a taxpayer. It is unfair that a substantial part of the funding that HAAS gets for student learning is diverted each year to pay for facilities. I work for the DOE and that is not the case at my school. Facilities funding should be separate from student learning funding at the Charter schools as it is at the DOE schools. This has been a longstanding complaint and I am very pleased to see that it is finally being addressed with this bill.

Please do the right thing and pass SB362.

Sincerely,

Jack Little

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: jessrojas808@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM*
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 12:04:05 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Rojas	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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Cc: sarsona@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 1:26:34 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather Sarsona	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Welina mai kakou! I have 6 children that attend a Charter school and it has been the best experience for my children and family. I believe that if there is money for each child's education that it should follow them; whether they are apart of the DOE Public School System or a Public Charter School System. In the end we want to improve our children's chances of becoming productive community contributors as adults. By not providing equal funding for ALL of our children in the Public school system it divides them and only allows for some of them to succeed and the others to fall into our welfare system. Please allow our Charter Schools to become an equal to all Public Schools and provide funding for facilities and their education. Mahlo nui loa!

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From: [Auntie Cyndie](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Charter School funded facilities
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 1:38:03 PM

Aloha,

I support this legislation to facilitate funding for PUBLIC charter school students and their education in appropriately funded facilities. Please support the bill and the work required WHEN it is passed.

Mahalo, Cynthia Edwards Greenlaw

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: lesleestep@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 2:52:16 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leslie Estep	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Charter schools must have help with facilities. Families need a choice in where their children are to be educated. Charter schools are in the forefront of educational change in this country. Our public schools of the past are failing our children. Please give Charter schools a chance to succeed by developing a formula for funding facilities.

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: martichrisnyadean@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 2:59:41 PM
Attachments: [Testimony in support of SB362.docx](#)

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marti Campbell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: One of my daughters is at a public high school receiving facilities funding. My younger daughter is at a charter school not receiving facilities funding. Is the current policy discriminating against my younger daughter and impacting her education? Yes. With that, I ask you to please change the policies so my girls get the equal benefit of our tax dollars.

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Cc: slade.isabel@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 3:00:45 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Slade Isabel Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a parent of 2 students that attend Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science PCS in Pahoia on Hawai'i Island. Currently, I feel my children's education is being unjustly compromised by the fact that the per pupil allotment given to each Charter School student is not entirely used to benefit my children academically. The current mandates that the cost of facilities development, maintenance, and improvements are entirely funded by this per pupil allotment is just absurd and unconstitutional! Why is it that other Public Department of Education schools receive separate facilities allotments and not Public Charter Schools? I realize it is my choice to send my children to the Public DOE school up the road, my alma mater, however, I feel my child would not be given the educational experiences and opportunities they are currently receiving in this nurturing environment at HAAS. HAAS as a whole does an outstanding job managing the minimal funding they are currently provided. I can only imagine how much more improved and refined this awesome school would be given the appropriate funding they deserve. My children, and all other Public Charter School students deserve fair, equal, financial support from the State of Hawaii. I am in great support of this measure!

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Breze Hyatt	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this Bill. Our charter schools are "public" schools that are giving our children a better quality of education by introducing expanded academic education. A great way for students of all learning levels to get ahead. They should be entitled not only to a per pupil amount but in addition, a facilities budget so they can utilize the per pupil amount to increase their materials for academic purposes, rather than having to pay facilities rent as well as utilities and maintenance. Thank you for considering my testimony on this matter.

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gina Franchini	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I support this legislation to facilitate funding for PUBLIC charter school students and their education in appropriately funded facilities. Please support the bill and the work required WHEN it is passed. Mahalo, Gina Franchini

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jared Emmot	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a parent of a student attending HAAS charter school. Whatever needs to be done to keep this school alive should be done. My son has flourished at this school and it would truly be a shame to see it close due to bureaucratic red tape.

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Cc: markthefiddler@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 3:30:46 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark B. Caudill	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha! Please support SB 362. My son attends Shady Grove on the Big Island, a HAAS charter school. Currently, the school is funded at a rate of \$5900 per student, with no extra monies for facilities, etc. This severely impacts the educational opportunities my son receives. Please do what is necessary so that all students can receive equitable funding. Mahalo, Mark B. Caudill

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Cc: Rbvolcano@gmail.com
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Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 3:51:50 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bliss Mishler	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I support this legislation to facilitate funding for PUBLIC charter school students and their education in appropriately funded facilities. Please support the bill and the work required WHEN it is passed. Mahalo.

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Cc: Ian.I.york@gmail.com
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Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 3:53:21 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ian York	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, As a parent of a child at a charter school, I strongly support equitable funding for charter school facilities as compared to traditional public schools. Given the goals of charter schools in innovating and providing unique educational opportunities, facilities funding is strongly needed to free up per pupil funds to accomplish these goals. Please consider this measure so that a transparent and fair mechanism can be established to close this facilities funding gap. Many thanks, Ian York

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: randi.brennon@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM*
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 3:57:12 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randi Wold-Brennon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: coralpools@frontiernet.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 4:04:07 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gail Johnston	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Our son is at Hawaii Academy of Arts (HAAS)and Sciences, in Pahoia, which is a very good school. The campus is very small due to limited funds, and must turn away many students. Our son was 15th on a waiting list of about 30 students and so was unable to get into the main campus, or even to take electives he wanted there. He is able to attend this year via a virtual satellite branch of the school, but would prefer to be able to be on a campus where he can interact with other students. If HAAS were better funded, it could develop facilities to serve the many families of Pahoia who wish to send their children there but now cannot.

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Brennon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raquel Wertz	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I support this legislation to facilitate funding for PUBLIC charter school students and their education in appropriately funded facilities. Please support the bill and the work required WHEN it is passed. Mahalo, Raquel Wertz

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
DEBRA ISABEL	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a parent of 2 students that attend Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science PCS in Pahoia on Hawai'i Island. Currently, I feel my children's education is being unjustly compromised by the fact that the per pupil allotment given to each Charter School student is not entirely used to benefit my children academically. The current mandates that the cost of facilities development, maintenance, and improvements are entirely funded by this per pupil allotment is just absurd and unconstitutional! Why is it that other Public Department of Education schools receive separate facilities allotments and not Public Charter Schools? I realize it is my choice to send my children to the Public DOE school up the road, my alma mater, however, I feel my child would not be given the educational experiences and opportunities they are currently receiving in this nurturing environment at HAAS. HAAS as a whole does an outstanding job managing the minimal funding they are currently provided. I can only imagine how much more improved and refined this awesome school would be given the appropriate funding they deserve. My children, and all other Public Charter School students deserve fair, equal, financial support from the State of Hawaii. I am in great support of this measure!

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 5:14:09 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
holly gibson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the above bill because all children deserve an equal education... Charter schools get no funding for facilities/ buildings as do DOE schools and thus a subclass of students is created in violation of my child's civil rights. Every dollar charter schools spend on rent and mortgage comes straight out of the classroom budget. Simply put this is unfair, and unjust.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
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SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aruna Dee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The Big Island is growing by leaps and bounds and funding charter schools should be priority. It is about education. We need more educated children because they are the future government.

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Cc: punamayhew@hawaiiintel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 5:58:08 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suzanne Mayhew	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It's time the state's charter schools stop being punished for doing a better job than the regular DOE public schools at EDUCATING our future.

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Cc: hfranklin808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
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SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather Franklin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Charter schools are just as important to the academic achievement of Hawaii's students as public schools. They provide high standards of learning by qualified teachers while providing a wholesome environment. Charter schools also take the population pressure placed on public schools. We need more schools!! I believe that charter schools deserve as much or more funding for the students and their facilities.

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jesica La Rue	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I support this legislation to facilitate funding for PUBLIC charter school students and their education in appropriately funded facilities. Please support the bill and the work required WHEN it is passed. Mahalo, Jesica La Rue

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
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SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Liv Madrigal	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Just wanted to support the need for charter schools to have funding. Charter schools are very much needed especially here in Pahoehoe, Hawaii. All three of my sons attend Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences and it is the best thing that ever happened to them. Two sons have attended Pahoehoe Elementary and have had the worst experience academically and socially. Please support all charter schools. All children of Hawaii deserve to get the type of education my sons have received.

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Cc: terriyork2@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 9:13:32 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terri York	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB362. Currently charter schools are underfunded as they do not receive any facilities funds causing them to use academic funds to pay rent, utilities, and overhead cost. This creates an unequal learning environment for our children, and it needs to stop.

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. David A.Stick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I accepted an offer in September 2012 to manage a company located South of Hilo. Upon arrival, we enrolled our 11 year-old son into a local elementary school. He immediately started experiencing verbal abuse, which we expected given our "Haole" background. We talked with the staff and we were given assurances that they would deal with it. After that, our son informed multiple staff members and transportation employees; all continued to turn a blind eye. We figured it would last a week or two and then he would have "paid his dues" and be accepted into the community, especially since he never has had any issues making friends and being well liked. Unfortunately, this was not the case. After 8 weeks, the verbal, emotional and mental abuse escalated into physical abuse. We immediately pulled our son from the school and sought alternative schooling options. I even considered sending my family back to the Mainland.

Fortunately, our son tested into the REAL Classroom of the Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences (HAAS). This educational experience has been the equivalent of night to day. The HAAS staff has exceeded all of my expectations. Once again, my son enjoys school. He comes home happy, has regained his humor and is regaining trust. But more importantly, the educational experience he is getting is the kind I would expect only from select private schools. HAAS is the type of public school parents dream of.

I was shocked to learn that in the State of Hawaii, Charter Schools do not receive any funding for infrastructure or facilities. This funding must instead be diverted from the child's Department Of Education allotment, which is already HALF of a standard public school. This is a blatant Civil Rights issue that other states have addressed and an issue that the State of Hawaii needs to address.

Here is the bottom line. We have found an amazing school with staff that cares about their students. Words are cheap...actions speak...and the staff at HAAS don't just talk the talk. The REAL Classroom at the HAAS Charter School has provided my family with the opportunity of staying together in a State that has breathtaking beauty and cultural experiences. I realize that funding is difficult in times like these, but the education of our children IS our future. And as we move deeper into the 21st Century, our children should not be discriminated against...not by our race...and surely not by funding. If a child in one State public school is allocated a given amount of money, so should a child in another State public school, regardless of whether it has the label "Charter" attached or not.

I humbly ask for your support of SB362.

Sincerely,
Dr. David A. Stick
PhD Fisheries Science

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: nobody@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 7:34:03 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leslie Colter	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Every renter, for home or business, is required to pay a certain amount per square foot of floor space. I suggest that each Charter school student occupies at least 4 square feet of classroom space, for at least 6 hours, 5x per week, and these figures need to be addressed in any kind of formula. Then there is outdoor recreational space to be considered, as every public school has some sort of field, court, gym or playground for daily activities and also to house social events on campus. Charter Schools have become increasingly popular on the Big Island & DOE/BOE support has to increase to match this trend.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: veganmom@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 10:23:50 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dena Smith Givens	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Two of my children attend a charter school (HAAS in Paho) and I would like to know that there is adequate funding to meet ALL the needs of the school, particularly enough funds to provide a good education for my children. Mahalo for supporting this bill!

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: leotoo@aloha.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 10:27:37 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherri Thal	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I, Sherri Thal, wholeheartedly support Senate Bill 362, giving facilities funds to Public Charter Schools in Hawaii. As all other public DOE schools already receive this funding, and public charter schools receive no such monies, these Charter schools must pull from their regular budget to pay rent and maintain and improve their facilities, which robs their students of an equal chance at the highest quality of education possible. Please level the playing field for all of Hawaii's children. Mahalo

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: mamasquid@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 11:37:49 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erinn L. Bromley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the bill because all children deserve an equal education. Charter schools get no funding for facilities/ buildings as do DOE schools and thus a subclass of students is created in violation of my child's civil rights. Every dollar charter schools spend on rent and mortgage comes straight out of the classroom budget. Simply put this is unfair, and unjust.

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: nimo1767@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 2:19:56 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Petricci	Puna Pono Alliance	Support	No

Comments: February 1, 1:45pm Re: support for SB362 Aloha Senator Jill N. Tokuda, and committee members My name is Robert Petricci, I am testifying for Puna Pono Alliance in support of SB362. We have some amazing charter schools in Hawaii county. I have watched them for years struggle operating on a fraction of the funding given pubic schools. Yet schools like HAAS in Pahoia have excelled academically, athletically, (they just went undefeated in soccer 13-0) and socially. The children coming out of that school are extremely well rounded. HAAS is turning out the future leaders of our community. Please recognize what the charters schools are doing with a funding source that is fair and predictable. Puna Pono Alliance ask the committee to pass SB362, the children really are our future. We should make every effort to do what we can to help them. Robert Petricci President Puna Pono Alliance

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: ibcanale@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 4:40:38 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Canale	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senators, I support SB362 to facilitate funding for public charter school students and their education in appropriately funded facilities. Please support SB362 and the work required when it is passed. Mahalo, Lisa Canale

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: hilodan@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 5:11:06 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Jensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senators, Please support SB362 in order to provide equal funding for Hawaii's public charter school system. The education provided in our charter schools is just as important as the education given in the traditional public schools, so the funding for both should be fairly distributed as well. Mahalo. Dan Jensen Kurtistown, HI.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: gerlinde@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 6:28:58 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerlinde Morris	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I support this legislation to facilitate funding for PUBLIC charter school students and their education in appropriately funded facilities. Please support the bill and the work required WHEN it is passed. Mahalo, Gerlinde Morris

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From: [Veronica](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Charter Schools
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 6:40:40 AM

Aloha,

My name is Yanira Autrata, my daughter had been attending Hawaii Academy of Arts and Science (HAAS) in Pahoa, Hawaii for the last 6 years, she is currently a sophomore. I have seen this charter school prosper and grow, however not to its full potential due to lack of funds from the state. Our students deserve the right to have a shot at the best education, teachers and facilities, just like any other student in public(non-charter) school does. The teachers and staff at HAAS are wonderful and are doing the best with what little money they get, however in one way or another this seriously impacts students since they are being deprived of having the basic supplies, like text books, and facilities (such as a Gym, lunch room or even a proper track field). Our children deserve the same rights that other children in public schools enjoy, so I am asking you to please allocate the appropriate funds to our charter school (HAAS) so that our children may be better equipped for learning.

Thank you,
Yanira Autrata

Sent from my iPhone

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: Mentnech@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 6:45:24 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Mentnech	Individual	Support	No

Comments: First class schools should not get second class funding.

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: nataliachambers2008@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 7:51:57 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natalia Chambers	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senators, I support SB362 to facilitate funding for public charter school students and their education in appropriately funded facilities. Please support SB362 and the work required when it is passed. Mahalo

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: stoneflower_8@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 7:54:49 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Raye	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have 3 children and 2 attend the Hawaii Academy of Arts and Science Public Charter School. My children are excelling there. They love to learn, and I'm constantly impressed by their inspiration to learn. This is an important school and they deserve and need facilities funding.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: info@wristwidget.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 7:16:06 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendy Medeiros	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have a child in the charter school here in Keaau. He has been to Le Jardin, Montessorri, Waldorf schools since 5. HAAS in Keaau is one of the most advanced technologically and well run school I have ever experienced. The opportunities for child focused advancement are first class. The future success of this school is dependent on good financing and facilities. The funding per student is alarmingly low relative to the public schools (which are far inferior!) The infrastructure and success of this program will extend beyond one school in Keaau. I see this model succeeding in Hawaii. Set up the funding so that it can expand and touch the lives of many many more needy children and young adults. Warmest Aloha,

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruth Prasad	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My four children have attended the Hawaiian arts and Science charter school In Pahoia, Hawaii for the past four years. As a single parent I was seeking a school that was focused on helping my children grow and learn in a safe and healthy environment. I feel that HAAS has surpassed all of my expectations and those of my children. HAAS has many financial challenges due to the decrease of monies being allocated to the charter school . My children are just as valuable and important as any other child in Hawaii. My children and students of HAAS deserve an education that is equally funded by the state as those who choose public schools. We need funding for our facility and transportation just as every school on this island does. It is necessary and should not be considered optional.

Thank you, Ruth Prasad

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicholas Bridges	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Legislatures,

Hawai'i Academy of Arts and Sciences, a school of vision towards the future, a school of independence uniqueness. I came to Haas in the 2nd quarter of 7th grade. For the 1st quarter, I went to our local DOE high school. When I first came to Haas, I must admit, I was skeptical of the new environment; being heavily influenced by the judgmental students students of Pahoia. I now see that Haas is an amazing school. No longer am I afraid to be judged for myself. I also feel a sense of security at Haas; it is a friendly environment. Such as no fights, no bullying and no meanness makes me feel at home.

That is why I believe that Haas does not deserve to be financially neglected. Haas lacks a lot of facilities that regular DOE school have. We do not have cafeteria. During lunch, students are left to run amok, we eat in classrooms, in the pavilion, even some on the curbs of the sidewalk. A cafeteria would organize this mess. Lately, Haas has seen an exponential growth in the amount of students that attend, and yet, Haas is left with minimal amount of funding. We do not have enough money for more buildings and teachers to support all of the students.

I am in 11th grade now, and I have acquired a level of maturity. I realize there is more than meets the eye at Haas. Haas is not here to just teach. It is here to bring in students and treat them as family. The constitution of Hawai'i, Article 1, section 10 states, "The state shall provide for the establishment, support and control of a statewide system of public schools free from sectarian control, a state university, public libraries and such other educational institutions as may be deemed desirable, including physical facilities therefor." Haas does not receive any funding for facilities. Haas students receive less than half of what Pahoia students receive. 20% of which goes to our facility funding. This is directly opposed to the Hawai'i state constitution. My education is not worth less than others at other public schools. Since Haas is a school in which all of us students stand together; equally united, we will stand against being stripped of our right. Haas will prevail.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Bridges, a student of Haas.

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ariana Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear, Hawai'i State Legislature

My name is Ariana Miller. I am a junior at Hawai'i Academy of Arts and Science Public Charter School. I have attended this school since I was in 7th grade and it is my plan to graduate from HAAS. As long as I have been attending this school, it has offered me a lot. HAAS has helped me in my life to be more socially inclined and has contributed to my intelligence. I used to attend Pahoehoe Elementary, a regular DOE school, and it had the resources to have a good education system but it wasn't right for me. I am more of a one-on-one type of learner. HAAS has helped me get the help that I need to succeed and has pushing me ahead in life.

It states in the Hawaiian State Constitution, Article X section 1. "The state shall provide for the establishment, support and control of a statewide system of public ... including physical facilities therefor. There shall be no discrimination in public educational institutions because of race, religion, sex or ancestry; nor shall public funds be appropriated for the support or benefit of any sectarian or nonsectarian private educational institutions." This means that the state should be financially supporting HAAS so that we may establish facilities. HAAS is a good environment and has the mind-set to be a great school. It's just that we do not have the financial support to fully be one. HAAS gets no funding from the state for our facilities and I believe this is against the State Constitution.

Sincerely, Ariana Miller

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
roselynn hanks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear legislature,

I adore my school H.A.A.S for the food is superb. The teachers are amazing always working to make you understand what were are learning, using real life examples in their teachings. The english teacher heir is the greatest she makes it possible for me to actually understand what she is teaching she makes me like grammar. We have some amazing electives like beekeeping, and surfing electives that will help us in our future life. I also adore how small the school is it give the teachers a chance to actually help all of the students individually. On top of that it creates the perfect environment for kids like me who can't be around lots of people like in big schools.

For all these great advantages we get less than equitable funding . As a charter school student i get 20% less than a child going to a public school, why is that fair i am just as smart as any of those kids, just as involved why do i deserve less. On top of that half of the money we do get gose just to keep the lights one and make sure we have running water we work hard just make sure we have enough money to have internet. We create fundraiser after fundraiser just to get by. Right now i have one of my classes in a medium size pavilion it could in here on a rainy day and sweltering here on a hot day. This pavilion is also used as an assembly hall a cafeteria and a gym, even though it can't even fit the high school let alone our parents.we have a fun music class taught by a great teacher but we can't afford the instrument we make do with what the teacher has and what kids are willing to bring.we get no funding for facilities and money has to be taken for my education so i believe you either need to give use acitable funding or you need to give me a good reason why my schooling is less important than a public school student. Why my dreams and life are less important than that of a student who probably doesn't even care.

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Jardine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Hawaii State Legislature,

I am a student on the Big Island of Hawaii and I attend Hawaii Academy of Arts & Sciences Public Charter School. The Hawaii State Constitution, Article X says: "the state shall provide for the establishment, support of a statewide system of Public Schools... including physical Facilities." I attend this beautiful, inspiring, hands-on school because we learn so much. We get prepared for the real world and we feel inspired to do our homework and do well on tests and succeed every day because of our learning environment.

The real issue at this school is we get no funding for our facilities. Other regular public schools get 60% more than we get. In other words, we only get 40% of per-pupil funding. Our school does not extravagant facilities, and we could really use the money to improve them. I would really appreciate if you helped us fund for our brilliant Public Charter School. Thank you for reading my letter and enjoy your day. Aloha!

Sincerely, John Jardine

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis A. LaPointe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Members of the Committee,

My son completed K through 8th grade at the Volcano Charter School. I feel he received a solid, creative education in a nurturing community environment. The facilities, however, were marginal at best and for years our parents and community volunteers did their best to create and maintain play fields, classrooms, and covered spaces for our art, science and movement classes. We got by, but the lease on the property and constant maintenance costs have eroded our operating funds. I sat on the local charter school board for four years and was a member of our supporting non-profit organization. So much of our effort was spent trying to keep a roof over our heads when it may have been spent enhancing our educational program. We are a top performing school in our district, serving the greater community from Mountain View to Oceanview, but we desperately need more funding for our facilities. We need this bill to pass. Thank you for your consideration.

Dennis A. LaPointe

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Austin Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Legislature,

I go to HAAS (Hawaii Academy of Arts and Science Public Charter School). This is a great school; there are no bullies and minimal conflict between students. Students here have a very unique relationship with each other. No one is afraid to be themselves. HAAS is a popular school with a long waiting list to get in and we are already over capacity. If we got proper funding then we can use it to make more facilities and make more room for people to come to our school. We also have very few and out of date textbooks that each class needs to share.

Also, our school doesn't even have a gym or a library. In fact, we have to take classes in rooms that were never meant to be classrooms, or even outside. With proper funding we can do so much more for our school and our education, so I advise whomever is reading this to grant our school facilities funding. Why is my education worth less?

Sincerely,

Austin Brown

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: stancelourbizz@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 9:32:10 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: I support.

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: amaliedorn1@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 9:39:00 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amalie Dorn	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senators, I support SB362 to facilitate funding for public charter school students and their education in appropriately funded facilities. Please support SB362 and the work required when it is passed. Mahalo I have 3 children who were failing & frustrated in the regular public school setting who are now eager to go to school and are learning & participating it is the small class sizes & the empowered teachers that have made this happen.

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jessica seagraves	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear, Hawaii State Legislature

My name is Jessica Seagraves I am a student at Hawaii Academy of Arts and Science PCS. I have been with this school for 5 years. I am currently a junior and plan to graduate from HAAS. This school has taught me well and contributed to my life in a very positive way. They offer any student one-on-one help if needed to improve and meet the students' needs. When I was in elementary, I attended a private school and paid lots of money each year to get a good education, but it wasn't enough. I needed the one-on -one support I get from this school. Ultimately, that is why I am here.

Something else that is spectacular about our school is the building and facilities here at HAAS. However not too many people are aware that HAAS does not have enough buildings to hold all of our classes in. Right now while writing this letter I am in a pavilion. It is a very nice pavilion that we use for a cafeteria, auditorium, class room, and for assemblies. The cause is because we do not have enough funding to build more classrooms. Did you know HAAS went from 45 students 10 years ago to over 500 student today? Not much people know that charter schools get absolutely no funding for facilities, as where public school get funding on request for maintenance, a new gym, etc.

Another shocker to me is that regular public schools get more funding for each kid by 60%. In The Hawaii constitution article X section 1 it says that the state shall provide establishment and support to state universities, public libraries, and other educational institutions, including physical facilities. It would be nice to see our sate live up to these rules because our school could really use the money.

Mahalo for your time,
Jessica Seagraves

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: thomas.brennon@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 9:46:17 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
thomas brennon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: be fair to all our children

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Mayo-Kottwitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Legislature,

I am a student at Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences a Public Charter School in Pahoa. This school has changed my life and my fellow classmates and the staff members here have become my family. This school is different in the sense that every teacher and every staff member has a personal relationship with each student and they know and understand how to teach in a captivating way and take everything to a deeper level. The teachers don't just care about what we learn in school, but they see that each one of their students have a future and that it is their job to prepare them for the future. I can honestly say that in my three years here I have grown and really grasped who I want to be as an adult and what I want to do with my future. Puna is a very deprived place with a dark past and I feel that HAAS is a point of light in our community that is giving hope to this generation.

In my seventh and eighth grade years I attended Waieka Intermediate. The campuses were well kept and all the school supplies were purchased within the last five years. It is not a secret that the entire department of education is insufficiently funded but it is a violation of civil rights to give less money to student of charter schools. The charter school movement is the right direction for Hawaii to be heading because it offers unique and personal learning experiences that change the educating game forever. HAAS cannot keep operating on the funds they have, I don't want 2013 to be the last graduating class. I want my four year old sister to be able to attend HAAS just like I do. I know that charter school education can change Hawaii for the better, but only if they can survive this severe under budgeting.

When you consider denying this bill please remember the disservice that you are doing Hawaii. Think of the humble cluster of buildings on the outskirts of Pahoa town that have become a safe haven for so many. Think of the bully free atmosphere and friendly learning environment you are eliminating. Think of the all the students that would have been thrown to the wayside at Pahoa High or Keaau who have grown to outshine all the odds that life stacked against them. Most of all think about the fact that you are denying us the right to a FREE and PUBLIC education.

Thank you very much,

Pamela Mayo-Kottwitz

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: ttravis12@mac.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 10:11:16 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Travis	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Charter schools fill a vital role in educating our your people. To realize this contribution we must invest money in it. I urge you to support SB 362

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Cc: EtrionNano@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 10:33:02 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Dodge	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: This school truly provides an excellent education to me and my peers, and I am amazed at how Mr. Hirakami, the principal, can run our school on such little funding. I, myself, directly support the passing of this bill to equalize funding for Public and Public charter schools. Thank you for your time, -Michael Dodge II, Student at the Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: shadoe_wings@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 10:34:48 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Hello, in my opinion i believe that schools that are like this are absolutely just as important if not mare important that other schools. It is only fair that our school deserves the same funding that other public charter schools get. We deserve these this funding for our school facilities and class rooms. Our school is very important to me and we need the funding to stay a school.

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Cc: Mangoshakepower@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 10:39:30 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Genevieve Block	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am currently attending Hawaii Academy of arts and science and I believe, according to article 10 in the Hawaii State Constitution, HAAS is a public school and deserves public funding for facilities. ,Genevieve block

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: kalikoishulten@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 10:41:42 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kaliko hulten	Individual	Support	No

Comments: according to the Hawaii state constitution, article Ten section One it says how all public schools get a school grant, HAAS is a public charter school therefore HAAS deserves a grant due to the Hawaii constitution - Kaliko Hulten

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maka-ou Karren	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Hawaii Legislature

I, as a student of Hawaii Academy of Arts and Science Public Charter School(HAAS), wish to convey to you my about my school and the help it needs from you the Legislature. Firstly I was worried when I was just about to graduate from elementary school. I did not want to go to Pahoa Middle and High-school, our regular DOE school, because up to that point I only heard bad things about it; but that was also around the time I was told about HAAS. The only real reason I went to HAAS was so I did not need to go to Pahoa Middle so I did not know anything about the school except what I could gather from the name. So when I got there I was happy to find that the atmosphere was really nice, no one seemed really mean and it just felt nice being here. That was when I started 7th grade now I am in 11th and I still feel the same way.

However, there is something that I must bring up, for even though it's nice here the school could be better. What we need is more funding. As you may already, know Charter Schools get less funding then regular public schools, a whole 60% less. And of the 40% we do get, half of that is used to pay for utility bills. Regular DOE schools have many of their facilities costs paid for by the government. This is in direct violation with the Hawaiian Constitution, Article Ten, Section 1 which states that: "The State shall provide for the establishment, support and control of a statewide system of public schools free from sectarian control, a state university, public libraries and such other educational institutions as may be deemed desirable, including physical facilities therefor." We don't have enough classrooms. For one class, we use a pavilion that already acts as our auditorium and cafeteria (we do not have a cafeteria). We do not have a library, paved roads, a gym, and many other facilities that are common for a school to have. I understand that the state budget is stretched already and that some of the problems are manageable. I only wish for the really big problems like funding and common facilities we do not have to be addressed and fixed or at least made better.

Sincerely,

Maka-Ou Karren

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alex Chase	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

1/30/13

To Legislature,

I am a student of Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences Public Charter School, a wonderful school. We need to make it better. I am in need of new, hands-on ways to learn and HAAS is in need of more facilities. This school may not be perfect but with your help we can get it closer to a "perfect school." I as a student need a quieter classroom with lesser students in the same room, so more classrooms are needed. I want to do some Science Experiments but this school doesn't have a Science Lab to work in.

This school doesn't get any funding for facilities. The more stuff we can do, the more we learn. It is a violation that we don't get funding for our facilities. I have two little siblings in this school and I have seen improvement since our previous school but I know that if they had more interactive activities they could do even greater.

Thank you for your time,

Alex Chase

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Cc: [REDACTED]@me.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 9:47:28 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Merritt Mayer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please do not print or share my email.

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Cc: kinohibetts217@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 10:52:09 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kinohi betts	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a 14 year old student at Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences or HAAS, a charter school. I do wish that we receive the money for facility's and other helpful educational tools. I support because I have been to a private, public, and public charter school and in all those school I see the charter school as one of the most enriching learning areas along with a large about of students who are very smart and looking for more knowledge and with holding money from a school like us is not only hindering the education of students in hawaii who want to learn but is also unfair to the school as a whole in the sense that the state and government fund public schools but not charter schools, I see it as unfair and say that it would be right, just, and beneficial to not only us but to hawaii and America in the long run, do to that fact that with the money we will be sending out more educated and prepared students into the real world.

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Cc: Priesthslogan@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 10:54:42 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Logan William priest	Hawaii academy of arts and science charter school	Support	No

Comments: I am a student of Hawaii Academy of Arts and Science, we wish to acquire more funding for our education.(science labs, a gym,computer lab, cafeteria etc) Please support SB 362.

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Forrest Henriques	hawaii academy of arts and science charter school	Comments Only	No

Comments: Hello, my name is Forrest Henriques, I go to HAAS, a public charter school. We are in need of better facilities and most of all a cafeteria. This is all for the sake of a better education. Thank you and mahalo for your consideration.

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: jklincoln1@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM*
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 10:57:58 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Josiah Lincoln	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: jadeandsalty@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 10:58:38 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jade Steele	Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences PCS	Support	No

Comments: I am a student at Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences Public Charter School (HAAS PCS) and I am testifying for this cause. HAAS PCS is a Public Charter school and according to the Hawaii Constitution, article 10, we deserve and are supposed to get funds for facilities and to keep up the few facilities we have. Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences Public Charter School qualifies for these funds since we are a Public Charter School. HAAS PCS is a great school, and we need money to get by and continue to be the school that helps the future of our next generation. Therefore, HAAS PCS qualifies according to the Hawaii Constitution, article 10 and I am testifying for this and have a strong opinion

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexander Jay Byck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a student of Hawaii Academy of Arts and science PCS. My name is Alex Byck. Article ten of the Hawaii state constitution shows that public charter schools deserve adequate funding for buildings and facilities. I strongly suggest that the state start funding our schools. We are a Hawaii state institute and should therefore receive funding form the state.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: son.cole.1@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 10:41:42 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mathewv Cole	Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences	Support	No

Comments: I am a student at HAAS and I believe that my school should, according to the Hawaii State Constitution article 10, be allowed the same funding as any other public school.

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Cc: bluechubbybunny@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 10:42:53 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Madeline Block	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am currently attending Hawaii Academy of arts and science and I believe, according to article 10 in the Hawaii State Constitution, HAAS is a public school and deserves public funding for facilities. ,Madeline Block

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Cc: kaiowold@gmail.com
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Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 10:43:03 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kaio wold brennon	hawaii academy of arts and science charter school	Support	No

Comments: I am a student at Hawaii Academy of Arts and Science and we wish to acquire more funding for our educational plan, thank you

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: 8mary8mary8@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 10:44:37 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Cockcroft	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am currently attending Hawaii Academy of arts and science and I believe, according to article 10 in the Hawaii State Constitution, HAAS is a public school and deserves public funding for facilities. ,Mary Cockcroft

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Cc: shadoe_wings@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
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SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Hello, in my opinion i believe that schools that are like this are absolutely just as important if not mare important that other schools. It is only fair that our school deserves the same funding that other public charter schools get. We deserve these this funding for our school facilities and class rooms. Our school is very important to me and we need the funding to stay a school.

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Cc: brianna.ridgway@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 10:47:25 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brianna Ridgway	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: i am a student at haas (hawaii acadmy or arts of science) in grade 9. in the hawaii state constitution it says that beacuse we are not a public svhool we should not get the same funds. but i think we should get the same funds like pahoia or keau or even hilo. but we dont and i would love to say that we do get the same funds but we dont. last year pahoia just got 5 millon to build a gym , and just beacused we are a charter school dose not mean any thing. my name is brianna ridgway

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Cc: david.l.hall@ampf.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 10:47:39 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Hall	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Where my family lives the charter schools have been wonderful. They are a good alternative to the other failed public schools that seem incapable of even minor changes and improvement. The charter schools deserve to be funded properly for facilities etc and have actually earned that money. The results speak for themselves. The fact that they have survived and even prospered without proper funding speaks volumes about their determination, ingenuity, and leadership. The charter schools have been the only successful alternative to the far below par schools in my district Puna, in the county of Hawaii. Please support them properly as that will only boost the success of the children, district, island and state. Mahalo Nui Loa, David Hall

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Johannes Mauricio	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Letter to legislature

Dear Hawaii State Legislature

My name is Johannes Mauricio aka Kiki Mauricio and I am a student at Hawaii Academy of Arts and Science (HAAS). I am a sophomore here at HAAS. I've been going HAAS since 7th grade. I believe HAAS should receive facilities funding as other schools in the state of Hawaii do.

I chose to come to HAAS because it is a good school and could revive a good education. HAAS is one of the schools where the teachers actually help you succeed. Unlike other schools, the teachers here at HAAS actually put time into teaching you by showing you easier methods to solve a problem or solution. Another reason I chose HAAS is because it is small. It's a good learning environment because most public schools have more than 20 students cramped into one classroom all talking over each other, and at HAAS there are fewer students so no one's really talking over anyone else. And to top it off, people at HAAS are treated the same no matter what.

HAAS should receive funding for multiple reasons; Better facilities, cafeteria, lockers, and a gym. We need better facilities because I believe students could learn better in a bigger classroom. Plus, HAAS has a wait list and with more facilities we can have more people at HAAS. We need a cafeteria because that way people don't have to line up in the hall way and block people from walking through. We need lockers because students carry their backpacks around all day which is possibly bad for their backs. And finally, we need a gym because currently we play basketball under a green tent plus it gets really hot. In conclusion HAAS should receive facilities funding so we can make HAAS better and bigger for students in the Puna district.

Senate Bill 362

Testimony

Dear Hawaii Senate,

I am a student at Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences (HAAS), we are a Public Charter School located in Pahoa, HI. I have gone to this school since 6th grade, and I am very glad I moved to HAAS. HAAS is a great school, with amazing teachers and a beautiful campus. The education at HAAS is superb, I joined HAAS in it's Real Class program, and I learned so much more in that program than I believe I would have in any other school. Since then I have enjoyed this school, and I believe this school has great potential. But we cannot reach our full potential, because we get very little funding. The funding we have been getting is hardly enough to keep up the facilities we currently have.

HAAS, being a *Public* Charter school is in need of funding for better facilities. Some examples include; We do not have a cafeteria, which means we must eat in classrooms or outside in uncommon conditions. We do not have a gym, so we must practice all our sports outside without the proper equipment. Our school has a Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM), the STEM class is a great educational program, but we do not have a facility that we can use specifically for STEM. Currently the STEM program is in our math classroom, this is a immense safety hazard, for we have dangerous tools in the same room as many classes. We have been hoping to get funding to build STEM class it's own facility, so we can have better safety, and more room for tools we have but cannot yet use due to space restrictions.

This school, HAAS, deserves state funding, and Article X, Section 1 of the Hawaii State Constitution states "The State shall provide for the establishment, support and control of a statewide system of public schools free from sectarian control, a state university, public libraries and such other educational institutions as may be deemed desirable, including physical facilities therefor." HAAS is a *Public* Charter school, and we are included in the State Constitution as stated in this phrase of Article X, Section 1 "The State shall provide for the establishment, support and control of a statewide system of public schools free from sectarian control".

Thank you for your time -
Jordan

Drewer

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: eric.cockcroft@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 11:26:48 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Cockcroft	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have been teaching at The Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences Public Charter School for the last twelve years, and my son and daughter both attended. I feel very frustrated by the lack of facilities for my children and blatant injustice of the system toward myself and my students. This bill is an opportunity for the state to start the healing process for charter schools and their families.

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Cc: andersenmaya@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 11:25:45 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maya Andersen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hi I am Maya, a student at the Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences. My school is a public charter school and does not presently receive proper funding for facilities. We do not have a cafeteria or a gym or a science lab. I strongly urge this constitution to be passed, as 'HAAS' needs and deserves the same funding as other public schools to support its committed students. we should have the same chance at a successful future as anyone else.

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yasmin Autrata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Hawaii state legislature,

My name is Yasmin Autrata. I am a tenth grader at HAAS. I have been going to HAAS for almost four years now, since the 6th grade. HAAS is a very small school with below 200 high schoolers. HAAS is a good school with teachers that teach us well, also they really care about us. Haas also has great core and elective classes compared to most schools. That is mainly one of the reason I like going to HAAS. HAAS is definitely a good school to keep open.

The only thing about HAAS, which would make it better for me and other students is our facilities. Some ideal facilities would be buildings such as having an actual art classroom, science lab, a real field and track, more classrooms, cafeteria, and gym. Our school does not get facilities funding. Our money that should be used towards keeping our school open. We don't even have individual texts books that we can use. We usually have to share them. Also, our school could really use a gym as well. I actually play volleyball and since we don't have a gym, for volleyball season we had to practice outside on the field at our local DOG public school. So, extra money for our education and facilities can really help us out.

The teachers at HAAS don't all have their own classrooms. They actually have to share rooms to teach us in. For example my history teacher has to switch between different classes rooms to teach. She teaches from the pavilion which is hard to teach and learn due to the extra noises how It echoes in there as well, and the other classroom that are right next to the pavilion can hear. Thinking about it must take some patients. Then, she teaches in the math teachers classroom. Then, for her last class (elective class) she teaches up in the upper campus class. Overall our school does need extra money for a little school. Anything could really help us.

Thank you for your time and patience!

Sincerely,
Yasmin A.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: Drewerfamily@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 11:14:23 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Coni Drewer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a parent of 3 HAAS charter school students, I am in support of this bill. All children regardless of where they attend school are entitled to the same funding. My tax dollars pay for it and so far my children have been shorted because they attend a charter school. Please fix this problem. Mahalo.

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Cc: ponobimvc@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 11:08:03 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pono Christianson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I currently attend Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences public charter school and I believe that our charter school deserves what a standard DOE public school gets in funds. Our education will determine our generation's intelligence and how we will act as adults. Pahoehoe High and Middle School just received \$5,000,000 to build there new gym, most charter and public charter school don't have a proper cafeteria and bathroom so I strongly urge you to pass bill 362.

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: danellelovestramp@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 11:01:42 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hannah Danelle Osborn	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Hannah Osborn. I am a student at Haas High School Campus. I strongly believe that my Public Charter school deserves funding for its public building facilities. It states this in Article 10 in the Hawaii State Constitution. Please support SB 362

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Cc: keahi_kaheiki@notes.k12.hi.us
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM*
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 2:31:16 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keahi Kaheiki	Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: grover.75@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 1:51:41 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark D Fomenko	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My son attends Hawaii Academy of Arts and Science grade 6 in Puna. He attended public school all grades prior. He has always liked school and done well. In HAAS he absolutely loves his school, teacher and the experience a charter school affords. He is exploring academia with a sense of curious wonder. He is seeing educational avenues open before him daily. If I am sick and stay home he insists I drive him to school- he will not skip out. He willingly does 1-3 hours of homework and sees the merit in his studies. This is what charter school has ignited in this young man. Please, logic and ethics demand the support of charter school facility appropriations. Mahalo. Alex's Dad Mark.

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Cc: bor_tfark@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 1:41:52 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Kraft	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Please ensure the State must provide facilities funding for charter school.

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: rahulgodbole@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 1:40:28 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rahul Godbole	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a parent of two children in charter schools and a strong supporter of this bill. The rationale and need for charter schools is now well understood by educators and citizens alike. The charter school movement nationally, fills a very important role (and void) in the public education system. This is also well understood and accepted. Hawaii (like all states) is required to provide tax dollars to make financial provisions for the facilities that educate our children. It is unacceptable that the state would not provide funding to charter schools for facilities. This is causing charter schools to use dip into their own meager/personal resources to maintain their facilities. This adversely affects the quality of the facilities and the education of our children. Are good facilities less important to children in charter schools than public schools? The state is discriminating against children in charter schools by not providing them tax dollars for facilities on par with what children in public schools receive. What Hawaii is doing is probably unconstitutional. This is about the education of our children, our future generation. I am a strong supporter of providing the same amount of funding on a per student basis for charter schools and public schools for facilities purposes and for ongoing educational expenses. In other words, I hope that the Dept. of Education/Charter School Commission will not come up with a "formula", only for it to provide some funding but not the same facilities funding to charter schools than to public schools on a per student basis. It needs to be ON PAR! The bill as laid out is better than nothing but weaker than it needs to be. The formula must say "ON PAR" funding for facilities on a per student basis for charter and public schools alike. My wife and I and our children thank you for considering this and taking an important step towards the education of the children of Hawaii.

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Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 1:13:52 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristen O'Guin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I have been a teacher for several years here in HI, involved with two different charter schools. I have been amazed at what we have been able to do with such little funding. It would be so much better for the children and our communities if we were able to receive funding for facilities, the same way other public schools do. Also, of course, the State Constitution states that all public schools should be supported with facilities. This is a grave imbalance that seriously needs to be corrected. Please do what is in the best interest of our children, the future citizens of our communities. Mahalo, Kristen O'Guin 96778

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alessa Stecher	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Testimony for facilities funding for charter schools

Although charter schools provide an alternative to other public schools, they are part of the public education system. As such, charter schools should receive facilities funding. Charter schools receive less funding per pupil than regular department of education schools. On top of that, they need to pay for facilities out of their own operational budget without state or federal help. Facilities funding would help charter schools focus more of their resources where it counts: in educating Hawaii's children. Every dollar that a charter school spends on facilities is a dollar that is not going directly to the educational program.

There are a few unviable methods currently existing for how charter schools pay for facilities funding:

- o Donations
- o Per Pupil Allocation from the state

Many charter school students are living at or below the poverty level, so the donations are not adequate to meet the current needs for facilities.

The Per Pupil Allocation is meant to cover teachers' salaries, books, supplies and educational programs. As such, this payment does not also adequately cover costs associated with obtaining a facility or maintaining existing facilities. It seems as if charter schools are expected to do more with less.

Having an opportunity to provide our students with adequate facilities will demonstrate the State's partnership in recognizing that school facilities make a huge impact on how children learn. Research has shown that the age and condition of school facilities tends to be the most reliable structural predictor of student achievement.

Children attending PUBLIC charter schools should receive similar funding to any other department of education school. School enrollment increases each year, but the per pupil funding to charter schools has declined significantly. Facilities are an essential component to the success of a charter school.

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: eva.marie.gr@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 12:00:53 PM
Attachments: [~\\$tter To Legislature Christian Furbush.docx](#)

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christian Furbush	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christy Ceraso	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Charter schools are struggling to provide facilities while maintaining their commitment to offer excellent academic resources to children in Hawaii. They have every right to access the same funding allotments as "regular" public schools. Their amazing struggle to "do more with less" has more than earned them the entitlement to funds for infrastructure!

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Cc: haasindigitaljon@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 12:18:12 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Kissida	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Committee on Education, Students should be given the option to choose charter school or standard DOE school without being penalized. Charter schools need the support to expand and grow. Facility funding will provide facilities for the growing population of students interested in charter schools. Thanks for your time, Jon

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
hanale mcguire	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Letter to Legislature

Dear Hawaii state legislature my name is Hanalei McGuire I live in Orchid land, on the Big Island. I'm fifteen years old, a sophomore and attend to Hawaii academy of arts and science public charter school.

I like Haas because its more of a hands on school. Me personally, I learn better when I can touch, visualize, and experience things with my hands, even if I was being taught something out of the book. I go to Haas because the teachers actually care about your learning, they take the time out of there day to make sure you get the lesson and you are comfortable.

Haas is no different to any other public school. Why do we receive no support for electricity, maintenance, rent etc while other schools are funded so they can afford to pay of all these big bills. Our school is only just getting by, its our right to have enough class rooms for all students and we don't even have that. Its so hard to concentrate and learn in a loud detracting and unpeacfull environment. All we are asking for is just a little funding.

Sincerely, Hanalei McGuire

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Dear, Hawaii State Legislature, My name is Brandon M. Hart. I live in Hawaiian Paradise Park on the Big Island of Hawaii in the Puna District. I am advocating for the bill SB-362. Please take time and consideration to learn why SB-362 should be passed and accepted. I am speaking on the behalf of HAAS and how it's unconstitutional of you to not treat us equal.

Thank you for taking time out of your day to consider what I am about to propose. We all know the constitution was created to protect our rights as citizens to keep everyone treated equal. My question to you is, do you think public schools and charter schools (like HAAS) are treated equally?

No, in fact, we are not. It has been proven that public schools receive almost twice as much money (per student) as a normal charter school. That is NOT including funding for things such as utilities (water, electric, buildings, and ect.) that public schools also get funding for but charters do not. What is the difference between a child's education in a public school and another child's education that goes to a charter school? Doesn't the constitution state that all children's education values are equal? Well, what you are doing is not. I value sports and grades and both are impacted with insufficient funding.

One of my best friends left my school because of the fact we don't even have a gym for when it rains! Your main priorities are test scores right? Maybe if students are more confident in their school they will do better, right? I understand the economy is hurt right now and not only is it impacting big business but also the public! To be honest, I am scared of what my future may look like If I do not have a good education.

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brianna Rosario	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Hawaii State *Legislature*,

My name is Brianna Rosario I'm a student at Hawaii Academy Of Arts And Science Public Charter School. I'm in the 10th Grade and my favorite subject is History, Science, Biology and Health. I am in favor of SB 952. I honestly think Charter Schools should start getting more funding because Charter Schools are just like Public Schools. What's the difference between us and them ? Haas is a very good School. I moved here because

Haas is a very active and fun School. Why do Charter Schools have to pay for everything and build everything and Public Schools get money to support those things, buildings, gyms, facilities, etc. Why can't Charter Schools get the same ? How is it fair ?

Charter Schools need it, Expecially HAAS because we don't have enough classrooms and It would be nice if we could have more classrooms so that there is no overcrowding of students. Classrooms help us concentrate and focus on our School work. In conclusion HAAS should receive more Funding so it can be a better School.

Thank You For Your Time !

Sincerely; Brianna Rosario (:

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Neal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Hawaii Legislature

My name is Ryan Neal. I am currently attending Hawaiian Academy of Arts and Science, which is a public charter school located in Puna. What I want along with many others is more money for this school. The school would be very grateful for your support and would be greatly appreciative of it. I personally would be grateful for your support. This school is in need of facilities.

The reason why HAAS should receive the money is we need more buildings, more equipment, more supplies and enough money to pay our electric bill. HAAS in my personal opinion is the greatest school I have never been to, academically and socially. I have learned so many things I thought I would never have the chance to learn about. Also, everyone here is very nice and shows respect. So I get a chance to learn without ever fearing of being looked down upon. I went to lots of different kinds of schools (including our local DOE school, which I attended for two years) and none have treated me as kind or welcomed me such as HAAS. Please support our school!!!

Sincerely, Ryan

From: [Tucker](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#); [Kirt Niefert](#); [Stacey Tucker](#); [Shanna Arthur](#); [Randi Brennon](#)
Subject: SB 362 Relating to Charter Schools(, Its about civil rights!)
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 11:52:02 AM

Aloha Senate Committee on Education,

Mahalo for taking time to listen to the needs of your constituents and our keiki. Mahalo to Senator Ruderman for introducing this highly imperative bill. It is now up to the State DOE and BOE to come up with a formula and dollar amount per pupil that can be translated over to the charter school law. I am very concerned with changes from the word "may" to "shall" in regards to making facility appropriations to charter schools. As it is now, total funding per pupil at a "public" charter school this year is \$5900. The schools receive no extra amount for facilities. All rent, utility bills, repair and maintenance costs come out of the school's children's academic funds. MY children's academic funds! This severely impacts the students! **THE STATE CONSTITUTION STATES THAT ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS SHOULD BE SUPPORTED WITH FACILITIES!!**

As a parent of 3 children attending a "public" charter school, it is disturbing that I must explain to them that financial support for their school, and all public charter schools, is significantly lower than for a mainstream public school, on a per student basis. To further insult my children, and all students attending a school within the public charter school system, there is zero support for facilities construction or improvement. This makes it extremely difficult to understand how the state can profess embracing the merits of a PUBLIC charter school system, yet blatantly not equally support it.

Unequal funding certainly raises questions such as to why charter school students get so much less support, yet are held to the same standards. It raises eyebrows at the thought that our own state says they support these public charter schools and yet gives such significantly less funding across the board. Are my kids less valuable or worthy than a student at a public school simply by having different needs? Last legislative session, my children's 12 year old charter school's law was thrown out and replaced with a national "model" charter school law. The influence came from the National Association of Charter School Authorizers, who interestingly got the \$500,000 contract to transition the schools. Why are there monies being exchanged between the state and these "authorizers" and no funding left for the children???

The education from our public charter school has had tremendous positive impacts on my children, on myself as a parent enjoying the reward of such a strong community bond built by this school, and as a teacher in a classroom at the school, a classroom full of students that are a joy to be around, students that see the value and importance of strengthening the teacher/student/family bond. It is easy to see that they deserve the same respect and support that mainstream public school students receive. It is clearly time for a change!!

I do feel SB 362 still needs further addressing. That is the need for it to go one step beyond its current standing and address providing equal funding per student to all

public school students. Providing less funding per student to public charter schools is against the students civil rights. Whether this gets amended here, or is introduced in another bill, this funding gap needs to cease, and ALL STUDENTS BE SUPPORTED EQUALLY!!

I implore that you sign SB 362 into law and begin the process of equalizing this civil injustice within the public school system.

Sincerely,

Stacey A. Tucker
Hawaiian Paradise Park
Kea'au, Hawaii
Puna district

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
josh doran	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Hawaii state legislature, my name is Josh Doran and I am a student at the academy of arts and sciences. I am here representing my school and hope that SB-362 is passed. I'm writing this letter to show you why SB-362 should be passed. I think SB-362 should be passed because as a student at a charter school in a non-doe facility we really feel how a lack of facilities funding affects us.

We do not receive funding for our facilities so we spend a lot of our already limited funding on things like rent, lights mortgage. Besides not getting facilities funding our school receives 60 percent less money per student than any other public school. This goes against our constitutional right to a free and equal education if students in public schools receive a higher level of funding than their level of education is higher than ours and this is not equal.

Haas deserves this funding because at Haas we have teachers that like ensure that each student gets the same amount of attention and learns at the same pace as everyone else and I think our school deserves more funding so we have more money to improve our level of education to where we know our school can be.

Sincerely, Josh Doran

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Cc: danielthea@hotmail.com
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SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
danel shapiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this bill, to grant students attending charters schools equitable funding in regards to facilities. Charter students are public students and deserve the same level of funding as their DOE counterparts. MAHALO for supporting this bill.

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM*
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 8:40:55 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dwayne Tarletz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM*
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 8:36:56 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
megan lewis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pier Sircello	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I believe that charter schools should be funded for their facilities just as regular public DOE schools are. Charter schools are currently under-funded because they are having to pay for facilities out of our children's educational funds. I moved my child from the public high school to a charter school, because I felt that the teachers and administration were not doing their best job to educate my child. My child and I are much happier with the education he is getting now. I believe that it would be much better still if there were more available funds for his education. Currently, I think they are on a shoestring budget, and should get equal funding with the public schools, since they are doing such a great job of educating my son.

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Cc: lesleymaxwell@msn.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM*
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 8:06:50 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lesley maxwell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 8:00:14 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danya Nelson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a parent of three children, and I have children enrolled in both the Volcano School of Arts and Sciences, as well as the Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences. My children's education is worth the same amount as any other child going to public school. The charter schools need to be given enough money to provide a safe and effective learning environment for my children. I see these two charter schools struggling to pay for utilities, up-keep, and maintenance for their facilities. Education costs a certain amount, and this amount should and must be equal and given equally to each child of Hawaii, regardless of the type of public school the child attends.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 7:26:14 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ray Kottke, Teacher		Support	No

Comments: My name is Ray Kottke and I am a teacher at Hawaii Academy of Arts and Science Public Charter School, Pahoia, Hawaii. The funding for public school facilities as part of Article 10 of the Hawaii Constitution has not been forthcoming for public charter schools as required. In our efforts to provide upgrades to our facilities with a growing enrollment population we have been held back due to inadequate state funding. Our science and math and physical education departments need facility upgrades. So, please provide proper funding for public charter schools - it is the fair and logical approach to educate public school children.

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: jbmck66@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 7:17:38 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jean B McKeague	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this legislation to facilitate funding for PUBLIC charter school students and their education in appropriately funded facilities. Please support the bill and the work required WHEN it is passed. Mahalo, --

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Cc: csaufferer@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM*
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 7:00:18 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chad v saufferer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: terryjwalker@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 6:49:06 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terry J Walker	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha, I have been a teacher for several years here in HI, involved with two different charter schools. I have been amazed at what we have been able to do with such little funding. It would be so much better for the children and our communities if we were able to receive funding for facilities, the same way other public schools do. Also, of course, the State Constitution states that all public schools should be supported with facilities. This is a grave imbalance that seriously needs to be corrected. Please do what is in the best interest of our children, the future citizens of our communities. Mahalo, Terry J Walker 96778

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Cc: mydoghina@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
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SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenifer Williamson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support more state funding for facilities in public charter schools. I have a child in a charter school, and can see first-hand that the school needs more funding. They don't even have enough bathrooms for everybody. Please pass this bill.

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: autempany@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 5:53:49 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Tempany	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am completely in support of this bill. Public charter schools and public DOE schools are measured using the same achievement standards; therefore, they should be funded equally on a per-student basis.

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From: [Laura](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: SB362 Facilities Funding for Charter School Bill
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 5:36:07 PM

I presently work at a Charter School. Volcano School of Arts and Sciences.
The facility lacks appropriate structures due to the state not supporting equally public children of Hawaii.
Our school has made AYP for three years consecutively in good standing. Yet, our budget is constantly cut every other year, by 80-130,000, making the survival of the school difficult.

Our children travel as far as 100 miles to attend this school. Daily over 40 students ride the bus from a community that does not have any other alternative school to attend. Parents drive their children to volcano school, as their children enjoy being in our community school.

Should the government of hawaii support all communitites. Why not support a school that is successful? Please give funds to allow our children to have the quality of facilities that they deserve. Our hawaiian population is 30-40 percent, we meet the needs of a diverse community, and high risk school, with many families at the poverty level.

So please fund SB362 in favor of supporting Charter Schools to continue the success for all! laura warner

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: verypressured@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 5:03:43 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
rachel rechtman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: please. charter schools need sufficient funding!

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: weniki43@fastmail.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 4:46:55 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendy Baker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The BOE must make facility appropriations to charter schools. Total funding per pupil in 2012 -2013 is \$5900. Charter schools receive no extra amount for facilities. Rent, utility bills, repair and maintenance costs all come out of the children's academic funds. This severely impacts the children. The State Constitution states that all public schools should be supported with facilities. Follow the constitution and provide necessary funding for the future leaders of this state.

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Cc: imhoppe@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 4:28:54 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sue Hoppe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a grandparent of a 1st grader, 2nd grader and 8th grader at Hawai'i Academy of Arts and Science public Charter school. I support the above bill because all children deserve and equal education. Charter schools get no funding for facilities/buildings as DOE schools and thus a subclass of students is created in violation of my child's civil rights. Every dollar charter schools spend on rent and mortgage comes straight out of the classroom budget. Simply put this is unfair and unjust!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: kristy.hoppe@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 4:24:18 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kristy hoppe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a parent of a 1st grader, 2nd grader and 8th grader at Hawai'i Academy of Arts and Science. I support the above bill because all children deserve and equal education. Charter schools get no funding for facilities/buildings as DOE schools and thus a subclass of students is created in violation of my child's civil rights. Every dollar charter schools spend on rent and mortgage comes straight out of the classroom budget. Simply put this is unfair and unjust!

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Star Carlin	Volcano School of Arts and Sciences	Support	No

Star Carlin, teacher
Volcano School of Arts and Sciences
Volcano, HI 96785

Honorable Senators,

I am a teacher at the Volcano School of Arts and Sciences. I have been with the school since its inception in 2001. It is a school created by community members to educate each child in a manner that nurtures individual strengths and interests. Over the years, our school has demonstrated consistent success. Volcano School is accredited by WASC, has met the benchmarks under the No Child Left Behind mandates and our graduates go on to succeed in high school and college

Our school provides an excellent education for 183 students and we have never been provided with adequate support for facilities. Most public schools operate in facilities built and maintained by state funds. Since we are a public charter school we have had to provide for our own facilities and this has been the greatest challenge faced by our school. During my tenure at this school I taught in a tent and also in a converted studio apartment. Please act now to provide equity by providing equal facilities funding for all public school students.

Respectfully,

Star Carlin

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: eileenonly@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 2:53:02 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
eileen hogan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: January 30, 2012 I am pleased to see that a bill has been introduced to help equalize funding for charter schools. I speak as a current teacher at HAAS, but also as a parent of a HAAS graduate. Please support this bill so that public charter schools receive facilities funding. It's hard to believe that it's taken 10 years to do something about this gross inequality. Thanks for your efforts. Aloha, Eileen Hogan

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 2:49:27 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Mendonca	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a tax payer, as an educator, and as a mother, I want my tax dollars to EQUALLY support students who attend charter schools. Every dollar spent on charter school facilities comes directly out of money that should be spent on educational resources FOR the classroom. . . NOT the classroom itself! Please support this bill!

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments:

Dear Legislative,

My name is Jeanine Mentnech, I am 16 years old, i live in district 4 of the Big Island, I attend Haas Public charter school. I am in favor of the SB932 because it can enhance our school and make school a more fun and exciting place to be and attend.

I attend Haas because i feel I get a better education at Haas. I previously attended waiakeawaena elementary school. At that school I wasn't learning at my level and wasn't helped on the things I couldn't understand or had a hard time with. At Haas I feel that teachers like to help every student individually and makes sure everyone is learning at their own levels. Also at Haas I feel safer because we are a bully free zone. Most school have a bully free zone poster or something that represents it but most schools don't enforce it as much as Haas does. Haas has a very family like vibe, I can be myself at haas and not feel like i'm being judged because everyone is accepting in whom a person is.

Haas could use this money to benefit our school in many ways such as having a gym,more class rooms,roofs over are walkways, and a cafeteria. Also it could give Haas more opportunities because we don't have funding for facilities so we have to cut back on our class rooms and even our sports. If we had funding for facilities we could have more sports,classes, and opportunities at Haas. Currently we have a soccer team, cross country,and volleyball and even with the small amount of sports we have at Haas we can't afford to get individual uniforms for different sports. Therefore, I ask that you support SB 362.

Sincerely,

Jeanine Mentnech

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maya Kotwitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

Attending Hawaii Academy of arts and Science has been the best school experience I have ever had. There is a good social and learning environment that makes it a happy experience to come to school five days a week. The students are happy and bullying is at a less than minimum. This "no bullying" environment brings real peace to the students and staff, the staff does not have to worry about student discomfort often and students don't have to worry about bullying. In class, the learning experience is at a maximum because of a small amount of students in the classes; the teachers are able to provide what students need to be able to understand and learn. On top of excellent core classes the wide range of interesting elective classes are a bonus, from yoga to team sports and skateboarding. We can also learn interesting languages like French and Japanese. H.A.A.S is an excellent experience and I only hope it can be improved.

Unfortunately I feel H.A.A.S is not the best it can be. We don't have all the things regular public schools have and that's only because we don't get fair funding. If this bill were to pass, we could use extra money to improve the school further so our school's excellence goes beyond good teachers and a comfortable environment. The money can be used to pay for a science lab or even more materials like microscopes and even more hands on scientific fieldtrips. The money could too be used for more math materials like calculators. Also more classrooms are a necessity. One of my classes takes place in a pavilion that has a classroom connected to it. It's like having two things being told to me at once and it can be difficult to concentrate! The money charter schools would receive could help us improve H.A.A.S and bring it to a whole new level. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Maya Kottwitz

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angelica Berson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Angelica B.
1/31/13

Letter of Address
(Hawaii Education Funding)

To whom this may concern:

Hawaii Academy of Arts and Science is a well-known, small Public Charter School on the Big Island of Hawaii. Everyone here gets along for the most part like a big Ohana or family. HAAS is a "Bully-Free" zone so there is no violence, no bullying and a quiet and peaceful environment. Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences is one of the only school's on this Island that has surfing/skateboarding as an elective! There aren't many problems and it's well maintained for what we do have. A few problems include not having enough funding for more of the necessary buildings. We don't get the full chance to experience all that we could.

I, Angelica, believe it is our right for a maintenance or building fund. Some reasons are that HAAS is a (PUBLIC) Charter School. We need an education with all the possibilities. It's sad to say, but over-here us students might not be able to reach full potential because of the lack of funding. It is a pretty good school and could be better if we had correct funding! Things that we lack include a gym, a library and a cafeteria. We're limited to the basics. I believe this isn't fair or right. HAAS is a small school but we are becoming very well-known and our population is growing. It seems that everyone wants to come to HAAS. Without the right funding, future students can't get the full experience like they should be able to! That isn't good in the long run... It'd be way more beneficial if HAAS had the maintenance/building fund to support the future of this school.

Overall, it is a good school. In fact, my big brother graduated almost two years ago. He's now in college and is going to become a business man. That shows he made it at HAAS, got a good education and is doing what he loves to do. Please support SB 362!

Thank you,

Ms. Angelica Berson

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis (jack)	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear state legislature,

I have been horribly bullied at every school I have ever been to other than H.A.A.S.. I always had trouble making and keeping friendships. I always had trouble learning in a public school environment. H.A.A.S. Is the first school I have ever been to where I feel I belong. Here at H.A.A.S. I have friends that actually care for me and my grades are great. There is little conflict on campus and it is always dealt with swiftly and completely to prevent it from happening again. To prevent recurring conflict they will sit the students down and have them talk until the students can come to an agreement.

Our school gets less money every year. We get about half of the amount per student than a public school. We need more money for facilities. We don't have a gym, a dining hall, school hospital, or many other facilities. We should not have to pay for electricity and other essentials when they could be going toward our education and well being. We should not have to pay for our own essentials when the state pays for the other schools on the island.

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: robin7j4@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2013 8:45:14 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: As a parent of a student of this truly amazing school called HAAS, this would be a testimony that our system does support all children. The charter schools need facility funding. PERIOD!

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Cc: ktemp200@yahoo.com
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Date: Thursday, January 31, 2013 7:15:24 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: My child deserves the same as everyone else's! In the years to come you will see that charter schools are the best way of increasing the standard of education in Hawaii. Hawaii's best natural resource is the initiative and imagination of it's young people.

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Cc: eltonmow@hawaiiintel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2013 12:33:53 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elton Mow	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I would like to support the bill for the department of Education to provide funding for facilities to Charter Schools.

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Senate Committee on Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Measure SB362
Friday, February 1, 2013
1:30PM
Conference Room 414
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

My name is Lori Doctor, and I am a senior at Hawaii Academy of Arts and Science Public Charter School. I am testifying on behalf of my high school in support of measure SB362. I have been attending this school for five years now, and I really like it. The curriculum being offered here is different from that of most DOE public schools; we have rigorous classes in core subjects such as English, Social Studies, and Math; we have unique elective choices, such as Yoga, Jewelry, and a Gardening-cooking to name a few. The teachers are amazing, as they really put in the effort to prepare and motivate us students to succeed in life after high school. We are also required to participate in community service, which gives us a sense of civic duty and giving back to the community. However, charter schools in the State of Hawaii do not receive nearly enough money to continue providing these academic opportunities to their students. In the past several years, our school has experienced severe budget cuts, and as such we have very limited resources. The reason being for this is because charter schools do not receive facility funding, so we have had to pay our facility expenses with our academic funding we receive from the state (which is already less than what DOE schools receive) in order to keep our school operational. If we did receive facility funding, we would be able to refocus our academic spending on providing more academic programs and classes for our students, and perhaps we would be able to build facilities such as a proper cafeteria, gym, computer lab, and a science lab.

In closing, I support measure SB362 for the reasons stated above. I hope that my testimony will influence the committee's decision to pass this measure in favor of charter schools in the State of Hawaii.

Lori Doctor
Hawaii Academy of Arts and Science pcs

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maya Kotwitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

Attending Hawaii Academy of arts and Science has been the best school experience I have ever had. There is a good social and learning environment that makes it a happy experience to come to school five days a week. The students are happy and bullying is at a less than minimum. This "no bullying" environment brings real peace to the students and staff, the staff does not have to worry about student discomfort often and students don't have to worry about bullying. In class, the learning experience is at a maximum because of a small amount of students in the classes; the teachers are able to provide what students need to be able to understand and learn. On top of excellent core classes the wide range of interesting elective classes are a bonus, from yoga to team sports and skateboarding. We can also learn interesting languages like French and Japanese. H.A.A.S is an excellent experience and I only hope it can be improved.

Unfortunately I feel H.A.A.S is not the best it can be. We don't have all the things regular public schools have and that's only because we don't get fair funding. If this bill were to pass, we could use extra money to improve the school further so our school's excellence goes beyond good teachers and a comfortable environment. The money can be used to pay for a science lab or even more materials like microscopes and even more hands on scientific fieldtrips. The money could too be used for more math materials like calculators. Also more classrooms are a necessity. One of my classes takes place in a pavilion that has a classroom connected to it. It's like having two things being told to me at once and it can be difficult to concentrate! The money charter schools would receive could help us improve H.A.A.S and bring it to a whole new level. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Maya Kottwitz

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angelica Berson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Angelica B.
1/31/13

Letter of Address
(Hawaii Education Funding)

To whom this may concern:

Hawaii Academy of Arts and Science is a well-known, small Public Charter School on the Big Island of Hawaii. Everyone here gets along for the most part like a big Ohana or family. HAAS is a "Bully-Free" zone so there is no violence, no bullying and a quiet and peaceful environment. Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences is one of the only school's on this Island that has surfing/skateboarding as an elective! There aren't many problems and it's well maintained for what we do have. A few problems include not having enough funding for more of the necessary buildings. We don't get the full chance to experience all that we could.

I, Angelica, believe it is our right for a maintenance or building fund. Some reasons are that HAAS is a (PUBLIC) Charter School. We need an education with all the possibilities. It's sad to say, but over here our students might not be able to reach full potential because of the lack of funding. It is a pretty good school and could be better if we had correct funding! Things that we lack include a gym, a library and a cafeteria. We're limited to the basics. I believe this isn't fair or right. HAAS is a small school but we are becoming very well-known and our population is growing. It seems that everyone wants to come to HAAS. Without the right funding, future students can't get the full experience like they should be able to! That isn't good in the long run... It'd be way more beneficial if HAAS had the maintenance/building fund to support the future of this school.

Overall, it is a good school. In fact, my big brother graduated almost two years ago. He's now in college and is going to become a business man. That shows he made it at HAAS, got a good education and is doing what he loves to do. Please support SB 362!

Thank you,

Ms. Angelica Berson

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis (jack)	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear state legislature,

I have been horribly bullied at every school I have ever been to other than H.A.A.S.. I always had trouble making and keeping friendships. I always had trouble learning in a public school environment. H.A.A.S. Is the first school I have ever been to where I feel I belong. Here at H.A.A.S. I have friends that actually care for me and my grades are great. There is little conflict on campus and it is always dealt with swiftly and completely to prevent it from happening again. To prevent recurring conflict they will sit the students down and have them talk until the students can come to an agreement.

Our school gets less money every year. We get about half of the amount per student than a public school. We need more money for facilities. We don't have a gym, a dining hall, school hospital, or many other facilities. We should not have to pay for electricity and other essentials when they could be going toward our education and well being. We should not have to pay for our own essentials when the state pays for the other schools on the island.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: robin7j4@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2013 8:45:14 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: As a parent of a student of this truly amazing school called HAAS, this would be a testimony that our system does support all children. The charter schools need facility funding. PERIOD!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: ktemp200@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2013 7:15:24 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: My child deserves the same as everyone else's! In the years to come you will see that charter schools are the best way of increasing the standard of education in Hawaii. Hawaii's best natural resource is the initiative and imagination of it's young people.

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Henry LaPointe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear state legislature,

I don't want to ask, beg, or demand money for this school. I write to you because I went to a charter school for 9 before coming to this one and I am very used to charter schools. My mom is a founder and a teacher at the school I used to go to, so I have heard complaints about the funding for charter schools for as long as I have gone to school. At my old school we were asked to write a letter to the state 10-15 times a school year and as you might imagine I have gotten very tired of writing this type of letter. Therefor without asking, begging, or demanding I would like to say that if charter schools were given even a little more funding my hand would appreciate not having to write another letter like this for a wile. I understand that the state is some what pressed for money and even the DOE schools are in need of funds. It seems to me that the life of any charter school is one of constantly begging the state for money and I see how annoying that could be for the state, so a suggestion from me is through the charter schools a bone. Personally I like the education I am getting and don't see the need for all the facilitates that people say we need, but it would be nice if the school wasn't in constant fear of running out of money. Like I said, I am not going to ask, beg, or demand money I will only say that a little more money will help the school.

Sincerely, Henry Barnard LaPointe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: nschomer@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2013 9:30:18 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nadia Ranne	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Charter schools need equitable funding. Facilities funding is critical. Charter schools should not be forced to divert funds from student academics in order to cover facilities costs. This change is long overdue. We need to support charter schools and educational options for our communities. Mahalo!

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Mariah Byrd. I am a student at the Hawaii Academy of Arts and Science Public Charter School in Pahoa.

You see, my school is underfunded and I believe this is a major problem. Our facilities are the best that the school can provide. We have a total of 19 class rooms at the main campus but at the high school campus we have seven classrooms. We have nine teachers. ~~many~~ Most of the grades are split into two classes. We also have electives that need classrooms as well. There is a lack of an established ~~an~~ lunchroom along with a gym.

I realized that as such a small school we may be overlooked but that's never stopped us ^{before}. So please don't overlook H.A.S. We are in need of your help.

Please support SB 362!

Sincerely,

mariah R Byrd

Legislator.

Our school is now but there are a few things missing from our whole school. Some examples are Cafeteria, gym and a better place to put our equipment because our field closet is really a mess.

This school could also use a better walk way with a roof so we don't get wet from moving from other classrooms. If we had a garden why people could take better care of it or grow food and sell it to make money and save this school.

This school can be great if we just add a little bit more classroom so we can have more students and pay for the taxes we own on this school.

Sincerely Branelon

A handwritten signature mark consisting of a large, stylized 'H' shape with a curved line extending from the top left of the 'H' back towards the left margin.

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments:

Aspen Mauch

1/30/13

Dear Hawaii State Legislature,

I'm a student at Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences. The reason why I attend a charter school is because the regular DOE schools in the area are known to have a bad reputation for fights and handling students. I like being a student here because of the caring community that surrounds HAAS, creating a safe environment. The teachers and faculty here are also extremely helpful and care about their students.

One reason I like HAAS is because of the elective choices. I was able to take surfing class and jewelry/metal making which I'm pretty sure you would never find at another school. We also have other electives such as skateboarding, robotics, and Tahitian dancing. These electives open up more opportunities and experiences for those attending HAAS. Another reason I like HAAS is the free use of technology. During appropriate times in class, break time, or when the teacher says we can, we are allowed to use our phones and/or ipods so we can do research or listen to music. One last reason why I like HAAS is because of the community service that we have twice a year. Community service lasts one week, and the students at HAAS get to pick where to go to "give back to the community." We get to go places like rainbow sanctuary, a local animal shelter, go down to the beach, or work in local gardens.

Although HAAS has many good points, we are missing a great deal. This is because the money that our school gets has must go to maintenance to pay rent and maintain the buildings. We don't have more money for the students. This is why we want facilities funding, so we can have money that goes towards our education and improves our life at HAAS. We need good computers, more resources for electives and core classes, more classrooms, etc. In addition, our school doesn't have a nurse, a cafeteria, a gym, or a library. Right now, we are so cramped for space that we are using the pavilion as a classroom. The money that we get should go towards the things I have listed above. It is our right as students to have resources that contribute to a good learning environment. This is why HAAS—and ALL charter schools—deserve facilities funding.

Thank you for your time,

-Aspen Mauch

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Netai Jadu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear legislature,

I go to Hawai'i Academy of Arts and Science because of the comfortable learning environment and my friends. I like it because its close to Pahoia, so I can do sports from their school too, and it offers good electives. Many of the HAAS faculty care about you and make sure you have a good learning environment. Also, if there is a problem at our school that the students disagree with we can go to the student councils (which are elected for each grade) so we can voice our opinion on how to fix it. I like Haas because you have a voice (although because some of the funds it may be hard to fix sometimes) and the students opinion counts.

I feel that it is unfair how Charter schools don't get the same amount of funds like public schools. And how we have to work twice as hard to get it. There are many improvements we could make within our school if we had more money. For example we could have a classroom for the teachers that don't have their own or have to share with others. A science lab, so we can do experiments, and have more kin-esthetic learning instead of reading out of a textbook. Also part of the funds could go towards the electives. For example if you are in the Jewelry elective, you have to pay a fee to use and buy supplies. But if its already provided, no one will have to worry about paying. Also provide boards and rash-guards for surf class in case not everybody has one or is able to purchase it. Funds can also be used to improve the field and go into sports equipment. Finally, we can get computers (that actually work) to be provided for all the students. There are many other things we can do with more funds to enhance our learning and make Haas a better place!

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments:

Dear Legislatures,

Aloha! My name is Caira Marie Champion I am a 10th grade student, soon to be 11th, at Hawaii Academy of Arts and Science (HAAS.) The reason I am writing to you is because HAAS is a really good school. We have many programs other schools wouldn't even think about offering. For example, since we live on an island surfing is very much in our culture. Thus, HAAS is the only school, anywhere on the islands that offers a class all for surfing. We also offer a skate-class, which is very popular with today's youth. So, we got a skate ramp from a student and built it so we can have a on campus skate-class. We also offer a running class, moving on from our athletics, we have four language classes, Spanish, Japanese, French and Hawaiian, all with fluent native speakers. Academic wise we have, in my own personal opinion, some of the best teachers on the island. No other school I have been to has been able to teach me math as well as the teachers here. Due to our schools small population and limited amount of students we get looked over a lot but that's actually an advantage because all of our classes have about 15-18 or so students thus allowing us to have a closer relationship with our teachers and feeling much more comfortable with asking questions on how to do something. I know for a fact that HAAS is a much better school than most on this island because as a child I moved schools quite a bit and have actually transfers here from our local DOE school, where I did not do so well. I was bullied and performed poorly academically. But, at HAAS I have fairly high grades and campus is totally bully free, but despite all of these wonderful things as far as facility's go I find that HAAS is rather lacking. For example we do not have a cafeteria, just a pavilion with a few picnic tables. However, this building does not have nearly enough seating for even half of the high school section. We also do not have a gym just a muddy field and we can't transport our classes to pahoia to use their gym so many of our students must do sports in the rain, which is a bummer. Adding on to that, we need more classrooms. Most of the teachers share classrooms as well as using the field and pavilion. In conclusion I love HAAS very much and we have a very good school but some extra money would be very much appreciated. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

From,
CairaMarie Champion

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: crownofisis@juno.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2013 10:03:17 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isis Nicole Albright	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Firstly I want to thank Senator elect Russell Ruderman for bringing this much needed senate bill before the Committee on Education today. I am a concerned parent of a first grade student at Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences in Pahoa. I implore Senators Tokuda, Kidani, the Vice Chair and all other committee members present to support facilities funding for charter schools I support the SB 362 because all children deserve an equal education and equal funding to achieve this goal. Currently charter schools get NO funding for facilities (unlike DOE schools) and thus a subclass of students is being created. This is a violation of my child's civil rights. Every dollar charter schools spend on rent and mortgage comes straight out of the classroom budget. Simply put this is unfair, and unjust. As the recorder for HAAS CAN (a parent action group at a charter school) I am only too familiar with the constant challenge of raising funds to cover necessities of school life. Our parent group began as a way to take pressure off of teachers so that they could focus on doing their job of teaching our children. It is very tiring to constantly be sourcing the next dollar and multi-tasking to cover the gammet of unmet roles within an underfunded school. Knowing that this stress is completely un-necessary, given that it is the job of our government to provide for the education of our children, makes this burden all the harder to bear. HAAS (like other charter schools in our district) is an amazing school. They have done amazing things with very little. The volunteer hours and goodwill involved in making this school happen are tremendous, and again this effort is tiring. It is time the undue burden of unequal funding is lifted from this amazing school so we can see what they are truly capable of. I truly appreciate you taking the time to consider this bill and the testimony of the families involved and ask that you give your full support to equal funding of charter schools. My son and I will be watching today using the online broadcast. We look forward to seeing our government at work. Thank You.

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Mayor

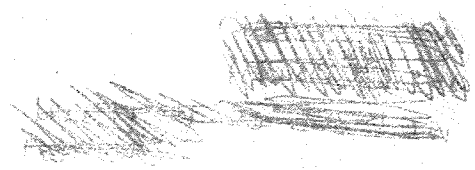
Billy Kenoi

Governor

Dear Legislatures,

Good Evening, my name is Janlea Osborne. I am a 10th grader going to 11th in the following year. I am currently attending Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences, HAAS. My plan is to graduate from Haas, and to go to college to become either a type of nurse or doctor, or to become a lawyer. In order for me to even get to college I have to graduate High School, and have good grades, to get a scholarship, maybe. Haas is a school that has a very good energy environment and a very comfortable learning environment. The Haas faculty and staff try to provide the necessities that we have to provide for their students. The Supplies that we have are always open to the students, and available to use for educational purposes. The food that we have is also evenly distributed, as well as the education and the respect around our little campus.

As a legislature you may know that even the things that are good have a down side. Our school is small and we don't get enough funding to have the necessary supplies schools need. We don't have a nurse or health room, we don't have a cafeteria. We also don't have enough classrooms or school books. I do understand that we are at a critical point in the economy. But in order to get these things I must talk to the respected and well-known people ^{that} are in charge. Our school has had fundings cut for quite sometime, and I know that people like you care for us ^{young} adults, and want to do what's right. I also agree that even though



you have a lot of things to think about and deal with. I am asking politely that if you can please look into this issue and think about the children of the puna community and help Haas. I would really appreciate if you have time, to come and see our school, and if not, I would also appreciate for you to consider helping the children and the next generation of kids in Haas.

You have been elected because we as a nation and community have faith in you. We all look up to you. I believe that helping us will benefit the whole community because it means that the students will be going to school and that also means less teens on the street, fighting in gangs, and doing very ignorant things. I also believe that helping us, the whole community will recognize the people who helped their children, and grandchildren and then that also means a lot of good publicity for you. There's nothing better than a win-win situation. We have faith, and hope in you, so please help us and look in your heart and you will see it's the right thing to do. You are a good person, and we all love you, and support you. Thank you for your time and have a pleasant evening.

Mahalo Nui Loa,
From, your supporter,
Janea Osborne.

P.S. If you have
any questions you
contact the school at
915-3130 or

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: denyselynn@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2013 10:44:50 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denyse Lynn Temple	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing in support of Bill SB362. Hawaii's Charter schools are as much a part of the State's public school system as is any other school in the state. They must meet the same requirements and educational goals as all other schools in the state. Because they, and the parents of the children who attend charter schools, have chosen a slightly different path towards meeting those goals is no reason for them to be discriminated against funding wise. The President of the United States is a strong proponent of Charter Schools. The United States Congress is also a strong proponent of Charter Schools. Is it not time for the State of Hawaii to rid itself of its "Shogun" attitude and become a proponent of Charter Schools in a fair and equitable way rather than continuing its current discriminatory funding attitude?

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: haaskb@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2013 10:16:05 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelli Bolger	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I would like you to support SB362. I am an educator in a Charter School and a parent of two school-aged children. As a teacher, I have seen firsthand how our school has had to make sacrifices to our curriculum, our staffing, and our student resources as a direct result of lack of facilities funding. As a parent, I am enraged by the idea that my children are receiving an education that has been diminished by lack of facilities funding, which is provided for other children. The fact that charter school students are receiving less funding than other public school students at a school right down the road creates a subclass of citizens and is an infringement of civil rights. SB362 would rectify this inequality and allow charter school students the education they deserve.

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Carroll	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear state legislators,

My name is Jonathan Carroll and I go to a public charter school called Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences in a small town on the island of Hawai'i (Big Island.) I would like to thank you for supporting the charter school movement in Hawai'i. For me, switching from a D.O.E school to a charter school has really helped me excel as a student, and has prepped me more for college.

That's why I love my school so much, and I continue to go to a charter school instead of a regular D.O.E school. There's a catch though. Because I go to a charter school I receive less funding for my education than I would if I went to a public school.

Article X Section 1 says "The State shall provide for the establishment, support and control of public schools free from sectarian control...." So clearly my school not receiving proper funding for my education violates my constitutional rights. My school receives \$5,600 per student and doesn't receive facility funds. That is 40% of what a normal student at a D.O.E school receives.

Why am I considered only 40% as good as a student going to a D.O.E school? This seems like discrimination to me. Article X section 1 also says, "There shall be no discrimination in public educational institutions..."

To conclude, charter schools were made to help students excel, but how can charter schools help students reach their goals, when they can't afford facilities? Some facilities we are missing are computer labs, science labs, music rooms, and classrooms that are meant to create a good learning environment. As a young person and a citizen of Hawai'i striving for an education and wanting to accomplish my full potential, I need you, the state legislators to make a decision, a decision to uphold the constitution. If you do, learning at charter schools will blossom and education can be taken to the next level, and maybe one day we can give back to the state of Hawai'i in some way. So I request humbly, that you uphold my rights and give me the education I deserve.

Sincerely, Jonathan Carroll

R. WINSTON ALBRIGHT, ESQUIRE
PARENT OF FIRST GRADER AT
HAWAII ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
655 Kilauea Avenue
Hilo, HI 96720

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 362

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE EQUAL FUNDING
OF CHARTER SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Friday, February 1, 2013, 1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

Senators Tokuda Chair, Senator Kidani Vice Chair, and Members
of the Committees:

I support the above bill because all children deserve an equal education. Let us teach by example that we treat all students equally, and fund them equally. The lack of funding for facilities at charter schools statewide presents the reality that funds that should be used for academics have to be spent to secure facilities for our keiki.

Charter schools get no funding for facilities as do DOE schools and thus a subclass of students is created in violation of my child's civil rights and the Hawaii constitution. We all like to think that the legislature is treating all children equally, but this is not the case for our children in charter schools. Charter schools continue to do more with less appropriations and it is past time to support our children and enhance our communities with equal funding for all our students.

Total funding per student at HAAS (Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences) this year is \$5900. HAAS receives no extra amount for facilities. All of the schools rent, utility bills, repair and maintenance costs come out of our children's academic funds. This severely impacts our children. The State Constitution states that all public schools should be supported with facilities. Please cure this problem and pass Senate Bill 362.

For these reasons, I strongly support Senate Bill 231. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,


R. Winston Albright, Esquire

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Myriah Inman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear State Legislators,

Thank you for supporting the charter school movement in Hawai'i. Hawai'i Academy of Arts and Science is not like any other school I have attended. HAAS provides a great education system, sports and fitness activities, great food, and a lot more. I feel safe and protected at HAAS. There is a lot to improve upon though.

At HAAS, we only receive 40% of per pupil spending compared to the other D.O.E schools. We do not receive any money for our facilities, therefore the money per pupil then goes to maintenance and facilities. Pahoia High School gets \$14,000 for each student with out much taken out for facilities but HAAS only gets \$5,600 and half of that goes to facilities when it could be going to our education.

My main point to make is; why is my education less than my peers at Pahoia High School? I feel if HAAS had a better learning environment our education could increase. The typical high school layout would help us a lot, such as things like a library, computer room, science lab, gymnasium, workshop, or even a cafeteria.

Thank you for your time, and consideration.

Sincerely, Myriah Inman from HAAS!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: Tara_treaster@notes.K12.hi.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2013 11:22:06 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tara Treaster	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Funding for charter schools is already considerably lower than traditional DOE schools per pupil. The fact that NO facilities money is provided is a true crime against our children and the future of the Hawaii educational system. I support this bill 100%. Please make sure to secure our schools for our children. Thank you for and your consideration, Tara Treaster Concerned mother of charter school student Teacher at a DOE public school Educational Activist Board member of a Hawaii public charter school

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pono Hiramami	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear State Legislators,

Thank you for supporting the charter school movement in Hawai'i. My name is Pono Hiramami and I go to Hawai'i Academy of Arts and Sciences, a charter school in the small town of Pahoa on the Big Island. I love this school. The environment is great, the teachers and students are nice and get along. Additionally, our school has never had a fight. People are welcoming here, for example: if a student transfers from a different school, the students greet and hug and show the new kid around. The school gives all of us a safe feeling. H.A.A.S. is different from other schools because it is a charter school which means we get more choices. An example of this is our online program which lets kids that cannot work with others well or kids that cannot get to school, can get an education and graduate from high school. Some other choices we have are accelerated learning classes and hands on learning. That is why I love H.A.A.S.

Section 1. Of Article X of the Hawaii State Constitution states that, "The State shall provide for the establishment, support and control of a statewide system of public schools" and "There shall be no discrimination in public educational institutions". I mention this because I am seeing some discrimination between H.A.A.S. and Pahoa High School (the other public school in Pahoa), like the per pupil spending. Pahoa High gets \$14,000 per student while at H.A.A.S we get 40% of that, which is \$5,600 per student. My best friend goes to Pahoa High and I do not see any reason why I am worth 40% of what he is just because I go to a different school.

Our school is lacking many things that most other public schools have, because of the fact that we do not have the funding for facilities. We do not have a cafeteria, a library, a sufficient amount of text books, an art studio, a music classroom, a science lab, an auditorium, or any official sports courts. I have never done an actual science lab because of the fact that we do not have the building for it. We also have a Science Technology Education and Math (S.T.E.M) class and we have power tools in there in a room that we share with an everyday core class. Also, when we work there in minimal space to move and work with the tools and preform because we do not have our own room for it. Maybe we do not have these things because of out of the \$5,600 we get, nearly half goes to paying for facilities, while at Pahoa, they get their \$14,000, and funding for facilities so their money can actually go towards things like the new gym they just built. Right now, some classes are being held in places that are hindering my learning abilities. Classes are being held in a place meant for assemblies, but even assemblies in that building do not fit because our school is growing in enrollment, and we do not have the facilities that are needed to thrive and grow. I am upset that I even have to write this just because I am being denied my and my schools constitutional right.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: jk40@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2013 12:29:24 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joel C Kelley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senator Tokuda et al, As a parent, part of my responsibility to my daughter, and by extension all of our state's keiki, is to work to provide her with the very best possible environment in which to create excellence in her education. In the modern world this can mean many things. Schools must be the exemplar of the very best we can give our children, whether standard public school or public charter school. The apparent difference in the definitions of these two types of schools has created a situation in which the DOE is acting in a discriminatory manner. By allocating different amounts for facilities in annual funding, the DOE is tacitly stating that my daughter's education is less valuable than that of other seven-year-olds, simply because of my parental choice as to where I think she can get the best educational experience. This discrimination is simply unacceptable. My daughter is no different in any respect than any conventional public school student, yet is currently attending school in a tent, while DOE public schools are able to develop and maintain facilities that are much more conducive to a positive learning environment. Perhaps it has escaped the notice of the DOE, but this behavior is discriminatory, and cannot be tolerated, especially when our keiki attend school in tents! (If the school was located near sea level on a leeward shore, this might not be an issue, but in the cold wet mists of Volcano, an unheated tent is not the healthiest environment for children to maintain health.) If that same school in Volcano was a conventional DOE school, funding would exist for proper facilities and maintenance, yet simply because it is a charter school, the DOE seems to think it is worth much less. It is not worth less to my child, nor is it worth less to any of the children who attend the school; it is their best option for education in Upper Puna and North Ka'u. It is one of the few schools in the County that met AYP last year, and is, in spite of its challenges and pauper status, is providing quality education for its students. One can only imagine what this school could do with proper facilities such as science labs, modern computer labs, a gymnasium where students can stay dry during recesses, and even classrooms that are warm, safe and dry! Please do not let the DOE continue with this discriminatory behavior. Please create policies that offer all of our children EQUAL opportunities in education. Please help the DOE fulfill their mandate under the State Constitution to properly support all public schools with appropriate facilities.

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tianna Mcguire	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear State Legislator,

Thank you for supporting the charter school movement in Hawaii, I am a junior at Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences, I've been attended since seventh grade. When I went to Pahoia class consisted of step by step curriculum. I wasn't pursued to work because I hadn't felt challenged; instruction, protocol and interest was bland., It Wasn't visual, infact simple and a little boring. Similarly at Hawaii Academy standardize bookwork applied complex and interpretive functions. Why is my education being discriminated and not equal? Why is the school across the street supported differently by funds, establishment and support? I think my classmates and I are adequate to have a fair and structured education as any other learning school environment.

Is it that my education here is worth less then that of an education my peers receive at pahoia? I feel that there are life lessons and environmental experiences intertwined in my education at HAAS. This is an excellent charter school offering opportunity to develop fundamentals of life learning's and diverse knowledge's. If charter schools were provided fair student funds and perhaps facility funds our school could have a library, gym and better classrooms. Sometimes we have class periods in this pavilion where everyone eats food. It's really noisy because there is another classroom only separated by a thin metal pull down sheet and about three feet. My Hawaiian language class takes place in an art Hale it's small but Legit. If we hadn't gotten that spot we would be under the green tent with skate class. We make do with what we have but it would be nice to have warehouse storage's for our ramps and stray sheets of Masonite getting ruined by moisture. Charter school students would Prosper and be advantaged equally if the support and guidance of education was fair.

Sincerely, Tianna Mcguire

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: grimes.garet7@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2013 12:03:26 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Dear state legislative, Thank you for supporting the charter school movement in Hawaii. I've been going to HAAS since I was in 7th grade, and now I am seventeen, a teen mom, and I am continuing on the path of education. I go to H.A.A.S. because it's a great school, and they are very supportive in whatever you want or do in life. H.A.A.S. is different from public schools because it is much smaller, but this way get a lot more "one on one" attention in class. In this school students have access to unique electives like surfing and gardening which are rarely found in other schools. Kids who go to the public schools like Keaau or Pahoa say "oh it's a hippy school." So is it fair that regular public schools get lots of money for what they need or what they want but we don't? And only because we are a charter school? It's honestly just a label like the boyfriend girlfriend label. Big deal. We're still public in a way lots of people come to this school so why can't the state support us like it does for the rest of the schools in the US or just in the state of Hawaii. Did you know that Haas students receive 40% of per pupil spending compared to the other D.O.E schools such as Pahoa highschool? Haas only gets \$5600 per student and half of that goes to facilities instead of our education and the reason for that is because we're a charter school, but who cares. To me it's just a label. It's a civil rights issue to me because the money that each student should be getting to help out there education isn't even going to our education it's going to bills at our school. If its suppose to help us it's not. Like at Pahoa school, they over 100 security cameras keeping the campus safe but here we have only 15 and our funding goes to that our student funding helps with that, if you think about it our school is poor but were still up and running and trying to get as much of a education as we can get because it's what we need in our future. Sincerely, Daisy

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SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leanna Kobayashi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear State Legislators,

Thank you for supporting the Charter School Movement in Hawaii. I have been going to Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences since 7th grade. I truly love this school. Since it is a smaller school, you become family with everyone. I enjoy HAAS because it is small. I am a very shy person and feel very uncomfortable at big schools. At HAAS, you have a say in what happens. When you want to see something done about your education, you can talk to the principle and your ideas might be introduced to the school. Teachers sincerely care for you. As a result, I went from F's & D's to A's & B's. Ever since I have been going to HAAS the issue came up of not getting enough money.

Our school needs more money. Did you know that HAAS gets \$5,600 per student while public school a view blocks away gets \$14,000 per student? Does that seem fair to you? Student should have the right to take their learning to the next step. We get \$0 for facilities, which means no money for a science lab, a gym, a library, a paved parking lot, supplies, a cafeteria, etc. With more money we could build better facilities. Also, we could have the supplies for hands on learning to fully understand the world around us. I don't feel that Pahoia should have anymore of a right to education than HAAS. All men are created equal, so why do we get less money?

Sincerely,

Leanna Kobayashi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: Joneschasebriana123@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2013 11:52:44 AM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Briana jones-chase	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear State Legislators, Thank you for supporting the charter school movement in Hawaii. I am currently a junior at Hawaii Academy Of Art and Sciences, and have been a part of the HAAS school system since the 1st grade. I am very blessed to learn in this environment. I have received love, care, generosity and appreciation through all of the years I have been attending this school. I have only attended HAAS school programs my whole school life, so I don't know much about other schools besides what I have observed. A few things that I have observed is that other schools have more necessities such as a gym, a proper science lab, a cafeteria, higher quality lunches, more classrooms and space for the students and an auditorium for assemblies and performances. While saying this, Pahoa High School is currently getting \$14,000 per student, while Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences only get \$5600 per student. Half of that \$5600 has to go to our facilities and maintenance instead of our education. If we were given more money to put towards our education and facilities, we could have all the stuff the other D.O.E schools have, such as the gym, more buildings, and a cafeteria. It's a civil rights issue for me because I am not getting the same funding for my education that my peers who go to Pahoa High School or any other D.O.E school receive. According to article 10 section 1 of the Hawaii State Constitution: "There shall be no discrimination in public institutions." I feel that I am being discriminated against. Why is my education worth less than other students at D.O.E schools? Why am I being penalized for choosing to go to a charter school? After stating all the things we don't have, and asking for all of this, I would like to put in here that I have personally heard a lot about the relationships students at other schools have with their teachers, and it is not nearly as positive as it is here at HAAS. I have experienced the best help and support here, with not just school but just having amazing relationships with the teachers here at HAAS. The support they offer is amazing, and unimaginable. I am truly blessed. Sincerely, Briana Jones-Chase

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Megan
Lynn
Crutcher
1-31-13

Dear state legislators.

Thank you for supporting the charter school movement in Hawaii.

I am a junior in a small charter school here in Hawaii, called Pahoa but more referred to as Puwa.

This school is one of the best schools I've been to by far. It's awesome because of the people, the vibes, the lack of violence and the sometimes ~~fine~~ education.

Not only do I have good relationships with the students, but with my teachers too! Over all its fun, tight knit and accepting.

I've been noticing the difference between schools like Pahoa and us, our school. They have auditoriums, cafeterias, regular school desks, science labs!

It almost feels as if you, the state legislators are not supporting us even though we are a public school. It seems as if you are almost being discriminating towards us.

We as students are getting less money per student (each) for our education. Come look at our school and tell us if we look just as supported as any other school like Pahoa or Keolu. We do not have a majority of what other schools have.

Are we being a 100% focused on and supported?

Even without proper facilities, I love HAAS and wouldn't want to be in any other school.

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michele David	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

RE: SB362 Relating to Charter Schools

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee,

As a mother of a charter school student, I support this bill as I feel it will give my son and his peers more equal access to education funds. Charter schools fill the gap that the public school system cannot fill, especially in rural areas.

- Charter Schools ARE Public Schools
- Charter Schools need equal funding to provide the best possible services.
- It is unfair for the State to expect Charter Schools to provide equal educational services without receiving equal funds for facilities.

Mahalo for your support and passing this bill,
Michele David
Kalapana, Hawaii

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: jensenhand@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2013 2:05:17 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather Hand	Individual	Support	No

Comments: All of Hawaii's students should have equitable funding toward school facilities. Families are choosing to send their kids to be educated at charter schools and if the state truly represents all of Hawaii's students this bill needs to be passed now!

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: klungnesm001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2013 1:06:36 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lester M.Klungness	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support the Charter School programs on the Big Island, and this SB362. I have seen how hard the parents and staff supporting Connections Ch. Sch. have worked to get the school established, and find places to house it when the education department kicked them out of Mt. View Elementary School. They have continuously produced exceptional students in spite of the struggles to keep the school alive. I am sure all Charter Schools have faced similar problems. Most recently the residents of a neighborhood protested the placement of Connections on grounds that had been made available for the construction of a permanent Charter School. This is not right! Charter schools should be evaluated on their performance and should receive the same State support per student that State school facilities receive.

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Tehoni Tehn

January 30, 2013

Dear State Legislators,

Thank you for supporting the charter school movement in Hawai'i. Attending a charter school has been life changing, in a positive way and the education is outstanding! Education is one of the main reasons why I love this school so much, although I do feel that there are negative points within the school not directly to the education but, the facilities that we are being taught in. An addition of learning facilities like libraries, science labs, and also cafeterias would be amazing but, we do not have the funding to pay for them.

Hawai'i Academy of Arts and Sciences a charter school located in Pāhoo, only receive 40 percent of funding per student compared to the students that attend d.o.d. schools like Pāhoo high and intermediate, and Keolu high school. From the amount of funding that we receive, about half of the money goes to the care of the facilities.

My main point that I am trying to get to is, just because myself and many other kids attend a charter school, why do we receive less money than the d.o.d. schools? The same things are being taught just in different environments. Hawai'i Academy of Arts and Sciences is a school strictly against bullying. Even though we have less students, we should definitely have an equal amount of fundings.

January 30th, 2013

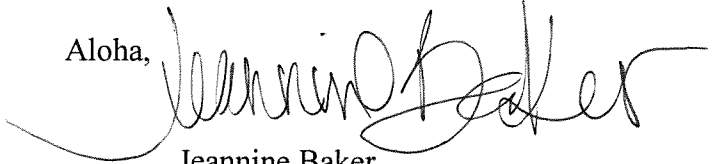
To Whom This May Concern,

Aloha! My name is Jeannine Baker and I am a teacher at Hawai'i Academy of Arts and Science Public Charter School. We are located in the Puna District on the island of Hawai'i. I have been teaching at H.A.A.S. for the past 12 years, ever since the charter first opened. In our initial years we were teaching in various locations in Pahoa Town. Currently our high school and middle school programs are located on one site. The property and facilities that we have now are because of the hard work and determination of our school director and this learning community, not because of financial support from the state. We do not receive funds for facilities even though we are a PUBLIC charter school. We receive 60% less per pupil than our neighbors, Pahoa High School.

H.A.A.S. is an amazing school that is thriving in many ways. We are a very safe school and students feel loved and honored as individuals. It is time for us to support these students in ways that move beyond the needs of safety and love. Although these are critical components of a strong foundation, there is a line within education that needs to be accessible, that line holds funds. Unequal funding is limiting, greatly LIMITING opportunities that our students need to thrive in their academic development. We do not have a library, science lab, internet access is unreliable, and we do not have enough classrooms to adequately serve the number of students we have. We have extremely talented students in both the arts and athletics. We do not have a gym and the arts are limited because of space and funds to pay for art supplies. It is proven that the arts are the gateway to higher level thinking and they inspire students not only to express themselves, but also to be more invested in the world as a whole. What art allows people to access is the feeling of belonging. Creativity opens our minds and hearts to ourselves and each other, we experience meaningfulness. Creativity is a part of every subject and having facilities and supplies to support creative learning is a critical component to how we are changing the fabric of education around the world.

As a teacher in the most at-risk community in our state, I am asking for equal funding for charter schools. These are our children, our youth and especially in these areas where drugs, abuse, and poverty are at such extremes, we need your support. We are not asking for more, we are asking for equal funding, equal opportunities for our community.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeannine Baker', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and under the word 'Aloha'.

Jeannine Baker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: Theresjokiel@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2013 6:36:37 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Theresa Jokiel	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Regarding SB 362 Requiring the board of education, in consultation with the department of education and the state public charter school commission, to develop a formula to determine the amount of facilities funding for charter schools. It is of my opinion and request that once non-charter public schools facilities needs are addressed - non-charter public schools facilities are fixed and maintained and provided there are funds left in the general fund to contribute to public charter school facilities repair and maintenance then I support public charter schools receiving funding allocation from the general fund for charter public schools facilities that is equitable to that of department of education public schools. Regarding SECTION 3. Section 302D-28, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows: "(b) Fringe benefit costs for charter school employees, regardless of the payroll system utilized by a charter school, shall be included in the department of budget and finance's annual budget request." Unless this also applies to non-charter public schools I would like to see the line instead read: '(b) No Fringe benefit costs for charter school employees, regardless of the payroll system utilized by a charter school, shall be included in the department of budget and finance's annual budget request.' In other respects to the act I support SB362

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: vsas_director560@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM*
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2013 7:56:50 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ardith Renteria	Volcano School of Arts & Sciences	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: stephanie.goddard3@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB362 on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2013 10:17:18 PM

SB362

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 1, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Goddard	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: My two children have attended HAAS programs for four years and this school has been a miracle for our family. They have been given the gift of learning at a safe and happy school. This staff and students have worked so hard and done amazing things with no help from the DOE. The public schools that are given all that funding are not doing as well academically or safety wise for the students. If and when HAAS is allowed the same funding as the public schools I bet that enrollment would double! All the students I know that attend love there school and many of my friends have been waiting years to get there kids into HAAS. The financial increase would allow HAAS to help even more kids get educated in a safe and positive environment.

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Senate Neighbor Island Videoconference Pilot Project
Application to Testify Via Videoconference

Name:	Steve Hirakami		
Organization:	Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science PCS		
Email Address:	steve_hirakami@notes.k12.hi.us		
Island of Residence:	Hawaii		
Measure:	SB	362	
Committee	EDU		
Hearing Date	Feb 1, 2013	Time	1:30

Minimum Requirements

Neighbor Island Resident

Working webcam

Valid email account.

Written Testimony: Submit to Committee at least 24 hours before the start of the hearing.

Internet connection: Cable modem, DSL, or better (700 Kbps or more bandwidth)

Operating system: Windows 7, Vista, XP or 2003; Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard or later

Processor: Dual core 1.6 GHZ CPU or faster with at least 2 GB of RAM

Browser: Internet Explorer 7.0 or later, Mozilla Firefox 3.0 or later, Google Chrome 5.0 or later, or Safari 3.0 or later (JavaScript and Java enabled).

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU MEET THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

meet the minimum requirements listed above

[Click here to submit form to the Senate Committee on Education](#)

[Click here to submit form to the Senate Committee on Technology and the Arts](#)

Testimony SB362
Senate Committee on Education
February 1, 2013 Room 414 1:30 pm
Strongly Support

Dear Chair Tokuda and committee,

I am in strong support of this legislation for several reasons, the most important being that which is proclaimed in the Hawaii State Constitution, Article X which in part states: "...the State shall provide for the establishment, support and control of a statewide system of public schools... including physical facilities therefor." It is increasing difficult to meet the educational needs of our students, having to extract funds from our educational program to pay for facilities costs which include but are not limited to rent and/or lease payments, utilities, internet, repair and maintenance, and other related costs. When we started the charter school, electricity was at \$.28 per kilowatt. Today, our electricity costs are at \$.43 per kilowatt. Other facility related costs have been increasing as well.

The problem has not been with a formula to calculate the per pupil amount for facilities allocation. Two methods have been added to the law in recent years. The first used the DOE debt service annual amount divided by the enrollment in public schools. The second was a result of a facilities task force which met in the summer of 2010. That formula was based on a "needs" base, which was simply the necessary square footage to house an elementary, middle, or high school student. This was multiplied by the average rent per square foot in the State. Both had suggested a dollar amount for each charter school student for facilities, the latter being the most economical for the State in terms of dollars per student.

The problem is in the fact that one word remained unchanged in the funding part of the charter school law. If we want to uphold the constitution of the State of Hawaii, we must change the law to read: "the legislature ~~may~~ shall make additional appropriations for facility... costs." This bill supports this by using the word "shall". It is time we support our public school students who are enrolled in charter schools, especially in "start up" charter schools.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Steve Hirakami

Director, Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science PCS