

SB2516

Facilities Funding for Charter
Schools; Pilot Project
EDU, WAM

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON

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

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

FOR: SB 2516, Relating to Facilities Funding for Charter Schools
DATE: Monday, February 3, 2014
TIME: 1:15 p.m.
COMMITTEE(S): Senate Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 414
FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Testimony in support

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

The State Public Charter School Commission is pleased to submit this testimony in strong support of this measure, which would make a general fund appropriation for the Commission to allocate to charter schools for facilities projects, based, in part, on the need and performance of the charter schools. The Commission expresses its appreciation to Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and the other members of the Committee, Senators Ruderman, Solomon, and Slom, for their introduction of this measure.

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

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

This initiative by the Commission has engendered considerable controversy among some of the charter schools, which are anxious about the adequacy of their operating funds, as well as

concern that the precedent not be misperceived by the Legislature as a sign that the Commission somehow can address the facilities challenge using existing resources. Despite these concerns, the Commission has seized this opportunity to move ahead with the initiative, in an attempt to demonstrate that a program of investing in charter school facilities will prove a sound investment for the public, and to allow the system to work through any legal and practical issues before any additional state funds are invested.

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

We note that this year, as in past years, the Commission also submitted on the schools' behalf capital improvement project (CIP) requests totaling some \$31 million. Eligibility for these requests is limited to start-up charter schools located on state land. We believe that these projects are meritorious, but, as in past years, they have been categorically rejected rather than considered on their merits. The Commission recognizes that there are some system questions regarding CIP funding for charter schools, and we welcome the opportunity to collaborate with the Legislature, the Department of Budget and Finance, and others to identify and work through those questions. If in the meantime, however, charter school CIP projects are not to be considered, in our view it is all the more important that other means of providing support for the charter schools' facilities needs be implemented.

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

The Commission also believes that a third proposal for charter school facilities support that has been introduced in the House of Representatives is worthy of the Legislature's consideration. HB 2576, Relating to Education, would make an appropriation for a charter school facilities funding but also would establish an income tax credit for taxpayers who make contributions to the development of charter school facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

The Senate
Twenty-Seventh Legislature 2014
State of Hawai'i

TO: Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Education

DATE: Monday, February 3, 2014

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 414
Hawai'i State Capitol

FROM: Kamehameha Schools

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Ho'okāko'o Corporation

Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Education

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

Testimony In Support of SB 2516 Relating to Facilities Funding for Charter Schools

Honorable Chair Jill Tokuda,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on SB 2516. The Ho'okāko'o Corporation is committed to excellence in public education through our work with conversion charter schools, which educate nearly 20% of Hawaii's charter school student population in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12.

HC wishes to express support for SB 2516.

Hawaii's charter schools have accepted the challenge to provide public education opportunities to Hawaii's children to promote their academic achievement and ensure their success in school and in life. Through innovations, best practices, and operational efficiencies, and while remaining accountable for the same state and federal standards and requirements, charters are attempting to give its students an educational experience and learning environment beyond what district schools are providing. But, as a charter school community, we are asked to build quality public schools with fewer dollars per pupil than non-charter schools receive.

The cost of facilities construction, rental, maintenance and repair directly impacts and limits funds charter schools can access for student education. With instructional budgets already seriously under resourced, every dollar spent on facilities are funds taken directly from our classrooms.

While efforts continue to achieve greater parity in per-pupil allocations, facilities funding for charter schools through appropriations to the State Charter School Commission will provide charters with a valuable resource and will strengthen partnerships as we together work to transform public education for all of Hawaii's public school students.

We appreciate this opportunity to testify on behalf of this legislation, and urge the committee to vote in favor of SB 2516.

Mahalo,

Megan McCorriston, Executive Director
Ho'okāko'o Corporation



Monday, February 3, 2014
1:15 PM
Conference Room 414

TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION

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

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

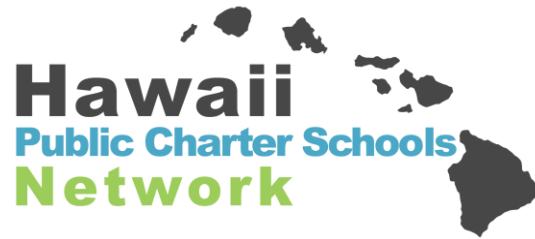
My name is Robert Witt, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaiian Educational Council (HEC). In a partnership between HEC and the Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS), Nainoa Thompson and I have founded the Mālama Honua Learning Center (MHLC), a public charter school committed to providing the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

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

HEC, as well as the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), an organization of which I am the Executive Director, believe in the public purpose of education and that families should have choices when it comes to the education of their children. Charter schools in Hawaii provide a public education option for our families

Charter schools currently receive less funding than their DOE counterparts for the education of their students and are left to their own devices to raise additional capital to make up the difference. Furthermore, they struggle to raise the needed monies to build new facilities or for the upkeep of their current ones.

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



Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Education

DATE: Monday, February 3, 2014
TIME: 1:15 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 414, Hawaii State Capitol

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

Re: SB2516 – Strong Support

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

Hawaii governors and state legislatures have stated the importance of facilities for public school students. Currently, there is no funding for facilities for start-up charter schools and this has been a decade old problem. In 2005 the Legislative Reference Bureau in its report entitled, *On the Level? Policy, Law and the Charter School Movement* stated, “Unlike their public school, conversion school, and school-within-school counterparts, start-up schools must rent or build facilities, or ask the public to donate facilities, or both. The cost of building public schools is usually spread out over twenty years through the issuance of general obligation bonds. Neither the BOE, the HIDOE, nor individual public schools are responsible for debt service—or the payment of principal and interest on these bonds. These bonds are the responsibility of the State, and are backed by it’s the full faith and credit (i.e., taxing power).”

This bill is one part of a package of efforts to address funding and facilities support for charter schools. These issues are complex. Previously, stumbling blocks would be identified during discussions that would stop progress instead of work toward solutions. Now, the DOE, BOE, Dept. of Budget and Finance, State Public Charter School Commission and charter schools are willing to work on it through the efforts described in this package of bills. SB2516/HB2438, together with SB2517, SB2518/HB1745 and HB2576 will help to address a variety of funding/facilities challenges with an array of methods that use different and creative funding mechanisms. HPCSN strongly supports the following bills as they relate to funding and facilities support:

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

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

Testimony SB2516
Senate Education Committee
February 3, 2014 Conference Room 414 1:15pm
Support with one concern

Dear Chair Tokuda and committee,

I am elated that the legislature is recognizing the need to support charter school students with proper facilities. There is a direct correlation between student achievement and proper facilities including good lighting, good ventilation, proper temperature controls, and well maintained buildings and grounds. It is true that charters have used their educational funds to support the basic facility needs in the past. Since the 2008-09 funding year, our per pupil funds have decreased by 30-35%, while our facilities fixed costs have risen. This has put an extreme burden on our academic programs, especially in the arts and sciences. We will be very grateful to receive support for our facilities and will be accountable for reporting use of the funds in our annual financial audits.

I do have a concern with using Federal Impact Aid funds towards facility financing. It is like the State requiring putting in Federal Impact Aid funds into its CIP projects. The impact aid should have been distributed to the school in the year it was allotted for and not held for future use in a facility funding project. There are many needs operationally for the funds. One of the department's use of these funds is to subsidize the huge cost of substitute teachers. Charter Schools do not get any support for substitute teachers.

The debt service for the department is around \$1600 per pupil. Charters have gotten by with more modest facilities, so that figure may be unreasonable as a per pupil amount for charter school facilities. However, for the past 13 years (with exception of 2008), we have received zero dollars. There were two years where about \$200 per pupil was "carved" out of our per pupil allocation, but it did not add extra money to our budget. We ask you to support the children in our public charter schools as you do in other public schools in the State. They deserve this basic need of education. Food and transportation are the other basic needs that remain unsupported in charter schools, but we are willing to address these basics one at a time. This will be a major step forward for our children in public charter schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Steve Hirakami

Director, Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science PCS



16-120 'Ōpūkaha'ia St
Kea'au, HI 96749
(808) 982-4260
(808) 966-7821
www.nawahi.org

Ka Papa Alaka'i

Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters,
Pelekikena

Kēhaulani Shintani,
Hope Pelekikena

Puamana Paikai,
Kākau 'Ōlelo

Leilani Ka'apuni,
Pu'ukū

Kamalei Hayes

Kauanoē Kamanā

Nāmaka Rawlins

William H. Wilson

No 'Ane'i Ko Kākou Ola!

TO: Senate Committee on Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

FROM: Ms. Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters, Pelekikena, Governing Board
Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u Iki

DATE: Monday, February 03, 2014
TIME: 1:15 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 414

SB 2516 Relating to Facilities Funding for Charter Schools

Position: **Support with Amendments**

Aloha Senator Tokuda and Senator Kidani and members of the Senate Committee on Education,

Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u Iki's Governing Board **supports with amendments** the funding for charter schools facilities. Specifically adding in red in Section 2:

“...allocate to charter schools for facilities projects based, in part, on the need **and valid & reliable** performance **measures** of the charter schools.”

The current language of the bill may limit the commission from engaging with our school for facilities funding if the performance of our school is based on assessments not available in the medium of Hawaiian. Valid and reliable measures in the medium of Hawaiian are being implemented at Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u Iki, and the amendments will provide clarification for “performance” of the charter schools.

Mahalo for allowing me to provide testimony to SB 2516.

To: The Honorable Senators Jill Tokuda, Chair, and Michelle Kidani
And Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Education

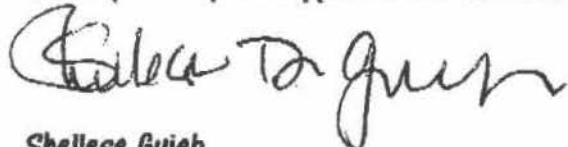
Re: SB2516 RELATING TO FACILITIES FUNDING FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS.

Dear Senators Tokuda and Kidani:

My third child currently attends West Hawaii Explorations Academy Public Charter School. My second son graduated from WHEA. My eldest daughter graduated from Kealahou High School. As a parent I have been involved in public education for over 14 years. WHEA enabled my second son to gain confidence and be respected as an individual of worth. Teachers at WHEA make an effort to get to know each student and focus on their strengths and enable children to improve on their weakness, by partnering with them in their growth as individuals.

As a taxpayer and parent of both public and public charter education. I feel that basic facility support at Charter schools is long overdue. Basic facility support for my child is long overdue, so please pass this bill SB2516.

Thank you for your support of the children of Hawaii.



Shellese Guieb

**To: The Honorable Senators Jill Tokuda, Chair, and Michelle Kidani
And Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Education**

Re: SB2516 RELATING TO FACILITIES FUNDING FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS.

Dear Senators Tokuda and Kidani:

I am the parent of three children. Currently my son attends West Hawaii Explorations Academy Public Charter School. WHEA is a school that allows my son the freedom to explore math and science in a project based environment in which he thrives. This school accomplishes much with very little.

**Funding for facilities would be a valuable investment.
Thank you for your support of bill SB2516.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel P. Guieb". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Daniel Guieb

From: [TOMI ISOBE](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Please support Charter School
Date: Saturday, February 01, 2014 7:49:12 AM

Dear Senators Tokuda and Kidani:

My child attends West Hawaii Explorations Academy. We love the school because very unique education program that connect to Hawaiian Nature, culture & History, and also has outstanding Science program to amplify self motivation of child to "Think"

Basic facility support for my child is long overdue, so please pass this bill.

We are responsible taxpayers, and would like to see some of our taxes go to our children's school for classroom space.

Thank you for your support of my child.

Sincerely,

Tomi Isobe
Father of Sachi Lulu Isobe
78-1830 Puu Nui St.
Waikoloa. HI 96738

808-989-6403

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: kapalikai@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2516 on Feb 3, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Saturday, February 01, 2014 4:37:53 PM

SB2516

Submitted on: 2/1/2014

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Dear Senators Tokuda and Kidani: My child attends West Hawaii Explorations Academy. We love the school because of the "hands on" approach to education as opposed to a traditional desk and book style teaching. This school prepares my child for an actual income earning career that exceeds any other. WHEA is creating super children. They require the kids to be active in the community through beach cleanups, cemetery clean ups, fundraising, attending community functions and getting their voice out there. I could go on and on about how wonderful this school is, but you could go see it for yourself or follow these children throughout the community. These kids are not worried about fighting or violence in school. They're all friends at this school. I encourage anyone and everyone to go see this school. Basic facility support for my child is long overdue, so please pass this bill. My child deserves a roof and a great education. We are responsible taxpayers, and would like to see some of our taxes go to our children's school for classroom space. Thank you for your support of my child.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: melaniebondera@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2516 on Feb 3, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Saturday, February 01, 2014 8:33:17 PM

SB2516

Submitted on: 2/1/2014

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melanie Bondera	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To: The Honorable Senators Jill Tokuda, Chair, and Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Education Re: IN SUPPORT OF SB2516 RELATING TO FACILITIES FUNDING FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS. Dear Senators Tokuda and Kidani: My 2 children attend West Hawaii Explorations Academy. We love the school because the curriculum is science project-based and allows them to initiate and delve deeply into their own interests, while learning both hands-on and traditionally. Certainly real bathrooms instead of luas, a cafeteria instead of a lunch truck, and rooves instead of tents on rain days would support their time and work at school. I believe they deserve these as much as their DOE school peers. Thank you for your support of my children's educational environment by funding facilities for Charter Schools. -Melanie Bondera

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: ezayas@kiheicharter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2516 on Feb 3, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Saturday, February 01, 2014 8:39:19 PM

SB2516

Submitted on: 2/1/2014

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Evelyn Zayas	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a long time teacher at a charter school, I fully support any bill that gives charter school students equal funding. Why are students going to charter schools being discriminated against?

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: lmhaake@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2516 on Feb 3, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Sunday, February 02, 2014 11:46:13 AM

SB2516

Submitted on: 2/2/2014

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: My children attend West Hawaii Explorations Academy. It is an excellent school and my children have thrived there. They deserve to have actual buildings in which they can receive their education.

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From: [joelle wohl](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: charter school bill
Date: Sunday, February 02, 2014 12:20:57 PM

Dear Senators Tokuda and Kidani:

Our child attends **West Hawaii Explorations Academy (WHEA)** in KONA. We love the school because our son is happy to go to school every day, because every child studies math on his own level through a math computer program (our son is in 6th grade and is currently studying 8th grade math without any difficulty) and for many other reasons too.

My child deserves a roof *and* a great education. Being responsible taxpayers, we would like to see some of our taxes go to our children's school for classroom space.

Basic facility support for my child is long overdue, so please pass this bill.

Thank you for your support of my child.

Yours Sincerely,

J. Wohl

From: [Kiera Horgan](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: *****SPAM***** SB2516 RELATING TO FACILITIES FUNDING FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS
Date: Sunday, February 02, 2014 12:44:23 PM

To: The Honorable Senators Jill Tokuda, Chair, and Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair,
Senate Committee on Education

Re: SB2516 RELATING TO FACILITIES FUNDING FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

Dear Senators Tokuda and Kidani:

Please fund facilities for charter schools! My child attends West Hawaii Explorations Academy, which is an innovative and award-winning school for grades 6-12, as I'm sure you're aware. The project-based learning curriculum allows students to delve deeply into their areas of interest and to reach incredible heights of achievement. The students at WHEA and at all Hawaii public charter schools deserve the same baseline of services as other public school students. The school directors and teachers should be freed from the responsibility of searching for funding for buildings so they can focus on curriculum and instruction instead. This bill is a matter of basic fairness - please act on behalf of our children!

With aloha,
Kiera Horgan
Kailua Kona

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: rreifa@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2516 on Feb 3, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Sunday, February 02, 2014 1:02:45 PM

SB2516

Submitted on: 2/2/2014

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robin Alterman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senators Tokuda and Kidani: My child attends West Hawaii Explorations Academy (WHEA). He will graduate this Spring after 6 years at the school. This Charter School has enabled my son to find his passion for science and found a great fit within the project based curriculum. Facility support is long overdue, as seen at our school with only porta-potty bathrooms and outdoor classrooms. I support spending my tax dollars toward providing classroom space at WHEA. Thank you for your support of my child. Robin Alterman

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From: [Una Burns](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: SB2516 RELATING TO FACILITIES FUNDING FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS.
Date: Sunday, February 02, 2014 2:36:42 PM

Dear Senators Tokuda and Kidani:

Basic facility support for children at charter schools is long overdue, so please pass this bill.

All Hawaii' children deserve a roof *and* a great education.

My husband & I are responsible taxpayers, and would like to see some of our taxes go to charter schools for classroom space.

Thank you for your support of this extremely worthwhile cause.

Yours sincerely, tax paying and supporting fair funding measures for all children

Una Burns

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: colemel@kanalanifarm.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2516 on Feb 3, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Sunday, February 02, 2014 6:45:03 PM

SB2516

Submitted on: 2/2/2014

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colehour Bondera	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senators Tokuda, Kidani & Committee members: My children attend West Hawaii Explorations Academy Public Charter School. The school provides what the children need in terms of information and practices that are flexible, inspiring and provide opportunities. Basic facility support for the public charter schools is long overdue, so please pass this bill. I feel this strongly as a longtime taxpaying farm operator and parent of children who are now both in high school. Please support this piece of legislation. Sincerely, Colehour Bondera
KANALANI OHANA FARM

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From: [Don Duval](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: SB2516
Date: Sunday, February 02, 2014 8:08:09 PM

Dear Senators Tokuda and Kidani:

Our child attends West Hawaii Explorations Academy. We love the school because it is creative and motivational, and allows our child to explore the world in many interesting ways.

We are responsible taxpayers, and would like to see some of our taxes go to our children's school for classroom space.

Thank you for your support of our child.

Marta Nowak & Don Duval

fitdon@gmail.com

808-938-6590

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: bennyjduke@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2516 on Feb 3, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Sunday, February 02, 2014 9:37:59 PM

SB2516

Submitted on: 2/2/2014

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benjamin Duke	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senators Tokuda and Kidani: I am a teacher at West Hawaii Explorations Academy and my child will be attending Innovations Public Charter School starting next year. I love WHEA and Innovations because students learn real world skills through hands-on learning. Basic facility support for charter schools is long overdue, so please pass this bill. All children in Hawaii deserve a roof and a great education. Thank you for the support of my child and children I teach. Mahalo, Benjamin Duke

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: farmfreshhawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2516 on Feb 3, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Monday, February 03, 2014 1:50:08 AM

SB2516

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Juanita Kawamoto Brown	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: As a native Hawaiian whose Ohana participate in Halau Kumana, I strongly support the completion of this pilot project. Our keiki should not be deprived of proper facilities that will promote focus by the students, staff and families who strive for excellence in education. Please pass this bill.

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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Feb 2nd 2014

fax 808-587-7220

To: The Honorable Senators Jill Tokuda, Chair and Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Education.

Re: SB2516 RELATING TO FACILITIES FUNDING FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS.

Dear Senators Tokuda and Kidani:

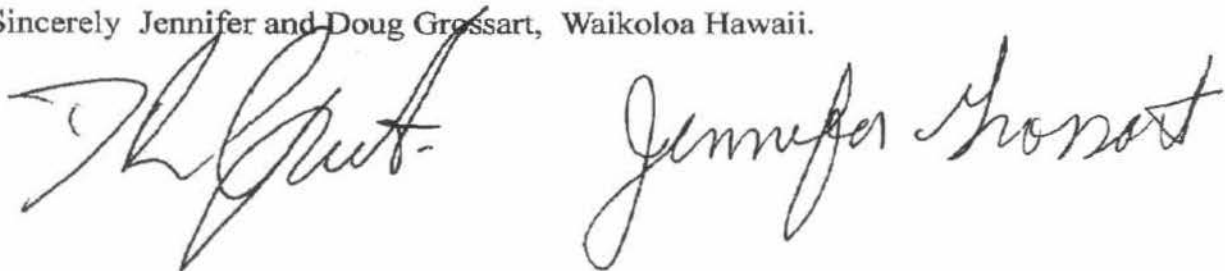
My daughter started attending West Hawaii Explorations Academy Charter school year after experiencing 2 years at the local public High school. This was the best move that we have ever made concerning her education. She was a A student in the public school but found she wasn't challenged in her classes and was often grouped in with students that didn't take their learning time seriously, wasting teachers time. She did well but hated going to school. At WEST HAWAII EXPLORATIONS ACADEMY (WHEA) Her whole attitude has changed concerning school, She looks forward to each day. She spends extra hours for special projects and has falling in love with the robotics program which she attends 6 days a week. All this and still upholding her A grade average.

She is getting a great education but there is one problem. WHEA has to cancel classes when it rains. The campus is open air but for a few portable classrooms. These are for computer labs and a open air roofed and fenced pavilion for all their Robotics supplies and project tools..They have shade tents but no restroom facilities but port a-potties. A new campus has been slated for next year but I would like to see our hard earned tax money go to our child's schools classroom space.

PLEASE SUPPORT FUNDING FOR CHARTERS SCHOOLS FACILITIES.

Thank you for supporting my child,

Sincerely Jennifer and Doug Grossart, Waikoloa Hawaii.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Doug Grossart' and the signature on the right is 'Jennifer Grossart'. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

SB2516

Submitted on: 1/29/2014

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sherrian witt	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support funding of Charter schools and a report be given to the Legislature regarding the accomplishments and financial balances.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
WINTON SCHONEMAN	Individual	Support	No

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

Comments: My child attends WHEA. We love the WHEA. Basic facility support for my child is long overdue, so please pass this bill.