



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: caben5@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2517 on Feb 27, 2014 09:00AM
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2014 12:14:38 AM

SB2517

Submitted on: 2/27/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cara Beneski	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please provide equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities for all public school children. Charter schools provide important options for families and students.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kaikani7@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2517 on Feb 27, 2014 09:00AM
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 1:17:20 PM

SB2517

Submitted on: 2/26/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: I support state facilities funding for our charter schools. My son has attended a charter school since he was in kindergarten. He loves his school and I can't imagine him being anywhere else. I am so glad this school is available to him. Charter schools are public schools and deserve their share of facilities funding.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sarsona@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2517 on Feb 27, 2014 09:00AM
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2014 6:06:18 AM



SB2517

Submitted on: 2/27/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: We have been through both Private and DOE schools and my children now attend a Public Charter School, Kanu o ka aina. As parents of six we see the different learning abilities and styles in each of them. We are taxpayers and believe that the money allotted per student should follow the student no matter where they decide to go. We need to support Public Charter Schools as we are supporting future contributing community members and if we do not support Public Charter schools we are denying these kids their right for a good education and a chance to kulia i ka nuu.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jkissida@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2517 on Feb 27, 2014 09:00AM
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 1:24:55 PM

SB2517

Submitted on: 2/26/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: Charter schools should be offered the same funding as regular DOE schools.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: reeftour@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2517 on Feb 27, 2014 09:00AM
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2014 9:04:46 AM

SB2517

Submitted on: 2/27/2014

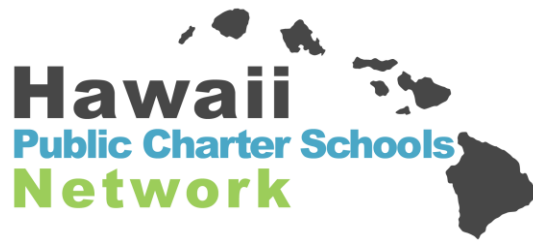
Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: Charter schools need facilities and maintenance. Please support this legislation

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Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Thursday, February 27, 2014

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

Re: SB2517 SD1 – Strong Support

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on SB2517 SD1 Relating to Education. Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network (HPCSN) is committed to quality education for all public school students in Hawaii through our support of, and work with, Hawaii's public charter schools. The number one priority for HPCSN this legislative session is to help make progress to address the financial challenges, most especially with facilities, that exist for Hawaii's public charter schools. Our objectives are:

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

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

In 2005 the Legislative Reference Bureau in its report entitled, *On the Level? Policy, Law and the Charter School Movement* stated, "Unlike their public school, conversion school, and school-within-school counterparts, start-up schools must rent or build facilities, or ask the public to donate facilities, or both. The cost of building public schools is usually spread out over twenty years through the issuance of general obligation bonds. Neither the BOE, the HIDOE, nor individual public schools, are responsible for debt service—or the payment of principal and interest on these bonds. These bonds are the responsibility of the State, and are backed by it's the full faith and credit (i.e., taxing power)." Some

charter schools have facilities on state land and have access through the normal CIP process - others do not (see attachment).

Solutions are not easy given the state's many priorities for funding. This bill is one part of a small group of bills to address funding and facilities support for charter schools. Previously, stumbling blocks would be identified during discussions that would stop progress instead of work toward solutions. Now, the DOE, BOE, Dept. of Budget and Finance, State Public Charter School Commission and charter schools, through an informal working group, expressed their willingness to work through these challenges. HPCSN strongly supports the following bills as they relate to funding and facilities support:

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

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



Lynn Finnegan
Executive Director

Attachments

Charter Schools Facilities Bills

Disclosure: Confirmation of data is in progress with schools.

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

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

Blue = Checking/verifying with schools

P = Priority

A = Applies

+ Received GIA

^ Received CIP and/or upgrades through the DOE system

~ USDA in process

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

Attachment 2

Lump-sum Funding Request For Facilities

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

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

On September 17, 2012 the CSAO distributed an email to all charter schools requesting that they submit to the CSAO their projected facilities related expenses for FY13-15. The email included a spreadsheet for each charter school to use in providing their projected facilities expenses to the CSAO. The CSAO requested that charter schools provide all projected facilities related expenses, including utility costs, maintenance costs, custodial costs, etc.

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

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

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

School Name	ORGID	Reported Projected Facilities Expenses FY13-14			Reported Projected Facilities Expenses FY14-15		
		Rental/Lease of Building & Grounds	Adjusted Proj. Facilities Expenses FY 13-14	Total Projected Facilities Expenses FY 13-14	Rental/Lease of Building & Grounds	Adjusted Proj. Facilities Expenses FY 14-15	Total Projected Facilities Expenses FY 14-15
Waialae-PCS	149	\$0	\$3,500	\$316,634	\$0	\$3,710	\$335,632
Kamalei	275	-	50,000	705,000	-	50,000	750,000
*Lanikai-PCS	320	-	15,034	178,468	-	15,034	178,468
Laupahoehoe Community PCS	377	-	64,000	420,513	-	69,120	334,604
Waimea Mid-PCS	394	-	25,000	218,494	-	25,000	221,605
Connections-PCS	396	501,600	549,900	971,300	501,600	549,900	971,300
Kanu O Ka'aina-PCS	397	537,500	582,500	786,000	537,300	583,300	790,000
Waters of Life-PCS	398	29,050	64,050	119,595	29,050	65,396	125,990
West Hi Explor-PCS	399	10,000	29,000	221,869	70,000	110,000	393,369
Kualapuu-PCS	411	-	-	298,614	-	-	275,614
KANAKA - PCS	466	45,000	69,000	103,100	45,000	69,000	103,700
Halau Ku Mana-PCS	540	300	399,878	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 Waihona O Ka Naaauo-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'ahana-PCS	549	15,000	29,000	127,000	17,250	33,450	142,150
Hawaii Technology Academy	551	295,000	598,800	830,800	309,750	615,350	833,250
Kihai-PCS	554	816,000	1,139,000	1,454,000	900,000	1,240,000	1,574,000
Ke Kula Ni'ihau Kekaha-PCS	556	-	42,300	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	66,518	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
*Kanuikaponu-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.

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	USDA loan	Kona Pacific, Innovations.		P	A
Facilities are on both on state land and not on state land		Nawahi	A	P	A
Checking status		Ka Umeke, Laahana		A	A

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Ka 'Umeke Ka'eo-PCS	562	207,420	231,420	379,965	207,420	231,420	391,815
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SB2517

Submitted on: 2/26/2014

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mae Gauvin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: kaimaia.mb@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2517 on Feb 27, 2014 09:00AM
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2014 7:02:39 PM

SB2517

Submitted on: 2/27/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: Aloha, I am a parent and a registered voter. I believe in freedom of choice in public education. Charter schools are public schools and my tax dollars help to pay for public education and facilities. This should be accepted equally for ALL public schools; including charter schools. Mahalo.

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Cc: maile@kalo.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2517 on Feb 27, 2014 09:00AM
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 1:33:11 PM

SB2517

Submitted on: 2/26/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maile Zsupnik	Kanu o ka Aina Learning `Ohana	Comments Only	No

Comments: I Support facilities for Charter School by supporting SB2517. Mahalo

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: martivictorcampbell@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2517 on Feb 27, 2014 09:00AM
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2014 6:33:19 AM

SB2517

Submitted on: 2/27/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: Equal treatment of all of Hawaii's public school students.

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Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Education Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB2517. This testimony is in support of charter schools.

I am the chair for the SEEQS (School of Examining Essential Questions of Sustainability) 'Ohana Events and Fundraising Parent Committee. My son is currently in the 6th grade. We were ecstatic to be blessed with the opportunity to be part of the newest sustainability-based charter school. Besides the common core subjects and sustainability, the school also teaches the arts, physical activity and technology. All of these values are very important to me and I am happy my son has the opportunity to experience all the school has to offer. He has grown academically, socially, philosophically, artistically, athletically, and has become well versed in technology since last summer. I am a single parent and receive EBT Food Stamp Benefits for my family. Before we discovered SEEQS, my son applied to two private schools in hopes we could get financial aid if accepted but did not get in. Last summer, we ended up relocating to another neighborhood so he could be in a favorable school district. We found out about SEEQS, applied, and then enrolled two weeks prior to starting the 2013-14 school year. After our lease expired, we relocated to the Kaimuki area so we would be a lot closer to SEEQS. As you can see, quality education is very important to us.

We are renting a building at the Salvation Army property. Although we are grateful there is space for gardening and composting, the student body will increase every school year until there are 420 students. The Salvation Army is only a temporary home because the lease is for two years, and will obviously not be able to accommodate the student body at maximum capacity when it includes high schoolers.

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

Passing SB 2517 will enable SEEQS to have financial assistance to expand to its goal of a larger facility that will accommodate 420 students and a larger staff. This school is unique and will hopefully serve as a model for other schools (especially public) to use regarding innovative curriculum based on sustainability. It is a critical time right now to educate and perpetuate sustainability to our children for they will be leaders of the future.

Our school was authorized, through an incredibly rigorous process, based on our vision for a school that is based on best practices in education, as well as community need and interest. Our successes already in this first year, as well as the already high demand for next year's enrollment (more than 70 applications for sixty spots within

the first two weeks of open enrollment!) are a testament to the great success our school can be as part of the Hawaii state public school system. We want to spend as much time as possible making our school successful for our students, and we believe that our primary role as a school is to focus on what's happening **inside** the school, working with teachers, students and content. Facilities support and funding from the legislature will enable us to do the work we set out to do, and that we were authorized to do.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Michelle Umipeg
SEEQS Parent
SEEQS 'Ohana Events and Fundraising Chair



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: radiyoes@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2517 on Feb 27, 2014 09:00AM*
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2014 1:11:14 PM

SB2517

Submitted on: 2/27/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter Yoes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB2517

Submitted on: 2/26/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randall Winston Albright	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, as a parent of a public charter school student, I ask your support to bring equality back to the state of Hawaii, and support our children equally. My child gets half the monetary allocation as other children that attend a DOE school. Funding for the facility that our child attends school in comes out of their academic allotment. My Second grade child thrives in the unique learning environment that Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences provides. Please lead by example, do what is fair, justice demands equality in funding for all our keiki. R. Winston Albright

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