

LATE



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Education
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Time: 1:15 p.m.
Date: February 12, 2016
Where: State Capitol Room 229

TESTIMONY
By Ka'ano'i Walk
Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees

RE: **SB 2781 Relating to Teacher Incentives**

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Kidani, ka Luna Ho'omalua Keith-Agaran, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Harimoto, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Shimabukuro a me nā Lālā o nā Kōmike o ka 'Aha Kenekoa, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Group of Kamehameha Schools. Senate Bill 2781 relating to teacher incentives clarifies that funds for bonuses required by statute or collective bargaining shall not be paid out of a charter school's facilities funding or per-pupil funds, and appropriates funds for teacher bonuses for hard-to-fill placement incentives and National Board certified teacher incentives for charter school teachers.

As part of the second goal of Kamehameha Schools' strategic plan, which guides us to contribute to the communities' collective efforts to improve Hawai'i's education systems for Native Hawaiian learners, Kamehameha Schools is committed to support Hawaiian-focused charter schools and therefore we stand in **support** of SB 2781.

Kamehameha Schools advocates for and supports the achievement of Hawai'i's Native Hawaiian public school students. As such, we have been a collaborator with the Hawai'i public charter schools for over a decade. Through our work with Hawaiian-focused public charter schools, we hope to significantly impact more children and their families through education. We believe that Hawaiian-focused charter schools provide quality educational choices for our families and ultimately enhance both academic achievement and engagement for students. We encourage you, the leaders of our government to stand with us in supporting a move to improve the educational system in Hawai'i in this way.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is a statewide educational system supported by a trust endowed by Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, whose mission is to improve the capability and well-being of Native Hawaiian learners. We believe that by continuing to engage in dialog around these charter school policies and proposals, we can contribute in a positive and meaningful way. We believe that this bill promotes the saying, e kūlia i ka nu'u. To constantly strive for the summit! We commend the legislature for working hard to increase the effectiveness of our public education system. Mahalo nui.