



**Testimony by:**  
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 29, 2016  
1:30 pm  
State Capitol, Room 229

**S.C.R. 54**  
**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY**  
**ON THE FEASIBILITY AND ADVISABILITY OF ADOPTING THE TRANSPORTATION**  
**SECURITY ADMINISTRATION'S SCREENING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AND TO**  
**MAKE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE**

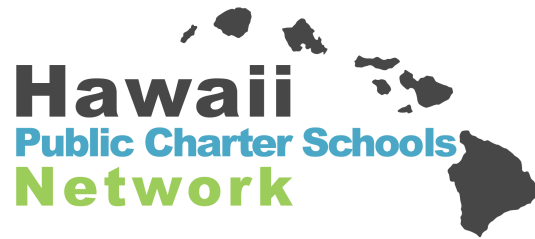
Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports the intent** of this resolution requesting DOT to conduct a study on the feasibility and advisability of adopting the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) screening partnership program and to make appropriate recommendations to the Legislature.

However, the DOT feels that this is a complex issue and we do not have the necessary resources, with the current staff, to perform a study of this magnitude for each of our seven (7) state airports that may be affected. A feasibility study of this nature would not be able to be completed within the proposed time constraints, as required by this resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



April 5, 2016

To: Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Senate Ways and Means Committee

From: Jeannine Souki, Executive Director  
Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network

Re: **SCR 154 / SR 116, SD1 – REQUESTING A STUDY ON THE PER-PUPIL FUNDING SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE SYSTEM FULFILLS ITS STATUTORY PURPOSE OF EQUALIZING OPERATIONAL FUNDING AMONG PUBLIC SCHOOLS – SUPPORT**  
**Conference Room 211 – Hawaii State Capitol – April 5, 2016, 1 PM**

On behalf of the Hawaii Public Charter School Network (HPCSN), we are writing in support of SCR 154 and SR 116, SD1 Requesting a Study on the Per-Pupil Funding System for Public Charter Schools to Determine Whether the System Fulfills Its Statutory Purpose of Equalizing Operational Funding Among Public Schools and respectfully recommend the following amendments to the resolutions.

We applaud the introducers of these resolutions for raising the question of whether per pupil funding for Hawaii's public charter schools. HRS §302D-28 requires that the non-facility general fund per-pupil funding request for charter school students shall be the same as the general fund per-pupil amount to the department in the most recently approved executive budget recommendation for the department based upon reasonable projected enrollment figures for all charter schools. **The general fund per-pupil request for each regular education and special education student shall:**

- Include all general fund regular education cost categories, including comprehensive school support services, but excluding special education services, adult education, and the after-school plus program; provided that these services are provided and funded by the department; and
- Exclude fringe benefit costs and debt service, which are included in the Department of Budget and Finance's annual budget request and are not charged directly to or deducted from per pupil funding allocation.

For the current school year, charter schools are projected to receive roughly \$6,800 per pupil. This funding level is expected to be unchanged in the next school year and often covers soup to nuts operations for charter school operations and facilities costs, which are

particularly challenging for start up charter schools, which are the majority of Hawaii's charter schools.

### **What about facilities funding?**

Research shows a significant relationship between the condition of school facilities and student performance. While the initiative to push for air-conditioning in DOE classrooms deserves support, we also ask you to consider that public charter schools need funding for safe and adequate facilities in the state supplemental budget appropriation. Every child is deserving of safe public schools facilities including those who chose an education in public charter schools.

In an *LRB 2002 report: On the Level? Policy, Law and the Charter School Movement*, highlighted several inequities between the financing of charter school facilities and our traditional public schools.

“Unlike the public schools, 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 HDOE, nor individual public schools are responsible for debt service—or the payment of principal and interest on these bonds. “

### **What about equity in the distribution of federal funding?**

*On the Level?* also notes federal regulations require states to treat charter schools and public schools alike. However, DOE's most recent Consolidated Annual Financial Report of Expenditures (CAFR) for FY 13-14 reveals some of the disparity among Hawaii's public schools.

The allocation of funding for public education is not as transparent as reported in the annual CAFRs. It would be helpful if reported data is disaggregated to show spending for public charter schools and DOE schools.

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HPCSN works to support Hawaii's public charter schools and to be a voice for children and families that seek choice in an independent public school setting. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony.