

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

LATE

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: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: SCR 154/SR 116 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

DATE: Wednesday, March 23, 2016

TIME: 1:15 PM

COMMITTEE(S): Senate Committee on Education

ROOM: Conference Room 229

FROM: Yvonne Lau, Interim Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

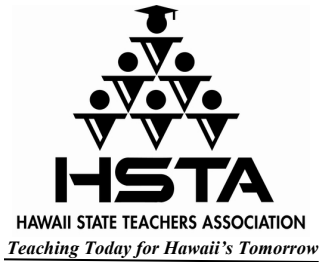
Testimony in strong support of SCR 154/SR 116

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

The State Public Charter School Commission strongly supports SCR 154/SR 116 as it endorses the Commission’s standing advocacy position that charter schools must be funded and supported adequately to be able to meet the educational needs of their students and to fulfill their role as a strategy for system-wide improvement. This includes funding and other support for adequate facilities.

The purpose of this study is to have an impartial examination of the per-pupil funding system to determine whether it provides equity for charter schools within the public school system. The Commission intends to fully assist the Legislative Reference Bureau in the preparation of this study and, if requested by LRB, facilitate communication and feedback with the charter schools and other interested stakeholders.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



LATE

1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
 Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Corey Rosenlee
 President
 Justin Hughey
 Vice President
 Amy Perruso
 Secretary-Treasurer
 Wilbert Holck
 Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
 EDUCATION

RE: SCR 154/SR 116 - 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.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016

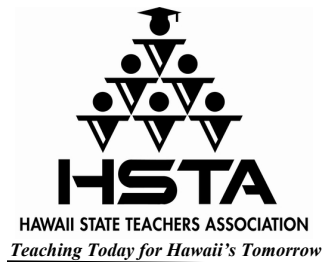
COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
 HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports SCR 154/SR 116**, requesting a per-pupil funding system for public charter schools to determine whether the system fulfills its statutory purpose of equalizing operational funding among public schools.

Hawai'i shortchanges its public schools. While our state's per-pupil spending of \$11,823 ranks 17th in the nation when compared to other states in raw dollars, comparison with school districts of similar size and demographics yields different results. Mainland districts with high costs of living are typically urban and averaged with with rural districts experiencing lower costs of living in statewide analyses. When comparing school districts of similar size, Hawai'i, the nation's only statewide school district, ranks 227th in per-pupil funding *before* adjusting for cost of living. A comparison of spending per pupil in America's largest school districts shows the following:

DISTRICT	Wash. D.C.	New York City, NY	Boston, MA	Pittsburgh, PA	Cincinnati, OH	Detroit, MI
AMOUNT	\$26,661	\$25,061	\$22,762	\$22,600	\$22,157	\$18,361



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Hawaii's major private schools, on the other hand, average \$15,173 in per-pupil spending. When Catholic schools, subsidized by the Roman Catholic Diocese, are removed, private school spending jumps to nearly \$19,173 dollars per student, sans endowment funds that further boost private school baselines. As Punahou President Jim Scott revealed in 2014, "The real cost of our education per student is \$26,000," with the school's endowment standing then at \$235 million and fundraising operations generating an additional \$12-\$15 million each year.

Charter schools, too, face chronic funding shortages. Charters, statewide, spent more than \$8 million, or \$817 per student, in FY2013-2014 to operate and maintain their facilities, with most of that going toward rent. In recent years, funding has become so scarce at charter schools that some, like Na Wai Ola, have had to hold fundraisers to pay for breakfast and lunch programs for their students.

While we urge caution in expanding the local charter school paradigm beyond its current scope, we wholeheartedly support our public charter school teachers. Thus, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this resolution.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Education

Time: 1:15 p.m.

Date: March 23, 2016

Where: State Capitol Room 229

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto and Members of the Committee

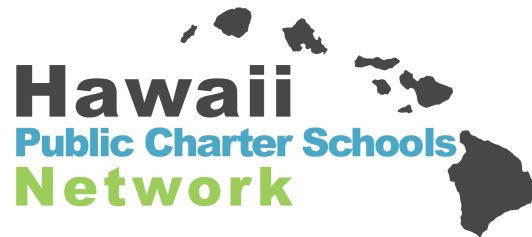
RE: **SCR 154/SR 115 REQUESTING A STUDY ON THE PER-PUPIL FUNDING SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE SYSTEM FULFILLS ITS STATUTORY PURPOSE OF EQUALIZING OPERATIONAL FUNDING AMONG PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Kidani, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Harimoto a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao 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 Concurrent Resolution 154 and Senate Resolution 116 requests a study on the per pupil funding system for public charter schools.

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 SCR 154 and SR 115.

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 all families and ultimately enhance both academic achievement and engagement for students.

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 appreciate efforts to increase the effectiveness of our public education system. Mahalo nui.



LATE

March 23, 2016

To: Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Honorable Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair
Senate Education Committee

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

Re: **SCR 154 / SR 116 – 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 229 – Hawaii State Capitol – Mar. 23, 2016, 1:15 P.M.

On behalf of the Hawaii Public Charter School Network (HPCSN), we are writing in support of SCR 154 and SR 116, 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. 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.

Finally, we respectfully requests that the Board of Education and Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network in addition to the Department of Education and Hawaii Charter Schools Commission be included in providing cost information and identifying resources for the Bureau in conducting this study.

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.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: steve_hirakami@notes.k12.hi.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR154 on Mar 23, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 12:30:32 PM

SCR154

Submitted on: 3/23/2016

Testimony for EDU on Mar 23, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Hirakami	HAASPCS	Support	No

Comments: Sorry this is so late. The time is now to study the funding of charter schools. There is some common ground on equity in funding. We just have to find it.

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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LATE

From: [Leigh Fitzgerald](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SCR 154/SR 116
Date: Thursday, March 24, 2016 7:13:30 AM

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SCR 154/ SR 116 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. Hawaii's public charter school students currently receive approximately \$6,800 per year to cover any and all expenses related to facilities, faculty, staff, curriculum, field trips, enrichment programs, intervention programs (non Sped) and student activities. This amount, while appreciated, falls short of providing the robust educational experience that public charter school students deserve. We do not believe that the current per pupil allotment affords public charter school students an equitable experience to their standard DOE peers. We support and appreciate the House and Senate requesting a study on equitable funding and, in particular, the possibility of facilities funding for public charter school students.

Kind Regards,
Leigh Fitzgerald

Leigh Fitzgerald
Executive Director
Hawaii Technology Academy
Cell: 808.283.6155
Office:808.676.5444



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Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau
Laboratory Public Charter School

LATE

46-500 Kūneki St. Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i 96744 *Kelepona: 808.235.9175 *Kelepa'i: 808.235.9173
E mālama 'ia ana ka mauli ola o kākou mai kēlā hanauna a i kēia hanauna.

March 23, 2016

To: Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair Honorable Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair Senate
Education Committee

**Re: SCR 154 / SR 116 – 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 229 – Hawaii State Capitol – Mar. 23, 2016, 1:15 P.M.**

Aloha mai kākou,

Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau is writing in support of SCR 154 and SR 116, 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.

Additionally, we would like to request facilities funding for the Hawai'i Public Charter Schools to adequately provide safe public school facilities and learning environments for our students served.

Mahalo,

Ivy K. Kelling
Kahu, Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: ushakilpatrick@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR154 on Mar 23, 2016 13:15PM*
Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 2:58:57 PM

LATE

SCR154

Submitted on: 3/23/2016

Testimony for EDU on Mar 23, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Usha Kilpatrick Kotner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: wilsonwi@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SR116 on Mar 23, 2016 13:15PM*
Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 9:21:25 AM

SR116

Submitted on: 3/23/2016

Testimony for EDU on Mar 23, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. William H. Wilson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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