

**HB336**  
**Relating to the**  
**Per-Pupil**  
**Funding**  
**System**

# HB336

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE PER-PUPIL FUNDING SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS.  
 Report Title: OHA Package; Per-Pupil Funding System; Legislative Reference Bureau; Study  
 Description: Requires the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on the non-facility general fund per-pupil funding system for public charter schools, to determine whether the system fulfills its statutory purpose of equalizing operational funding among the State's public schools.  
 Companion:  
 Package: Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
 Current Referral: EDN, FIN  
 Introducer(s): SOUKI (Introduced by request of another party)

<a href="#">Sort by Date</a>	Status Text
1/20/2017	H Pending introduction.
1/23/2017	H Pass First Reading
1/23/2017	H Referred to EDN, FIN, referral sheet 2
2/2/2017	H Bill scheduled to be heard by EDN on Wednesday, 02-08-17 2:00PM in House conference room 309.

S = Senate | H = House | D = Data Systems | \$ = Appropriation measure | ConAm = Constitutional Amendment

Some of the above items require Adobe Acrobat Reader. Please visit [Adobe's download page](#) for detailed instructions.

# HB336

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PER-PUPIL FUNDING SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC CHARTER  
SCHOOLS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's public  
2 charter schools are a part of the state public education system  
3 and contribute to that system as a whole, by providing  
4 alternative educational options and modeling innovative  
5 practices. Each public charter school is a single state entity,  
6 and primarily dependent on state funding for operational costs.

7           The legislature further finds that the public charter  
8 school system is of particular importance to the Native Hawaiian  
9 community and the perpetuation of Hawaii's host culture, as  
10 seventeen of the thirty-four public charter schools are  
11 Hawaiian-focused or Hawaiian language immersion schools,  
12 offering educational curricula grounded in Hawaiian cultural  
13 values, concepts, and language.

14           Hawaii's public charter schools receive a majority of their  
15 funding through a general fund per-pupil allotment. Section  
16 302D-28, Hawaii Revised Statutes, mandates that non-facility



1 general fund per-pupil funding for public charter school  
2 students be the same as that for department of education school  
3 students. The non-facility general fund per-pupil allotment for  
4 public charter schools is accordingly determined based on the  
5 total funding allocated to certain programs within the  
6 department of education, and the projected and verified student  
7 enrollment rates for department of education and public charter  
8 schools.

9 The legislature finds that questions have been raised  
10 regarding whether the per-pupil funding system provides equal  
11 funding for public charter schools as intended under the law,  
12 including whether all required department of education cost  
13 categories are appropriately and consistently factored into the  
14 determination of the per-pupil allotment for public charter  
15 schools. A potential disparity in per-pupil funding is of  
16 particular concern, given that public charter schools must also  
17 meet other expenses, including facility costs, not borne by  
18 department of education schools, and given the state public  
19 charter school commission's warning in its annual reports that  
20 public charter schools may face short-term financial strain as  
21 well as long-term operational sustainability challenges.



1           The purpose of this Act is to require the legislative  
2 reference bureau to conduct a study on the per-pupil funding  
3 system, to determine whether the system fulfills its statutory  
4 purpose of equalizing operational funding among public schools.

5           SECTION 2. (a) The legislative reference bureau shall  
6 conduct a study on the non-facility general fund per-pupil  
7 funding system for public charter schools, to determine whether  
8 the system fulfills its statutory purpose of equalizing  
9 operational funding among the State's public schools. The study  
10 shall:

- 11           (1) Include all general fund non-facility costs described  
12               in section 302D-28(a) and (b), Hawaii Revised  
13               Statutes, including but not limited to school-based  
14               budgeting, instructional support, school  
15               administration, and school support;
- 16           (2) Describe all general fund cost categories not  
17               considered in the determination of per-pupil funding  
18               for public charter schools; and
- 19           (3) Provide any other fiscal information that would be  
20               relevant to the legislative reference bureau's study.



1 (b) The department of education and the state public  
 2 charter school commission shall provide specific data to the  
 3 legislative reference bureau by June 30, 2017, in a format to be  
 4 determined by the bureau, detailing what the present system of  
 5 funding consists of within the statutory allocation, to enable  
 6 the bureau to focus its study and complete it in a timely  
 7 manner.

8 (c) The department of education, department of budget and  
 9 finance, state public charter school commission, Hawaii Public  
 10 Charter School Network, Hawaii Educational Policy Center, and  
 11 other stakeholder agencies are requested to provide other  
 12 information and assistance as requested by the legislative  
 13 reference bureau.

14 (d) The legislative reference bureau shall submit a report  
 15 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
 16 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
 17 to the convening of the regular session of 2019.

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

19

INTRODUCED BY:



By Request

JAN 20 2017



# H.B. NO. 336

**Report Title:**

OHA Package; Per-Pupil Funding System; Legislative Reference Bureau; Study

**Description:**

Requires the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on the non-facility general fund per-pupil funding system for public charter schools, to determine whether the system fulfills its statutory purpose of equalizing operational funding among the State's public schools.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



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

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FOR: HB 336 Relating to the per-pupil funding system for Public Charter Schools

DATE: Wednesday, February 8, 2017

TIME: 2:00 PM

COMMITTEE(S): House Committee on Education

ROOM: Conference Room 309

FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Har, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong support of HB336, which would require the Legislative Reference Bureau or another impartial organization to conduct a study on the per-pupil funding system for charter schools.

HB 336 affirms 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. This includes funding and other support for adequate facilities. Charter schools contribute to the public education system as a whole by providing alternative educational options and modeling innovative practices. The purpose of this study is to have an impartial examination of the per-pupil funding system to determine whether the per-pupil system is the most equitable method for funding charter schools.

The Commission intends to fully assist in 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.



Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi  
Director

Research (808) 587-0666  
Revisor (808) 587-0670  
Fax (808) 587-0681



LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU  
State of Hawaii  
State Capitol, Room 446  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

## Written Comments

### **HB336 RELATING TO THE PER-PUPIL FUNDING SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS**

Testimony by the Legislative Reference Bureau  
Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Director

Presented to the House Committee on Education

Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 309

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon Chair Takumi and members of the Committee, my name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi and I am the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written comments on H.B. No. 336, Relating to the Per-Pupil Funding System for Public Charter Schools.

The purpose of this measure is to request that:

- (1) The Legislative Reference Bureau conduct a study on the per-pupil funding system to determine whether the system fulfills its statutory purpose of equalizing operational funding among public schools. Specifically, the report is required to include:
  - (A) All general fund non-facility costs described in section 302D-28(a) and (b), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), including but not limited to school-based budgeting, instructional support, school administration, and school support;
  - (B) A description of all general fund cost categories not considered in the determination of per-pupil funding for public charter schools; and
  - (C) Any other fiscal information that would be relevant to the Legislative Reference Bureau's study;
- (2) By June 30, 2017, the Department of Education and State Public Charter School Commission provide specific data to the Legislative Reference Bureau

detailing what the present system of funding consists within the statutory allocation, to permit the Bureau to target its study and complete it in a timely manner;

- (3) The Department of Education, Department of Budget and Finance, State Public Charter School Commission, Hawaii Public Charter School Network, Hawaii Educational Policy Center, and other stakeholder agencies provide other information and assistance as requested by the Legislative Reference Bureau; and
- (4) The Legislative Reference Bureau submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019.

The Bureau takes no position on this measure, but submits the following comments for your consideration.

The Bureau would like to note that, based on a plain reading of section 302D-28(c), HRS, there doesn't seem to be a need to study the stated issue, since the Department of Budget and Finance is not only charged with the responsibility for ensuring that equitable non-facility per pupil funding is being allocated between department and charter schools, but also to report on such allocations and expenditures annually to the Legislature, Governor, Department of Education, and charter schools.

Section 302D-28(c), HRS, reads as follows:

(c) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, to ensure non-facility per-pupil general fund amounts allocated for the department and charter school students are equal on an annualized fiscal year basis, each year the director of finance shall:

- (1) Determine the sum of general fund appropriations made for department and charter school student non-facility costs described in subsections (a) and (b);
- (2) Determine the sum of department and charter school student enrollment based on reviewed and verified student enrollment counts as of October 15;
- (3) Determine a per-pupil amount by dividing the sum of general fund appropriations determined under paragraph (1) by the sum of student enrollment determined under paragraph (2);
- (4) Transfer a general fund amount between the department and charter schools that will provide each with a per-pupil allocation equal to the amount determined on an annualized fiscal year basis under paragraph (3); and

- (5) Annually account for all calculations and transfers made pursuant to this subsection in a report to the legislature, governor, department, and charter schools.

This subsection shall not limit the ability of the director of finance to modify or amend any allotment pursuant to chapter 37. (emphasis added)

In addition, while the Bureau appreciates that the measure attempts to specifically frame the parameters of the study, there seems to be some inconsistencies with regard to what the study is to include. According to SECTION 2(a) of the measure, the Bureau's study is to "include all general fund non-facility costs described in section 302D-28(a) and (b), Hawaii Revised Statutes, including but not limited to school-based budgeting, instructional support, school administration, and school support."

Section 302D-28(a) and (b), HRS, reads as follows:

(a) Beginning with fiscal year 2012-2013, and each fiscal year thereafter, 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 and shall be 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:

- (1) 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
- (2) Exclude fringe benefit costs and debt service.

(b) Fringe benefit costs for charter school employees, regardless of the payroll system utilized by a charter school, shall be included in the department of budget and finance's annual budget request. No fringe benefit costs shall be charged directly to or deducted from the charter school per-pupil allocations.

The legislature shall make an appropriation based upon the budget request; provided that the legislature may make additional appropriations for facility and other costs.

The governor, pursuant to chapter 37, may impose restrictions or reductions on charter school appropriations similar to those imposed on department schools. (emphasis added)

While section 302D-28(a), HRS, states what non-facility per pupil funding is to include, section 302D-28(b), HRS, excludes fringe benefit costs from being charged or deducted from

charter school per pupil allocations and places the costs within the Department of Budget and Finance's budget. Even though the law seems to clearly exclude these costs from per pupil funding calculations, the measure still seems to require that these costs be studied. Further, section 2(a)(2) requires that the study include a description of "all general fund cost categories **not considered in the determination of per pupil funding for public charter schools.**" (emphasis added) Since this is *not* part of the per pupil funding determination, it is unclear why this element is included in the study. Moreover, since these costs are not considered under law to be part of the per pupil funding system, a study of these costs most likely fall outside the scope of the measure's title. Accordingly, we would ask that references to section 302D-28(b), HRS, and to general fund cost categories not considered in the determination of per pupil funding be deleted.

If, despite the foregoing, the Committee desires the Bureau to conduct the study, the Bureau believes that, to ensure an "apples to apples" comparison, the Department of Education and the State Public Charter School Commission should first be explicitly required to come to an agreement on the parameters of the per-pupil funding system cost categories to be reported on, what is to be included in these categories, the means of financing, and any other relevant fiscal information, prior to any data being submitted to the Bureau. This will allow the task of compiling, reviewing, and analyzing the submitted data to be completed in a more expeditious manner. Otherwise, the Bureau's study could be stalled due to waiting for the parties to agree on what information should be submitted.

The Bureau would also like to note that it lacks any specific expertise in how the budgets of the Department of Education and public charter schools operate. Due to this lack of expertise, the Bureau feels that it may have to contract the services of a person or entity with relevant budgetary knowledge and experience. If the Bureau is allowed to contract for services, an appropriation for this purpose would need to be added, since there are no funds included in the Bureau's base budget to contract for study services. In addition, to ensure the study can be completed in a timely manner and submitted prior to the 2019 Regular Session, we would request that the contract be made exempt from the Procurement Code (Chapter 103D, HRS).

In summary, if the Committee desires the Bureau to study this issue, to facilitate completion of the requested study in the timeframe provided and ensure an "apples to apples" comparison, the Bureau respectfully requests that the measure be amended to:

- (1) Specifically require that both the Department of Education and the Public Charter School Commission first agree on the financial information to be provided to the Bureau;
- (2) Exclude from the study any consideration of the fringe benefits costs as described under section 302D-28(b), HRS, and paragraph (a)(2) of section 2 of the bill;
- (3) Add an appropriation for an unspecified sum to allow the Bureau to contract for services to conduct the study; and

- (4) Exempt any contract executed for the study from the Procurement Code (Chapter 103D, HRS).

If the measure is amended to address the concerns noted above, the Bureau believes that the services requested under this measure are manageable and that the Bureau will be able to provide the services in the time allotted; provided that the Bureau's interim workload is not adversely impacted by too many other studies or additional responsibilities, such as conducting, writing, or finalizing other reports, drafting legislation, or both, for other state agencies, task forces, or working groups that may be requested or required under other legislative measures.

Thank you again for your consideration.



**HB336**  
**RELATING TO THE PER-PUPIL FUNDING SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS**  
House Committee on Education

February 8, 2017

2:00 PM

Room 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB336, which is in OHA's Administration Legislative Package. This measure requires the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) to conduct a two-year study to determine whether the per-pupil funding system for public charter schools ensures equal operational per student funding between Department of Education (DOE) schools and public charter schools, as required under statute. **This measure seeks to better ensure that public charter schools receive their fair share of state education funds, by providing the Legislature with critical information on whether per-pupil funding parity exists between public charter school students and DOE students, and is a necessary first step in determining whether additional funding should be provided to support public charter schools.**

Our public charter schools, including our Hawaiian culture-based and language immersion schools have demonstrated their potential to significantly advance the state's educational standards. This includes high rankings in a number of the latest Strive HI SY 2015-2016 performance measures, including in their students' American College Testing (ACT) scores, graduation rates, and college matriculation. However, long-standing concerns suggest that the realization of their full potential may be inhibited by funding inequities and challenges.

A study is also consistent with the recently approved State Board of Education (BOE) updated State Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020, which describes the "shared objectives for equity and excellence for every child across Hawai'i's nearly 300 public schools, including our public charter schools and Hawaiian language medium schools"; the Plan also recognizes the need to "maximize allocation of resources toward strategic uses to advance equity and excellence (e.g., through review of base funding in weighted student formula, charter schools' per-pupil funding.)" [Emphasis added.]

The OHA Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee will be discussing whether this measure should be amended to have the study also consider whether the current per-pupil methodology, a weighted student formula, or alternative methodology, is the most appropriate in achieving equity. If in the affirmative, a proposed HD1 draft will be presented to this Committee at its February 8 hearing for consideration. Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB336 to allow this measure to advance.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**Hālau Kū Māna**  
New Century Public Charter School

**HB 336**

**RELATING TO THE PER-PUPIL FUNDING SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS**

House Committee on Education

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

2:00PM, State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee

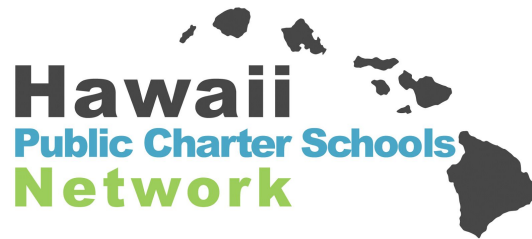
The passage of **HB 336** would require the legislative reference bureau to conduct a study on the per-pupil funding system, to determine whether the system fulfills its statutory purpose of equalizing operational funding among public schools. On behalf of Hālau Kū Māna Public Charter School (HKM), I submit this testimony in **strong support** of **HB 336**.

With the overcrowding of Hawaii's public schools, charter schools like HKM serve as a relief to schools and school districts by providing families and students with a high-quality, unique and innovative educational option. Since our school first opened in 2000, we have been able to ultimately prove this model of education with limited resources and sub-par funding from the State. It is timely that schools like ours are ready to build upon our successes and that the State is considering to study the equality of funding to our schools. We have long been successful with sub-par funding, imagine the greater successes that we will have when the funding system is par with that of a traditional public school.

I invite the committee and its legislative colleagues to visit Hālau Kū Māna to see how impactful our model of education is for our students, families, community and ultimately the State of Hawai'i.

Respectfully, I submit this testimony in **strong support** of **HB 336** and encourage the committee to do the same.

Mahalo,  
Brandon Keoni Bunag, Ed.D.  
Po'ō Kumu – Head of School/Principal



February 7, 2017

To: Hon. Roy Takumi, Chair  
Hon. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair  
Hon. Richard P. Creagan, Member  
Hon. Richard H.K. Onishi, Member  
Hon. Mark J. Hashem, Member  
Hon. Kaniela Ing, Member  
Hon. Justin H. Woodson, Member  
Hon. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto, Member  
Hon. Takashi Ohno, Member  
House Committee on Education

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

**Re: HB 336 - Relating to the per-pupil funding system for public charter schools  
Conference Room 309 – Hawaii State Capitol – Feb. 8, 2017, 2:00 P.M.**

On behalf of the Hawaii Public Charter School Network (HPCSN), we respectfully submit our support for [HB 336](#) (OHA Administrative & Legislative Package), relating to the per-pupil funding system for public charter schools. This bill requires the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a two-year study on the non-facility general fund per-pupil funding system for public charter schools, to determine whether the system fulfills its statutory purpose of equalizing operational funding among the State's public schools.

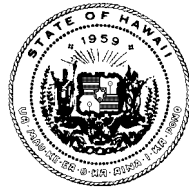
This intent for this bill is to inform that public charter schools receive an equitable share of public education funds within the state.

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 and respectfully urges your passage of this bill.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

DAVID GIBSON  
HO'OKAKO'O CORPORATION  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



SIONE THOMPSON  
CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ANNA WINSLOW  
PRINCIPAL

STATE OF HAWAII  
Kamaile Academy PCS  
85-180 Ala Akau Street  
Waianae, Hawaii 96792  
808-697-7110

February 4, 2017

To: Rep. Roy M, Takumi, Chair  
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair  
Committee on Education

From: Anna Winslow, Principal  
Kamaile Academy Public Conversion Charter School

Re: **HB 336 – Relating to Per Pupil Funding for Public Charter Schools**  
**Hawaii State Capitol, February 8, 2017, Room 309 2:00 p.m.**

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**On behalf of Kamaile Academy PCS, I am writing to support HB 336 – Relating to Per Pupil Funding for Public Charter Schools.**

Kamaile Academy Public Conversion Charter School is in strong support of **HB 336**, which will require the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on whether the public charter school per-pupil funding system actually provides equal operational funding to public charter schools.

Hawai'i's charter schools are intended to cut red tape, provide choices, and be innovative in education. Charter school laws have provided Hawaiian cultural and language education leaders the opportunity to design and operate schools more responsive and attuned to the needs of Hawaiian families. However, long-standing concerns suggest that the full potential of these schools may be inhibited by funding inequities and challenges.

A study will provide the Legislature with critical information on whether per-pupil funding parity exists. I urge the committee to **PASS** this bill.

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 5, 2017 10:22 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** Planetarystorm@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB336 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM

### HB336

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
elizabeth	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The should be EQUAL funding for every student in every public school whether charter or not! The financial burden chart schools bear for facilities alone greatly impacts funds allocation. Yet charter schools are doing the DOE a favor!! 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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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** Kilia Purdy-Avelino <kpurdyavelino@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 4, 2017 5:19 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** Please PASS HB336

I strongly SUPPORT HB336 which would require the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on whether the public charter school per-pupil funding system actually provides equal operational per-pupil funding to public charter schools.

Hawai'i's charter schools are intended to cut red tape, provide choices, and be innovative in education. Charter school laws have provided Hawaiian cultural and language education leaders the opportunity to design and operate schools more responsive and attuned to the needs of Hawaiian families. However, long-standing concerns suggest that the full potential of these schools may be inhibited by systemic funding inequities and challenges.

I also support this bill as I home school my children and am a volunteer coordinator for a family-based homeschool network called OLA ('Ohana Learning Alliance) Molokai. Though we get no state nor federal funding (actually, no funding), we are still able to offer quality education building off of students' strengths and interests. In fact, all educational services are volunteered or paid out of pocket. Yet, we are all tax payers, just as any family. We believe that all children, no matter what system of education they choose are entitled to fair and equal funding.

A study will provide the Legislature with critical information on whether per-pupil funding parity exists. I would encourage that the study also include home-schoolers. Mahalo nui loa for your consideration. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

na'u me ka ha'aha'a,  
Kilia Purdy-Avelino

Sent from my iPhone

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 4, 2017 10:55 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** shane.nelsen@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB336 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM\*

### **HB336**

Submitted on: 2/4/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shane Nelsen	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** Mehana <mehana@hawaii.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2017 11:41 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** Please PASS HB336

I strongly SUPPORT HB336 which would require the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on whether the public charter school per-pupil funding system actually provides equal operational per-pupil funding to public charter schools.

Hawai'i's charter schools are intended to cut red tape, provide choices, and be innovative in education. Charter school laws have provided Hawaiian cultural and language education leaders the opportunity to design and operate schools more responsive and attuned to the needs of Hawaiian families. However, long-standing concerns suggest that the full potential of these schools may be inhibited by systemic funding inequities and challenges.

A study will provide the Legislature with critical information on whether per-pupil funding parity exists. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** launahele <launahele@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2017 10:46 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** Please PASS HB336

I strongly SUPPORT HB336 which would require the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on whether the public charter school per-pupil funding system actually provides equal operational per-pupil funding to public charter schools.

Hawai'i's charter schools are intended to cut red tape, provide choices, and be innovative in education. Charter school laws have provided Hawaiian cultural and language education leaders the opportunity to design and operate schools more responsive and attuned to the needs of Hawaiian families. However, long-standing concerns suggest that the full potential of these schools may be inhibited by systemic funding inequities and challenges.

A study will provide the Legislature with critical information on whether per-pupil funding parity exists. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Benton Pang  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
808-349-3636

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** Lorna Cummings Poe <1bagpoe@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2017 5:05 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** Please PASS HB336

My name is Lorna Cummings Poe. I strongly SUPPORT HB336 which would require the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on whether the public charter school per-pupil funding system actually provides equal operational per-pupil funding to public charter schools.

Hawai'i's charter schools are intended to cut red tape, provide choices, and be innovative in education. Charter school laws have provided Hawaiian cultural and language education leaders the opportunity to design and operate schools more responsive and attuned to the needs of Hawaiian families. However, long-standing concerns suggest that the full potential of these schools may be inhibited by systemic funding inequities and challenges.

A study will provide the Legislature with critical information on whether per-pupil funding parity exists. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mahalo a nui loa

Lorna Cummings Poe

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2017 7:35 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** kamakane73@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB336 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM\*

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

### **HB336**

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kama Hopkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 3:52 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB336 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM\*

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

### **HB336**

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** Kendra Singletary <ksingletary@kamaile.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 8:34 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** Please PASS HB336

I strongly SUPPORT HB336 which would require the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on whether the public charter school per-pupil funding system actually provides equal operational per-pupil funding to public charter schools.

Hawai'i's charter schools are intended to cut red tape, provide choices, and be innovative in education. Charter school laws have provided Hawaiian cultural and language education leaders the opportunity to design and operate schools more responsive and attuned to the needs of Hawaiian families. However, long-standing concerns suggest that the full potential of these schools may be inhibited by systemic funding inequities and challenges.

A study will provide the Legislature with critical information on whether per-pupil funding parity exists. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Teresa H. Makuakane-Drechsel, Ed.D  
2230 Kapahu Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

February 6, 2017

Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Committee on Education

Aloha Chairman Takumi,

I am writing this letter to **SUPPORT HB336**. This bill would require the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on the non-facility general fund per-pupil system for public charter schools, to determine whether the system fulfills its statutory purpose of equalizing operational funding among the State's public schools.

Hawai'i's charter schools were established to provide educational choice for families and learners and to be innovative in education. Charter school laws have provided Hawaiian cultural and language education leaders the opportunity to design and operate schools that are more responsive and attuned to the needs of Hawaiian families and communities. However, over the last 15 years the full potential of charter school students have been inhibited by funding inequities.

A study will provide the Legislature with critical information on whether per-pupil funding parity exists. I urge the committee to **PASS** this bill.

Mahalo a nui loa,  
Dr. Teresa H. Makuakane-Drechsel  
teresa96813@gmail.com

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 7:50 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** crystalkpaul@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB336 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM\*

### HB336

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Crystal Kia Paul	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 3:46 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** bnakihei@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB336 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM\*

### HB336

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brent Keliokamalu Nakihei	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 2:34 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** ikaauwai@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB336 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM\*

### HB336

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isaiah	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 2:23 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** burgharc@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB336 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM

### HB336

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I believe that the schools should be supported equally. One of the reasons we have these charters is because the DOE has not adequately met the requirements and needs of ALL children. The DOE currently does not provide proper instruction in Hawaiian, though it is the law that both English and Hawaiian are languages of the State. In the quest for the \$\$ from the Feds. the DOE has become test crazy and the basic needs of learning are being met in the charters. Either fund them or demand that the DOE provide the curriculum and services they do not.

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** Nicole Suzuki <nsuzuki@kamaile.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 12:06 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** Please PASS HB336

Aloha,

I strongly SUPPORT HB336 which would require the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on whether the public charter school per-pupil funding system actually provides equal operational per-pupil funding to public charter schools.

I have taught at Kamaile Academy Public Charter School for 7 years now, and have been a part of the continual growth and improvement here at the school. Our grades k-6 are the district elementary, and our secondary program provides families on the Waianae coast another option for public school. We have been recognized as Most-Improved Charter School in 2014, have worked hard to achieve ever increasing scores on state testing and other measures of proficiency in reading and math, have graduated students who have gone on to receive full scholarships of approximately \$250,000 to prestigious universities, earned WASC accreditation for 6 years (the maximum granted), and continue to provide teachers with professional development that supports our school's mission and continuous improvement plan.

While we have achieved these feats without equal per-pupil funding, we constantly have to problem-solve budgets and seek funding elsewhere. If our per-pupil funding were equal to that of our neighboring public schools, we'd be able to invest the effort we currently use to find funding into more direct student focused efforts to further increase student outcomes.

Hawai'i's charter schools are intended to cut red tape, provide choices, and be innovative in education. Charter school laws have provided Hawaiian cultural and language education leaders the opportunity to design and operate schools more responsive and attuned to the needs of Hawaiian families. However, long-standing concerns suggest that the full potential of these schools may be inhibited by systemic funding inequities and challenges.

A study will provide the Legislature with critical information on whether per-pupil funding parity exists. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mahalo,

Nicole Suzuki



## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 1:52 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** jenkeala@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB336 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM

### HB336

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Barra	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this measure! As a parent of 2 charter school students, I know the facility challenges charter schools face. This study will help expose the funding disparities charter schools face! Thank you!

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 12:27 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** dkapua@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB336 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM

### HB336

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Education Chair Takumi and committee members, I stand in FULL SUPPORT of HB 336 RELATING TO THE PER-PUPIL FUNDING SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS. Requires the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on the non-facility general fund per-pupil funding system for public charter schools, to determine whether the system fulfills its statutory purpose of equalizing operational funding among the State's public schools. It seems that while the Legislature allowed for Public Charter Schools in Hawaii, it failed to consider all the inherent and unknown expenses for the schools to thrive and succeed. PCS existence was one thing, but the Legislature subsequently imposed additional restrictions, limitations and conditions while withholding basic resources afforded to standard public schools. Every parent should be afforded the opportunity to choose the best public educational setting (DOE, PCS, Alternative schools) that will fulfill their child's holistic educational needs; with its respective, fair and equitable, funding. We're only asking for justice, since we no longer believe that the DOE provides what our children need. For many years, PCS supporters, PCS employees (admin, faculty & staff), parents and students have presented themselves and/or their testimony requesting "parity" in student funding to the Legislature. The disparity is certainly apparent; hopefully, this Study (and it's Report) will provide all the intricate information that the PCS community have been asking for. Mahalo nui loa for allowing my manao to be considered. Please PASS HB 336 out of your committee. Me ke aloha, Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai, Proud Halau Ku Mana makua and PCS Supporter Concerned Waianae community member p.s. Yes, my children catch the City Bus from Waianae to Makiki. Their school day is easily 12 hours plus. But for us, it's well worth it!

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