

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

FOR: HB 533 HD1 Relating to Charter Schools
DATE: Friday, March 17, 2017
TIME: 2:55 PM
COMMITTEE: Senate Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 229
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

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

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of HB533 HD1**, which seeks to provide facilities funding for charter schools.

Facilities costs for charter schools is one of the greatest unaddressed challenges for Hawaii’s chartering system. Facilities funding has been a long-standing issue for charter schools. During school year 2015-2016, charter schools collectively spent over \$5.3 million on rent for school facilities. Public charter schools that lack adequate building facilities are sometimes forced to hold classes outdoors, under a tarp or in a temporary structure. Charter schools facilities funding would significantly benefit charter schools to acquire, repair, maintain and rent school facilities.

The Charter Schools Facilities Funding Working Group established pursuant to Haw. Rev. stat. (“HRS”) §302D-29.5 has met twice, and will meet again next month. It is tasked with providing a framework to assist with the allocation of funding to support charter school facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



HB533 HD1
RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS
Senate Committee on Education

March 17, 2017

2:55 PM

Room 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **SUPPORTS** HB533 HD1, which would provide funding to the State Public Charter School Commission for charter schools' facilities projects and rent costs. **This measure would alleviate the unique financial burdens borne by start-up public charter schools in meeting their basic facilities needs.**

Addressing public charter schools' facilities needs has been a critical and longstanding issue in the charter school community. Currently, start-up charter schools must pay for their substantial facilities costs using their already-stretched operational funds. This is a cost that is not borne by conversion charter schools, or schools under the Hawai'i Department of Education.

Significantly, the State Board of Education (BOE) has recognized the importance of our public charter schools, as an integral component of our public education strategy. On December 6, 2016, the BOE approved an updated State Education Strategic Plan for 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 includes the objective that "Hawai'i public schools will foster innovation and the expansion of existing public school 'Bright Spots,' which includes learning from charter schools that were established as innovation labs" (emphasis added).

Hawai'i's public charter schools are indeed deserving of equity, and have already demonstrated their potential for innovation and excellence notwithstanding their unique financial challenges. Most recently, public charter schools have achieved high rankings in the latest Strive HI SY 2015-2016 performance scores, with certain public charter schools even dominating in certain indicators; lessons learned in such high-performing charter schools can benefit students and schools throughout our public education system. **To fully realize the potential for innovation in charter schools that may in turn foster greater student success in our public school system as a whole, it is critical that public charter schools receive adequate appropriations for facilities funding.** HB533 HD1 will help bring equity to charter schools and address the longstanding problem of financing charter schools' facilities.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB533 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
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Corey Rosenlee
President
Justin Hughey
Vice President
Amy Perruso
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

RE: HB 533, HD 1 - RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2017

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 533, HD 1**, relating to charter 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.

Facilities funding is a long-standing issue for charter schools. In Hawai'i, start-up charter schools have paid the costs of their facilities from operational funds. In 2013, however, lawmakers authorized the Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission to request facilities funding as part of its annual budget request. Later, in 2015, legislators called for a working group to establish a framework for providing facilities funding and support for public charter school facilities with adequate prioritization, oversight, and accountability.

Today, amounts received by charter schools fail to keep pace with the cost of providing and quality instruction and maintaining adequate facilities. Charter schools receive \$7,080 per-pupil, most of which is disbursed toward operational expenses, often leaving charters to rely on private donations to fund facilities and

rent. Charter schools' per-pupil operating funds cover items like salaries, collective bargaining costs, curricula, school supplies, equipment, and utilities, but do not encompass the facilities and maintenance costs that comprise approximately 10 percent of charter school budgets, according to the Hawai'i Public Charter Schools Network. Poorly funded charter schools are sometimes forced to hold classes in unstable temporary structures to the detriment of their students' learning and safety. Accordingly, we urge the committee to appropriate the full \$10,000,000 originally proposed in this measure to the Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission to allocate to charter schools for facilities projects and rent assistance based, in part, on need and financial performance.

To provide charter schools with the funds they need to succeed, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Education

Time: 2:55 p.m.

Date: March 17, 2017

Where: Conference Room 229

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk
Kamehameha Schools

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

RE: **HB 533, HD1, Relating to Charter Schools**

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Kidani, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Kahele, 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.

HB 533, HD1, relating to charter schools, would appropriate funds for charter school facilities. We are writing in **support** of this measure.

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. This bill is a good first step toward achieving necessary and sustainable funding for public charter schools.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership. **Please advance this measure.**

'A'oha hana nui ke alu 'ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.



1101 15th Street, NW
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March 17, 2017

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education
Hawaii State Legislature

Sent via email: EDUtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: Hearing on HB 533 HD1 - Relating Charter Schools - SUPPORT
Conference Room 229 – Hawaii State Capitol – March 17, 2017, 2:55 P.M.

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele and Hawaii Senate Education Committee Members:

I am writing today in support of House Bill 533 HD1. This important measure will provide much-needed facilities support to public charter school students in Hawaii.

One of the biggest challenges facing public charter schools in Hawaii, much like their counterparts in other states, is the fact that many charter school laws place the ultimate burden of obtaining and paying for facilities on charter schools themselves. As a result, charter school leaders struggle to find suitable and affordable facilities to house their growing numbers of students.

States play an important role in determining the options available to help fund charter school facilities. Increasingly, states are enacting and updating state policies to help offset the cost of leasing, purchasing, and maintaining charter school facilities. Current state policy options include

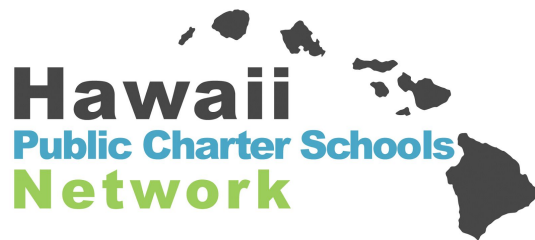
- Providing a per-pupil facilities allowance to charter schools,
- Creating a charter school facility grant program,
- Providing a charter school facility revolving loan program,
- Ensuring that charter schools have equal access to all of the existing state facilities programs for district-run public schools in a state, and
- Providing charter schools with access to local property tax dollars generated for facilities.

As of this writing, 30 jurisdictions have authorized one or more of these options. If Hawaii enacts House Bill 533 HD1, it will join this growing list of states. More importantly, it will provide much needed relief to public charter schools, allowing them to focus more resources on teaching and learning.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me at todd@publiccharters.org. Thank you for your support of public charter school students.

Sincerely,

Todd Ziebarth
Senior Vice President, State Advocacy and Support
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools



March 16, 2017

To: Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair
Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Member
Honorable Will Espero, Member
Honorable Gil Riviere, Member
Senate Committee on Education

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

**Re: HB 533 HD1 - Relating Charter Schools - SUPPORT
Conference Room 229 – Hawaii State Capitol – March 17, 2017, 2:55 P.M.**

On behalf of the Hawaii Public Charter School Network (HPCSN) and its member schools, we respectfully testify in support of [HB 533](#) HD1.

Hawaii's public charter schools do not receive regular facilities funding in the state budget. This is a problem because a school's building costs must be squeezed out of a small funding pot -- \$7080/per pupil allocation (PPA) per year. (Cost for facilities and maintenance is roughly 9% of a school's budget, but this varies among start-up or conversion schools.) The same PPA must also stretch to pay for salaries, collective bargaining costs, curriculum, equipment and supplies, utility services and a mountain of other expenses required to run a school. We need to allocate facilities resources and funding for public charter schools and leverage federal investment in programs that support public school choice.

This week the Trump Administration unveiled a budget that expands funding by \$1.4 billion more to support school choice programs. Currently, the the federal charter school program is funded at \$333 million (see attachment). The federal investment in this area is expected to increase to \$1 billion over the next four years. Earlier this month, Kentucky became the 44th state to authorize a charter school law. Increasingly states are expanding investment in charter schools and jockeying for position to compete for increased funding in the public charter school sector, but only 16 states currently provide various form of facilities funding for charter schools and may be eligible to compete for federal state facilities incentive grants which provide matching funds for facilities funding distributed on a per pupil level. We need to catch up again.

The Need for Public Charter School Facilities Resources Persists

When charter schools were first authorized in 1999, legislators planned a system based on school/community-based management principles to support conversions of department schools into charter schools, which remained in the DOE school facility. Waialae and Lanikai

elementaries were the first conversion charters. Charter school law was amended overtime to recognize Native Hawaiian culture-based learning and ushered in a number of start up charter schools. In 2012, state law was overhauled to make way for model law recognizing the role of the state's charter school authorizer and setting governance and performance framework requirements for public charter schools.

There is steady growth for public charter schools in the state and across the nation, with nearly 11,000 students enrolled in Hawaii and 3 million students enrolled in the U.S. Twenty-eight of Hawaii's 34 public charter schools are not in DOE facilities. Three more charter schools starting up without any resources are preparing to open their doors to students in 2017. There are several charter school applications currently under review.

For years students have had to "make-do" by holding classes under tents, in open air settings exposed to elements like rain, mud and heat or in facilities that were not designed for learning. Some have had port-a-potties as toilets for years. Many schools and families fundraise to repair, replace and secure donated spaces to accommodate our student's needs.

While HPCSN supports the state's commitment to provide resources to conversion charter schools, the reality is the larger majority of charter schools do not get any facilities support from our state. This needs to change.

Time is Right for Facilities Funding to Leverage Federal Investments

Research shows a significant relationship between the condition of school facilities and student performance. Hawaii charter school facilities challenges have been documented in the [media recently](#) and recognition of facilities funding needs have been supported by the State Public Charter School Commission and the Board of Education.

The state legislature approved Act 234, Sessions Laws of Hawaii 2015, to address facilities needs. This year the Commission convened a facilities funding working group to advise on how funds for facilities may be distributed if general and bond funds are appropriated during the session.

Sixteen states and the District of Columbia are providing per pupil funding allowance to charter schools, according to the National Alliance of Public Charter Schools in 2016. A few states that have provided charter school facilities resources have leverage federal grant available to them. Hawaii should take note and leverage the 33 percent increase in resources available to charters schools under the Every Student Succeeds Act and the Trump Administration's commitment to increase funding for the federal charter school program.

Let's make progress on the promise of Act 234. Let's change this equation by adding facilities funding for charter schools in the next biennium budget and positioning the state to compete for increasing federal investments in public school choice programs.

HPCSN works to support public charter schools in Hawaii and to be a voice for children and families that seek choice in an independent public school setting. We appreciate your favorable consideration of this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 3:50 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM

HB533

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for EDU on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nancy Redfeather | Hawaii Island School Garden Network | Support | No |

Comments: The Kohala Center's Hawai'i Island School Garden Network has been working with all the Charter Schools on Hawai'i Island since 2008. From my observation it is critical that Charter Schools receive parity with public schools in all areas of funding. This Bill helps move the whole system towards a more even playing field for all our children, parents, teachers and administrators who daily work to make this form of education work for our Keiki.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 10:32 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: d_kuuipo@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM

HB533

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

Testimony for EDU on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Denise Kelekolio | Ka 'Umeke Ka'eo PCS | Support | No |

Comments: We will no longer have a facility to house our Hawaiian language immersion elementary classes come June 2017. The DOE school that we have been located at for 30 years, since before we became a charter, needs all the rooms we currently occupy on their campus. We are caught between a rock & a hard place. We are in dire need of financial assistance as we try to build our permanent campus while temporarily housing our displaced classes. I implore you all to support this bill & ensure that Hawaiian medium education in East Hawai'i gets the full backing of our legislators.

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46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Executive Director

**TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 533, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO
CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**Senate Committee on Education
Hon. Michelle Kidani, Chair
Hon. Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair**

**Friday, March 17, 2017, 2:55 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

Honorable Chair Kidani and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 350 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in strong support of House Bill 533, relating to charter schools.

Public charter schools serve as sources of scholastic innovation. While many charter schools operate in urban areas, others meet the academic needs of remote areas lacking comprehensive public school facilities and programming. Additionally, many charter schools provide immersive instruction in Native Hawaiian culture and language.

Yet, charter schools receive inadequate funding to support student learning. While traditional DOE schools receive \$14,434 per-pupil each year, charter schools receive \$7,080 per-pupil, out of which must be paid operational costs including curricula, salaries, and school supplies, leaving little for facilities, maintenance, and rent.. Although the Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission may request facilities funding as part of its annual budget request, amounts received in recent fiscal years have not satisfied the rising cost of providing and maintaining quality facilities. In turn, charter schools that lack adequate building space are forced to conduct class outdoors, on covered lanais, or in unsafe provisional structures.

To compensate for insufficient facilities funding, charter schools often seek revenue from nongovernmental, nonprofit, and corporate entities. While all charter schools in Hawai'i are required to operate as public schools, forcing charter schools to rely on nongovernmental funding sources increases private involvement in charter

school programming, which undermines public accountability of the state's charter school network. Furthermore, reliance on private funding by public charter schools could generate efforts to establish private charter schools and private charter school authorizers in Hawai'i, which would transfer control of public education to private entities and erode available resources for traditional public schools. To maintain the public status of charter schools, then, lawmakers should appropriate no less than \$10 million to HSPCSC to allocate based on need and financial performance.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance



March 15, 2017

To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Committee on Education

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **HB 533 HD 1– Relating to Charter Schools**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229, March 17, 2017, 2:55 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support HB 533 HD 1 – Relating to Charter Schools.

By providing an adequate amount of funding needed for charter schools, appropriate and safe facilities will be available for classroom and learning areas. Although previous statutes have authorized the ability for charter schools to receive funding specific to facility development and maintenance, budget appropriations have not kept pace with the needs.

For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that the committee pass this bill.

HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education. Last fall, HCAN convened input in person and online from more than 50 organizations and individuals that came forward to support or express interest for a number of issues affecting children and families in our state that resulted in the compilation of 2017 Hawai'i Children's Policy Agenda, which can be accessed at <http://www.hawaii-can.org/2017policyagenda>.

To: Sen. Michelle Kidani, Chair
Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Education

From: Laura Smith, President/CEO
Goodwill Hawaii

Date: March 15, 2017

Re: **Testimony in Support of HB533, HD1, Relating to Funds for Charter School Facilities**

Hearing:

Friday, March 17, 2017, 2:55pm

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB533, HD1, which would provide funding to the state public charter school commission for the acquisition, repair, maintenance, and rental of charter school facilities.

Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc. (Goodwill) is among the largest human service non-profit organizations in Hawaii. Our mission is to help people with employment barriers reach their full potential and attain self-sufficiency. Last year, Goodwill served over 11,000 people, placing almost 1,500 into jobs in our community. In 2016, the Hawaii Public Charter School Commission awarded the accreditation of Goodwill's Kapolei Charter School. The School will open in Fall of 2017 and will serve ninth through twelfth graders.

Public charter schools exist to innovate and initiate positive change in the educational system. In Hawaii, alternative educational choices are particularly needed for high-risk students, who experience significant obstacles that impede their academic success. Adequate facilities are critical to providing an academic environment in which youth can succeed. An insufficient school environment can affect students' ability to focus and retain knowledge while also limiting the opportunity for application of lessons learned. Research has demonstrated the following:

- ✓ Youth who attend school in buildings with good environmental conditions can earn test scores that are 5-17 percent higher than scores for students in substandard buildings.¹
- ✓ Schools with better building conditions have student suspension rates that are up to 14 percent lower.²
- ✓ A school's ability to ensure a high quality and quantity of light, and minimize noise pollution and thermal discomfort greatly affect students' achievement, health, and overall behavior.³

¹ Glen I. Earthman, School Facility Conditions and Student Academic Achievement (Los Angeles: UCLA Institute for Democracy, Education, and Access, 2002).

² Stephen Boese and John Shaw, New York State School Facilities and Student Health, Achievement, and Attendance: A Data Analysis Report (Albany, NY: Healthy Schools Network, Inc., 2005).

³ School Facilities and Student Achievement. Center for Innovative School Facilities.

Goodwill also understands that various social issues such as health disparities, crime, substance abuse, employment and poverty are all intricately linked to educational achievement.

Despite the extensive research proving the effects that school facilities have on student learning, and the impact that success in school has on one's future trajectory, charter schools in Hawaii still struggle to develop adequate resources to dedicate to high-quality facilities. The vast majority of Hawaii's charter schools are not located in DOE facilities; thus most of our charter schools do not receive any facilities support from our state. This leaves the burden on the schools to develop funding to support facility costs. This Bill would provide the Hawaii Public Charter School Commission with funding to allocate to charter schools for facilities projects and rent assistance. This support would alleviate the significant strain on charter school budgets that is needed for facility costs, and enable schools to focus their resources instead on other academic supports.

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March 17, 2017

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair; Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair; and Committee Members
Public Hearing, March 17, 2017 at 2:55 p.m., Conference Room 229

**TESTIMONY of WILLIAM F. ANONSEN
MANAGING PARTNER/PRINCIPAL of THE MARITIME GROUP, LLC
IN SUPPORT of H.B. 533 HD1**

My name is William Anonsen and I am the Managing Partner/Principal of THE MARITIME GROUP, LLC. We support HB 533 HD1 which would provide funding to State Public Charter Schools for school facilities.

We can be very proud of the continued successes the Hawaii's Public Charter School Network continues to make on several educational learning fronts, which has excelled in program development, excellence and student achievement, despite the lack of appropriate funding, facilities and sufficient sustainable resources.

I continue to be a strong advocate for the importance of education; it is the best investment we can make in our collective future. We have a fiduciary responsibility as a community to ensure that all students are well prepared for higher education and have the opportunity to pursue the career of their choice by ensuring mastery of the basic learning skills, knowledge, and tools needed to succeed in this ever evolving 21st century global economy.

HPCSN's unique educational model helps to improve academic performance, developing the "whole child," to best prepare themselves for life-time learning and a rewarding future. Through innovative, challenging classroom learning experiences and extended learning programs, I believe our charter schools instill an appreciation for education and high academic and personal standards, preparing students to become responsible contributors to their communities and world. These unique structured charter schools throughout Hawaii help to motivate students to achieve high academic standards, enjoy learning, and develop as ethical, literate, well-rounded and self-sufficient citizens who will contribute actively to their communities.

***Mahalo for the opportunity to comment in support of this measure,
one of the most important investments we can make in our collective future as a community.***

Sincerely,

William F. Anonsen

William F. Anonsen
Managing Partner/Principal

Maria Kottwitz
15-2774 Ahi St.
Pahoa HI, 96778
kottwitzhawaii@yahoo.com
(808) 965-6597

March 14, 2017

Testimony: In Support of H.B. NO.533:
RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS
FACILITY FUNDING

To Senator Michelle N Kidani, Chair and Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair,

I have been a Hawaii Academy of Arts and Science parent for six years. Two of my daughters have graduated and moved on to a college education from HAAS and two still presently attend. My children benefit from a richly dynamic education at HAAS. Over the years I seen the school struggle to stay financially afloat due to underfunding. Administration has to make challenging decisions pertaining to the academic needs vs. the health and safety. Health and safety take precedence leaving what is left to attend the academic needs. This leaves very little finances for any kind of academic growth. There has been times if the school was unsure if it could afford to keep its doors open. I give a tremendous amount of credit to the staff for their commit it to the students. Typical public schools have only a academic budget to consider and don't have to worry about facility costs. This is unfair and unequal. The Strive HI Strategic Plan 2017-2020 emphasises equity. The strategic plan says "Every student, school, and community is unique with its own strengths, aspirations, assets, and challenges, but the Strategic Plan describes shared objectives for equity and excellence for every child across Hawaii's nearly 300 public schools, including our public charter schools and Hawaiian language medium schools."

I urge you to support "HB533 and care for all of Hawaii's public school students equally. Thank you for your care and consideration.

Sincerely,
Maria Kottwitz

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 11:46 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: kluuwai2@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB533 on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM*

HB533

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for EDU on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kaulu Lu?uwai | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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John D. Wacker
HC 2 Box 6832
Kea'au, HI 96749

March 14, 2017

Testimony: In Support of H.B. NO. 533 HD1:
RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS
Charter Schools; Facility Funding (\$)

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I have the opportunity to provide my testimony in support of H.B. NO. 533 HD1. As a parent of a public charter school student, I have experienced the overwhelming benefits of a public charter school. It is the perfect environment and opportunity for our youth to grow and excel in their education! However, I have also experienced the negative effects of underfunding our public charter schools.

Our public charter schools compliment our state's educational system and live by the same rules and are measured by the same benchmarks as public schools. Yet, our public charter schools do not receive the facility funding necessary for growth, or even repair and maintenance, that they desperately need and deserve.

Funds for school facilities are a necessity, not a luxury. Our students need safe, clean, and maintained facilities on a daily basis. They should not be forced to set up temporary structures, clean areas subject to weather, or travel to other facilities prior to class. It takes unnecessary time away from their class periods that they should be learning. Also, the negative effect of high classroom temperatures is clear: students and teachers are unnecessarily fatigued which also takes away from students' learning potential. Finally, our students health and fitness must be given the highest priority. If they don't even have adequate facilities to run around and play, their health and fitness suffer, which will affect their studies and possibly their life.

Equally and possibly even more frustrating, is the fact that our administration, staff, teachers, students, and families are successful, but due to lack of funding, cannot grow and secure facilities needed to meet ever-changing educational needs. Our students'

potential is being severely limited. This “cost” is a burden that will be carried by our children throughout their lives. They have every right to be provided the environment that will help them develop the skills and knowledge needed to be successful in college, their careers, in their families, and in our community.

In summary, again, I am so excited to see the work being done to provide for facility funding for charter schools! These funds will work directly and immediately to address serious deficiencies and to support our children and our future.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

John D. “J.D.” Wacker
Parent of a Hawaii Public Charter School Student

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 11:29 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: kaulanad@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM

HB533

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for EDU on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kaulana Dameg | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: My child attends a charter school and I strongly support 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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 10:38 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: mahim002@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB533 on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM*

HB533

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

Testimony for EDU on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| mikihala mahi | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 10:19 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: kpsyota@me.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM

HB533

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

Testimony for EDU on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pohai Kyota | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: I support facilities funding for charter schools. I believe that all public schools, both charter and general education, should be given the same allocation of money, which includes facilities.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 9:21 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: rstewart99489@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB533 on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM*

HB533

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

Testimony for EDU on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Roxane Stewart | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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HB533, HD1

RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS

March 17, 2017, 2:55pm, State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Committee on Education

Re: STRONG SUPPORT for HB533, HD1, Relating to Charter Schools

Aloha e Ke Kenekoa , Luna Ho‘omalu Kōmike Ho‘ona‘auao O Ka ‘Aha Kenekoa a me nā Lālā Kōmike.

My name is Dr. Keiki Kawai‘ae‘a, Director of Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai‘i.

I strongly support HB533 HD1, which provides facilities funds for charter schools. This bill is directly related to the work of our College as we operate a laboratory school program that involves Hawaiian language medium/immersion charter schools on a number of islands.

We also serve all charter schools with Hawaiian language curriculum, reference material, and on-line support through our Hale Kuamo‘o Hawaiian language center.

The lack of the sort of facilities funding available to standard public schools has had a negative impact on the ability of charter schools to carry out their mission. HB533 HD1 will provide a means to address aspects of the facilities needs of charter schools. I strongly urge support for this bill.

Mahalo nui loa i ka ho‘olohe ‘ana mai i ko‘u mana‘o kāko‘o no kēia pila.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 11:05 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: nakoolaniw@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB533 on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM*

HB533

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

Testimony for EDU on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nāko'olani Warrington | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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EDU Testimony

From: John Fitzpatrick <fitzformai@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 10:40 AM
To: EDU Testimony; Kaniela Ing; Chang, Christopher; John Colson; EDNtestimony; Rep. Justin Woodson; Rep. Sharon Har; Rep. Angus McKelvey
Subject: Strongly Support HB 533: Facility Funding For Charter Schools

Aloha Kakou,

My name is John Fitzpatrick and I am a Chemistry teacher and Athletic Director at Kihei Charter School. I am writing in strong support of facilities funding for public charter schools and an increase in funding for public schools in general.

Please Pass HB 533 out of committee tomorrow.

Facilities funding would allow us to invest in our new school that is scheduled to be finished in less than two years. Three years ahead of the Kihei High School (DOE School) that has funding appropriated for it. We would be able to pay off the rural development loan we have received; build and supply chemistry, biology, computer, and oceanography labs as well as build athletic facilities.

I currently teach chemistry at KCS and I have to bring in my own supplies, buy my own scales, and lab equipment because funding is so tight. We even end up buying our own expos markers and tape because we don't have the funding for these items.

Next year I will be volunteering as the Athletic Director, a position normally fully paid for in the DOE system but because charter school funding falls far behind the traditional DOE high school we don't have the appropriate funds to operate. We struggle to find money to pay our coaches who empower our students to do well in athletics and in the classroom. Many of our students use their favorite sports as incentive to keep their grades up.

I am not sure why our student population is treated as less of a citizen because our students and parents decide that a small and rigorous school setting is best for them. The sad part is that both the DOE and Charter Schools are not adequately funded. When it costs Seabury, Maui Prep, Iolani, and Punahou nearly \$20,000 to provide a top notch education; why do we give public DOE schools between \$7,800-\$12,000 and Charter Schools \$6,800 per student?

Public school education is funded at a poverty level. HB 533 is a movement in the right direction.

Please pass HB 533 and support our students and teachers.

I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you pass this bill tomorrow.

Mahalo,
Fitz

John Fitzpatrick
Fitz For Maui
email: fitzformai@gmail.com

phone: 808-268-1073
P.O. Box 532481
Kihei, Hi 96753



EDU Testimony

From: Kim Manuel <wjhcrtowxzlkta@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 1:49 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: EDU Comm.Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: manuel@whea.net <Kim Manuel>

Message:

EDU Committee Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 -

charter schools facilities funding

Senate Committee on Education - March 17, 2017

Conference Room 229 at 2:55 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Kidani and Vice Chair Kahele,

Mahalo for hearing HB 533 HD1, a bill to provide facilities resources for Hawaii's public charter schools.

All students deserve to learn in a quality setting. For too long too many of Hawaii's public charter schools have not had facilities resources. Our students have had to "make-do" by holding classes under tents, in open air settings exposed to elements like rain, mud and heat. Some have had port-a-potties as toilets for years. Many schools and families fundraise to repair, replace and secure donated spaces to accommodate our student's needs.

Twenty-eight of Hawaii's 34 public charter schools are not in DOE facilities. Three more charter schools starting up without any resources are preparing to open their doors to students in 2017.

While we support the state's commitment to provide resources to conversion (former DOE) charter schools, we are testifying because the larger majority of charter schools do not get any facilities support from our state. This is a problem because a school's building costs must be squeezed out of a small

funding pot -- \$7089/per pupil allocation (PPA) per year. Cost for facilities and maintenance is roughly 9% of a school's budget, but this varies among start-up or conversion schools. The same PPA must also stretch to pay for salaries, collective bargaining costs, curriculum, equipment and supplies, utility services and a mountain of other expenses required to run a school.

The lack of facilities support has consistently short-changed public charter school students and has been a problem for too long. It's time to change this equation by adding facilities funding for charter schools in the state's budget this year.

Every child is deserving of safe public school facilities including those who chose an education in public charter schools. Mahalo for your support of HB533 HD1.

Kim Manuel

EDU Testimony

From: Kelly Osorio <jkwaipa@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 2:55 PM
To: EDU Testimony; WAM Testimony
Subject: HB533 HD1

Aloha kākou,

I am in strong support of HB533 HD1. Please support our keiki!

EDU Testimony

From: Brian Mann <joiwepdemkosklo@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:31 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Support Early Learning Programs & Invest in Keiki

From: mann.bt@gmail.com <Brian Mann>

Message:

Time to step up!

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaialii Kahele, Vice Chair

Committee on Education

I'm writing in support of HB 937 HD1

There are numerous, high quality programs across our state that provide culturally-relevant, multi-generational, parenting skills and child development programs for low-income, at-risk families. Currently there is not an avenue for these programs to be supported by the state, which dramatically limits the number of families they can serve.

By providing the Executive Office on Early Learning funding and the opportunity to establish contracts with outside vendors for programs, new partnerships and opportunities will be available for our community.

Mahalo,

Brian Mann

CFO

Honolulu

Hawaii

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 8:41 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: ze.sawyer@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM

HB533

Submitted on: 3/16/2017

Testimony for EDU on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Zenaida Sawyer | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: I am a grandparent and a stakeholder at Ka 'Umeke Ka'eo Public Charter School. I am in strong support of this bill as our growing school is in need of funding for new facilities.

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EDU Testimony

From: Ciccarelli, Katherine <kciccarelli@kiheicharter.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 7:56 PM
To: EDU Testimony; Kaniela Ing; Chang, Christopher; EDNtestimony; Rep. Justin Woodson; Rep. Sharon Har; Rep. Angus McKelvey
Subject: Testimony for HB 533

Aloha,

My name is Katherine Ciccarelli and I am a 2nd and 3rd grade teacher at Kihei Charter School. I am writing in strong support of facilities funding for public charter schools. Our school has a focus on STEM education, project based learning, and 21st century skills. However, sometimes putting these goals into action can be very difficult with the state of facilities for our school.

Please Pass HB 533 out of committee tomorrow.

I currently teach at St. Theresa's Church where we rent 4 classrooms for the elementary students. My classroom is very small for the amount of students enrolled in it. We do not have any sort of carpet space for the students and must move all of the tables and chairs every time we want to sit as a group for reading a story, project sharing, etc. We also do not have any closet space so I am not able to keep much in the classroom and since others besides our school use the room, we are hesitant to leave much out. Recently we were asked not to continue to recycling program that the students started because the church did not want the recycling bins outside by the lunch area since it is used for other purposes. We are making the experience for our students the best we can, but with more funding for a better facility, we could do more for our students. Other teachers at the elementary school have certain days where they must stay off campus because we do not have enough classrooms for all grades to be on campus at the same time. While we love to take advantage of all that is around Hawaii, it would benefit the students if we could do that as part of our project based curriculum where it fits well instead of when we have to because of space issues.

Our school is very committed to student learning and should be given the same funding for facilities as other public schools. We have a lot of passionate educators, but are hindered by the facilities in our instruction.

Please pass HB 533 and support our students and teachers.

Mahalo,
Katherine Ciccarelli

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 7:04 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: limanaipo@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM

HB533

Submitted on: 3/16/2017

Testimony for EDU on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lima Naipo | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: I am a parent and a stakeholder at Ka 'Umeke Ka'eo Public Charter School. We are in strong support of this bill as our growing school is in need of funding for new facilities.

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EDU Testimony

From: Steve Davidson <fkcbufmbvhticzi@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 6:42 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: EDU Comm.Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: steved140.6@gmail.com <Steve Davidson>

Message:

I am the Vice Chair of Kamalani Academy, a new charter school opening for the 2017-2018 academic year. From our experience in establishing Kamalani, I can tell you that the greatest challenge in opening a charter school in Hawaii is acquiring a quality location. Our charter school students should be able to learn in a setting at least as good as is provided to students in traditional DOE schools. They should not have to learn in a church basement or a storefront because that is all that the Governing Board can eke out of the \$7,090 per pupil allocation. In the case of Kamalani, we were fortunate to find a former Catholic school which has been unused for 12 years. It is costing us around \$2.5 million to remove hazardous materials, subdivide classrooms, bring everything up to code, and paint the building. We have had to cut such planned amenities as a playground, covered lunch area, and landscaping in order to stay within our budget. We are seeking grants and donations to allow us to add these items back in. The cost of these renovations, when added to the lease cost of the site, have us paying around 16% of our anticipated revenues for our facility. That is money that we do not have available for hiring teachers, buying technology, and enhancing the education of our students. I am writing to ask that our legislature enact HB533 HD1 to provide facilities funding, not for our schools, but for our keiki. Mahalo

EDU Committee Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 -

charter schools facilities funding

Senate Committee on Education - March 17, 2017

Conference Room 229 at 2:55 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Kidani and Vice Chair Kahele,

Mahalo for hearing HB 533 HD1, a bill to provide facilities resources for Hawaii's public charter schools.

All students deserve to learn in a quality setting. For too long too many of Hawaii's public charter schools have not had facilities resources. Our

students have had to "make-do" by holding classes under tents, in open air settings exposed to elements like rain, mud and heat. Some have had port-a-potties as toilets for years. Many schools and families fundraise to repair, replace and secure donated spaces to accommodate our student's needs.

Twenty-eight of Hawaii's 34 public charter schools are not in DOE facilities. Three more charter schools starting up without any resources are preparing to open their doors to students in 2017.

While we support the state's commitment to provide resources to conversion (former DOE) charter schools, we are testifying because the larger majority of charter schools do not get any facilities support from our state. This is a problem because a school's building costs must be squeezed out of a small funding pot -- \$7089/per pupil allocation (PPA) per year. Cost for facilities and maintenance is roughly 9% of a school's budget, but this varies among start-up or conversion schools. The same PPA must also stretch to pay for salaries, collective bargaining costs, curriculum, equipment and supplies, utility services and a mountain of other expenses required to run a school.

The lack of facilities support has consistently short-changed public charter school students and has been a problem for too long. It's time to change this equation by adding facilities funding for charter schools in the state's budget this year.

Every child is deserving of safe public school facilities including those who chose an education in public charter schools. Mahalo for your support of HB533 HD1.

Steve Davidson