

**Written Comments**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 03/22/2017  
**Time:** 03:00 PM  
**Location:** 309  
**Committee:** House Education  
House Higher Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Resolution:** HCR 081 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE TO STUDY THE PER-PUPIL FUNDING SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE SYSTEM ENSURES EQUITABLE FUNDING AMONG ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND WHETHER AN ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM MAY ACHIEVE GREATER FUNDING PARITY AND FINANCIAL AND LONG-TERM OPERATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS.

**Purpose of Resolution:**

**Department's Position:**

The Department appreciates the scope and complexity of the question this resolution asks the Department of Budget and Finance to answer, and offers a comment.

Page 4 line 38 of the resolution requests the Department of Education and State Public Charter School Commission to provide data to the Department of Budget and Finance by June 30, 2017.

This is a short turn-around time given that:

1. the cost categories and type of expenditures in those categories to be used to determine the per-pupil funding amount are not clearly defined by the resolution;
2. the data and format to be provided would need to be agreed upon by the Department of Education and State Public Charter School Commission; and
3. any other relevant fiscal information to provide would also need to be agreed upon.

In light of the date the requested report is due to the Legislature is 20 days prior to the 2019 Session, which would be December 28, 2018, allowing additional time for the two parties to agree upon and compile the data may be warranted.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this resolution.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



WESLEY K. MACHIDA  
DIRECTOR

LAUREL A. JOHNSTON  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY WESLEY K. MACHIDA  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
ON  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 81

**March 22, 2017**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**Room 309**

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE TO STUDY THE PER-PUPIL FUNDING SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE SYSTEM ENSURES EQUITABLE FUNDING AMONG ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND WHETHER AN ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM MAY ACHIEVE GREATER FUNDING PARITY AND FINANCIAL AND LONG-TERM OPERATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

House Concurrent Resolution No. 81 requests that the Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) to conduct a study on: 1) the non-facility general fund per-pupil funding system for public charter schools to determine whether the present system ensures equitable funding among all public schools; and 2) whether the weighted student formula adopted by the Board of Education pursuant to Section 302A-1303.6, HRS, or other alternative weighted student formula funding methodology, may achieve greater funding parity and lead to financial and long-term operational sustainability.

B&F has concerns about the resolution and offers the following comments. Currently, B&F prepares the per-pupil calculation based upon Chapter 302D-28, HRS, and respective provisions within the Budget Acts and transfers general funds accordingly. The determination of funding parity for all public school students, Department of Education and charter schools should involve more than just the

calculation of a per-pupil funding amount. The factors that would form the basis for a new or revised calculation should involve broader policy discussions among the stakeholders, including the Legislature.

In addition, policy discussions may need to involve facility funding for charter schools, the process to allocate equitable funding within charter schools, and other related discussions. In the past, working groups/committees have been established to examine similar issues related to funding parity for charter school operations and facilities. However, due to the complexity of the issues, a consensus resolution has yet to be determined, although the current funding formula provides a form of parity for operating funds.

Based on past experience, such complexities may make meeting the timeframes set by the resolution extremely difficult. Additionally, given limited staffing resources, it is unknown whether we can complete such a comprehensive study and report with practical and defensible recommendations.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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:** HCR 81 Requesting the Department of Budget and Finance to study the per-pupil funding system for public charter schools to determine whether the system ensures equitable funding among all public schools and whether an alternative system may achieve greater funding parity and financial and long-term operational sustainability for public charter schools.

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 22, 2017

**TIME:** 3:00 P.M.

**COMMITTEE(S):** House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Higher Education

**ROOM:** Conference Room 309

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

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**Testimony in support of intent of HCR 81**

Chairs Woodson and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Har and Hashem, and members of the Committees:

The State Public Charter School Commission supports the intent of HCR81 as it 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 the study is to have a thorough and impartial examination of the per-pupil funding system to determine whether the system ensures equitable funding among all public schools. The Commission intends to fully assist in providing information necessary to complete the study.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



## HCR81

# REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE TO STUDY THE PER-PUPIL FUNDING SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE SYSTEM ENSURES EQUITABLE FUNDING AMONG ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND WHETHER AN ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM MAY ACHIEVE GREATER FUNDING PARITY AND FINANCIAL AND LONG-TERM OPERATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

House Committee on Education

March 22, 2017

3:00 PM

Room 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HCR81, which is in OHA's current Legislative Package. This resolution requests the Department of Budget and Finance to conduct a two-year study to determine whether the non-facility general fund per-pupil funding system ensures equitable funding for public charter schools, and to consider whether alternative statutory funding options may achieve greater funding parity for public charter schools and lead to their long-term operational sustainability. **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 funding parity exists between public charter school students and Department of Education (DOE) students, and/or whether charter schools should exercise their statutory option to receive funding through an alternative method.**

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 public charter schools' full potential may be inhibited by funding inequities and challenges.

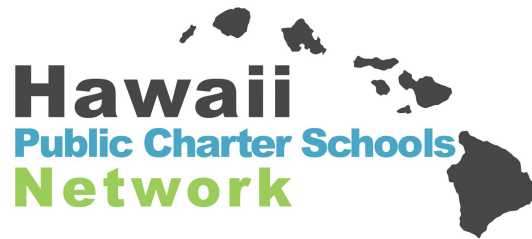
As this measure points out, the State Public Charter School Commission (Charter School Commission) has warned in its annual reports that financial data from public charter schools reveal both short-term financial strain as well as long-term operational sustainability challenges. Further, questions have been raised about whether the current per-pupil funding system provides equitable funding for public charter schools as compared to DOE schools. Charter schools do have statutory options to receive funding through the weighted student formula adopted by the Board of Education for DOE schools, or through an alternative weighted student formula as proposed to the Board of Education through their authorizer, in lieu of the current per-pupil funding system. However, these

options are available only if approved by more than a two-thirds vote of charter school governing boards; inadequate information currently exists for these boards to weigh the costs and benefits of exercising either option. The study requested in this resolution will provide the Legislature, Board of Education, Charter School Commission and public charter schools with critical information on the adequacy of the current charter school per-pupil funding system, and whether the statutory options for weighted student formula funding may result in more equitable outcomes.

OHA notes that a study on public charter school funding is consistent with the recently approved State Board of Education (BOE) updated State Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020 (Plan), 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.]

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HCR81.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



March 22, 2017

To: Hon. Justin Woodson, 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: HCR 81 - Requesting the Department of Budget & Finance to Study the Per Pupil Funding System for Public Charter Schools to Determine Whether the System Ensures Equitable Funding Among All Public Schools and Whether an Alternative System May Achieve Greater Funding Parity and Financial and Long-Term Operational Sustainability for Public Charter Schools**  
**Conference Room 309 – Hawai'i State Capitol – March 22, 2017, 3:00 P.M**

On behalf of the Hawai'i Public Charter School Network (HPCSN), we respectfully submit our strong support for HCR 81, requesting the Department of Budget & Finance to study to the per-pupil funding system for public charter schools.

This concurrent resolution is a request for the Department of Budget and Finance to conduct a study on: (1) whether the non-facility general fund per-pupil funding system for public charter schools ensures equitable funding, and (2) whether alternative statutory funding options available to charter schools may achieve greater funding parity and lead to their financial and long-term operational sustainability.

For the current school year, public charter schools will receive roughly \$7,080 per pupil. This funding level has not been restored to the pre-recession level (approximately \$8,000 per pupil) and has not kept up with rising school costs year over year. A public charter school's per pupil allocation covers teacher and staff salaries, curricula, school services, utilities, facilities and maintenance costs, which are particularly challenging for start up

charter schools, which are the majority of Hawaii's charter schools.

Hawai'i's public charter schools are intended to lessen bureaucracy, provide choices, and be innovative in education. State charter school laws have provided education leaders the opportunity to design and operate schools that are more responsive and attuned to the needs of their communities. Hawaiian cultural and language educators, which account for nearly half of the 34 existing public charter schools, are making great strides with providing education for Hawaiian families. Uneven resources to follow the child to their public school of choice and long-standing concerns suggest that the full potential of these schools may be inhibited by funding inequities and challenges.

HPCSN works to support Hawai'i'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 legislation.





## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Education

Time: 3:00 p.m.  
Date: March 22, 2017  
Where: Room 309

TESTIMONY  
By Ka'ano'i Walk  
Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Har and Members of the Committee

RE: HCR 81 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE TO STUDY THE PER-PUPIL FUNDING SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE SYSTEM ENSURES EQUITABLE FUNDING AMONG ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND WHETHER AN ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM MAY ACHIEVE GREATER FUNDING PARITY AND FINANCIAL AND LONG-TERM OPERATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS.

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Woodson, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Har, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka'ānana, 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.

We are writing to **HCR 81** requesting the Department of Budget and Finance to study the per-pupil funding system for public charter schools. This is to determine whether the system fulfills its statutory purpose of equalizing operational funding among the State's public schools. We are writing in **support** of this resolution.

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 resolution 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.

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

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 1:57 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** kaiulani@kalo.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR81 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM

### HCR81

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ka'iulani Pahi'o	Na Lei Na'auao Alliance	Support	No

Comments: Aloha mai, Thank you for SUPPORTING HCR81, which requests that the Department of Budget and Finance conduct a study on: (1) whether the non-facility general fund per-pupil funding system for PCS's ensures equitable funding, and (2) whether alternative statutory funding options available to PCS's may achieve greater funding parity and lead to their financial and long-term operational sustainability. Mahalo nui loa for your consideration!

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:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 10:11 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** rnamaka@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR81 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM

### HCR81

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

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

Comments: Aloha Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair; Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Education and Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair; Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Higher Education, My name is Nāmaka Rawlins. I strongly support HCR 81. The study on whether per-pupil funding system for public charter schools ensures equitable funding is also in line with the new federal education law, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The Annual State Report Card of the ESSA requires the per pupil expenditures of Federal, State and local funds be reported. Mahalo. Nāmaka Rawlins

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 10:56 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** nakoolaniw@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR81 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM

### HCR81

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nākoʻolani Warrington	Individual	Support	No

Comments: STRONG SUPPORT

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 12:48 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** wctanaka@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR81 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM\*

### HCR81

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wayne Tanaka	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 1:33 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** launahele@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR81 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM

### HCR81

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

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

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT HCR81 which would request the Department of Budget and Finance to conduct a study on: (1)whether the non-facility general fund per-pupil funding system for public charter schools ensures equitable funding, and (2)whether alternative statutory funding options available to charter schools may achieve greater funding parity and lead to their financial and long-term operational sustainability. 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 and others with critical information on whether per-pupil funding parity exists, and whether alternative statutory funding options available to charter schools may lead to greater long-term financial and operational stability. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 1:52 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** kaiulani@kalo.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR81 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM

### HCR81

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ka'iulani Pahi'o	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha mai, I strongly SUPPORT HCR81 which would request the Department of Budget and Finance to conduct a study on: (1) whether the non-facility general fund per-pupil funding system for PCS's ensures equitable funding, and (2) whether alternative statutory funding options available to PCS's may achieve greater funding parity and lead to their financial and long-term operational sustainability. Mahalo nui loa for your SUPPORT!

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 3:30 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** kaulanad@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR81 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM\*

### HCR81

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

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

#### Comments:

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 3:35 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR81 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM\*

### HCR81

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Oppose	No

#### Comments:

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:54 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** ronsan2224@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR81 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM

### HCR81

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald S. Fujiyoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HCR81. We need this study to show us what is the right thing to do.

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