

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 2508 HD1 Relating to Charter Schools
DATE: February 22, 2017
TIME: 12:30 P.M.
COMMITTEE: House Committee on Education
ROOM: Room 308
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 2508 HD1**, which would provide funding to charter schools for infrastructure costs, the rental or lease of charter school facilities, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure.

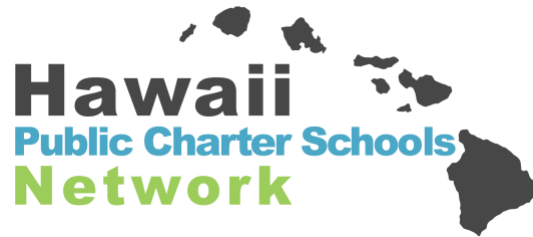
Facilities costs for charter schools is one of the greatest unaddressed challenges for Hawaii’s chartering system. Facilities funding has been and continues to be a long-standing issue for charter schools.

In school year 2016-2017, charter schools expended approximately \$10.4 million for rent/lease payments, repair and maintenance, and utilities payments. The Commission determined this figure based on information provided from the annual audits that all charter schools are required to complete, pursuant to Section 302D-32, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The needs of each individual charter school vary greatly as shown by a range of facility-related expenses, which start at about \$41,000 to a high of \$1.3 million. The reasons for this wide disparity can be attributed to the wide range of facilities that charter schools operate in, which include former Department of Education schools, unused state facilities, private buildings, and new campuses built from scratch.

Any support provided by this committee and the Legislature would go far in addressing the challenge that charter schools have faced in regards to facilities funding. The Commission is awaiting any recommendations pertaining to the criteria to determine the distribution of funds this measure would appropriate to public charter schools from the Charter School Facilities Working Group (“Working Group”). The Working Group recently completed its review and is drafting a final report.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



February 22, 2018

To: Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

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

Re: **HB 2508 HD1 – RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS – SUPPORT**
Conference Room 308 – Hawaii State Capitol – Feb. 22, 2018, 12:30 P.M.

On behalf of the Hawaii Public Charter School Network (HPCSN), I respectfully submit our testimony in strong support for HB 2508 HD1, Relating to Charter Schools. Passing this bill represents a significant step to provide funding equity for all Hawaii public school students.

Public charter schools are serving 11,160 students in Hawaii in 2018 and could serve more if access to public facilities and or public financing we made available. It's a fact that interest in charter schools has steadily grown since the state established its first charter school law in 1999. Within the last decade student enrollment in regular public and private schools respectively dropped 1.4 percent and 12 percent while attendance in public charter schools rose 77 percent. In SY2017-18, charters comprised six percent of the public school students in both in Hawaii and across the nation. It's not uncommon to see charters with waiting lists of students vying for a seat if school space was available.

Despite being public schools, most charter schools still do not have access to public facilities or the same financing tools to build facilities as regular public schools. Although there is exception to this for a few conversion charter schools that are former DOE schools with facilities maintenance and repair costs supported by the state, if any conversion school decides to expand or modernize their existing foot print, that new capital expenditure, equipment and future maintenance cost becomes a new financial obligation for which the school must secure its own funding. Both conversion and start up charters receive the same level of per pupil funding for their operations, but unlike regular public schools, there are no state facilities dollars for start-up charter schools nor are there funds for conversion charters wishing to grow. This is a problem because rent or financing facilities represent the biggest gap in funding equity for public charter school students.

The average facilities and infrastructure costs are 10 percent of a charter school's budget, which is largely based on a per pupil allocation of \$7383/student in SY17-18 that is intended for instructional needs. However, these costs can vary widely and sometimes are as high as 30 percent of the per pupil allocation. This means charter schools may lose anywhere from 10 to 30 percent of its per pupil instructional dollars. This also means that limited per pupil funds must stretch further to pay for salary increases and any bonuses required by state collective bargaining contracts, curriculum and programs, equipment and supplies, utilities, any school meal or transportation costs provided, and a mountain of other expenses required to run a school.

Research shows a significant relationship between the condition of school facilities and student performance. In Hawai'i there is a great variance in the condition of facilities from school to school. But some charter schools now are still lacking even the most basic needs like classrooms with walls, flooring, windows and doors; plumbed bathroom facilities; school kitchens and cafeterias; and other weather-proofed spaces we would typically see in a public school. HPCSN believes every student is deserving of safe and appropriate school facilities including those who chose to enroll in public charters.

The federal government has recognized this funding gap and has played a vital role in spurring new charter school growth and expansion by increasing the Charter School Program (CSP) and including charters in its infrastructure plans to bolster and incentivize funding so that charter schools can more easily and affordably acquire, improve and expand school space. This fiscal year, federal funding for the CSP is slated to grow from \$367 million to \$600 million.

HPCSN strongly supports this bill to appropriate funds for infrastructure costs, the rental or lease of charter school facilities and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure of charter schools because it can help raise the state's competitiveness to CSP grants for charter schools. We humbly urge your support for the passage of this bill.

HPCSN works to improve the operation and governance of public charter schools in Hawai'i and to be a voice for children and families that seek educational choices and quality in an independent public-school setting. Mahalo for your consideration.

February 22, 2018

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

From: Mandy Finlay, Director of Public Policy
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **HB 2508, HD1 – Relating to Charter Schools – SUPPORT**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308, February 22, 2018, 12:30 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support HB 2508, HD1 – Relating to Charter Schools.

Hawaii's charter schools remain underfunded. 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.



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

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

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

RE: HB 2508, HD 1 - RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS

THURSDAY, FEBRAURY 22, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports HB 2508, HD 1,** relating to charter schools.

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 \$7,323 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 approve additional state funds for the repair, maintenance, acquisition, and rental of charter school facilities. We also encourage your committee to consider ways of improving charter school facilities funding over the long-term, rather than through one-year legislative add-ons, to ensure that our state's charter school students have the opportunity to receive instruction in 21st Century facilities that prepare them for today's cutting-edge workplace.

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



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org
hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro
Executive Director

February 22, 2018

Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

HawaiiKidsCAN supports HB 2508 HD 1, which appropriates funds for infrastructure costs, the rental or lease of charter school facilities, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure of charter schools.

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawaii has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, has a transformational impact on our children and our state. HawaiiKidsCAN is a branch of 50CAN: The 50-State Campaign for Achievement Now.

HawaiiKidsCAN is supporting HB 2508 HD 1 because Hawaii charter schools are making a transformational difference for students, providing diverse learning opportunities across our state. Hawaii is fortunate that our public charter schools are true partners in the effort to ensure every child has the opportunity to access the learning environment that works best for them. Our local public charter schools provide many different models for learning, including: project-based learning, arts integration, Hawaiian culture, Hawaiian language immersion, voyaging, a focus on sustainability and the environment, and blended in-person and online learning, to name just a few.

Unfortunately, many of these public schools are on unequal footing when it comes to basic facilities support, making it much more difficult for educators to focus on providing the best possible education for students. Even successful school leaders have described facilities costs as “crippling,” and many schools have reported spending significant portions of their budget on facilities - funds that could be going directly to enhancing student learning. While traditional Department of Education public schools receive more than \$12,500 per student and do not have to pay for facilities or utilities, charter schools get by with just over \$7,000 per pupil while paying for facilities, utilities and repairs in one of the most expensive real estate markets in the nation.

We all want to see kids in our public schools succeed, so we should ensure that all of these schools are equipped with the fundamental resources they need to provide an excellent education.



Mahalo,

David Miyashiro
Founding Executive Director
HawaiiKidsCAN



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

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 2508, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS

**House Committee on Finance
Hon. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Hon. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair**

**Thursday, February 22, 2018, 12:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

Honorable Chair Luke and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 400 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of House Bill 2508, HD 1, 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 \$12,855 per-pupil each year, charter schools receive \$7,323 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 additional public funds to allocated by the HSPCSC based on need and financial performance.

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

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance

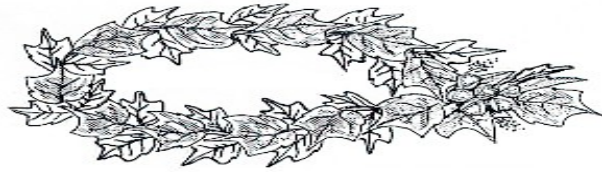
HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 12:26:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:



'O'ohie pau ka 'ike i ka hualau hio'okali

Connections Public Charter School

A Community, Business & Education Learning 'Ohana

Testimony in Support of HB 2508

John Thatcher, Principal, Connections PCS

Chairperson Luke, Vice-Chairperson Cullen and members of the House Committee on Finance:

More than 3,000,000 students attend nearly 7,000 charter schools in the United States. Over one million students are on waiting lists to attend a charter school. One of the greatest challenges to the continued expansion of charter schools is the fact that many state charter school laws place the ultimate burden of obtaining and paying for facilities on the charter schools themselves. Connections Public Charter School spends approximately 12% of our per pupil allocation on facilities. Across the country states are beginning to play an important role in determining options available to help fund charter school facilities. Increasingly, they are enacting and updating state policies and funding mechanisms to help offset the cost of leasing, purchasing, and maintaining public charter school facilities.

There is a federal financial incentive for having in place strong facilities policies at the state level. The federal Charter Schools Program awards funds to states that open, replicate, and expand high-quality charter schools with priority given to states based on the availability of facilities to charter schools. The program prioritizes applicants located in states that provide their charter schools with direct facilities funding, assistance with acquiring facilities, access to public facilities, provide charter schools with access to bonds or mill levies, or provide them with low or no-cost leasing privileges. State policy funding 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 regular public schools, and providing charter schools with access to local property tax dollars generated for facilities.

Fifteen states, and Washington D.C., provide an annual per-pupil facilities allocation to their charter schools. Four states (Arizona, Georgia, Minnesota, New York), and Washington D.C. provide more than \$1,000 in per-pupil facilities funding annually to their charter schools. Eleven other states (California, Indiana, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Colorado, Idaho, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Utah) provide their charter schools with less than \$1,000 a year in per-pupil facilities funding. Fifteen states and Washington D.C. have created charter school facility grant programs but only seven are currently funding these programs (Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Georgia, New York, Ohio, and Washington D.C.). Eleven states and Washington D.C. have created a charter school facility loan program but only six jurisdictions are funding these programs

(California, Louisiana, Nevada, South Carolina, Utah and Washington D.C.). Seven states ensure that charter schools have access to existing state facilities (Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and Wyoming). Five states provide charter schools with access to local property taxes (Alaska, Colorado, Florida, New Mexico, and Ohio).

Over the past 10 years enrollment in charter schools has nearly tripled in the United States and doubled in Hawaii. Demand for charter schools is increasing and there is significant unmet demand due to lack of capacity. Hawaii law allows the state charter school commission to request facilities funding as part of its annual budget request. This year, the Hawaii Board of Education has asked the Legislature for facilities support for charter schools. In its annual report to the Legislature, the state charter schools commission noted that charter schools “were generally in fair financial position as of June 30, 2017” but “may not remain on firm financial footing for the long term if current levels of available funding are not maintained in coming years.” Facilities funding is critical for the long-term survival of charter schools in Hawaii. I urge you to support HB 2508.

HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:35:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in strong support of this legislation to provide some relief to charter school financing. Our current per pupil allocation is \$7350 per pupil. In fiscal year 2008 our per pupil allocation was at about \$8500. Ten years later, it has not even kept up with the cost of living increases. The support for facilities in the department schools is represented by the debt service for the DOE at \$291,897,733 divided by the Official Enrollment Count of the DOE at 168,095 which equals a per pupil amount of \$1,736.50 for facilities. Charters get zero. Let's make this the legislative session that addressed the parity between charters and traditional school students. Thank you for your support.



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

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

Before the House Committee on Finance, House Bill 2508 HD1 Relating to Charter Schools- Appropriates funds for infrastructure costs, the rental or lease of charter school facilities, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure of charter schools.

February 22, 2018 12:30 p.m. House Conference Room 308

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair; Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Finance

FULL SUPPORT

Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau **strongly supports** the appropriation of funds for infrastructure costs, the rental or lease of charter school facilities, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure of charter schools for the following reasons-

1. Funding is an important issue, as charter schools struggle to meet our many expenses with the modest per-pupil funding and no food, transportation or facilities support. Public charter schools receive inadequate funding to support student learning and NO funding to support the rising costs to develop, repair and maintain our public school facilities.
2. Hawai'i Charter Schools are PUBLIC schools in the State of Hawai'i. Our students deserve access to safe and high-quality charter school facilities. While we have developed our campus with the support of our non-profit organization through a USDA loan, other charters are still operating under tents and portable toilets on a daily basis.
3. Kamakau is currently working on five capital improvement projects to expand our campus as our enrollment increases in specific grade levels. Our project for a permanent Hale 'Aina (cafeteria/school gathering site) is on-going and pending further fundraising from the school and our Governing Board. This structure will directly address the health and safety of our students by removing them from consuming their lunch in the existing muddy area on picnic tables during rainy days. This is a priority of the Governing Board but also depends heavily on receiving adequate funding to support our programs.

Once again, we are in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2508 HD1 to appropriate charter school facilities funding. In closing, we would like to thank the House Committee on Finance for this opportunity to share our mana'o.

Me ke aloha,

I Kelling Kahu, Director

HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:04:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaley Kelling	Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e ka Financial Committee,

I am writing in full support of HB2508. As a student of Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamaku, I, have experienced first hand some of the drawbacks of no facilities funding. Some of these setbacks include having to eat lunch everyday on picnic tables set on mud under tents as it often creates safety hazards when it rains. Our per pupil funding is a bit more than half of what regular state public schools receive and yet charter schools are expected to surpass the educational standards set by the state. We are currently thriving with these challenges. Just imagine what would we would be able to accomplish with adequate funding!

Me ke aloha,

Kalehuakea Kelling

HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:49:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nahe Bailon	Ke Kula o Samuel M. Kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

As a current senior at Ke Kula o Samuel M. Kamakau, I, Nahe Bailon, do testify in support of HB 2508. As stated in my last testimony, this funding will be used for things such as my school's lunch tent which would be made into an indoor cafeteria. I would like to turn your attention towards, and talk about our class sizes a bit more in depth.

As I mentioned in my earlier testimony, we are a public charter school from Pre-K up to 12th grade. Our student body size (not including teachers and staff) is approximately 161. Although the number may be smaller than the size of an average graduating high school class, that is no reason to silence our voices.

We currently have two modulars being unused because we cannot afford to set up the water and electricity. One is to be put in-use for the preschoolers and the other for additional class space as needed. We have one building specifically in-use for middle AND high school students. In this building, we are forced to cram 34 people. Students and teachers all included. The area of the building is roughly 450 sq ft. Classrooms are crammed, students are almost shoulder to shoulder, trying to focus on classwork. The hallway can just barely fit two people, allowing them to walk back to back.

I whole heartedly believe that with your folks support, we can and we will, be able to afford the tools necessary to give our students a better education.

Mahalo for your time,

Nahe Bailon

HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:16:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanoelani Holt	Ke Kula o Samuel M. Kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai, my name is Kanoelani Holt, I am a junior at Ke Kula o Samuel Manaiakalani Kamakau a public charter school. I am writing in strong support of HB 2508 for charter school facilities funding. Funding has been a big issue for our school in the past years. We do not have appropriate funding to build a cafeteria and we currently eat lunch under a tent with with picknik tables placed on mud. Because of the heavy rain in Ha'iku a majority of our lunch times are spent in our small classrooms. Our school buildings are old buildings that were previously used by the US Navy and temporary modulars. We do not have the funding to build new buildings that dont have asbestos in the walls or to open up some of the modulars because of certification, water, and electric bills. We often have to reach out to our community for help with maintenance and donations. We hold community days where parent come to help fix the road up to our school but the fixes can never be permanent without proper funding. Why should my education be valued less than other public school students? I ask, as a student of Hawaii's education system for fair funding for my education. Me ka ha'aha'a, Mahalo!

HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:19:18 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mia Sarsona	Ke Kula o Samuel M. Kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e nā• luna,

I have been a charter school student at Ke Kula o Samuel M. Kamakau for my entire life. I am writing in **FULL SUPPORT** of HB2508. Charter schools receive only a little over half of the per pupil funding that regular public schools receive. From that \$7,324 charter schools are expected to use the funding for educational expenses **AND** facilities expenses, whereas **DOE public schools receive \$12,000 per student and also receive seperate funds for facilities.** This drastic difference in funding shows me that **my education is not worth as much as that of a DOE student.** It hurts me to think that our government does not see the importance of my Hawaiian language immersion school and schools like mine. Please support the future leaders of Hawaii.

Me ka haahaa,

Wai'ale'ale Sarsona

HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:20:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Meherio Krainer	Ke Kula o Samuel M. Kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am a haumana at Ke Kula O Samuel M. Kamakau and I support this bill. I support this bill for many reasons, we have many issues here at our charter school, for one, everyday we eat our lunch underneath a temporary tent on picnick tables. When it rains it is worse and it gets all muddy everywhere. That is what we have to eat in rather than a normal public school that cafeteria. Another issue at our school is our road to get up to our school. Everyday that we go to school to learn, we need to travel up a very bust up road. Our road is so bumpy with pot holes everywhere, and it damages our cars if we do not drive carefully, so that makes it difficult to get to school. So as i said before, I support this bill because with more funding, we would be able to drive and get to school easily and also be able to eat our lunch in a regular cafeteria just as any other D.O.E student does. Mahalo!

HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:35:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
noelani beard	Ke Kula ?o Samuel M. Kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

I, Noelani Beard, a haumana at Ke Kula O Samuel M Kamakau, support bill HB2508. As a student at a charter school, I find it unfair that we have the same requirements and are held to the same standars as public schools but do not get the same amount of funding. The big question on most of our minds is, "Does my education have any less value than any other public school student?" Equal funding is important to ensure that each haumana's education is valued. At Ke Kula o Samuel M Kamakau we are taught from a native perspective, which is not very common. I appreciate and value being able to attend this school. Unfortunately the road is unsafe and hazardous to navigate daily, especially when it rains. Driving up this road does not only damage our cars but can also be very dangerous to travel on. With facilities funding we potentially repair our roads for easier aces to our beloved kula.

HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:30:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aalii	Ke Kula 'O Kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

Aloha Mai Kakou! My name is Aalii Kelling and I am currently a senior at Ke Kula 'O Samuel M. Kamakau, a public charter school located in Haiku, Kaneohe. I am in full support of HB2508 with the idea that my school and other charter schools around Hawaii should get equal funding towards our facilities and infrastructure. If this bill were to pass, we could use the funding towards fixing our roads. Our parents and school staff are challenged daily just to get to school due to the massive potholes. There is more pothole on our road than there are students and staff at Ke Kula 'O Samuel M. Kamakau.

In conclusion, I am in full support of HB2508 and hope for success in the future. Mahalo!

HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:08:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ka?iu	Ke Kula O S.M.Kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. The reason that I support this bill is the fact that me and my fellow classmates at Ke Kula o Samuel Manaiakalani Kamakau LPCS, have no choice but to eat under a tent with dirty picnic tables. Being that our school is in the Koolau mountains in the moku (distric) of Heeia, it rains a lot more than normal, so when we go to our "cafeteria" (a tent with picnic tables) to eat lunch, most likely it will be muddy. This is one of the reasons why charter schools need equal fundings, so we can feel safe and important in the world of education.

HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 12:42:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 3:59:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support funding for facilities for charter schools. These schools serve the students of the state and require facilities just as standard public schools do. This is an equity issue for students.

HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 2:56:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
mataifono tamapua	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My daughter goes to a charter school. She went to public school before and she was failing. I tried everything and didn't know that the problem was because she was shy. Charter schools the classes are smaller and so the teacher focuses more on each individual student. My daughter is graduating this year and I'm so grateful for HTA charter school for their hard work in helping my daughter at school. They need the financial help to Be able to give these kids a great education.

HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 3:09:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kylee Mar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:41:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hilani young	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

As a student currently enrolled in a public charter school, I am in full support of HB2508. I believe that the success of students heavily depends on the environment they grow in. The lack of funding for public charter schools affects the growth and learning of every student. We at PUBLIC charter schools receive \$7,324 per student whereas DOE schools receive around \$12,000. With equal funding, our schools could work to build, improve, and maintain our facilities. Right now, the school that I attend, Ke Kula O Samuel M. Kamakau, is facing multiple health and safety hazards, such as lack of space, asbestos issues, an unsanitary eating area, road issues, and many other hazards.

At Kamakau we have 161 students from Pre-K to 12 grade, but not enough space for all of us to learn and work comfortably. Our middle school and high school has one building with just four classrooms. This building holds around 45 bodies everyday but it is only about 450 square feet. We have two modulars that are not being used because we do not have the funding to prepare them for students to use. As of now they are being used as storages, but we are hoping to soon use them as classrooms.

Because our buildings our old they are made with asbestos, which is completely harmless when the buildings are undamaged. But in the case that there is damages in the building, such as holes in the wall, the asbestos becomes a health issue for all students and staff exposed to it.

The current eating area that we have is just picnic tables that sit on dirt under a large tent. We have no proper coverage when we eat so if it rains, which it does often in Kaneohe, we have to either deal with the mud or find somewhere else to eat.

Driving to and from school is another issue that we have. The road is damaged and covered in potholes that make it difficult to drive. We have tried to fix it ourselves but it never lasts longer that a few weeks.

These are just some of the problems that we face but with equity funding we could improve the environment of the students at all Charter schools. With more money, we could be given the same chance as DOE students, which would only be fair seeing as

we are being held to the same standard as them. In closing, I very much support HB2508 and I want to thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:08:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kuumakaonaona Bailon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Maka Bailon currently go to Ke Kula O Samuel M. Kamakau LPCS, fully supports HB2508 for these reasons

1. Kamakau does not have the full fundings that other public schools get, while other public schools get \$12k for each student who attend the school, Kamakau gets \$7k for each student who attend the school.

2. While other schools have a good inclosed cafeteria, students at Kamakau have to eat under a tent, in the mud, on a picnic table. I believe that a tent is not very sanitary for students to eat. And most of all, the four sides "walls" of the tent are open, and it allows easy access for flies and other bugs, which is some kind of health regulation.

3.Last but not least, our road. Our road to Kamakau has many potholes, the potholes can cause flat tires and other car issues which cost a lot of money to even get your car checked.

I fully support the HB2508 bill for not only my School, but for all Charter Schools alike.

-Mahalo

HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 10:43:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charlene Mersburgh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of HB2508 to provide needed facility funding for public charter schools. Our daughter attends a public charter school, Hawaii Techonolgy Academy. HTA leases sites on four islands to provide a blended education model of learning. The unique style of learning has been a blessing to our daughter. She is excelling. With additional funding for facilities, HTA would be able to expand its reach to more students in Hawaii.

Thank you for your support.

Charlene Mersburgh

Parent of a student at Hawaii Technology Academy

HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 6:15:07 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Barnard	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support facilities funding for charter schools.

HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:08:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kekoa beard	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because my school is struggling to afford money for better roads and also struggling to afford money for a cafeteria . Something else that i personally ask for is either a track and field or a gymnasium. although are school is small some of us are athletic and like to train to be better student athletes. Please think about my request, mahalo!

HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:14:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaio Glassco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Kaio Glassco am in full support of HB2508. I feel that it is unfair that DOE schools recieve more than adequate funding while Chater schools struggle to simply remain in operation. The recived diffrance between DOE schools and Charter schools is atrocious, making a already difficult job that much more difficult. I also belive that this unequality is a lawsuit waiting to happen. In conclusion I ask you the people in power to engage in what is right and to grant us funding. Mahalo

HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:22:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
manaloa kahoopii	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,i am writing this in full support of HB2508

HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:45:39 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter Kalawaia Moore	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai Representatives,

I am in support of this measure. I would like to ask that you consider appropriating a larger than usual amount of funding for this measure to help some of the schools that have backlogged CIP, facility and maintenance issues, some of which rise to the level of being health and safety problems that might cost even more if further delays to their remedy continue. In particular, I am working with students at Kula Kaiapuni o Samuel M Kamakau this Spring semester, they need a cafeteria facility immediately, and they have two buildings that can not be used until plumbiung and electrical issues are finished.

HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:20:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
?alohilohi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whome it may concern:

I, Alohilohi Coelho, who attends Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau, fully supports the HB2508 bill. As a student from a charter school, I feel as if we aren't as important as normal public schools. For example, normal public schools have a normal cafeteria, while our cafeteria is under a tent with mud and old wooden tables. And, because it rains a lot in Kaneohe, the tent gets floated and the mud gets worst. To me this is a health and safety hard.

Another health and safety hazard is the asbestos in the walls. Asbestos can cause lung tissue scarring , so over time if the walls in our classrooms start to breakdown then we would be exposed to the disease and eventually get sick.

Thank you for reading my testimony and this bill better go through because CHARTER SCHOOLS are just as IMPORTANT as PUBLIC SCHOOLS!

LATE

HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 2:43:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
M. Renee Bellinger	Na Wai Ola Public Charter School	Support	No

Comments:

Public Charter schools budgets are strapped by needing to use per-pupil funds for facilities leases and maintenance costs, in addition to annual operating costs and salaries for teachers and administrators. These facility funds (and maintenance) represent substantial burdens to Charter schools. Provision of funds to offset facilities leases, rentals, and maintenance would free up per-pupil funds for educational purposes and would be applied to increase the quality of Charter school education.



LATE

HB2508 HD1
RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS
House Committee on Finance

February 22, 2018

12:30 PM

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB2508 HD1, which would provide funding to the State Public Charter School Commission for charter schools' infrastructure costs, rental or lease of facilities, and repair and maintenance of network infrastructure, and offers suggested **AMENDMENTS** to further effectuate the intent of this measure. **This bill would help 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 2016-2017 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.** HB2508 HD1 will help bring equity to charter schools and address the longstanding problem of financing charter schools' facilities.

As this measure notes, Act 234, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, authorized a framework for providing facilities funding and support for public charter school facilities with adequate prioritization, oversight, and accountability by the charter school facilities funding work group convened by the state public charter school commission.

However, it has recently been brought to OHA's attention that provisions of Act 234 (as codified in HRS §302D-29.5(a)), specifically regarding legislative appropriations and bond authorizations for the "design, planning, construction, repair, and maintenance of public charter school improvements to . . . expand or improve instructional space," may not currently authorize funding for rental or lease of charter school facilities, a major facilities cost for start-up schools. **Accordingly, OHA recommends the committee consider revising HB2508 HD1 to add a new section amending HRS §302D-29.5(a) to better accomplish this measure's intent of allowing funding for rental or lease of facilities, as described further below.**

OHA further recommends that self-referential language be deleted from HRS §302D-29.5(a) for clarification purposes. **OHA respectfully submits that the language in section 302D-29.5 requiring appropriations under that section to be kept separate from appropriations made pursuant to the same section, is confusing and recommends its removal.**

Accordingly, OHA recommends the inclusion of an additional Section in this measure, to be appropriately inserted and to read as follows:

"SECTION 2. Section 302D-29.5 is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

"(a) Beginning with the 2016-2017 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, the legislature shall consider making an appropriation and bond authorization to the commission for the design, planning, construction, repair, and maintenance of public charter school improvements to address issues of health, safety, and legal compliance; expand or improve instructional space; provide for rental or lease of facilities; provide for food services; or provide restroom facilities. The appropriation and bond authorization for charter schools shall be separate from, and in addition to, any appropriation made to charter schools pursuant to [~~this section and~~] section 302D-28. These amounts shall be prioritized for allocation by the charter school facilities funding working group."

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS WITH AMENDMENTS** HB2508 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

LATE

HB-2508-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 8:36:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Usha Kilpatrick Kotner	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

My name is Usha Kilpatrick, and I am a board member of the Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network, a board member of Kona Pacific Public Charter School, and the Program Director for the Bill Healy Foundation. I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support for HB 2508 HD1, Relating to Charter Schools. Passing this bill represents a significant step to provide funding equity for all Hawaii public school students.

Despite being public schools, most charter schools still do not have access to public facilities or the same financing tools to build facilities as regular public schools. This is a problem because rent or financing facilities represent the biggest gap in funding equity for public charter school students. The average facilities and infrastructure costs are 10 percent of a charter school's budget.

This means charter schools may lose anywhere from 10 to 30 percent of its per pupil instructional dollars. This also means that limited per pupil funds must stretch further to pay for salary increases and any bonuses required by state collective bargaining contracts, curriculum and programs, equipment and supplies, utilities, any school meal or transportation costs provided, and a mountain of other expenses required to run a school.

Research shows a significant relationship between the condition of school facilities and student performance. In Hawai'i there is a great variance in the condition of facilities from school to school. But some charter schools now are still lacking even the most basic needs like classrooms with walls, flooring, windows and doors; plumbed bathroom facilities; school kitchens and cafeterias; and other weather-proofed spaces we would typically see in a public school. We believe that every student is deserving of safe and appropriate school facilities including those who chose to enroll in public charters.

I humbly urge your support for the passage of this bill.



LATE

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Finance

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Date: February 22, 2018

Where: State Capitol Room 308

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

RE: **HB 2508 HD1, RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS.**

E ka Luna Ho'omaluku, ka Hope Luna Ho'omaluku Cullen, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Waiwai o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka'āinana, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Division of Kamehameha Schools.

HB 2508 HD1, relating to charter schools, appropriates funds for infrastructure costs, rental or lease assistance of charter school facilities, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure for charter schools. We are writing in **support** of this measure. Adequate facilities are essential to providing an equitable public education to charter school students.

Kamehameha Schools advocates for and supports the achievement of Hawai'i's Native Hawaiian public school students. As such, we have been a collaborator with the Hawai'i public charter schools for over a decade. Through our work with Hawaiian-focused public charter schools, we hope to significantly impact more children and their families through education. We believe that Hawaiian-focused charter schools provide quality educational choices for all families and ultimately enhance both academic achievement and engagement for students. 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'ohē hana nui ke alu 'ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.