



## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Time: 11:00 a.m.  
Date: April 6, 2018  
Where: State Capitol Room 211

**LATE**

### TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk  
Kamehameha Schools

**RE: HB 2508, HD1, SD1, Relating to Charter Schools**

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Dela Cruz, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Keith-Agaran, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike o nā Loa'a a me nā Ho'olilo 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 Division of Kamehameha Schools.

We are writing to **support** HB 2508, HD1, SD1, relating to charter schools, which allows funding for rental or lease of facilities under legislative appropriations and bond authorizations to the state public charter school commission for the design, planning, construction, repair, and maintenance of public charter school improvements. This measure also appropriates general funds for infrastructure costs, rental or lease assistance, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure for charter schools. 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 public 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. **Please advance this measure.**

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



**LATE**

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

From: Jeff Vilardi  
Kamalani Academy Principal

Date: April 5, 2018

Re: HB 2508 HD1, SD1 Relating to Charter Schools

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Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

I strongly **support** HB 2508 HD1, SD1 which appropriates general funds for infrastructure costs, rental or lease assistance, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure for charter schools.

Kamalani Academy **is** an arts integration, Hawaiian-focused public charter school serving students in Grades K-8. Kamalani is open to all students and our students must meet the same academic standards as all other Hawaii public school students. Our arts integration curriculum uses the arts—drama, dance, music, and the like—to teach the traditional academic subjects of math, reading, science, and social studies while also incorporating Hawaiian language, dance, music, and culture.

My number one priority is supporting and educating the students at Kamalani Academy. The more financial resources we have available to the school to educate and support our students, the easier it is for us as a school to accomplish our goals. Having to conquer the facilities aspect of our charter school has been a big challenge, and it presents a financial competitor for our students' educational needs. HB 2508 HD1, SD1 could resolve some of the problems and relieve some of that competition.

Kamalani is located at 1403 California Avenue, Wahiawa, in the building previously occupied by Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School. Adequate facilities are a basic student need and educational need. Even though we were fortunate to secure the location and facility that we have, we are still facing many facilities-related challenges. Our students have no separate facility or space to eat their lunches and are currently eating in their classrooms. Our students and faculty have no multi-purpose room which is sorely needed in an arts integrated approach to learning—drama, dance, creative movement, etc.



A public charter school should receive the same treatment as the DOE schools when it comes to facilities funding and support. That being said, HB 2508 HD1, SD1 provides equity and not equality to charter schools. With a \$10 million requested appropriation based on audited facilities expenditures by charter schools, this bill is not seeking a per pupil facility distribution request equal to traditional to public schools (if that were the case, the request would be double the amount). Instead, this bill provides equitable funding to address current school expenditures on facilities costs.

If Kamalani had received additional funding for facilities, we may have been better able to secure or create the additional spaces needed for our school. Also, more of the per-pupil allocation could be used for the actual operation of the school for the education and support of the students. In the end, all charter schools need a way to secure financing for infrastructure, rentals and leases, and the ongoing repair and maintenance of infrastructure to operate our schools. Any support that this Committee and the Legislature can provide to charter schools relating to facilities funding would be greatly appreciated.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



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

**LATE**

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

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, House Bill 2508 HD1 SD1 Relating to Charter Schools

'Apelila 6, 2018 11:00 a.m., Rm 211

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee

**FULL SUPPORT**

Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau **strongly supports** the appropriation of funds 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.

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 currently received NO funding to support the rising costs to develop, repair and maintain our public school facilities.

1. 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.
2. 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 SD1 to appropriate charter school funding to support the infrastructure costs. In closing, we would like to thank the Committee on Ways and Means for this opportunity to share our mana'o.

Me ke aloha,

I Kelling Kahu, Director

**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2018 1:24:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
phil fisher	Testifying for Kona Pacific Public Charter School	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill!!



**LATE**

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

From: Ku'uipo Laumatia  
Kamalani Academy Governing Board Chair

Date: April 6, 2018

Re: HB 2508 HD1, SD1 Relating to Charter Schools

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Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

I strongly **support** HB 2508 HD1, SD1 which appropriates general funds for infrastructure costs, rental or lease assistance, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure for charter schools.

Kamalani Academy is an arts integration, Hawaiian-focused public charter school serving students in Grades K-8. Kamalani is open to all students and our students must meet the same academic standards as all other Hawaii public school students. Our arts integration curriculum uses the arts—drama, dance, music, and the like—to teach the traditional academic subjects of math, reading, science, and social studies while also incorporating Hawaiian language, dance, music, and culture.

Kamalani is located at 1403 California Avenue, Wahiawa, in the building previously occupied by Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School. We had to take out a temporary loan of approximately of \$2.8 million to renovate the building we are using for our school. We have been working on securing permanent financing for our loan but have met many roadblocks because of City & County and State of Hawaii regulations.

Adequate facilities are a basic student need and educational need. Even though we were fortunate to secure the location and facility that we have, we are still facing many facilities-related challenges. Our students have no separate facility or space to eat their lunches and are currently eating in their classrooms. Our students and faculty have no multi-purpose room which is sorely needed in an arts integrated approach to learning—drama, dance, creative movement, etc.

A public charter school should receive the same treatment as the DOE schools when it comes to facilities funding and support. That being said, HB 2508 HD1, SD1 provides equity



and not equality to charter schools. With a \$10 million requested appropriation based on audited facilities expenditures by charter schools, this bill is not seeking a per pupil facility distribution request equal to traditional to public schools (if that were the case, the request would be double the amount). Instead, this bill provides equitable funding to address current school expenditures on facilities costs.

If Kamalani had received additional funding for facilities, we may have been better able to secure or create the additional spaces needed for our school. Also, more of the per-pupil allocation could be used for the actual operation of the school for the education and support of the students. In the end, all charter schools need a way to secure financing for infrastructure, rentals and leases, and the ongoing repair and maintenance of infrastructure to operate our schools. Any support that this Committee and the Legislature can provide to charter schools relating to facilities funding would be greatly appreciated.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2018 11:54:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrew Stever	Testifying for Hawaii Academy of Arts and Science	Support	No

Comments:



April 5th, 2018

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Bruce Broisman, Policy Fellow  
Hawaii Children's Action Network

**LATE**

Re: **H.B. 2508, HD1, SD1 – Relating to Charter Schools – SUPPORT**  
**Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211, April 6th, 2018, 11:00 AM**

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**On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support HB 2508, HD1, SD1—Relating to Charter Schools.**

Charter schools throughout Hawaii remain underfunded, resulting in students studying facilities that do not meet the needs of a high-quality education necessary for future economic success.

Charter schools today serve 11,160 students. While concentrated in Honolulu, these schools serve rural and underserved communities. Additionally, charter schools provide an opportunity for educators to experiment with new methods and structures, allowing a diverse range of students to learn in the way that works best for them.

These schools remain a part of the public educational system. Despite this, charter schools receive only 57% of the per-student funding of traditional public schools. This results in students being housed in facilities that do not meet the minimum requirements of a modern, high-quality education.

Research<sup>i</sup> demonstrates that charter schools perform at similar—if not better—levels regarding return on investment and student performance. These schools form a critical part of the public education system. Hawaii's keiki have deserve opportunity to attend safe schools that are able to support their academic success.

**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.*

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<sup>i</sup> DeAngelis, Corey and Wolf, Patrick and Maloney, Larry and May, Jay, Bigger Bang, Fewer Bucks? The Productivity of Public Charter Schools in Eight U.S. Cities (February 15, 2018). EDRE Working Paper No. 2018-01. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3125824> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3125824>

**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2018 7:32:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Taffi Wise	Testifying for KANU O KA AINA	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2018 10:06:35 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ke'alahilani	Testifying for Ke Kula o Samuel Manaiakalani Kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

'O wau 'o Ke'alahilani and I go to Kamakau and I support this bill. Because charter schools don't get much money then we should be getting. Because charter schools teach the culture about Hawai'i. We deserve to have a cafeteria not eating under a tent on tables in the mud.

**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2018 8:33:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mia Sarsona	Testifying for Ke Kula o Samuel M. Kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e nā• luna,

‘O Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona ko‘u inoa. No Waimā• nalo, Ko‘olaupoko mai au. He haumā• na papa 11 au ma Ke Kula ‘o Samuel M. Kamakau.

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 ha‘aha‘a,

Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona

**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2018 10:09:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaha Barbieto	Testifying for Kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, 'O Kahā• ko'u inoa no Kailua mai au hele wau i ke kula o Kamakau mai Kailua mai au. This bill is important to us because we need a hale 'Ā• ina and on days that is rain we get wet when we eat sometimes.

**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2018 10:06:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
hiilani	Testifying for kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, 'o wau o Hi'ilani Cleaver, He haumana au ma ke kula o Kamakau, no liliha o'ahu mai au ,im testifying today to try and get a cafeteria and to try and fix the roads at my school.I want to try and get a cafeteria and to try fix the roads of our school because the roads of our school are ruining cars of our ohana, we would trully love to have a cafeteria because we really want one.I support the HB2508 HD1 SD1.

Me ke aloha,

Hi'ilani Cleaver

~I am a student of Kamakau

**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2018 10:12:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
N. U?ilani Barrett-Tau	Testifying for Halau Ku Mana Public Charter School	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha.

My name is Summer Ivy. I am in 10th grade and attend Halau Ku Mana, a public charter school focused on the Hawaiian culture and values. I came to Halau Ku Mana in 9th grade. I transferred from St. Patrick's school, which was a Catholic private school. Going into HKM was a big jump from where I came, but once I learned to adapt to the changes, it got easier and a lot more fun. I love my school. I love the teachers and the environment around me, both mentally and physically. The students here are grounded in their culture and can adapt to any type of environment we are in. However, we can't reach our fullest learning potential because of the lack of financial support from the government. We are all smart kids, we probably know more than a majority of the kids that are in a private school. The things Halau Ku Mana does and participates in annually is something that no other school does or did. How could grown adults that have the power to change kids lives not supply them with the tools they need in order to become successful in their life? Wouldn't it be a waste for a kid to have all the potential in the world but not have the ability to put it to use? On average, a public school receives 4,352 dollars more than a public charter school. Not only does that mean students at public charter schools are lacking in the tools they need to excel but also means the teachers get funded less.

What do we need more money for? First of all, bathrooms. Our bathrooms are uncomfortably small. And the stalls are so small that your knees touch the stall door when you are using the restroom. I feel this could potentially emotionally and academically affect some kids who don't want to use the bathroom for this reason. Also, having actual classrooms instead of trailers would be great. Although the teachers try to make the classrooms as nice as possible, it does not distract from the fact that we are literally learning lifetime skills in a trailer. For lunch, we eat under tents which are outside. There are often flies and mosquitoes which makes it uncomfortable to fully enjoy your meal. If it's rainy, if it's unbearably hot, we still have to sit out there, in the presence of mud and chickens. Equal funding to help get a cafeteria? Heck yes.

Help support the future generation. The same kids you don't even take time in your day to think about are the exact kids that will take your role in office and do amazing things in the world. It's time to step up and take control over the things you can change.

Mahalo,

Summer Ivy

January 11, 2018

Hawaii State Legislature

Education Committee

District Senator and House Representative

Aloha Hawai'i State Legislators,

I am a student at Halau Ku Mana Public Charter School and I have been a student here for three years. Im writing this letter because I want to request that Charter school students get equal funding and also equal facility funding. Charter schools should get equal funding because charter schools take children that are having a hard time learning in a regular public school. I am one of those children that had a hard time learning in a regular public school environment until I came to Halau Ku Mana Public Charter School where I was able to flourish. However, it would be better if we can repair our facilities, buy new books, have better bathrooms, buy drinking water, hire more teachers and educational assistants, and maintain our buses. Please give Public Charter Schools equal funding per pupil and facilities.

Mahalo,

Keoni Akana

Grade 10

January 11,2018



Hawaii State Legislature

Education Committee

District Senators and House Representatives

Aloha State legislators,

I am a student from Halau Ku Mana. I have been here for two years and I just wanted to request that Hawaiian Charter schools should be able to get the equal amounts of funding as a regular public school. At a regular public school, I would skip school and it got so bad to the point where I had two hundred and thirty absences. Now I actually make an effort to learn and stay in school. This school helps me because the kumu shows me individual learning, and gives me more confidence, discipline, and teaches me how to work in real life crisis and situations .

Mahalo

Kala'i Akina

Grade 10

Piliwale Ka'ai, Papa 'Ewalu

16, 'Ianuali,

2018

## Aloha Hawai'i State Legislators,

Aloha 'O Piliwale Ka'ai ko'u inoa. Noho au ma NÄ• nÄ• kuli. Hele au i ke kula o HÄ• lau KÄ« MÄ• na. We have 3 missions and visions, and they are Ho'okele(forge connection and direction), Ho'okumu(build a ground and foundation), and lastly Ho'omÄ• na(Provide sustenance and empowerment). Through the years attending this kula (school), I have learned a lot about my Hawaiian culture and roots of where I come from, and I love how I get to share it with my community and my IÄ• hui.

At our kula we have some concerns with our facilities and financially wise, we get about 56% of 100%, so about \$5,600 per pupil, but at a regular D.O.E (Department of education) school they approximately get \$11,000 per person. I feel that if we were to

get equal the amount of how much a D.O.E school would get then, it would really help out our school to imua and have more opportunities to succeed in life.

About the facilities, the bathrooms are too small and 'ae we are grateful, but it would be great if we had bigger bathrooms without a tank and have a good bathroom that can last us a while. Again I would like to say we want to have equal funding at the amount that a D.O.E school would get, after all it is all it's about the keiki o ka 'Ä• ina i ka pono and helping them to have a better future and letting us get a good education in a comfortable environment. I really hope that in the future of my kula will still be there, for the future generation and for the education of the keiki.

Sincerely,

Piliwale Ka'ai

Jan. 11, 2018

Dear Hawai'i State Legislators,

Hello I am Alex Kelika Barbieto. I am a sophomore at HÄ• lau KÄ« MÄ• na New Century Public Charter School located in Makiki. I came to this school when I was in 6th grade. I commute from Kaneohe to Makiki to get to school. I do this everyday because I enjoy coming to this school.

HÄ• lau KÄ« MÄ• na is different from regular Department of Education public schools, because they offer to teach Hawaiian Culture through hands-on learning. Not only this, but this is done while learning the academic curriculum. This school also attends events like LÄ• Ku'oko'a. The school has been around for 16 years. I have personally enjoyed the time I have spent from when I first came in 6th grade to now, doing the hard work I have done to contribute and keep the school running. It would be great if the school would be able to afford things that are necessary.

HÄ• lau KÄ« MÄ• na deserves to get equal funding, because currently our facilities get 0% and per pupil it is only 56% compared to D.O.E. schools that get 100% funding for their facilities and per pupil. We need the equal funding since the teachers are using their own payrolls to be able to teach the curriculum; we are using old buildings; there are not enough teachers; and due to this we are limited in our education and in how many students can attend this school. Yet the teachers and students are able to teach and learn the curriculum, while learning our culture. If you could give the school equal funding we would be able to afford better facilities, the school would be able to pay for the curriculum, and HÄ• lau KÄ« MÄ• na would be able to accept more students into the school. If you do this you would have a more favorable relationship with the Hawaiian cultural community. Not only that but it would make it more fair, funding wise.

Sincerely,

Alex K. Barbieto

Dear Hawaii State Legislators,

My name is Likolehua Fujiwara, I reside in Nu'uaniu. During elementary I went to my district school, Nu'uaniu Elementary. In 6th grade I moved to a small little school called Halau Ku Mana New Century Public Charter School. Once I got there I noticed a huge difference, a difference I couldn't understand at first. I asked my mom, "why is this so different?" My mom said it's not like other schools, it's a Hawaiian focus charter school. They don't get enough money to afford materials like other schools, but it is special, they take what they get they use it and build upon it. At that moment during my elementary years I was spoiled with all the luxuries of having a bathroom dedicated to almost every grade, a water fountains every 20 feet having school lunch provided for me daily janitors cleaning sweeping mopping every inch of the class and walkways. Halau Ku Mana is special, it's more than a school it's a family for us students. The relationships we gain will stay for the rest of our lives. At Ku Mana we learn not only the necessary academics, but life skills that will carry you forward. This type of school teaches responsibility not only to yourself but to your family, friends, peers, and La hui or hawaiians that truly care. The student body of Halau Ku Mana all agree equal funding would be fair, but it still never happen. Starting a new year, 2018, it is time for us to gain what's truly fair equal funding to ALL schools in hawaii from Public schools to Charter schools. Charter schools only get 56% out of 100% funding that public schools get. Halau ku Mana is not perfect, nor is anything else but sure enough we work just as hard for our goal. Being the "leaders of tomorrow" we are the "tip of the spear" said by Imaikalani Winchester. Halau ku mana not only focuses on cultural needs but academic needs like the one we are going through right now. Going to a public school is nice, but can they say i graduated from a school like no other can they say they went on a wa'a sailed to Hawaii. Can they say we were there to share our testimonies at an OHA meeting? can they say they love school and want to go every day. I am proud to go to Halau Ku Mana. Halau Ku Mana is special like I keep on saying, but there are somethings that can be adjusted like bathrooms our bathroom is portable with tank on the bottom that our fecal matter and urine sits in for weeks because we don't have enough money to pay to flush it out every other week. Some our classes have to be held in our only conference room in a trailer because every class is filled. Plus our eating area that consist 18 hand me down picnic tables under a second hand tent that we These are just some of the problems that we face on a day to day basis, but we still have a beautiful campus with teachers dedicated to their job and students ready to learn to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Mahalo, Likolehua Fujiwara

Aloha Hawai'i State Legislators,

I live in the Hawai'i Kai area of where you represent. I go to a small public-charter school called HÄ• lau Ku Mana. My school focuses on Hawaiian culture, and the preservation and perpetuation of the culture, so that one day we will bring it back and help it to flourish.

Before I went to Halau Ku Mana, I went to Kaiser a regular D.O.E school. When I was going there the whole school wasn't connected with each other like how Halau Ku Mana is. The teachers over there act like they care if you are failing or get a bad grade on a test when in all actuality they don't care. Yes, they may perform better on the SBAC test, but only because they have more money for technology and facilities unlike we do.

Halau Ku Mana is important to me because even though this is my first year I have been shown what it is like to live as kanaka oiwi. I have experienced traditional Makahiki in school. Going to Mauna Ala for La kuokoa the Hawaiian independence day and dancing for the past ali`i of Hawaii, and now marching from Mauna Ala to Iolani palace.

But my school still struggles with funding for us to do anything. They pay for all of the other utilities we need by themselves without ANY funding like how the regular D.O.E schools get funded. If you were to fund us more like how you fund public schools we could get either a same or a higher SBAC results than public schools. This is also good to fund us because this school continues the Hawaiian culture and practices the culture as well.

Sincerely,

Caeden Kapa'alima Yasuhara

**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2018 10:06:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lilia	Testifying for Ke Kula ʻO Samuel Maniakalani Kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

O wau ʻo Lilia Takahashi, no KĀ• neʻohe mai au. I kĀ“ia manawa aia au ma Ke Kula ʻO Samuel Maniakalani Kamakau. I feel that charter schools should be able to use state money. Our school does not even have a humane cafeteria. We do not even have a smooth paved road. We are so tightly packed in classrooms, that some students sit on the floor or on mats.

**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2018 10:06:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Haweo	Testifying for Ke kula 'o kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

'o HÄ• weo Glassco ko'u inoa.He haumana au ma ke kula 'o kamakau.

I support this testimony because we need a new cafeteria and more buildings for classrooms. since our school is so small our middle school needs to share a 4 classroom building with high school. our hallway is so small we barely can pass each other. we dont have room for lockers so we have shelves so everyone can see our stuff.we are so close together we can hear the other class's learning.

**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2018 9:59:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keola?oli	Testifying for Kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Hawaii State Leegislature,

I support this testimony. We need a real cafeateria also buildings that are good. I don't understand why other schools get good buildings. And we get a tent in the mud as our cafeateria. And don't have have good buildings to keep us safe from the rain or the bombing.

~ A Haumana of Ke Kula o Samuel Manaiakalani Kamakau

**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2018 10:01:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eweleiula Wong	Testifying for Ke Kula ?o Samuel M. Kamakau, LPCS	Support	No

Comments:

**To whom it may concern,**

‘O wau ‘o Ä’welei’ula Wong, he ‘umikumakolu o’u makahiki, a he haumÄ• na kÅ« ha’aeo wau ma ke kula ‘o Samuel M. Kamakau.

I am writing on behalf of Ke Kula o Samuel M. Kamakau to support bill HB2508. It is unjust that charter schools do not obtain the same amount of necessary funding to properly run our schools. As a charter school student, I find it troublesome that we are not able to have a nice cafeteria to eat in or a nice road to drive on. Instead we eat under our muddy tent that we call our hale ‘Ä• ina, due to low funding.

Me ka ha’aha’a,

Ä’welei’ula Wong



**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2018 8:37:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
noelani beard	Testifying for Ke Kula ʻo Samuel M. Kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

O wau o Noelani Beard, he haumana ma Ke Kula o Samuel M Kamakau, ***kakoo*** au i keia pila . 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 acess to our beloved kula. I am writing this in full support of this bill.

**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2018 8:42:56 AM  
Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Aalii	Testifying for Ke Kula O Kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

To who 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 be passed, 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 are more potholes on our road than there are students and staff at Ke Kula ‘O Samuel M. Kamakau. I’m glad to see that this bill making moving closer to making our charter schools a better place!

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

**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2018 8:45:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaley Kelling	Testifying for Ke Kula ʻo Samuel M. Kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

Eia mai kahi pua lehua kea e noho nei i ka laʻi ʻo ʻIolekaʻa. ʻO Kalehuakea Kelling kāia. He haumāna na papa ʻumikāma kahi ma ke kula ʻo Samuel Mānaiakalani Kamakau. Ke kākou nei au me ke kākou koʻo piha o ia pila no ka pono o ko kākou mau kula hoʻāmana.

Aloha, I am a junior at Ke Kula ʻo Samuel M. Kamakau and am writing this is full support of HB2508. On behalf of the kula and others alike, I would like to adress the need for adequate facilities at various charter schools across Hawaiʻi pae ʻĀina. Here at Kamakau, we are blessed with the opportunity to learn from the perspective of the ʻike kāpuna Hawaiʻi while still being able to recieve a western education. However, for lunch, we are provided with a large tent covering a number of picnic tables set on mud. When it rains, our eating area floods and it is not safe for our children to walk across. We at these various charter schools feel that we too, deserve adeqaute facilities for our school.

Naʻu me ke aloha,

Kalehuakea Kelling

**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2018 9:08:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hiilani young	Testifying for Ke Kula O Samuel M. Kamakau	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 are 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 than 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.

**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2018 11:10:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anthony Fraser	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2018 12:55:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Heanu Weller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Heanu Weller and I am a teacher at Ka 'Umeke KÄ• 'eo Hawaiian Language Immersion Public Charter School in Hilo, Hawai'i. As a former parent, a grandparent, and a teacher in a charter school I strongly support HB2508.

Mahalo.

**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2018 1:52:43 PM  
Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer VandenAkker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support funding for this school. I think many of Kauai's keiki could benefit greatly from it.



**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2018 4:02:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jill D. Raznov	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. I am a charter school parent and board member (HAAS). I support public state funding for the design, planning, construction, repair, and maintenance of public charter school improvements such as infrastructure costs, rental or lease assistance, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure for charter schools. Currently charter schools receive no such funding. Our keiki deserve to have reasonably well-maintained facilities to accommodate and support their learning. Charter school students must receive equal treatment and funding as public school students. There is really no good reason not to support such funding. Charter schools are not private schools, and often the children these schools serve are from already underserved areas. To deny such a bill to pass is to deny our keiki the right to the learning they deserve so they can prepare for bright futures, lifting us all up together in the process.

**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2018 8:04:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jenna Way	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill. As a parent of 2 children who graduated from Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science Public Charter School, I saw first hand the unequal funding between charter schools and DOE schools. It is only fair that ALL of our keiki be entitled to equal distribution of our education funds. Why does one PUBLIC school get funds for facilities and another PUBLIC school doesn't? Please rectify this situation.

**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2018 8:32:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kanoelani Holt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai, 'o Kanoelani Holt ko'u inoa, he haumana papa 'umikÅ«mÄ• kahi ma Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau. 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 picnic tables placed on mud. Because of the heavy rain in Ha'ikÅ« 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 don't 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 Hawai'i's education system for fair funding for my education. Me ka ha'aha'a,

Kanoelani Holt

Mahalo!

**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2018 9:53:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2018 9:10:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kalai cabana-zukeran	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kala'i and I attend Ke Kula 'O Samuel M. Kamakau. In Kane'ohē it rains most of the time here and our school is almost never dry. We eat in mud about every single day and our slippers or shoes always get muddy all the time. When we come into our classrooms the floor gets all muddy and wet and it gets really slippery. This is because we do not have adequate funding for proper buildings and classrooms to support our learning. Therefore, I am in FULL support of this bill.

Mahalo

**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2018 10:02:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, o wau no 'o Honikā , He haumā na no ho'i au ma ke Kula 'O Samuel M. Kamakau. No Maui mai 'au a i kā'ia manawa ke noho nei au ma Maunawili, O'ahu. Kako'o au i ka HB2508 no ka mea pono mā• kou i kekahi hale 'Ā'ina no ka mea ke 'ai nei mā• kou ma lalo o kekahi hale pe'a.

~A Haumana Of Ke Kula o Kamakau

**LATE**

**HB-2508-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2018 10:06:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
ha?ohulani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

o wau o Ha'ohulani cleaver he haumana wau no ke kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau. Noho wau ma kalihi uka . Hanau 'ia wau ma Moanalua O'ahu. Kako'o wau i kÄ"ia testimony. We want a real cafeateria and buildings that will protect us from the rain and the bombing.

~A Hauman Of Ke Kula O Kamakau