



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Legislative Testimony



**HB2508**  
**RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS**  
House Committee on Education

January 31, 2018

2:05 PM

Room 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Administration will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** HB2508, 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. **This measure 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 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, now codified in HRS §302D-29.5(a), which provide that legislative appropriations and bond authorizations related to charter school facilities are 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 food services; or provide restroom facilities[,] **may not currently authorize funding for rental or lease of charter school facilities, a major facilities cost for start-up schools.** Accordingly, OHA recommends that HB2508 be revised 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.

OHA further recommends that self-referential language be deleted from HRS §302D-29.5(a) for clarification purposes. In particular, HRS §302D-29.5(a) states in part: "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" (emphasis added). OHA notes that section 302D-28 pertains to per-pupil funding, which is distinct from facilities funding. **However, OHA respectfully submits that the language in section 302D-29.5 requiring appropriations under that section to be kept separate from appropriations 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.  
Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE  
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION  
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>  
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776



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FOR: HB 2508 Relating to Charter Schools  
DATE: January 31, 2017  
TIME: 2:05 P.M.  
COMMITTEE: House Committee on Education  
ROOM: Room 309  
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee:

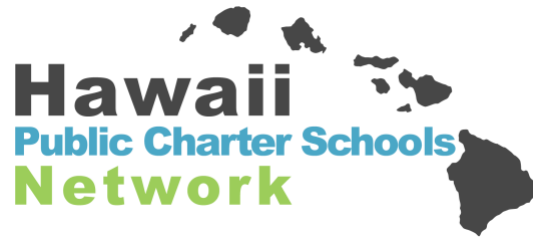
The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 2508**, which would provide facility funding to charter schools for infrastructure costs, the rental or lease of charter school facilities, and the repair and maintenance 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 needs of each individual charter school vary greatly as evidenced by the 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



January 31, 2018

To: Honorable Justin Woodson, Chair  
Honorable Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Education

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

Re: **HB 2508 – RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS – SUPORT**  
**Conference Room 309 – Hawaii State Capitol – Jan. 31, 2017, 2:05 P.M.**

On behalf of the Hawaii Public Charter School Network (HPCSN), I respectfully submit our testimony for HB 2508, Relating to Charter Schools.

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. Passing this bill represents a significant step toward providing equity for all Hawaii public school students.

Both conversion and start up charter schools receive the same level of per pupil funding to provide for its instructional operations, but most public schools, there is no separate facilities budget for start-up charter schools or additional capital budget for conversion charter schools. So, if a conversion charter school—a former DOE schools whose facilities maintenance and repair costs continue to be provided the state—decides to build on to or modernize its existing facilities, that new capital, equipment and future maintenance cost now becomes a new financial obligation that school must secure. This is a problem because facilities are a major expense for charter schools and represent the biggest gap in equity for public charter school students.

Many of Hawaii’s charter schools pay for facilities and maintenance costs from a per pupil allocation --\$7383/student in SY17-18--that is intended for instructional needs. Median facilities costs, not including repair and maintenance, are about nine percent of a charter school’s annual budget. However, facilities, repair and maintenance, can costs 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 dollars 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. It's true there is a great variance in the condition of facilities from charter school to charter school. U.S. Department Agriculture below-market interest loans and other federally subsidized charter school facilities loans have underwritten the costs to build several charter schools over the years. 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 public school facilities including those who chose to enroll in public charters. For these reasons, we advocate for the equitable treatment of all public school students and humbly ask your support for this bill to appropriate facilities funding for charter schools.

Mahalo for your consideration. 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 choices and quality in an independent public-school setting.



January 30, 2018

**LATE**

To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair  
Representative Sam Kong, Vice Chair  
Committee on Education

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

Re: **HB 2508– Relating to Charter Schools**  
**Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309, January 31, 2018, 2:05 PM**

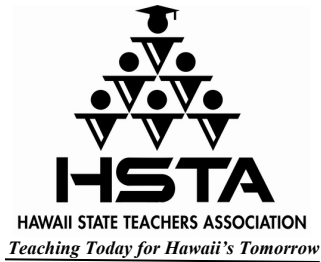
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**On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support HB 2508 – Relating to Charter Schools.**

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  
EDUCATION

RE: HB 2508 - RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 2508**, 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.



**LATE**

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

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## **TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 2508, RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**House Committee on Education  
Hon. Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Hon. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair**

**Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 2:05 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309**

Honorable Chair Woodson 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, 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.

Sincerely,  
Kris Coffield  
*Executive Director*  
IMUAlliance

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:04:51 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
LEIGH FITZGERALD	HAWAII TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY	Support	No

Comments:

All public school students, both those attending their geographic home school and those attending public charter schools, deserve funding for the facilities and campus infrastructure that supports learning in the 21st century. We cannot move ahead with our mandate to provide innovative, dynamic and inclusive schools in which student voice and teacher collaboration drive decision making unless we have facilities to support student learning and faculty growth.

Thank you, Leigh Fitzgerald

Executive Director, Hawaii Technology Academy

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:01:32 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kalima Cayir	Volcano School of Arts & Sciences	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Esteemed Representatives,

I am writing in support of HB 2509 to provide equitable funding for charter schools to provide adequate facilities, meal service, and transportation. The inequity in funding of our public schools is extreme! In addition to the already substantial difference of about \$2k per pupil between the Weighted Student Formula (WSF) funding provided to Department schools, and the Per Pupil (PPA) funding provided to public charter schools, Department schools do not have to pay for facilities, meals, transportation, and several other line items out of their own budgets as each of these are handled by a different office in the Department of Education.

As Principal of The Volcano School of Arts & Sciences, I do not value charter schools over DOE schools or vice versa. Rather, I believe in providing options with diverse learning environments for the diverse students in our communities. I agree wholeheartedly with Keoni Jeremiah (DOE Ka'u-Kea'au-Pahoa Complex Area Superintendent) when he says, "they are all our kids." Providing equitable funding for public charter schools is simply the minimum necessary to meet our students' needs while they are with us. Equitable funding for charter schools helps all children, and helps Hawai'i!

The Volcano School of Arts & Sciences is a Hawaiian-Focused school serving 207 students predominately from Puna and Ka'u. Our service area spans 2,500 square miles and 5 districts on the Big Island.

Mahalo for your support!

Kalima Cayir

Lead Learner and Principal of The Volcano School of Arts & Sciences



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

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

Before the House Committee on Education, House Bill 2508 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.

Ianuali 31, 2018 2:05 p.m. House Conference Room 309

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair; Representative Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Education

**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 to appropriate charter school facilities funding. In closing, we would like to thank the House Committee on Education for this opportunity to share our mana'o.

Me ke aloha,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "I Kelling".

I Kelling  
Kahu, Director



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org  
hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro  
Executive Director

January 31, 2018

Committee on Education  
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair

State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Kong, and Members of the Committee,

HawaiiKidsCAN supports HB 2508, 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 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



**LATE**



## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Education

Time: 2:05 p.m.

Date: January 31, 2018

Where: Conference Room 309

### TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

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

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Woodson, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Kong, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao 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, 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. 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‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:54:06 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karen Costales	Volcano School of Arts & Sciences	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha from Big Island! Please support HB2508 so that public charter schools receive equitable funding for the same keiki that the D.O.E. schools receive. As a substitute teacher in D.O.E. schools on the Big Island, I was happy to see that D.O.E. schools on the Big Island have good facilities and infrastructure. It was shocking to see the condition of the buildings that charter schools are renting--falling apart and such. Please consider an allotment for public charter schools to have money for facilities and infrastructure too so that ALL our keiki can have what is needed for optimal learning. Mahalo!

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:09:08 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB 2508 relating to charter schools. I am a parent of a charter school child (HAAS PCS) and a Governing Board Member for this school. As such, I have experienced first hand the excellent opportunities provided to our keiki (and mine particularly) at Hawaii's charter schools. Of course, my desire is to make sure that these opportunities are equitable with all DOE schools. We, as a community of parents and GB members, work hard with our charter school educators, administrators and staff to make sure that our keiki have equal access to all the tools available to compliment and enhance learning and the love of learning at school. Therefore, I respectfully request that our legislature assure equitable appropriations for Hawaii charter schools so as to support and defray infrastructure costs, the rental or lease of charter school facilities, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure. Mahalo Nui Loa! - Jill Dana Raznov, Esq.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:00:38 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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 \$7242 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.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 4:43:04 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alex Teece	DreamHouse Ewa Beach	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Alex Teece and I am the founding executive director for DreamHouse 'Ewa Beach, an approved public charter school.

We will not be opening this year due to one major hurdle that we could not overcome as a small, scrappy, start-up school: facilities. Great team, great plan, raised over \$200k in funds from friends and family... but not facility or facilities funding.

Mahalo nui for your consideration in supporting this measure; it will ensure schools like our can get off the ground and help serve children and families attending our islands' public schools.

Mahalo,

Alex



## Native Hawaiian Education Council

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January 30, 2018

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Representative Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair  
State of Hawai'i, House of Representatives  
House Committee on Education

Via: Electronic Upload

### **RE: HB2508 – RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS INFRASTRUCTURE**

Aloha 'olua mai,

The Native Hawaiian Education Council (NHEC or the Council) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** **HB2508 – RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS INFRASTRUCTURE** based on our Native Hawaiian Education Platform and 2017-2018 Education Priorities (attached) and in support of the Native Hawaiian Education Mission, Vision and two Goals (attached).

The Council's support of this measure is based on:

- The commitment of charter schools to meeting the needs of families and communities—holistically;
- Innovative curriculum, instruction and assessment practices that strengthen student learning, growth and achievement;
- Over 10,000 students and families and communities who choose a public charter school setting and education;
- A portfolio of 37 approved schools of which 17 are Hawaiian focused and language medium schools;
- A concentration of the charter school portfolio in more rural settings on Hawai'i island and Kaua'i; and
- A need for public education resourcing for ALL students.

The Native Hawaiian Education Council was established in 1994 under the federal Native Hawaiian Education Act. The Council is charged with coordinating, assessing and reporting and making recommendations on the effectiveness of existing education programs for Native Hawaiians, the state of present Native Hawaiian education efforts, and improvements that may be made to existing programs, policies, and procedures to improve the educational attainment of Native Hawaiians.

Please feel free to contact the Council's Executive Director, Dr. Sylvia Hussey, directly via e-mail ([sylvia@nhec.org](mailto:sylvia@nhec.org)), office (808.523.6432) with any questions.

Sincerely,



Representative Justin H. Woodson  
Representative Sam Satoru Kong  
January 30, 2018  
Page 2

*Lisa M. Watkins-Victorino*

Dr. Lisa M. Watkins-Victorino, Chair

Attachments

cc: Policy & Advocacy and Executive Committees and staff



# Native Hawaiian Education Platform\*

**‘O Hawai‘i ke kahua o ka ho‘ona‘auao.**  
*Hawai‘i is the foundation of our learning.*

## Perpetuate ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i

Actions on advancing ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i expectations; actualizing a Hawaiian speaking workforce; amplifying access and support; and achieve normalization of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i

## Amplify Family and Community Voices

Recognizes parents and families as first educators; Actions that inform, illuminate, elevate and strengthen parent, family and community engagement in education

## Advance Hawaiian Culture Based Education

Actions that promote further understanding, connecting, supporting and advancing ‘ike and ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i: policy and pathways; teachers, leaders and communities; pedagogy and programs; curriculum, instruction, assessment and research practices; and evaluation and accreditation mechanisms.

## Intensify Systems Engagement

Actions that intensify systems level action---federal, state, primary, secondary, tertiary, national and international, health, housing—to strengthen families and communities.

\* Formal set of principal goals



**Native Hawaiian  
Education Council**  
735 Bishop Street, Suite 224  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
808-523-6432  
[www.nhec.org](http://www.nhec.org)



# 2017-2018 Native Hawaiian Education Priorities

## Native Hawaiian Education Council

### Perpetuate 'Ōlelo Hawai'i

- Support the Working Group recommendations re: the Expansion of Hawaiian Language Instruction Throughout the University of Hawai'i Systems.
- Support continuing work on Hawaiian language standards and assessments.

### Amplify Family and Community Voices

- Advocate for the effective implementation of ESSA for the benefit of families and communities.
- Aggregate field data on family and community voices by island community.

### Advance Hawaiian Culture Based Education

- Illuminate Models and Practices of Innovation.
- Elevate Accreditation Frameworks, Designations and Schools.
  - Create a Native Hawaiian research agenda.
  - Continue Native Hawaiian education meta-evaluation.
- Include CBE in Teacher Education and Preparation Programs and Professional Development

### Intensify Systems Engagement

- Continue national advocacy work re: ESSA implementation and Native Control of Native Education.
- Engage in early learning planning and implementation work.
- Advance the implementation of Board of Education Policy E-3 Na Hopena A'o.
- Support the continuing 2-Pathways of Education Design and Development



Native Hawaiian  
Education Council  
735 Bishop Street, Suite 224  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
808-523-6432  
[www.nhec.org](http://www.nhec.org)





KEAOMĀLAMALAMA

[www.keaomalalama.org](http://www.keaomalalama.org)

## *Nu'ukia (Vision)*

**'O Hawai'i ke kahua o ka ho'ona'auao.**

*Hawai'i is the foundation of our learning.*

## *Ala Nu'ukia (Mission)*

**I nā makahiki he 10 e hiki mai ana e 'ike 'ia ai nā hanauna i mana i ka 'ōlelo a me ka nohona Hawai'i no ka ho'omau 'ana i ke ola pono o ka maui Hawai'i.**

*In 10 years, kānaka will thrive through the foundation of Hawaiian language, values, practices and wisdom of our kūpuna and new 'ike to sustain abundant communities.*

## *Pahuhopu (Goals)*

In the next 10 years, our learning systems will . . .

### **Goal #1 — 'Ōlelo Hawai'i:**

- **Advance 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Expectations**

*Develop and implement a clear set of expectations for 'ōlelo Hawai'i that permeates all levels of education.*

- **Actualize a Hawaiian Speaking Workforce**

*Increase a prepared 'ōlelo Hawai'i workforce to ensure community and 'ohana access and support.*

- **Amplify Access and Support**

*Increase 'ōlelo Hawai'i context and programming to support the kaiāulu.*

- **Achieve Normalization**

*Pursue normalization of 'ōlelo Hawai'i.*

### **Goal #2 — 'Ike Hawai'i:**

- **Actualize 'Ike Hawai'i**

*Increase use of knowledge from traditional and diverse sources.*

- **Amplify Leo Hawai'i**

*Increase 'ohana and kaiāulu learning and participation.*

- **Advance Hana Hawai'i**

*Increase resources to support practice and leadership.*

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:26:19 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chanelle Chin		Support	No

Comments:

Hello Legislators,

Thank you for support for HB 2508. I am a teacher at Hawaii Technology Academy. I've been teaching here for about 3 years. I am truly grateful for the opportunities charter schools give to provide families with alternative education. Students who attend HTA find they are able to thrive as opposed to the overcrowded classrooms and schools we often see on Oahu. Students can have more support by their teachers and administrators and we often are able to help students and their families get the confidence and education they deserve but may not have found at a regular public school.

Our students would love to have a music program and other programs that support enrichment, but find at HTA space is limited for housing instruments and other equipment that would help allow students to express themselves creatively.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:20:44 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I currently attend Hawaii Technology Academy which is a public charter school in Waipahu. Our school has always had issues with having not enough space. In my advisory class we are trying to make a push for a music class, but because of not having enough space and money, it has been hard to get more backing.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:31:40 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lucie Schrager		Support	No

Comments:

Hello Legislature,

I first want to thank you for the support of HB2508. I am a student; a junior in high school. I have been enrolled at Hawaii Technology Academy, a charter school, for 5 years now. My school has provided me with unique benefits; notably its flexibility and more one on one class time. As a result, I have thrived educationally as well as socially. I feel that charter schools like mine deserve more funding for a number of reasons. Charter schools are sometimes better fitted for students which causes a growth in enrollment. Without necessary funding, charter schools are unable to support the growing class sizes and continued demand for resources.

My school, in particular, lacks the funding to have certain extracurriculars. We don't have the ability to foster the music and arts programs, which hurts students who thrive in those subjects.

Our issues not only cover our lack of extracurriculars. The increase in enrollment has caused a lack of space. Over the span of my five years of being enrolled at HTA, I have seen the number of students increase exponentially. So much so that we have ended up moving location in hopes of having more space, but we have begun to grow out of this space as well.

I really hope this bill is able to be passed. Once again, I thank you for the support of HB2508.

Thank You,

Lucie Schrager

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:47:32 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:56:35 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Levenson	Kanu o ka Aina Learning Ohana	Support	No

Comments:



**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 4:02:30 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Faye Neves	Hawaii Behavioral Health	Support	No

Comments:

As a parent of a former charter school student, I strongly support this bill. While my daughter was a student at SEEQS charter school, she received a top notch education, but the struggle her school faced every year with facilities and funding was stressful for the school and parents that worried we would lose this amazing educational opportunity because of lack of funds, even though we pay just as much taxes as parents whose children attend traditional DOE schools. Please revise the way the state allocates funding for charter school facilities so that schools like SEEQS can continue to provide a seriously superior alternative to our public school students.



**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:54:24 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tamara Wong-Morrison	Volcano School of Arts & Sciences, PCS	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

I fully support this bill for equitable facilities funding for our charter schools. My charter school is in Volcano on the Big Island of Hawaii and we really need this bill. Please support

our charter schools by helping to provide nice buildings for them to learn in.

Mahalo,

Tamara Laulani Wong-

Morrison

English Language Arts

teacher

VOLCANO SCHOOL OF ARTS &

SCIENCES

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:48:55 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am a student at a charter school and I feel that it's unfair that we don't get any equal funding. We should be able to get the same funding that DOE schools get .

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:51:20 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaiwi Akioka	Ke Kula O Samuel M Kamakau, LPCS	Support	No

Comments:

I am a student at the LPCS Ke Kula O Samuel M Kamkau (SMK or Kamakau hereafter). I think that we should be getting equal or even more funding than normal schools. Just because we don't adhere to the common standards of the DOE it doesn't mean that we should be getting any less support. And I think that unique and different approaches to schooling should be raised above the normal ways. That is what we are doing here at SMK. We are a unique school, as are most other charters, and that should be celebrated, not degraded through half-assed funding.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:51:41 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

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

## Comments:

We need equal funding. My school sits under a tent full of mud and rain for lunch. I want a real ceffeteria, wanna be able to eat like a normal high school student. I dont feel like a pig when I eat, I dont wanna be a wild animal eating in mud. The students at my school deserves at least a normal lunch break, we work hard for our community and our lĀ• hui (culture). The least that we can have is recognition from the state, we are here, and we need/deserve equal funding.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:52:15 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
kekoa beard	ke Kula ?o kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

Hi my name is Kekoa, I am a student at Samuel M. Kamakau and i think and feel in my heart that it is unfair that we dont get the same amount of fundings as other public schools.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:52:34 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kuumakaonaona Bailon	Ke Kula o Samuel M. Kamakau, LPCS	Support	No

Comments:

As a Student of a charter school, I feel that it is unfair that we don't get the same funding as other schools run by the DEO, at Ke Kula o Samuel M. Kamakau we get no funding what so ever for anything we have on campus. As the other schools on the island have money for buildings and such, we get nothing, most of our money comes out of pocket. As a Hawaiian intermediate school and speaking the native language we should get more money.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:52:51 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
manaloa kahoopii	ke kula o samuel M. kamakau, LPCS	Support	No

Comments:

As a student in the charter school of ke kula o samuel M. kamakau i feel it is very unfair that we do not recieve money to help support our keiki hawaii and because this is the state of hawaii i feel that us kula kaiapuni should get the same amount of money as any other school out there and that the schools out there who arent even kaiapuni schools should not recieve more than us because it is not fair AT ALL

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:00:18 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am a student of Ke Kula o Samuel M. Kamakau. I think that it is not fair that we do not receive equal fundings as other public schools.



**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:00:33 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kahiamoe	samule M Kamakau	Comments	No

## Comments:

I am a student of ke kula 'o samule m kamakau and i think it's unfair that we dont get fundings like other schools. My name is kahiamoelea and i think we should get funded like every other school

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:59:42 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Katie Benioni	Na Lei Na'auao	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 4:58:48 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai		Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

I FULLY SUPPORT HB2508 - 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.

However, I have some concerns about the charter school commission having sole determination on the allocation. I believe the PCS should be permitted to weigh-in on the allocation too (i.e. PCSC and PCS having 51% and 49%, respectfully, for allocation determination). Just saying that top down decisions doesn't always work. Furthermore, the one's that got the increased funding should have some say in how that additional funding gets allocated.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in FULL SUPPORT OF HB2508 - RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai

HÄ• Iau KÄ« MÄ• na PCS Makua

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 5:07:08 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Thalia Davis		Support	No

Comments:

Please vote to support the facilities funding bill for public charter schools. I have been a charter school parent for 12 years, board member, fundrasier and donor. Students of charter schools deserve proper faciities. Thank you.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:13:25 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of charter schools everywhere and the bill number HB2508. As someone who is currently enrolled in a charter school, I have experienced first-hand in how we as a charter school don't get as much funding compared to a traditional public school. For example, At Ke Kula 'O Samuel M. Kamakau, we don't have a proper cafeteria. Our cafeteria consists of one long beach tent, with dirt floors beneath our feet. The thing is, Kāne'ohe is known for its rain, and when it starts to pour at our school, we have to find other places to eat our lunch because our cafeteria gets flooded and starts to create mud. If we were able to have the same funding as traditional public schools, we wouldn't need to be faced with such challenges. Mahalo

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 7:49:18 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Deborah Davis		Support	No

Comments:

Please pass. Thank you!

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 7:59:38 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tiffany Edwards Hunt	self	Support	No

Comments:

As a parent of children who attend a public charter school and as a teacher who works at a charter school, I am writing to humbly ask that you please approve HB 2508 and HB 2509, whatever legislation that will ensure that charter schools receive funds for facilities, transportation and meal services.

I would like to talk with you at length about this issue, but suffice it to say that I am seeking out a charter school experience for my children because I want them to have a really good education. The fact that I pay \$120 per month for them to ride a shuttle to and from Pahoia to be educated in a rented home in Hawaiian Paradise Park is a price I'm willing to pay for them to receive a quality education. However, it really does bother me that a charter school doesn't receive the same amount of funds that DOE does, and has to resort to renting a home in a subdivision and to charging families for shuttling children in vans. I am sure there are plenty of families that cannot afford that \$120 per month in transportation costs that the school is having to put on families because the school does not receive any transportation funding.

I'm sure you are reading a lot of testimony. I will respect your need for my testimony to be brief. I just really hope that you will rectify the inequity in funding between charter and traditional DOE schools. If these pieces of legislation won't work for you, maybe a legislator can put forth legislation for us charter school parents to receive tax breaks. After all, the schools our children attend are receiving less per pupil funding, we should see your cost savings in our bank accounts, as taxpayers. Food for thought as you deliberate. MAHALO NUI LOA, and aloha, Tiffany Edwards Hunt

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 10:30:21 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
shawna sale		Support	No

Comments:

I support all democratic choices in education. Charter schools are a democratic choice. ALL students are created equal, so please give equal and fair funding.



**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:23:07 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Denim Cretton		Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:02:35 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Olivia Harkins-Pignolet		Support	No

Comments:

I support Appropriates funds for infrastructure costs, the rental or lease of charter school facilities, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure of charter schools

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 4:14:15 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Roxanne Carvalho		Support	No

Comments:

I am in full support of appropriating more funds for infrastructure costs, the rental or lease of charter school facilities, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure of charter schools. The reality that our charter school students face is unjust. My son started his elementary years in a tent. Although I prefer not to complain about the best situation that our school could provide for our students, I feel that charter school students should not be funded less just because they are a charter school. It is basically saying that charter school students are less important than regular DOE students. However, they are required to learn more than a regular DOE assessment. This may not be the case for all charter school students, but I know the charter schools on Kaua'i tend to learn more than their DOE counterparts. While my 2 charter school children are required to meet certain benchmarks that their peers at regular DOE schools must learn, they are also required to learn the school's curriculum. Not having the proper funding for these students makes it difficult on these schools that are already going above and beyond what is being asked, only to hear that they are only eligible for less funding. We humbly ask that you consider all students when you are appropriating funds and consider that huge impact it could have on our charter school students--also the future of Hawai'i.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:58:30 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dan Demey		Comments	No

Comments:

My son attends school at IPCS and I am very satisfied with the quality and learning style that he receives there. I support more funding for all types of charter schools because I beleive this is the future of education in America.

Dan Demey

Big Island resident

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:02:17 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I fully support this bill. It is unfair and utterly ridiculous that DOE schools are provided funds for facilities, student transportation, and meal services that is not available to charter schools.

Why is one public school students entitled to these services while another is denied? Equal funding for all public school students is the only fair distribution of our public funds. Please support this bill.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:12:31 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Florence James		Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:16:31 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mahina Duarte		Support	No

Comments:

This bill is critical to Charter School students.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:01:53 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kirsten Rogers		Support	No

Comments:

Chair of the House Committee

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Kirsten Rogers

2716 Kalihi St #3

Honolulu, HI 96813

kirsten.naomi.rogers@gmail.com

Chair:

I support **HB 2508** to provide funding for facilities for charter schools. As a teacher that has served in both public and charter schools, I support the mission and work of our local charter schools. I believe the children in charter schools--public school children--would be better served by this additional funding.

Mahalo,

Kirsten



**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:21:06 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ally Marie Snell		Support	No

Comments:

More space for music programs / more space and money for bettering art programs

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:27:41 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dawna White		Support	No

Comments:

My daughter is currently a student at a charter school, Hawaii Technology Academy, where she has blossomed. Education isn't one size fits all. Charter schools provide opportunities for more individualized learning experiences than traditional schools. Charter school students deserve the same quality of facilities as other students. Please ensure that all of our students are treated equally and fairly by voting YES on HB2508. Mahalo.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:49:42 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Megan Kawatachi		Support	No

Comments:

The use of funds toward facilities for charter schools has long been an issue of concern. In my doctoral research on the principals of Hawaiian-focused charter schools, funding for facilities emerged as one of the most pressing issues in creating stability and longevity for their schools.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:04:00 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bryan Jacobs		Support	No

Comments:

I support the charter school system

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:28:43 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaulana Smith		Support	No

Comments:

Relating to Hawaii Pubic Charter Schools:

I am in support of HB2508 to appropriates funds for infrastructure costs, the rental or lease of charter school facilities, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure of charter schools. As a parent of a graduate of Hawaii's DOE and an educator of both DOE and PCS there is a need for Hawaii to provide equity in funding our students in public education. Historically, PCS' did not ask for funding for infrastructure costs, the rental or lease of charter school facilities, and the repair and maintenance, but the opportunity for choice has grown whe it comes to the education and preparation of Hawaii's children thrugh public education. Please pass this bill and help Hawaii's students.

Me ka oia`i`o, Kaulana Smith

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:05:38 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:25:45 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kekoa McClellan		Support	Yes

Comments:

January 31, 2018

Committee on Education

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kong, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Education,

Please accept this testimony in strong support of HB2508, an appropriation for infrastructure costs, the rental or lease of charter school facilities, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure of charter schools.

It is the mission of the State Public Charter School Commission to authorize high-quality public charter schools throughout Hawai'i. These measurable and important standards held by the commission and the Department of Education are more readily met when our Charter School teachers and administrators can focus on the good work of mentoring our keiki and not on chasing funding for basic infrastructure, facility, and maintenance costs.

While traditional Department of Education public schools receive more than \$12,500 per student and do not have to pay for facilities or utilities, our State's 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. This funding measure will help to close this resource gap.

Mahalo for your support of Hawaii's Keiki through your endorsement of HB2508.

Kekoa McClellan

The McClellan Group



**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:50:21 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Terri York		Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:59:51 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Aisha Heredia		Support	No

Comments:

January 31, 2018

Committee on Education

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Kong, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Aisha Heredia, I live in Manoa, I was a science and technology educator and now proudly work with HawaiiKidsCAN.

I am supporting HB 2508 because Hawaii public charter schools are necessary for educating such a diverse population such as ours.

Unfortunately, many of these public schools are on unequal footing when it comes to basic facilities support. When these public schools have to pay for their facilities it makes it more difficult for schools to focus on providing innovative, high-quality education for students.

Funds that could be going directly to enhancing student learning are instead going to renting buildings in one of the highest real estate markets. Imagine what a school can do

if it did not need to pay \$120,000 rent! The cost of starting a new high-quality middle school project-based learning program is about half the cost of that figure!

We should ensure that all of these schools are equipped with the fundamental resources they need to provide an excellent education, and not go to paying for facilities or transportation. I support HB2508 because it will help level the playing field for our public schools, and help provide schools with opportunities to focus on student learning.

Mahalo,

Aisha Heredia

Former Science and Tech Educator, now Community Outreach for HawaiiKidsCAN

Honolulu, HI

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:04:06 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear house representatives please put this bill threw, I am from small charter school where basically eat in a dirt or mud patch. It would be sensible to build a cafeteria for my school, althought I love the aina I dont want it all over my shoes.

**LATE**

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:56:19 PM  
Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura Warner	Volcano School of Arts & Sciences	Support	No

Comments:

Please provide adequate facility funding and infrastructure for charter schools.

Charter schools do a great service for local communities, and need support to adequately service their population of HAWAII's children.

It is unjust that charter schools lack equality in funding.

Inadequate, near and unable to repair facilities, show that charter schools need safe learning environments for our children; the children at charter schools are "children of our state too!"

Equality for all, please.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:56:45 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rebecca Hatch	The Volcano School of Arts & Sciences	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Rebecca Hatch and I am a teacher at The Volcano School of Arts & Sciences. Please vote for equitable funding for charter schools. Hawai'i charter schools are severely underfunded compared to our DOE counterparts. These gaps in funding are found in many areas: facilities, resources, principal salary, food program, etc.

Please vote to support equitable funding for facilities for charter schools. Our per-pupil funding is stretched to the limit - we go to school in aging buildings that are deteriorating and approaching the point of being unrepairable. We cannot pay for facility maintenance and rely on our community volunteers. Please help our keiki by providing the best learning environments possible.

Mahalo,

Rebecca Hatch

**LATE**

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:57:40 PM  
Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hawi Stecher		Support	No

Comments:

Please vote yes on HB2508. Charter schools should receive equitable funding relative to public schools.

As an IT administrator at the Volcano School of Arts and Science I can say we have a very small budget. Most of our computers are donated from our community. Any extra funding would directly benefit our children.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:58:13 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Barnard	Volcano School	Support	No

Comments:

**RE: SB 2508**

**Aloha,**

**I am writing in support of additional funding for charter schools for infrastructure costs, the rental or lease of charter school facilities, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure of charter schools. At our school we have labored hard and long over 17 years to teach our children in inadequate structures due to a lack of funding for facilities. Our children are children of Hawaii, supported by taxpayers of Hawaii and deserve equity in funding for a safe, drip free, adequately lit learning environment.**

**Lisa Barnard**

**PO Box 253**

**Volcano, HI 96785**



**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:58:13 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jane Wells	VSAS	Support	No

Comments:

The Volcano School of Arts and Sciences needs additional funding for facilities and infrastructure. Currently, we are making due with facilities that require repair and updates. We are also planning to build a new infrastructure, that we are still in need of additional funding. Our students need a new, safe campus that supports their learning needs. The current condition of our facilities is sadly deteriorating, and our children are not provided with the same type of facilities as at DOE schools. All of our keiki deserve the best learning environments possible, so this bill would be so amazing for our Charter school. Mahalo!

**LATE**

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:58:28 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mara Saltzman	Volcano School Teacher	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

Currently, at the charter school on The Big Island where I teach, our facilities are very poor and inadequate due to the nearly non-existent facilities funding set aside for charter schools. To build adequate campuses and appropriate facilities for public charter school students, the charter schools need funding for facilities. These are Hawaii's children and the charter schools are public, for available to all students however they are grossly under-funded, especially for facilities. Please vote in support of the bill for charter school facilities. This would be the equitable and fair move to make for Hawaii charter school students.

Mara Saltzman

**LATE**

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:59:26 PM  
Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Wells	Volcano School of Arts and Sciences	Support	No

Comments:

Please support our charter schools so we can have adequate facilities to reach our students' needs. It's just equitable and fair. My students are just like your kids and should be given decent facilities. Please support HB2508.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:06:00 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Holly Uttecht	Volcano School of Arts and Sciences	Support	No

Comments:

As a new teacher, in a first-year PreK classroom, there are instances where facilities hinder my teaching in the classroom. Please vote to support facility/infrastructure for our keiki in public charter schools.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:15:13 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tracy H. Jardine	laupahoehoe Community PCS	Support	No

Comments:

Charter schools serve the students of the State of Hawaii just as the DOE does. For Charters to have to use the per pupil funding for all of their operational costs as well as personnel is unfair. On top of that, we often have to hire grant writers to bring in the extra resources needed to cover our expenditures. We should receive the same funding that the Department of Education receives. It is time!

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:20:50 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lydia	VSAS	Support	No

Comments:

I would like to see the state of Hawaii support all charter schools with their infrastructure costs. Our school is in need of much repairs, and this funding would help greatly in providing a cleaning and safe campus. thank you ~Lydia

**LATE**

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:51:43 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maria Kottwitz		Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill. There are many awesome things happening at our charter schools but they need your support to continue! Support equality for ALL Hawai'i's keiki!!

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:05:52 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stacie Chang		Support	No

Comments:

We love our charter school. They could do so much more for our children. To name a few... funding to maintain the school, offer meals, etc. We need to invest in our children today!



**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:28:22 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rebecca Logan		Support	No

Comments:

As a parent of 2 children that were and are currently part of a charter school system, I support the appropriate funds for infrastructure costs, the rental or lease of charter school facilities, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure of charter schools

**LATE**

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:34:22 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nahe Bailon		Support	No

Comments:

**Aloha Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**I'm a senior at Ke Kula o Samuel M. Kamakau Laboratory PCS. I'm humbly testifying in support of equitable funding for charter schools on behalf of my fellow classmates, as well as those who are faced with the same situation as myself. We as charter school students are not given the equal funds as those who attend D.O.E. schools. A question asked by students at my school is, "Why can't we use this facility?" It saddens me deeply to hear young kids at my school ask their teachers such questions. Charter school teachers and students alike find ways to fundraise just enough money to pay for half of what is needed. The rest is out of pocket. On the other hand, D.O.E. schools get the funds they need for their facilities, sometimes more. Yet both D.O.E. schools and charter schools are held to the same standards. I ask you, how is this fair?**

**My school runs from Pre-K up to 12th grade. All ages at some point in the day are made to sit outside on old, mud-encrusted picnic tables under a tent for lunch. Which is sometimes taken down because of the windy conditions in Kaneohe. And depending on the weather is sometimes muddy and slippery. It's a health and a safety hazard. We've tried temporary solutions, but they seem to fade away because of the that rain washes the hay away or because we can't afford the mats we need. We have two other facilities on the campus that aren't in use because we can't afford to set up the water system and electricity. If we're given the funds we need, we won't be forced to worry about possibly injuring ourselves or being unable to focus because of the uncomfortably crammed class sizes. I hope you folks take into consideration the equally important and very well underfunded charter schools' needs. Thank you for your time.**

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 5:55:21 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rod Todorovich	Waialae Public Charter School Board	Support	No

Comments:

As a parent and charter school board chair at Waialae Public Charter School, it is very clear to me that conversion charter schools have a tremendous advantage in cost savings given that we do not have to "rent" space from private sector owners. For Hawaii's non-conversion charter schools, HB2508 is an equitable "reset" that gives such charter schools a funding mechanism that clearly helps to level the playing field. Charter school economic stability is a fundamental underpinning for academic quality and sustained learning of children in non-conversion charter schools. Support for this bill is a vote for equity and opportunity. If not now, WHEN?

**LATE**



## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Education

Time: 2:05 p.m.

Date: January 31, 2018

Where: Conference Room 309

### TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

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

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Woodson, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Kong, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao 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, 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. 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‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:58:03 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lemao Tauali'i	Ke kula 'o Samuel Manaiakalani Kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

To the Government,  
I'd like to make a complaint you should not ignore. You've all made decision that you shouldi'nt have. You've decided that charter schools should not get the PROPER funding that they deserve. Funding that could be used to give us a cafeteria that does not exist, or simple things like busses to transport students that live in places like 'Ewa. Also the road that we must wake to school is literally disappearing from the bottom up.Or the funding could give us actual food, not just scraps that a restaurant provides us with.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:53:52 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John	Self-Employed	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Folks, I strongly support this bill as I have a child at Volcano Charter School and am a daily volunteer and big supporter of the faculty and staff. Thank you

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:01:23 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
CECILIA GOLIS BAUTISTA		Support	No

Comments:

Please support this funding. Come meet my children and you will see why it is the right thing to do. My children have been attending charter schools for several years. In this environment they and their peers have been able to thrive to become well educated, well rounded, highly active community members that are bound for college. They are Hawaii's bright future. They are the direct result of involved parents and amazing teachers that gave them the incredible experience of learning in the untraditional but highly effective charter schools they attended. If only we had that opportunity. My children have the skills and a foundation that I am so glad was available for them. Please give the funding for the many children that deserve this school choice in the form of infrastructure. Mahalo, Mrs. Cecilia Golis Bautista

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:02:30 AM

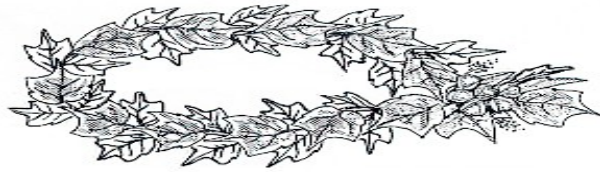
Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
ELIZABETH A HILLER VALENTIN	PROJECT VISION HAWAII	Support	No

Comments:





**LATE**

*'A'ole 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 Woodson, Vice-Chairperson Kong and Members of the House Committee on Education:

Hawaii is recognized throughout the country for our system of “public” schools that are equitably funded. The level of funding for schools in every other state largely depends on the wealth of the local community. If one of your colleagues introduced a bill to cut the funding for public schools on the Big Island in half, you would surely chastise him. If you had knowledge of funds earmarked for one school being covertly channeled to another school, you would call for an investigation. The people of our state take great pride in the level of equity that exists in our “public” schools. CHARTER SCHOOLS ARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS. As public schools they deserve equity in funding and support. Connections PCS applauds the authors and supporters of HB 2508 for recognizing the urgency for support for students at charter schools. The students at charter schools are at a severe disadvantage because of inadequate funding and support. This sends a powerful and inappropriate message that these learners are second class citizens.

Hawaii’s public education system must serve the increasingly diverse needs and wants of the citizens of our communities. The values of charter school communities must be respected through the dignity of proper funding for the schools. The Aloha spirit is also recognized throughout the world as symbolizing the values of the people of Hawaii. This spirit demands that we honor diversity. Charter schools provide an opportunity to bring high quality education to many in our state that have not benefited from our public system until now. As catalysts for change they also offer an opportunity for the people of Hawaii to benefit from a national reform movement with bipartisan support.

Charter schools can provide opportunities to implement innovative programs to improve student learning and achievement. With our smaller scale, direct parental involvement, autonomy and site-based decision making, charter schools in Hawaii have become true learning communities. We are living proof that freedom and equitable choice for parents; innovative opportunities for educators and explicit accountability for student achievement makes a difference in the education of our children. If charter schools can embody the characteristics of choice, autonomy and accountability, perhaps other public schools can learn from our experiences.

I strongly urge you to support strong, equitable language in this bill to bring dignity and honor back to “public” education in Hawaii.

174 Kamehameha Ave., Hilo, Hawai'i - Phone 1-808-961-3664 FAX 1-808-961-2665  
Email: [john\\_thatcher@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:john_thatcher@hawaii.rr.com)

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:04:10 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kamana'o Sarsona	Ke kula o Samuel M Kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

Hello Legislature,

I am writting this in support of bill HB2508 I believe it is **not fair** that other schools are getting more money than us.And all the money we do get cannot go to getting bus services.Or getting an **ACTUAL** cafeteria. Do you know what its like to have to eat under a tent Every damn day. While in other schools they get to eat in a cafeteria.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:08:30 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

**LATE**

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

Comments:

To this may ever go to,

im a student at Ke Kula 'O Samuel M. Kamakau and im writting to support HB2508 and HB2509 to charter schools in need. My schools cafeteria is literally in mud we eat and stay in mud almost all the time and the roof/ceiling is a tent. And it is very hard to get some bus to go on field trips.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:08:57 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keonaona	Kamakau public charter school	Support	No

Comments:

I support this but I think that its unfair for some schools to get more funds and money than other schools. Im a student from ke kula 'o samuel M. Kamakau and im supporting HB2508 because i think that every public school should get funds for needs for their school. especially my school at Kamakau we need more funds to pay for our roads , our cafeteria , and for us to have transportation from here to home. but im kinda tired of eating on picnic tables and on mud. thats why we need more funding so we can have a cafeteria. some kids at this school live far away but want to come to this school. and those kids always come late. so I think it would be a big help with more funds for our needs.

Me ke aloha ,

a student from Kamakau

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:09:53 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
kamilei kahanaoi		Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern

My name is Kamilei Kahanaoi I go to a public charter school called Kamakau. This is my first year going to this school and it is very different from my last school. I think it is not fair that this school does not get a fair choice like other schools do. When we have fieldtrips we have to trouble some of the parents for their time and gas. That is not fair to them because we don't have enough money to pay them back for all of the gas that they have spent driving the students.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:10:37 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keawaiki Jones	kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Keawaiki M. Jones,

Im writing to you folks to support my school. i go to ke kula o kamamau. Did you know that we eat lunch under neath a tent in mud. we should not be doing that. we should have a nice desent area to eat just like any other schools. Its isnt **FAIR**.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:11:01 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

**LATE**

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

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

Eia au mai Ke Kula 'O Samuel M. Kamakau. He kula public charter. Ke kã• kau nei au i ko'u mana'o no ka mea he kaulike 'ole. ( Here I am from Ke Kula 'O Samuel M. Kamakau. We are a public laboratory charter school. I'm voicing my opinion/thoughts because this is not fair.) We barely have funds for the school. We are forced to have plenty fundraisers such as: Makahiki Kuilima, Ho'omau, etc. We don't have needed facilities like libraries, computer labs, and our buildings barely fit all of us. We are tightly packed like sardines.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:12:28 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Winuna Eschenberg	Ke Kula o Samuel Manaiakalani Kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii,

Hawaii needs change, is education here fair? Public, charter or even private. We are all just a bunch of kids from Hawaii. I am Winuna Eschenberg i am in seventh grade at Ke Kula o Samuel Manaiakalani Kamakau (a public charter school). I strongly support this bill, this is important to me, i go to school every day to eat and learn in the mud and under a 90% duck tape tarp. We do not have a cafeteria or even a paved road. I get sick every day on my way up to school, the road is soooooo bumpy and rocky that my Moms cars tires are worn out. My school deserves better, there might be a difference between the meaning of carter and public but does there have to be a difference in how we are treated. Pease open up your hearts to us and lend a helping hand by passing this bill.

Mahalo, a charter school student



**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:14:22 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ke?alohilani		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I feel like even though we're a charter school, we should still get the same funding as D.O.E schools. I go to Ke Kula 'O S.M Kamakau and we don't have a cafeteria. So we need to eat under a tent on picnic tables in the mud. In the morning and when school is done, we have to sit under the tent if not in A+. When it rains here, there is lots of mud. It's so hard to stay clean. It's also very hard to keep our things clean, as in bags. When it rains it's slippery, which causes students to slip and fall.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:15:28 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

**LATE**

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

Comments:

To Who Ever Gets This,

Im a student at Ke Kula 'O Samuel M. Kamakau. Im supproting HB2508 and HB2508. My school has a tent as a cafeteria and we eat in mud. Also we don't have very good food to eat at lunch and we don't have a very good trasportation. Our roads are all messed up. I was wondering if you know that we are no different from the DOE schools. Also we should have a **REAL** cafeteria. So why do we only get half of what the DOE school gets? We are all schools and we deserve more!!

**LATE**

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:16:18 PM  
Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eweleiula Wong		Support	No

Comments:

To whom it might concern,

I am writting 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.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:16:51 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jordyn Wong	Kamakau Charter School	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha to the individual who is reading this,

I am Hikianali'a Wong a student from Kamakau Labratory Public Charter School, I am speaking on behalf of my school, the employees, and the students. I believe the it is very unfair that frist of all we don't get the full funding, but the funding that we do get we can't use that to fix our buildings or build any building. At my current school we have to eat lunch and at times learn in the mud under a tent. It rains a lot where my school is located and when the wind blows and it rains we get soaked. It is NOT FAIR we can't use the money we do have for our facilities. On that note the road to drive up to our school is the most horrible road ever and scraps the bottom of my parents cars smethimes. I am DISSAPOINTEED that we get half the funding from the state and my school can't use the money for necessary needs at this charter school.

With Hope, Jordyn

Hikianali'a  
Wong

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:20:55 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Malelega Lauano	Ke kula ?o S. Kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

Talofa lava, my name is Malelega Lauano

I am writing this to you folks because i want you folks to come and support my charter school which is the Hawaiian Immersion School, and we want you to support my school by at least maybe have us use the bus for maybe field trips without using others cars just to go to a field trip. Did you know that we as students have been eating in mud underneath a tent and we don't appreciate that because it kinda looks like we are poor and we're not poor and we would also appreciate if we could have either a cement for the floor to cover up the mud so it won't look like we're poor at all. Thank you for listening and your support. Fa'afetai lava.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:23:42 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM



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

Comments:

Aloha im Kaha Barbieto. I support this bill because we the students and teachers do not feel comfortable eating in the mud under a tent that is why we need this cause this is very important to us, ke kula 'o Kamakau. This bill will help us a lot cause all people/kids should be treated the same especially if it is related to school and learning.

**HB-2508**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:31:38 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Malelega Lauano	Ke kula ?o S. Kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

Talofa lava, 'O Malelega Lauano ko'u inoa,

Ke kã• kau nei wau i kã“ia iã• ‘oukou ‘oi ai makemake wau iã• ‘oukou e hele mai e kã• ko‘o i ke Kula ‘o Samuel M. Kamkau ‘oi ai ‘a‘ole lawa ko mã• kou kã• iã• no ke kula a ua makemake e ‘ike i nã• hiki ke loa‘a i kekahi ka‘a ‘ã• hua no ke kula i ‘oi aku ka maika‘i i ‘ole pono e ho‘ohana i nã• ka‘a ‘ã“a‘e a pã“iã• wale aku. Mahalo no ka ho‘olohe ana. Mahalo.