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Corey Rosenlee
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Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

RE: HB 2509 - 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 2509**, 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 in general for the repair, maintenance, acquisition, and rental of charter school facilities. We also encourage your committee to consider ways of improving charter school facilities funding over the long-term, rather than through one-year legislative add-ons, to ensure that our state's charter school students have the opportunity to receive instruction in 21st Century facilities that prepare them for today's cutting-edge workplace.

Moreover, we appreciate that this measure provides funding for student meals for charter school students. Every public school student should be provided access to school meals. In Hawai'i, food insecurity is one of the most pressing manifestations of overall socioeconomic inequality. Nearly 91,000 public school students qualify for free or reduced-price meals in our state. For the 2016-2017 school year, 50.5 percent of public school students were classified as "economically challenged." Thus, for many students, school meals may be the only nutrition they receive during the day.

The number of students qualifying for the Department of Education's free and reduced lunch program has risen by over 20 percent since 2007 because of economic decline and cost of living increases. Low-income students are, again, less likely to receive adequate meals at home, leaving them without the basic sustenance necessary to perform academic tasks. Cases of chronic hunger can lead to achievement gaps, concentration loss, illness, increased absenteeism, behavioral problems, depression, and misdiagnosed learning disabilities. Providing a decent meal for our children, therefore, is a moral and educational imperative, especially when those children live in the high-poverty districts serviced by many charter schools (including a disproportionately high percentage of charter schools that emphasize Hawaiian culture).

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

DAVID 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

LATE

FOR: HB 2509 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

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 2509**, 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 and funding for charter school meal service and student transportation.

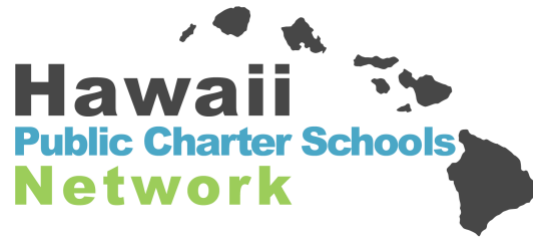
Facilities costs for charter schools is one of the greatest unaddressed challenges for Hawaii’s chartering system. Facilities funding has been and continues to be a long-standing issue for charter schools.

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 additional funding support to charter schools for specific services, such as school meals and student transportation, would benefit our public charter school students immensely. The

Commission is grateful of this committee's efforts to support charter schools and the children and families that have chosen charter schools.

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 2509 – 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 2509, 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. It also appropriates funding for school meals and student transportation in public charter schools. This bill takes a significant step forward to provide equity and balance access to resources for all Hawaii public school students.

All charter schools receive the same level of per pupil funding of \$7383/student in SY17-18 to provide for its instructional operations. But unlike most public schools, there is no separate facilities budget for start-up charter schools and no non-per pupil state subsidies to help pay for school meals and student transportation that some charter schools find the means to provide students. This is a problem because each of these costs are major expenses for charter schools. Since not all charter schools have means to provide school meals and transportation for students, the lack of facilities funding represents the largest inequity gap for public charter school students.

HPCSN believes every student is deserving of safe public school facilities, the ability to access transportation and provision of school meals for students in most public schools. For these reasons, we humbly ask your support for this bill to close the gap on providing equitable funding for public charter school students.

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.

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:15:33 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jill D. Raznov		Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 2509 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 fund, support and defray infrastructure costs, the rental or lease of charter school facilities, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure. I also support such appropriations for funds for meal services and student transportation at Hawaii charter schools. Numerous studies and anecdotal evidence demonstrate that learning outcomes improve when children are provided healthy, fulfilling meals throughout the day and with reliable transportation to and from school. While I am blessed to be able to provide my child healthy, fulfilling meals and transportation to and from school, it would be immeasurably helpful (and even more so for families without such resources) to have State support and funding for such services. Mahalo Nui Loa! - Jill Dana Raznov, Esq.



LATE

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

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 2509, 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 2509, 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



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org
hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro
Executive Director

LATE

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 2509, 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; and appropriates funds for meal services and student transportation at 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 2509 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.

Meanwhile, transportation needs are significant, as many charter schools prioritize place-based learning, which incorporates our natural and cultural environment as part of the school classroom. Students may also travel far distances to attend a charter school that fits their needs, so support around school bussing increases access for these students.



Schools also work to provide students with healthy, affordable meals. Given the aforementioned funding inequities around transportation and facilities, schools face additional challenges when wanting to help subsidize meals, especially when serving students from families with limited means. Some schools have been able to find creative solutions, such as cost-sharing across different schools within a certain area, but this is a difficult model to replicate for isolated schools.

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



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

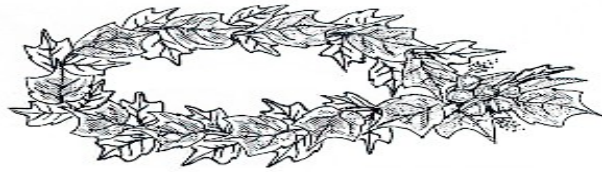
Re: **HB 2509– Relating to Charter Schools**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309, January 31, 2:05 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support HB 2509 – Relating to Charter Schools.

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

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

HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education.



'A'ole pau ka 'ike i ka hualau hio'okali

LATE

Connections Public Charter School

A Community, Business & Education Learning 'Ohana

Testimony in Support of HB 2509

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 2509 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



Native Hawaiian Education Council

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: HB2509 – RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS FACILITIES, MEALS & TRANSPORTATION

Aloha 'olua mai,

The Native Hawaiian Education Council (NHEC or the Council) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** **HB2509 – RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS FACILITIES, MEALS & TRANSPORTATION** 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 current exclusion of public charter schools by the Department of Education (HiDOE) regarding school meals and the related impact on 10,000 students¹;
- 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;
- The inclusion of transportation services in the bill to address charter school students, particularly on the neighbor islands that have more limited mass public transportation options and who watch DOE buses pick up "regular" students and pass by charter students on the bus pickup route heading to schools in the same communities; and

¹ Consistent strong support testimony was submitted for SB2527



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

- 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), office (808.523.6432) with any questions.

Sincerely,



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

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
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735 Bishop Street, Suite 224
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KEAOMĀLAMALAMA

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-2509

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 4:43:26 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alex Teece	DreamHouse Ewa Beach	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha,

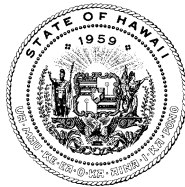
My name is Alex Teece and I am the founding executive director for DreamHouse 'Ewa Beach, an approved public charter school.

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



**STATE OF HAWAII
Kualapu'u School
Public Conversion Charter**

P O Box 260
Kualapu'u, Molokai, Hawaii 96757
Phone: (808) 567-6900, Fax: (808) 567-6906

January 29, 2018

To: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair

From: Lydia Trinidad, Principal
Kualapu`u Public Conversion Charter School

Re: HB 2509 – NOTICE OF HEARING
Wednesday, January 31, 2018
TIME: 2:05 PM; PLACE: Conference Room 309

**On behalf of Kualapu`u Public Conversion Charter School, I am writing to SUPPORT
HB 2509 – RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS.**

Kualapu`u Public Conversion Charter School is in strong support of HB 2509, 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. As a Conversion Charter School, we are especially interested that the bill appropriates funds for meal services and student transportation at charter schools.

As a Conversion Charter School, Kualapu`u School continues to be the home school for the local attendance area and thus we continue to provide meals and bus transportation for our students. as other DOE schools on Molokai. Kualapu`u is also the Hawaiian language immersion school for Molokai so we continue to have bus service for those students. The funding for our bus transportation and meals have been paid for by our per pupil funding. Having separate funding for bus and meal service, that is separate from our state per pupil funding will allow the school to maintain and grow instructional programs. The separate funding for meal and transportation also should NOT diminish our per pupil allocation, which is already low.

Kualapu`u PCCS strongly supports HB 2509 as it will help our charter school meet the added and well-deserved cost of providing equity funding for access to an education and healthy meals for our students who are in our poorest and most rural communities.

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:52:12 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:52:47 AM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a student at Ke Kula o Samuel M. Kamkau. As a charter school we do not get the same amount o funding as other public schools.

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:52:55 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:53:17 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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 ev

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:51:36 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:54:43 AM

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

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

Comments:

i am a living testimony on why i think we should get the same amount of fundings as other public schools. If you have been to our school you would understand why i think this.

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:00:42 AM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am a 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-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:04:13 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kahiamoe	samule M Kamakau	Comments	No

Comments:

I am a student of ke kula 'o Samule M Kamakau and i think we dont get funded like other school's.

My name is kahiamoelea and i think we should get funded like other school's.

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:47:54 AM

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

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

Comments:

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:56:50 AM

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

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

Comments:

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:00:02 AM

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

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

Comments:

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:06:36 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Fraser	KALO	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:06:42 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tabitha Puniwai	Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science	Support	No

Comments:

I would like to keep it short. Working in Puna, I have significant experience with families in both the public and charter schools. Charter schools specifically have a high demographic of low income and non traditional families. Facilitating funds for meal services and student transportation is essential to these families. Please pass this bill to support not just charters but the families and the students attending them.

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:08:13 PM

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

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

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill. This bill will provide support to charter school children for their basic educational needs. School children whether private, traditional, or charter basically have three basic needs: they need to get to and from school safely, they need a nourishing breakfast and lunch, and they need a roof over their heads with proper lighting, ventilation, and furniture. Presently, charter school children get no support in these regards. Please find it in your hearts to provide for these basic needs to our public charter school children.

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 7:49:51 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Davis		Support	No

Comments:

Please pass. Thank you!

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 4:27:31 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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.

In addition to this, we humbly ask for more funds for meal services and students transportation for charter school students. We are blessed to own vans and busses at our children's charter school, however, it comes with the price of repairs and maintenance that has to be funded by all charter school students that use the bus to go to school--including those that are free and reduce. As a parent of children that qualify for free lunch, it puts a financial strain to ensure that our children are able to go to school as we are all required to make some type of payment so that our children can catch the bus. I am blessed to work nearby, so I drive them to school on my way to work. Yet, there are days when I am sick that they have no way to go to school because we cannot afford the added expense of the bus fare. In addition to this, our meal services are very limited because we do not have a certified kitchen. As a result, we are required to make lunches. Again, I am a parent of children that are eligible for free lunches, yet we cannot utilize this benefit. We humbly ask for your consideration in this matter as it affects so many families in Hawai'i that are just trying to raise their children in the best way that they know how.

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 5:23:08 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thalia Davis		Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB2509 to appropriate funds for meal services and student transportation at charter schools.

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 7:59:10 PM

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

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

Comments:

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 10:32:21 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
shawna sale		Support	No

Comments:

Charter schools offer a democratic choice in education. aLL students are created equally, so please proved equal and fair funding

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:23:29 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denim Cretton		Support	No

Comments:

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:03:24 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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. Appropriates funds for meal services and student transportation at charter schools.

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:03:06 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:37:11 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
matthew john schindler		Support	No

Comments:

Charter schools deserve equal infrastructure funding comparable to public and private facilities .

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:13:11 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Florence James		Support	No

Comments:

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:13:21 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mahina Duarte		Support	No

Comments:

Safe and appropriate facilities are critical to student learning and will enable students to excel academically and foster a sense of total well-being. Please support this bill.

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:07:47 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

Kirsten Rogers

kirsten.naomi.rogers@gmail.com

Chair:

I am writing in **support of HB 2509** to provide funding to charter schools for meal transportation services. As a former teacher in both public and charter schools, I support the mission and work of our local charter schools. The children our charters serve are public school children and should be afforded basic services necessary to a sound education including adequate funding for meal and transportation services.

Mahalo,

Kirsten Rogers

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:36:58 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaulana Smith		Support	No

Comments:

RELATING TO Hawaii's Pubic CHARTER SCHOOLS.

I am in support 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. Appropriates funds for meal services and student transportation at charter schools. To ensure equity and the viability of public education for all of Hawaii's students, please pass this bill. Public charter school's can no longer wait for the trickle-down effect of equal funding for services and supports requiring the same outcomes for students in all systemic facets of public education (organizational, operating, capital, educational, etc.). Please pass this bill and move charter schools and education forward in Hawaii's single public school district.

Mahalo, Kaulana Smith

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:46:18 PM

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



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aisha Heredia		Support	No

Comments:

January 31, 2018

Committee on Education

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chairs Woodson and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Kong and Hashem, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Aisha Heredia, I live in Manoa and am a former science and technology educator. I currently work for HawaiiKidsCAN, and I am proud to support HB 2509, pertaining to funding for charter school facilities, transportation, and meal services.

Our cultural and demographic tapestry is one of the most diverse in the United States. We have over 35 public charter schools, whose missions and focuses are all unique, such as Hawaiian culture and dual language emphasis, tech and science project-based learning, to blended learning opportunities for students to attend in-class and virtual class. The need for these schools represents the need for a diversity in high-quality models for our student population.

Unfortunately, many of these public charter schools are financially burdened when it comes to paying for basic facilities, costs for transportation, and costs for providing meals to their students and faculty. I am supporting funding for Charter School facilities so these unique and culturally adaptive schools can be on a more level playing field. Public charters should have support similar to the DOE schools, who do not have to provide funding for their facilities, transportation, or costs of running a food program.

I support HB2509 so that public charters can offer the best education that it can for their communities--our diverse communities will only be as great as our schools.

Mahalo,

Aisha Heredia

Former Science and Tech Educator, now Community Outreach for HawaiiKidsCAN

Honolulu, HI

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:50:40 PM

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



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kekoa McClellan		Support	Yes

Comments:

January 30, 2018

House Committee on Education

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair

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

Please accept this testimony in strong support of HB2509, an appropriation for infrastructure costs, the rental or lease of charter school facilities, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure of charter schools; and an appropriation for meal services and student transportation at charter schools.

Many charter schools are designed to maximize place-based learning, to support underserved communities, and to promote 'aina oriented curriculum. This is an invaluable tool in our State's educational arsenal. The charter school model emulates the DOE's commitment to their core values, namely:

1: COMMITMENT TO EQUITY & EXCELLENCE: We believe every child is unique and deserves an excellent education — one that develops the whole student. Students succeed when their specific needs are met and their innate gifts and abilities are nurtured.

2: MEANINGFUL LEARNING: We learn from many sources and in many ways. Hawaii provides abundant real-world learning environments relevant for success in a culturally diverse, technologically complex, and interdependent global society.

3: *CARING RELATIONSHIPS: Education is a responsibility shared by all and the best results come when we work together with aloha, respect, integrity, and openness.*

4: *CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY, FAMILY AND AINA: We see students as part of an extended ohana, the environment, a larger community and a global society. Hawaii students value these connections and become stewards to help make our world a better place.*

Source :

<http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ConnectWithUs/Organization/Mission/Pages/home.aspx>

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. Exacerbating matters, our charter schools do not receive funding for facilities, utilities, and maintenance costs, and lack adequate support for meals and student transportation. This funding measure will help to close this resource gap.

Mahalo for your support of Hawaii's Keiki through your endorsement of HB2509.

Kekoa McClellan

The McClellan Group

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:51:32 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terri York		Support	No

Comments:

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:53:02 PM

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



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shane	Na Wai Ola PCS	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha everyone.

I am writing on behalf of our community. I am but one voice that encounters many voices of our school ohanas. My name is Shane, I am a Kumu at Na Wai Ola PCS.

There is much to be said in support of all educational opportunities, private, public, home and charter. If we are able to unify our focus to promote the betterment of our communities no matter the choice of education; then we will know our earnest interest is ourselves and our future; the keiki.

I do believe that all educational opportunities and institutions should be held to high standards. If public funding and support is given to any educational entity, then they too should be held accountable for providing a high standard of education and quality care.

From my experience and knowledge, it seems that the charter schools of Hawaii are not provided equal funding per student such as the DOE schools may receive. I do not know if private education receives supplemental funding or is completely independent and privately funded. My awareness of a charter schools existence is that they are created and granted to provide opportunities for our ohanas and keiki that are of a different tradition than DOE. I am also in belief that charter schools are held to same standards and audits or accountability as DOE schools. If we are attempting to provide additional, supplemental or alternative education opportunities for our families and communities through charter schools, then equally we should support these charter schools as a traditional DOE school is supported; with appropriate and equal resources.

The allotment and use of these funds/resources shall be used in accordance with what DOE is mandated to use the funds for. Charters should not be granted additional privileges, yet, charters should be granted equal opportunities and equal resources.

Why would we shortchange one community of learners and ohanas due to the fact that they are apart of an alternative approach to education? Is not everyone to be provided equal opportunities? Do we have special or favorite preferential treatment?

Id like to just remind myself and all of us involved in the field relating to education that our focus is the betterment of our future, our communities, our ohana and our keiki.

Mahalo for your time

Kumu Shane

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:01:04 PM

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



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:05:34 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Samantha Ai	Ke Kula o Samuel M. Kamakau, LPCS	Support	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of charter schools and bill number HB2509. It is NOT fair that charter schools do NOT have adequate funding to sustain and support their schools, students, and families. Public charter schools must comply with the same state and federal laws as other public schools in Hawai'i. We are also held more accountable by the state for student achievement. If we are held to the SAME standards, why do we not receive the SAME funding?!

HB-2509

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

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hiilani young	Ke Kula O Samuel M. Kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

Aloha mai kākou, I am Hi'ilani Young, a junior at the Hawaiian Charter school Ke Kula O Samuel M. Kamakau. I am writing this in support of HB2508. We face many struggles that public schools do not because of the unequal funding. I speak on behalf of all charter school students and faculty when I say that we are put at a disadvantage because of the lack of funding. We lack the money to help us learn and work in a comfortable environment. Our "cafeteria" is picnic tables under a tent, which wouldn't be much of a problem if we weren't in the Ko'olau mountains where it rains most days of the week. We don't have enough usable space for the students to learn comfortably. With equal funding we would be able to fix pre-existing problems and then work to improve even more. We are held to the same standards as any other public school and yet we still receive only a fraction of what they do. If we are working towards a better education and a better future for all students, why are us charter school students given different, lesser, treatment compared to anybody else?

Mahalo for your time,

Hi'ilani Young

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:11:08 PM

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

LATE

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

Comments:

Aloha mai e ka House of Representative,

I am writing to you today in support of HB2509. I have been a charter school student my entire life and I recognize the struggles that we go through at this school. Charter schools only receive HALF of the per-pupil funding that public schools receive. Why is my education not worth as much as that of a public school student? I support this bill because schools like mine use the \$7,323 that we receive per-pupil for the bare necessities but there should be separate funding for these needs such as facilities and lunch. We should be able to use the money we receive for the education materials that we lack, such as textbooks and technology. Please support my education by supporting this bill.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Wai'ale'ale Sarsona

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:06:09 PM

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



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanoelani Holt		Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am testifying in support of HB2508 and charter schools. Every student no matter what school should be given the same amount of funding towards their education. I have gone to a charter school for 5 years and have seen my teachers fight hard to support us in everything we need to get an equal education. I find it very unfair that we are held to the same standards as other public school students but are not provided with the funding that other students are.

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:12:00 PM

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

LATE

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

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou, e nā mea heluhelu.

I am writing in support of the bill HB2509. As a haumana of a Hawaiian Immersion Charter school, I find it unfair that we are not getting the same amount of funding as public school. We are held to the same standards as other schools, so why not give us the same amount of funding. It is important for us to help each other succeed as a kāhui, he Hawai'i.

Mahalo.

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:13:47 PM

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



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:57:28 PM

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

LATE

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

Comments:

Please vote in support of HB2509! As a substitute teacher in Big Island D.O.E. schools I saw wonderful facilities and infrastructure, but at the public charter schools I see dilapidated buildings, no money for kids' food, no money for transportation. Public Charter Schools are serving the same keiki that the D.O.E. schools are serving, so please allocate equitable funds so that all our island keiki can have buildings, food, transportation that provide optimal learning. Mahalo!!!!

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:57:39 PM

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



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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, transportation, 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

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:57:42 PM

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

LATE

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

Comments:

Please be equitable and fair to all of Hawaii's children. Mahalo. lw

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:58:18 PM

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



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hawi Stecher		Support	No

Comments:

Please vote yes on HB2509. 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-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:59:49 PM

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



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

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

I fully support this bill to help with infrastructure, meals, and training for our charter schools.

I teach English at Volcano Charter School on the Big Island in the high-risk district of Ka'u where

our students need all the help they can get; even moreso than students in Waianae. Please

support this bill so our students who are struggling to succeed will have a chance to get ahead.

Mahalo nui,

Tamara Laulani Wong-

Morrison

SCIENCES

VOLCANO SCHOOL OF ARTS &

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:01:42 PM

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

LATE

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

Comments:

RE: HB 2509

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 as well as funding for meals and transportation for our students. Our students are public school children and deserve equitable funding for a learning environment that serves their needs the same as students in DOE schools.

Lisa Barnard

PO Box 253

Volcano, HI 96785

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:03:13 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jane Wells	VSAS	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The VSAS is in dire need of funding for facilities, meals, and transportation. Our children need to be provided with classrooms, and buildings that are safe, updated, and geared for 21st century learners. Our children also need healthy food to fuel their bodies for learning. Like Maslow stated, if we can not provide the basic needs for childffren, then how can we expect them to participate in higher levels of learning. Last, we really need funding for transportation. Currently, many of our students are bused from many miles away from Volcano, and we need safe and reliable transportation to get them to and from school. We also, take our students on amny learning field trips, and we need reliable and safe transportation to get them to these learning destinations. It would be incredible to get funding for VSAS to help support student learning, and satisfaction.

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:05:03 PM

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



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mara Saltzman	Volcano School Teacher	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

Big Island charter schools, especially the one where I teach, are grossly underfunded and have deteriorating facilities. The costs to maintain and repair facilities in addition to funding student meals and transportation for charter school students cause public charter schools to survive on minimal funds outside these huge costs. Public charter schools here in Hawaii are forced to rely on non-profit boards to fund their facility projects. These are Hawaii's public school students. Please make school funding for all of our students equitable and fair by funding charter school facilities, meals, and transportation.

Mara Saltzman

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:06:10 PM

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



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

Comments:

Please support HB2509. Our students need better facilities, meals and transportation to help meet their needs moving forward. It's just right and equitable. Please support HB2509

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:08:18 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Renelle Leinbach		Support	No

Comments:

Please fund this bill. I have 2 students who attend HAAS Charter in Pahoa and they desperately need funds to improve facilities and meals. A better meal program is so needed. I know they do what they can with the funds they have but it is not where it needs to be. The kids suffer for electives and school materials compared to the public schools. Please make it to where the funding is more even with what the public schools are getting. This is such a wonderful school with a big waiting list, that we would love to see be better funded.

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:10:07 PM

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

LATE

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

Comments:

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:22:08 PM

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



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

Comments:

As a Charter school, food costs and transportation take a huge chunk out of our operating budget. We are a Conversion Charter and are mandated to serve our catchment area of students. We deserve the same funding that the Department of Education receives.

It is time for a change. We would like to see equitable funding for ALL State of Hawaii Schools.

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:23:26 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lydia	VSAS	Support	No

Comments:

I would support state funding for EQUAL funding for all charters schools. All children in Hawaii need an equal support in their education. Thank you, Lydia

Support for this legislation is sorely needed, especially for the start-up phase of charter schools. As a member of a proposed charter school board that has gone through the charter application process, I know this first hand. Although I understand the need for all applicants to demonstrate a sound plan and its ability to successfully open and operate a charter school, which includes its ability to financially support the school, the standards that currently exist are almost impossible to overcome, making it almost impossible to start a charter school. Facilities are a necessary component of any school, yet charter schools receive no funding for it. Applicants must demonstrate they have the funds to secure facilities and staff before they will generally receive a charter approval. Most if not all of these funds must be generated via fundraising. Yet, without an approved charter, it is almost impossible to raise funds. Even if people are supportive of the opening of a charter school, they are reluctant or unwilling to donate funds to something that may or may not come into existence. On-going maintenance and lease costs for facilities are also a necessity for the continuing operations of the school. If the only way that charter schools can meet this need is by fundraising, which presumably would come predominantly from the community, then you are limiting the viability of charter schools to only those communities that have the means to meaningfully contribute financially to the charter school or its foundation. This in turn limits charter schools to those neighborhoods that can afford to financially support a school. This goes against the spirit of public schools and providing access to all, regardless of income or net wealth. Having such funding in place also speaks to the overall stability of a school, which in turn, ensures its success. If students and teachers have to worry from year to year whether the school will be able to stay open because they have raised money to pay the rent, they will not be willing to take the risk of enrolling or taking on a position at the school because the consequences of such are too great. If the school cannot get enough students to enroll or staff to work at it, then it begins a downward spiral that is difficult to reverse. Similarly, financial support for meals and transportation should be considered as necessary funding as students need to eat and they need a way to get to and from school. Students should not be deprived or penalized for choosing a charter school over a DOE school. They should receive the same benefits. Charter schools can and should be a part of the State of Hawaii's public education system, however, in order for them to survive and thrive, they truly require more financial support than what they've been given so far. Please support this bill. Thank you.

LATE

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:00:28 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Kottwitz		Support	No

Comments:

Please support Hawaii charter school students! Equality is vital to the future of Hawaii's keiki!

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:12:17 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacie Chang		Support	No

Comments:

Our charter school has been amazing for my family. We hope to see more funding for the school. Our children are the future...we have to give all children the opportunities to learn no matter where they want to learn. Times have changed, we need to change with it.

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:29:45 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca Logan		Support	No

Comments:

As a proud parent of two children that attended and 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. Appropriate funds for meal services and student transportation at charter schools.

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:40:19 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaio		Support	No

Comments:

I believe that charter schools should get equal funding as normal D.O.E schools. It would also be nice to get money for lunch as well as transportation. Not getting as much money means a greater financial burden on the school and the families. so I ask for equal funding.

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:35:02 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 rain that 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-2509

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:44:11 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaley Kelling		Support	No

Comments:

Auheā 'oukou e nā• moho moku'Ā• ina,

Aloha my name is Kalehuakea Kelling, a junior at Ke Kula 'o Samuel MĀ• naiakalani Kamakau. We are a laboratory public charter school located in Ha'ikā•, KĀ• ne'ohe and I am testifying in support of HB2509. As a charter school student, I definitely am aware of the setbacks that we experience with facilities, transportation, and meals. Charter schools are held to the same academic standards as schools under the DOE and yet do not receive the same resources and opportunities to achieve these standards. Although, we've learned to adapt and make the best out of any given situation because anything is worth the curriculum of 'ike kĀ•puna. These schools give students the opportunity to learn in the ways that make them comfortable instead of following the ordinary classroom style. I am humbly asking that you please consider supporting this bill for the best possible learning experience for all students. Charter schools matter just as much as other state schools, we are not socially, physically, or academically different than any other school. We are all here because we love the power of education, so think about equal educational resources for all.

LATE

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:05:34 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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.

Thank you,

Leigh Fitzgerald Executive Director of Hawaii Technology Academy PCS



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 2509** RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS.

E ka Luna Ho'omalū Woodson, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalū 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 2509, 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. It appropriates funds for meal services and student transportation at charter schools. We are writing in **support** of this measure. Adequate facilities, transportation and meals 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-2509

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:54:56 AM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John	Self-Employed	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Folks, like HB 2508, I strongly support this bill for the same reasons. Mahalo,
John Lyle, Volcano

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:59:50 AM

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 HB2509 - 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. Appropriates funds for meal services and student transportation at charter schools.

This Bill is long over-due and brings some parity to our public charter schools. It's amazing what our PCS have endured in order to provide our children with great educational opportunities within the publicly funded governmental school system. That, and their extraordinary efforts in obtaining additional funding to make ends meet.

PCS, "schools of choice", are definitely worth the sacrifices the students have had to adjust to, especially when that PCS isn't in their community. (1) The 3-5 hour public transportation medium my daughters have depended on for the past several years (@\$70/mo/ea on TheBus) is good but not necessarily safe. With dedicated transportation assistance we can look forward to a safer, faster and more efficient transit. (2) With dedicated meals assistance our school is better enabled to solicit for these services at a more reasonable cost to them and our ohana.

Mahalo for Bill HB2509 and the parity it brings to public charter schools. Please PASS it out of your committee.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:04:04 AM

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

LATE

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

Comments:

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:04:28 AM

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



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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-2509

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:59:43 AM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susie Osborne	Kua o ka La Charter School	Support	No

Comments:

Kua O Ka La stakeholders fully support this bill.

Mahalo!

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:08:47 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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-2509

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:09:24 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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-2509

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:12:48 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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-2509

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:14:20 PM

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



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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 Everyday. While in other schools they get to eat in a cafeteria.We also are not able to have a bus so parents have to drive us up to school.Our road is terrible we want to get it fixed but **NO** we cant use the money to fix our road. So I hope that you guys will help us out because we really could use your help.

Thanks

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:15:49 PM

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



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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!!

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:16:54 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eweleiula Wong		Support	No

Comments:

To whom it might concern,

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

HB-2509

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

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



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keawaiki Jones	kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

O wau o Keawaiki Jones. Eia mai wau e kakau nei ia oukou no ka mea pono makou i na ka'aohua. e hele i na wahi like ole no ko makou mau huakai. A ua maopopo ou kou pono makou e kii i ko makou a'i pono'i mai ia Halekealoha. Maika'i ko lakou a'i aka aole hiki ia makou ke hana i kela. Loaa na kula eae i ka ai mai ke kula/state mai. I na puka makou mai keia pili hiki ia makou ke loaa ina kaaohua, ka 'ai mai ka state. Mahalo!

HB-2509

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

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



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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, and i have to pack lunch for me and my friend everyday because who can afford anything in Hawaii. 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 mother is the vice chancelor for accademic affairs at Windward Community College and as if her schedual is not busy enough there is no bus to transport me to school. I think we should get busses to make it easeir on hard working Hawaii parents. 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-2509

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:23:17 PM

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



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Honika	Kamakau School	Support	No

Comments:

To Whoever This May Concern,

I support this but think its unfair that some schools get more funds and money then my school. I am from Ke Kula 'O Kamakau and I support the HB2509 but to help my school i wish to have more funds and money to build a cafeteria because we eat in mud every day and we sit under a tent. We have holes in our road and our buildings are portable. Transportation would help our school have more fieldtrips and explore around our island more. It would be greatly appreciated if someone can help us fix up these things and to make our school much better. Mahalo nui loa!

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:24:26 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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-2509

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:26:26 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul banks		Support	No

Comments:

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:28:35 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keoni	Ke Kula ʻo Samuel M. Kamakau	Support	No

Comments:

Hb2508

To all those who read this comment

I am a student of Samuel.M.Kamakau I support bill HB2509 because I believe that charter schools like ours should have the right to attain things like a cafeteria.It would be great to have a cafeteria.Because with a cafeteria I won't have to worry about any spiders or bugs lurking under the surface of the tables.I also won't have to worry about slipping do to all the mud both around and under the tent.Rainy days won't be so bad any more and I won't have to worry about slipping and falling in to puddle of muddy water and possible animal feces.How wonderful life would be with a cafeteria on our campus.So my dear freinds in the office if the bill is past you and all those you hold dear will one day know the way.

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:30:56 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jordyn Wong	Kamakau Charter School	Support	No

Comments:

Dear people who are going to read this letter,

I am Hikianali'a Wong and I am typing on behalf of Kamakau Charter School. It is VERY UNFAIR that my school is not able to get buses to drive us from school to our neighborhood. I would love to be on a bus and probably on time to school. I sad that we don't have a cafeteria.

With Hope,

Jordyn Hikianali'a Wong

LATE

HB-2509

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:58:36 PM
Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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.