

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

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

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

FOR: HB 533 HD1 Relating to Charter Schools
DATE: Tuesday, February 28, 2017
TIME: 3:00 PM
COMMITTEE: House Committee on Finance
ROOM: Conference Room 308
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

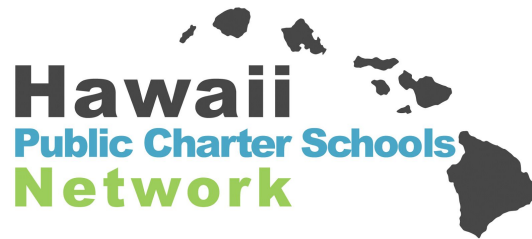
Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of HB533 HD1**, which seeks to provide facilities funding for charter schools.

Facilities costs for charter schools is one of the greatest unaddressed challenges for Hawaii’s chartering system. Facilities funding has been a long-standing issue for charter schools. During school year 2015-2016, charter schools collectively spent over \$5.3 million on rent for school facilities. Public charter schools that lack adequate building facilities are sometimes forced to hold classes outdoors, under a tarp or in a temporary structure. Charter schools facilities funding would significantly benefit charter schools to acquire, repair, maintain and rent school facilities.

The Charter Schools Facilities Funding Working Group established pursuant to Haw. Rev. stat. (“HRS”) §302D-29.5 met Monday, February 27, 2017 and will meet again next month. It is tasked with providing a framework to assist the allocation of the funding to support charter school facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



February 7, 2017

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

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

Re: **HB 533 HD1 - Relating Charter Schools - SUPPORT**
Conference Room 308 – Hawaii State Capitol – Feb. 28, 2017, 2:00 P.M.

On behalf of the Hawaii Public Charter School Network (HPCSN) and its member schools, we respectfully testify in support of [HB 533](#) HD1.

Hawaii's public charter schools do not receive regular facilities funding in the state budget. This is a problem because a school's building costs must be squeezed out of a small funding pot -- \$7080/per pupil allocation (PPA) per year. (Cost for facilities and maintenance is roughly 9% of a school's budget, but this varies among start-up or conversion schools.) The same PPA must also stretch to pay for salaries, collective bargaining costs, curriculum, equipment and supplies, utility services and a mountain of other expenses required to run a school. More progress is needed to allocate facilities resources and funding for public charter schools.

The Need for Public Charter School Facilities Resources Persists

When charter schools were first authorized in 1999, legislative champions planned a system based on school/community-based management principles to support conversions of department schools into charter schools, which remained in the DOE school facility. Waialae and Lanikai elementary schools were the first conversion charters. Charter school law was amended overtime to recognize Native Hawaiian culture-based learning and ushered in a number of start up charter schools. In 2012, state law was overhauled to make way for model law recognizing the role of the state's charter school authorizer and setting governance and performance framework requirements for Hawaii's public charter schools.

We continue to see a steady growth for public charter schools in the state and across the nation. Nearly 11,000 students attend public charter schools in Hawaii and nearly 3 million students are in public charter schools across the country.

Twenty-eight of Hawaii's 34 public charter schools are not in DOE facilities. Three more charter schools starting up without any resources are preparing to open their doors to students in 2017. There are several charter school applications currently under review.

For years students have had to "make-do" by holding classes under tents, in open air settings exposed to elements like rain, mud and heat or in facilities that were not designed for learning. Some have had port-a-potties as toilets for years. Many schools and families fundraise to repair, replace and secure donated spaces to accommodate our student's needs.

While HPCSN supports the state's commitment to provide resources to conversion charter schools, the reality is the larger majority of charter schools do not get any facilities support from our state. This needs to change.

Time is Right for Facilities Funding

Research shows a significant relationship between the condition of school facilities and student performance. Hawaii charter school facilities challenges have been documented in the [media recently](#) and recognition of facilities funding needs have been supported by the State Public Charter School Commission and the Board of Education.

The state legislature approved Act 234, Sessions Laws of Hawaii 2015, to address facilities needs. This year the Commission convened a facilities funding working group to advise on how funds for facilities may be distributed if general and bond funds are appropriated during the session.

Sixteen states and the District of Columbia are providing per pupil funding allowance to charter schools, according to the National Alliance of Public Charter Schools in 2016. A few states that have provided charter school facilities resources have leverage federal grant available to them. Hawaii should take note and leverage the 33 percent increase in resources available to charters schools under the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Let's make progress on the promise of Act 234. Let's change this equation by adding facilities funding for charter schools in the next biennium budget.

HPCSN works to support public charter schools in Hawaii and to be a voice for children and families that seek choice in an independent public school setting. We appreciate your favorable consideration of this bill.



HB533 HD1
RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS
House Committee on Finance

February 28, 2017

3:00 PM

Room 308

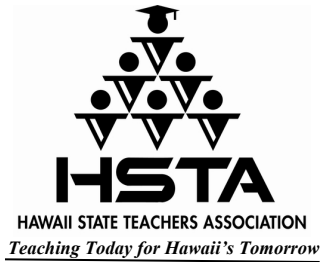
The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **SUPPORTS** HB533 HD1, which provides funding to the State Public Charter School Commission to allocate to charter schools for facilities projects and rent assistance. **This measure would alleviate the unique financial burdens borne by start-up public charter schools 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 innovations labs.*" [Emphasis added].

Hawai'i public charter schools are deserving of equity, and have indeed demonstrated outstanding accomplishments and innovation in the latest Strive HI SY 2015-2016 performance scores, even dominating in certain indicators. Lessons learned in such high-performing charter schools as labs of innovation will benefit students and schools throughout our public education system. To fully realize the potential for innovation that charter schools offer for greater student success in our public school system as a whole, it is critical that public charter schools receive adequate appropriations for facilities funding. HB533 HD1 will help bring equity to charter schools and address the longstanding problem of financing charter school facilities.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB533 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



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

Corey Rosenlee
President

Justin Hughey
Vice President

Amy Perruso
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

RE: HB 533, HD 1 - RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2017

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 533, HD 1**, relating to charter schools.

Hawai'i shortchanges its public schools. While our state's per-pupil spending of \$11,823 ranks 17th in the nation when compared to other states in raw dollars, comparison with school districts of similar size and demographics yields different results. Mainland districts with high costs of living are typically urban and averaged with with rural districts experiencing lower costs of living in statewide analyses. When comparing school districts of similar size, Hawai'i, the nation's only statewide school district, ranks 227th in per-pupil funding *before* adjusting for cost of living.

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 \$7,080 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 appropriate the full \$10,000,000 originally proposed in this measure to the Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission to allocate to charter schools for facilities projects and rent assistance based, in part, on need and financial performance.

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



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Finance

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Date: February 28th, 2017

Where: State Capitol Room 308

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk
Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee

RE: **HB 533 HD1, Relating to Charter Schools**

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

HB 533 HD1, relating to charter schools would appropriate funds for charter school facilities. We are writing in **support** of this measure.

Kamehameha Schools advocates for and supports the achievement of Hawai'i's Native Hawaiian public school students. As such, we have been a collaborator with the Hawai'i public charter schools for over a decade. Through our work with Hawaiian-focused public charter schools, we hope to significantly impact more children and their families through education. We believe that Hawaiian-focused charter schools provide quality educational choices for our families and ultimately enhance both academic achievement and engagement for students. This 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.

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



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

**TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 533, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO
CHARTER SCHOOLS**

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

**Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

Honorable Chair Luke and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 350 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in strong support of House Bill 533, 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 \$14,434 per-pupil each year, charter schools receive \$7,080 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 no less than \$10 million to HSPCSC to allocate based on need and financial performance.

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

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance



Wīwo 'Ōle

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Ka Papa Alaka'i

Dr. Kēhaulani
'Aipia-Peters,
Pelekikena

Kēhaulani Shintani,
Hope Pelekikena

Kaleo Hayashida,
Kākau 'Ōlelo

Leilani Ka'apuni,
Pu'ukū

Kamalei Hayes

Dr. Kauanoē
Kamanā

Nāmaka Rawlins

Dr. Pila Wilson

Pelehonuamea
Harman

No 'Ane'i Ko
Kākou Ola!

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Date of Hearing: 02-28-2017

*Testimony of Dr. Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters, Governing Board Chair
Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u Iki LPCS*

**HB 533 HD1 RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS:
STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Luke, Chair Cullen and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

The Governing Board of Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u Iki LPCS (Nāwahī) is submitting this written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB533 HD1**.

We, the governing board, strongly support this bill to help with lease and maintenance costs as well as repair costs for charter schools. Facilities funding has been a long-standing issue for charter schools. While enrollment has increased in many charter school settings, such as Nāwahī, adequate facilities funding to address this enrollment increase has been lacking.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony for your consideration.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:14 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: keahi_kaheiki@notes.k12.hi.us
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM*

HB533

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keahi Kaheiki	Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science PCS	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 5:34 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: alex.teece@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB533

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alex Teece	DreamHouse Ewa Beach	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen, Mahalo nui for hearing this bill, HB533, which would help address our islands' biggest hurdle to starting new, innovative, public schools - facilities funding for charters. Charters often use operating funds, are pressed to raise philanthropic dollars, or head to local banks for credit facilities to pay for rent and capital improvements. The challenge: operating funds should be spent on our keiki, funders don't necessarily want to invest in keeping the lights on, and debt service weighs on monthly cash flows, restricting innovation and investment in programs for our kids. This decision will impact some of our islands' most vulnerable children from Volcano to Hanalei. Right now, fortified wedding tents, portable trailers, old churches, and picnic tables are having to suffice; unfortunately, these are not viable, long-term options. Thank you for consideration of our public school children in your hearing and decision on this bill; they are in school today - or, in wedding tents and at picnic tables doing the best they can to learn - but, your decision will make a lasting impact on their education and lives. Mahalo, Alex Teece

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

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017
Time: 3:00 P.M.
Place: Room 308

HB 533 HD1 RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS – STRONG SUPPORT

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

Welina mai me ke aloha. My name is Bobbie Lee Kainoa Bapitste and I have been a public school teacher for the past 10 years. I have worked as a teacher in Hawaiian medium education located at Keaukaha Elementary School. I am submitting this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 533 HD1**.

HB 533 HD1 seeks to support public charter schools by appropriating monies for the State Public Charter School Commission to allocate to public charter schools for facilities projects and rent assistance. HB 533 HD1 is very much appreciated since facilities have always been of grave concern to charter schools. This bill is critical to the survival of charter schools in general and to my school, Ka ‘Umeke Kā‘eo Public Charter School, in particular.

As of June 3, 2017, Ka ‘Umeke Kā‘eo, the first Kula Kaiapuni ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i on the Island of Hawai‘i may no longer exist. Our grades K-2, the last grades affected by the DOE’s “relocation process,” must leave our portable classrooms built specifically for us **with nowhere to go**. We need help now to ensure the survival of Ka ‘Umeke Kā‘eo, 1 of only 2 Hawaiian medium pathways of education in East Hawai‘i; 1 of only 4 on the entire Island of Hawai‘i.

I, along with the undersigned teachers at Ka ‘Umeke Kā‘eo, urge the **support and passage of HB 533 HD1**. We look forward with hope and anticipation that this critical bill may ensure the survival of our small but vital Hawaiian medium education charter school located on the Hawaiian homestead.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 533 HD1**.

Me ke aloha, me ka ha‘aha‘a, a me ka ‘oia‘i‘o,
Ke Kumu Kula Ho‘āmana ‘o Ka ‘Umeke Kā‘eo
Bobbie Lee Kainoa Bapitste

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

From: Laura Smith, President/CEO
Goodwill Hawaii

Date: February 27, 2017

Re: **Testimony in Support of HB533, HD1, Relating to Funds for Charter School Facilities**

Hearing:

Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 3:00 P.M.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB533, HD1, which would provide funding to the state public charter school commission for the acquisition, repair, maintenance, and rental of charter school facilities.

Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc. (Goodwill) is among the largest human service non-profit organizations in Hawaii. Our mission is to help people with employment barriers reach their full potential and attain self-sufficiency. Last year, Goodwill served over 11,000 people, placing almost 1,500 into jobs in our community. In 2016, the Hawaii Public Charter School Commission awarded the accreditation of Goodwill's Kapolei Charter School. The School will open in Fall of 2017 and will serve ninth through twelfth graders.

Public charter schools exist to innovate and initiate positive change in the educational system. In Hawaii, alternative educational choices are particularly needed for high-risk students, who experience significant obstacles that impede their academic success. Adequate facilities are critical to providing an academic environment in which youth can succeed. An insufficient school environment can affect students' ability to focus and retain knowledge while also limiting the opportunity for application of lessons learned. Research has demonstrated the following:

- ✓ Youth who attend school in buildings with good environmental conditions can earn test scores that are 5-17 percent higher than scores for students in substandard buildings.¹
- ✓ Schools with better building conditions have student suspension rates that are up to 14 percent lower.²
- ✓ A school's ability to ensure a high quality and quantity of light, and minimize noise pollution and thermal discomfort greatly affect students' achievement, health, and overall behavior.³

¹ Glen I. Earthman, School Facility Conditions and Student Academic Achievement (Los Angeles: UCLA Institute for Democracy, Education, and Access, 2002).

² Stephen Boese and John Shaw, New York State School Facilities and Student Health, Achievement, and Attendance: A Data Analysis Report (Albany, NY: Healthy Schools Network, Inc., 2005).

³ School Facilities and Student Achievement. Center for Innovative School Facilities.

Goodwill also understands that various social issues such as health disparities, crime, substance abuse, employment and poverty are all intricately linked to educational achievement.

Despite the extensive research proving the effects that school facilities have on student learning, and the impact that success in school has on one's future trajectory, charter schools in Hawaii still struggle to develop adequate resources to dedicate to high-quality facilities. The vast majority of Hawaii's charter schools are not located in DOE facilities; thus most of our charter schools do not receive any facilities support from our state. This leaves the burden on the schools to develop funding to support facilities costs. This Bill would provide the Hawaii Public Charter School Commission with funding to allocate to charter schools for facilities projects and rent assistance. This support would alleviate the significant strain on charter school budgets that is needed for facility costs, and enable schools to focus their resources instead on other academic supports.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:33 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: steve_hirakami@notes.k12.hi.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB533

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Hirakami	HAASPCS	Support	Yes

Comments: I have submitted testimony on this bill when it was heard in the House Education Committee. I noticed that the only change in the second draft was to eliminate the figure of 10 million dollars. While this may not be the number that the State would be willing to support our public schools (that happen to be charter schools), I hope that there will be some number inserted to help defray the rising costs of facilities that charters redirect from its student educational funds. It is in the best interests of our children. It is not a privilege for them to receive these funds. It is their civil right to receive these funds. Please pass this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:56 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: haasindigitaljacquie@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB533

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacqueline Barr	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support facilities funding for charter schools. Charter school students deserve facilities funds just as DOE students receive. Charter school facilities do more than provide safe, clean, supportive places for Hawaii's youth to learn - they become anchors for positive activities in our community. Hawaii promises to provide equally for all students - we need to know that Hawaii legislature cares that ALL students in Hawaii learn in facilities that support educational excellence.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:35 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: terriyork2@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB533

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: All students in Hawaii deserve to be educated in environments conducive to learning.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 8:42 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: bennyjduke@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB533

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benjamin Duke	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I would like to urge the legislature to pass legislation that funds charter schools including facilities funding. My two children attend Innovations Public Charter School and I am in my eleventh year teaching at West Hawaii Explorations Academy Public Charter School. I have seen firsthand the success that students can have at charter schools. They have historically been drastically underfunded by the state of Hawaii. Please support all public school children equally. Mahalo, Ben Duke Kailua-Kona, HI

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 1:32 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kinikalela_m@mail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB533

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: Aloha kākou, I fully support this bill HB533 in relating to charter school funding. Mahalo!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 8:58 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kaulanad@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB533

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: As a parent of a child who attends a charter school, I strongly support this measure to provide funding to the state public charter school commission for the acquisition, repair, maintenance, and rental of charter school facilities.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 5:18 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: sniau@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB533

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Wakana	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I would like to testify in support of funding facilities for charter schools. My two older children currently attend Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u public charter school in Kea'au. When my youngest is of age, she too will attend the same charter school. I would send my children to no other kind of school, for it is of the utmost importance to my 'ohana that my children learn in Hawaiian medium education. More and more people have the desire to educate their children in the Hawaiian language. 'Ōlelo Hawai'i is an official language of our State of Hawai'i. We should support these charter schools, the children and families, by allowing them to better maintain their school grounds and facilities, their learning honua. We should dedicate resources to charter schools because that will be supporting Hawaiian language schools, Hawaiian language parity in Hawai'i, and contribute to a richer living Hawaiian culture and pride for our homeland.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 10:17 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kehauw@nawahi.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB533

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kehaulani Wehrsig	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senators, I am a parent and a teacher at Nawahiokalaniopuu Public Charter school. I humbly ask for your support in providing funds for charter schools so that we may continue to provide quality Hawaiian medium education to students at our school. Mahalo for your time! Na'u me ka ha'aha'a, Kēhaulani Wehrsig

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 25, 2017 6:15 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kauanoek@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB533

Submitted on: 2/25/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kauanoe Kamana	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Charter school students and families deserve the same facilities support that other public school children in our state receive. I strongly encourage you to support this bill. SUPPORT OUR CHILDREN!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 10:28 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Planetarystorm@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB533

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: On small islands with few options for housing schools, charter schools are forced to settle for compromised space. Current conditions for many schools are burdensome to put it lightly. It is the duty of the state to support its public schools. Charter schools ARE public schools, state entities. Please pass this bill to give Hawaiian students proper school facilities funding.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:43 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jennaway@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB533

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenna Way	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a parent of a child who attends a charter school. It is common sense that ALL public schools need funding for facilities. How is it fair that my child's school gets no money for facilities while another child, living right next door to us, attends a school which does get facilities funding? I fully support public education and want to see parity in funding amount all public schools. I urge you to support this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 11:21 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: nschomer@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB533

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nadia Ranne	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this bill. Public Charter School students deserve the best facilities possible, as do DOE public school students. Charter Schools need funding for facilities.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 12:22 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: terryjwalker@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB533

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terry J Walker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please fund charter school facilities. Charter schools are serving Hawaii's children as much as DOE schools. All students deserve decent and up-to-date facilities. Mahalo!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 12:39 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: heanu@kaumeke.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB533

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heanu Weller	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: House Committee on Finance Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Ty J. K. Cullen, Vice Chair Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 Time: 3:00 P.M. Place: Room 308 HB 533 HD1 RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS – STRONG SUPPORT Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee: Welina mai me ke aloha. My name is Heanu Weller and I have been a public school teacher since 1982. For the last 27 years, I have been a teacher in Hawaiian medium education located at Keaukaha Elementary School. I am submitting this testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 533 HD1. HB 533 HD1 seeks to support public charter schools by appropriating monies for the State Public Charter School Commission to allocate to public charter schools for facilities projects and rent assistance. HB 533 HD1 is very much appreciated since facilities have always been of grave concern to charter schools. This bill is critical to the survival of charter schools in general and to my school, Ka ‘Umeke Kā’eo Public Charter School, in particular. Thirty years ago, in September of 1987, the first Kula Kaiapuni ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i (Hawaiian Language Immersion School/HLIP) was started at Keaukaha Elementary School (KES). Once permanently situated at Keaukaha Elementary School, HLIP operated as a school within a school with the first portable classroom for our kindergarten students built in 1990 with funds appropriated to immersion schools through public support and legislative lobbying. With each passing year as interest in Hawaiian medium education increased, our HLIP ‘ohana recognized the needs of our growing educational pathway and worked tirelessly to secure 6 portable classrooms so that our HLIP keiki would be educated in appropriate facilities without infringing upon KES. In August 2001, Ke Kula Kaiapuni Hawai‘i o Keaukaha became known as “Ke Kula Ho‘āmana ‘o ‘Umeke Kā’eo ma Keaukaha”; Ka ‘Umeke Kā’eo Public Charter School in Keaukaha. Fast forward to 2017. Even though our Ka ‘Umeke classrooms are sufficient for our keiki ensuring we do not deprive any KES keiki of their classrooms, the same cannot be said in reverse. KES currently occupies 4 of the 6 classrooms built for Hawaiian medium keiki via gradual involuntary relocation of our grades 3-6 keiki. The final stage of the relocation “process” is here; KES administration has given notice that as of June 3, 2017, Ka ‘Umeke Kā’eo grades K-2 must leave Keaukaha Elementary School. Here we are, Ka ‘Umeke Kā’eo, the first Kula Kaiapuni ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i on the Island of Hawai‘i with nowhere to go. We need help now to ensure the survival of Ka

'Umeke Kā'eo, 1 of only 2 Hawaiian medium pathways of education in East Hawai'i; 1 of only 4 on the entire Island of Hawai'i. I, along with the undersigned teachers at Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo, urge the support and passage of HB 533 HD1. We look forward with hope and anticipation that this critical bill may ensure the survival of our small but vital Hawaiian medium education charter school located on the Hawaiian homestead. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 533 HD1**. Me ke aloha, me ka ha'aha'a, a me ka 'oia'i'o, Nā Kumu Kula Ho'āmana 'o Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo Heanu Weller Onaona Trask Leinā'ala Nāko'okā Ku'uipo Kelekolio Hau'oli Pakele Noah Davis Kanoe Machida

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 1:30 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: missmholmes@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM*

HB533

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 1:23 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ahia.dye@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM*

HB533

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ahia Dye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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John D. Wacker
HC 2 Box 6832
Kea'au, HI 96749

February 27, 2017

Testimony: In Support of H.B. NO. 533 HD1:
RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS
Charter Schools; Facility Funding (\$)

Aloha Chair Luke and Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I have the opportunity to provide my testimony in support of H.B. NO. 533 HD1. As a parent of a public charter school student, I have experienced the overwhelming benefits of a public charter school. It is the perfect environment and opportunity for our youth to grow and excel in their education! However, I have also experienced the negative effects of underfunding our public charter schools.

Our public charter schools compliment our state's educational system and live by the same rules and are measured by the same benchmarks as public schools. Yet, our public charter schools do not receive the facility funding necessary for growth, or even repair and maintenance, that they desperately need and deserve.

Funds for school facilities are a necessity, not a luxury. Our students need safe, clean, and maintained facilities on a daily basis. They should not be forced to set up temporary structures, clean areas subject to weather, or travel to other facilities prior to class. It takes unnecessary time away from their class periods that they should be learning. Also, the negative effect of high classroom temperatures is clear: students and teachers are unnecessarily fatigued which also takes away from students' learning potential. Finally, our students health and fitness must be given the highest priority. If they don't even have adequate facilities to run around and play, their health and fitness suffer, which will affect their studies and possibly their life.

Equally and possibly even more frustrating, is the fact that our administration, staff, teachers, students, and families are successful, but due to lack of funding, cannot grow and secure facilities needed to meet ever-changing educational needs. Our students'

potential is being severely limited. This “cost” is a burden that will be carried by our children throughout their lives. They have every right to be provided the environment that will help them develop the skills and knowledge needed to be successful in college, their careers, in their families, and in our community.

In summary, again, I am so excited to see the work being done to provide for facility funding for charter schools! These funds will work directly and immediately to address serious deficiencies and to support our children and our future.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

John D. “J.D.” Wacker
Parent of a Hawaii Public Charter School Student

From: Sarah Riznyk <xfhgjvmhytepwng@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:46 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: sarahriznyk@yahoo.com <Sarah Riznyk>

Message:

Please support infrastructure costs at public charter schools. What is good needs to be perpetuated and this is one way to continue the benefits of our charter schools. Keep a good thing going!

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen,

Mahalo for hearing HB 533 HD1, a bill to provide facilities resources for Hawaii's public charter schools.

All students deserve to learn in a quality setting. For too long too many of Hawaii's public charter schools have not had facilities resources. Our students have had to "make-do" by holding classes under tents, in open air settings exposed to elements like rain, mud and heat. Some have had port-a-potties as toilets for years. Many schools and families fundraise to repair, replace and secure donated spaces to accommodate our student's needs.

Twenty-eight of Hawaii's 34 public charter schools are not in DOE facilities. Three more charter schools starting up without any resources are preparing to open their doors to students in 2017.

While we support the state's commitment to provide resources to conversion (former DOE) charter schools, we are testifying because the larger majority of charter schools do not get any facilities support from our state. This is a problem because a school's building costs must be squeezed out of a small funding pot -- \$7089/per pupil allocation (PPA) per year. Cost for facilities and maintenance is roughly 9% of a school's budget, but this varies among start-up or conversion schools. The same PPA must also stretch to pay for salaries, collective bargaining costs, curriculum, equipment and supplies, utility services and a mountain of other expenses required to run a school.

The lack of facilities support has consistently short-changed public charter school students and has been a problem for too long. It's time to change this equation by adding facilities funding for charter schools in the state's budget this year.

Every child is deserving of safe public school facilities including those who chose an education in public charter schools. Mahalo for your support of HB533 HD1.

Sarah Riznyk

Holualoa

Hawaii

From: Alex Gupton <uyehwmzkpxynzgv@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:44 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: alexgupton@gmail.com <Alex Gupton>

Message:

Please continue to support the wonderful work being done at charter schools like the one our children attend in Kona at the West Hawaii Exploration Academy. We are so happy to have an option outside of the 'regular' educational system that has suited our children so well. The knowledge and experience that they receive in this environment has been amazing, and they are thriving. Thank you for your time and continued support.

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

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Alex Gupton

From: Nancy Peterson Holt <ghkixtevkublbc@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:41 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: daholtohana@hawaii.rr.com <Nancy Peterson Holt>

Message:

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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Nancy Peterson Holt

Kaneohe

Hawaii

From: Chanelle Tolentino <wshfqilfmdvazfk@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:20 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: ctolentino@myhta.org <Chanelle Tolentino>

Message:

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

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Chanelle Tolentino

Kapolei

Hawaii

From: James Van Natta <vyoumpkastukxzp@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:53 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: frankvannatta@hotmail.com <James Van Natta>

Message:

WHEA has been an excellent experience for my son and a perfect fit for his indendent spirit.

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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From: Amanda Lyman <rmrnhxhtbxdtmte@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:52 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: kumupomai@gmail.com <Amanda Lyman>

Message:

Aloha, I am a mākua (parent) as well as a kumu (teacher) at Ke Kula o S.M. Kamakau PCS in Ha'iku, Kane'ohē. I have 4 children, 3 of whom are current students at this school, and 1 who just recently left because of admission acceptance to Kamehameha Schools. We have been an active 'ohana at Ke Kula o Kamakau since 2009. Over the past 7.5 years, we have witnessed the lengths our administration will endure to give our children the best environment for learning that they can. Due to restraints that stem from facility funding policies, our administration has had to place equal focus on facility maintenance just to be able to provide a safe, learning environment. Our students and faculty have had to deal with the following challenges: -limited space (all grade-level supplies for learning are stored in the single allotted classroom) -makeshift eating area (lunch under an EZ corner tent on a dirt foundation, which always ends up in mud puddles, being that we are located in the wettest area on the island) -no P.E. facility (which means P.E. in parking lots and on roads leading to/from the school) -higher level of stress for teachers and staff because they have to refocus their attention toward facility safety and comfort issues, instead of focusing on curriculum, in order to manage classroom learning effectively. If we can focus more of our attention on the individual student experience in the area of academics and curriculum, without having to worry about facility issues, I feel that our students will be able to leave each day with a greater learning experience, which likewise, will help them to become more valuable contributors to community and society as a whole. Mahalo

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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Amanda Lyman

From: Kuuleilani Reyes <dgculkvazwtwbg@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:42 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: kuuleila@hawaii.edu <Kuuleilani Reyes>

Message:

Charter schools are public schools, funded by us taxpayers, you and I. Please provide resources for the school facilities of our children. mahalo:)

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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Kuuleilani Reyes

Kaneohe

Hawaii

From: Meahilahila Kelling <mnvwaxysblawxju@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:41 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: meahilahila@kamakau.com <Meahilahila Kelling>

Message:

Our school, Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau, Laboratory Public Charter School is in dire need of facilities funding to address our foundational health and safety issues. Together with our non-profit support organization, we have fundraised and invested nearly \$5 million into our campus since we acquired it in 2009; which includes a long term USDA loan. We have a long ways to go and continue fundraising, efforts which often takes away our focus from education. Our roadways are not safe to drive on daily as some may have seen on Hawaii News Now and our students are currently eating on picnic tables in an area that floods with mud when it rains. Additionally, we have two donated modulars that sit on our campus unused due to a lack of funding. As our enrollment continues to increase, we will need to address the lack of classroom spaces and will need to access our modular classroom spaces that have yet to be completed with ADA compliant stairs, ramps and landings. Hawai'i's charter schools are schools of choice and attract a wide range of families who are drawn to our schools' unique vision and missions. We provide a service to the community in the form of public education and our students deserve the safe facilities as are afforded their counterparts in the DOE system.

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen,

Mahalo for hearing HB 533 HD1, a bill to provide facilities resources for Hawaii's public charter schools.

All students deserve to learn in a quality setting. For too long too many of Hawaii's public charter schools have not had facilities resources. Our students have had to "make-do" by holding classes under tents, in open air settings exposed to elements like rain, mud and heat. Some have had port-a-potties as toilets for years. Many schools and families fundraise to repair, replace and secure donated spaces to accommodate our student's needs.

Twenty-eight of Hawaii's 34 public charter schools are not in DOE facilities. Three more charter schools starting up without any resources are preparing to open their doors to students in 2017.

While we support the state's commitment to provide resources to conversion (former DOE) charter schools, we are testifying because the larger majority of charter schools do not get any facilities support from our state. This is a problem because a school's building costs must be squeezed out of a small funding pot -- \$7089/per pupil allocation (PPA) per year. Cost for facilities and maintenance is roughly 9% of a school's

budget, but this varies among start-up or conversion schools. The same PPA must also stretch to pay for salaries, collective bargaining costs, curriculum, equipment and supplies, utility services and a mountain of other expenses required to run a school.

The lack of facilities support has consistently short-changed public charter school students and has been a problem for too long. It's time to change this equation by adding facilities funding for charter schools in the state's budget this year.

Every child is deserving of safe public school facilities including those who chose an education in public charter schools. Mahalo for your support of HB533 HD1.

Meahilahila Kelling

Kaneohe

Hawaii

From: B. Noelani Iokepa Guerrero <hukixuyzhsbseml@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:36 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: noelani.iokepaguerrero@gmail.com <B. Noelani Iokepa Guerrero>

Message:

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

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B. Noelani Iokepa Guerrero

Kaneohe

Hawaii

From: Una Burns <kqntfxsfmrgkygr@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 8:53 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: burns@whea.net <Una Burns>

Message:

Please help out charter schools, it is soul destroying for many programs and the kids to not be able to get a decent education due to a lack of money when it is being pumped into such things as the defense industry and big business. Every kid deserves equal funding. We still have to close school sometimes because of bad weather!

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Una Burns

From: Shellese Guieb <jmiuwxqktvcdhat@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 8:39 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: shellese@whea.net <Shellese Guieb>

Message:

Thank you for considering fair and equal funding to every public school student.

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Every child is deserving of safe public school facilities including those who chose an education in public charter schools. Mahalo for your support of HB533 HD1.

From: Leigh Fitzgerald <hgrqrszczxxzcpam@ujoin.co>
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 5:36 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: lfitzgerald@myhta.org <Leigh Fitzgerald>

Message:

Please, please support all public school students in Hawaii by supporting the facilities funding bill for public charter schools. All children deserve a safe, secure and supportive learning environment.

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

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Leigh Fitzgerald

Waipahu

Hawaii

From: Rachel Silverman <uzczwdyeigyzel@ujoin.co>
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 9:47 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: rachelsilverman@verizon.net <Rachel Silverman >

Message:

Please support our public charter schools facilities!

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

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From: Jessica Dos Santos <flolveyxpatekfn@ujoin.co>
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 7:56 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: nrtshrlv@gmail.com <Jessica Dos Santos>

Message:

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

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Jessica Dos Santos

Kahuku

Hawaii

From: Anthony Fraser <qxexazwsbkdlm@ujoin.co>
Sent: Saturday, February 25, 2017 9:08 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: joef@kalo.org <Anthony Fraser>

Message:

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

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Anthony Fraser

From: Ipo Cain <cgvdvawzqlcljj@ujoin.co>
Sent: Saturday, February 25, 2017 7:06 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: ipo@leprechaunfarms.com <Ipo Cain>

Message:

please support every child who is supported with public funds!

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

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Ipo Cain

Honaunau

Hawaii

From: Michael Kramer <vyealnrsbkkdal@ujoin.co>
Sent: Saturday, February 25, 2017 5:51 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: mkramer@hawaii.rr.com <Michael Kramer>

Message:

It is entirely unfair for students attending charter schools to be left out of the formula for facilities. Charter schools scrape by, but have to allocate too much money to facilities, which detracts from what can be spent on the educational program for students. This unequal treatment is not only unfair, it is likely illegal. Please facilitate justice here so these students are not unfairly penalized.

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Michael Kramer

Keauhou

Hawaii

From: Julia Smith <jwmbgurmwtifnk@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 12:42 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: jsmkona@gmail.com <Julia Smith>

Message:

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

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Julia Smith

From: Elayne White <ayezesanrohkbbsu@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 1:04 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: elaynewwhite@hotmail.com <Elayne White>

Message:

Please allocate more state and federal funding to public charter schools. My daughter has been thriving in her charter school environment and eagerly looks forward to school everyday whereas before, at conventional public school, she balked, drug her feet and even cried all the way to school. For free thinking, problem solving, hands on and learn by experience motivated children, public charter schools offer an environment for these students to thrive, grow and thirst for more knowledge. Again, my plea, PLEASE allocate as much money as needed to fund these charter schools!! Thank you!! Happy Mom, Elayne White

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Elayne White

From: Wendy Waipa <qsxbjutcyjlrnw@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 1:50 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: mwaipa@kalpcs.com <Wendy Waipa>

Message:

Please kako'o our public charter schools. Our public charter schools are not asking for more than our regular DOE schools, we are simply asking for equity and fairness to provide for our haumana and 'ohana who choose to be educated in public charter schools. Mahalo nui.

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Wendy Waipa

HILO

Hawaii

From: Joel Rogers <mokpsxcxkigkkig@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 1:20 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: joelwilliamrogers@gmail.com <Joel Rogers>

Message:

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Joel Rogers

Kailua-Kona

Hawaii

From: Elisabeth Makainai <scatroynvnqjkmj@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:18 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: mehanaminoaka@yahoo.com <Elisabeth Makainai>

Message:

Charter schools provide valuable services and opportunities to Keiki and families in Hawai'i. It is important that these schools are supported financially so that they can provide safe environments for students, teachers and staff. As a parent of children attending a charter school, I know firsthand that funds are very tight for these schools. Passing HB553 HD1 will help to alleviate pressures felt by charter school communities and provide needed opportunities for facilities support.

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Every child is deserving of safe public school facilities including those who chose an education in public charter schools. Mahalo for your support of HB533 HD1.

Elisabeth Makainai

From: Leina'ala Hall <gmbnjfwfzfaznzx@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 2:27 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: hall@whea.net <Leina'ala Hall>

Message:

Having been conditioned to operate on limited funding, there is no doubt that our charter schools will use increased funding to efficiently improve our students' learning environment.

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen,

Mahalo for hearing HB 533 HD1, a bill to provide facilities resources for Hawaii's public charter schools.

All students deserve to learn in a quality setting. For too long too many of Hawaii's public charter schools have not had facilities resources. Our students have had to "make-do" by holding classes under tents, in open air settings exposed to elements like rain, mud and heat. Some have had port-a-potties as toilets for years. Many schools and families fundraise to repair, replace and secure donated spaces to accommodate our student's needs.

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Leina'ala Hall

Maria Kottwitz
15-2774 Ahi St.
Pahoa HI, 96778
kottwitznhawaii@yahoo.com
(808) 965-6597

February 27, 2017

Testimony: In Support of H.B. NO.533:
RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS
FACILITY FUNDING

To Chairman Luke,

I have been a Hawaii Academy of Arts and Science parent for six years. Two of my daughters have graduated and moved on to a college education from HAAS and two still presently attend. My children benefit from a richly dynamic education at HAAS. Over the years I seen the school struggle to stay financially afloat due to underfunding. Administration has to make challenging decisions pertaining to the academic needs vs. the health and safety. Health and safety take precedence leaving what is left to attend the academic needs. This leaves very little finances for any kind of academic growth. There has been times if the school was unsure if it could afford to keep its doors open. I give a tremendous amount of credit to the staff for their commit it to the students. Typical public schools have only a academic budget to consider and don't have to worry about facility costs. This is unfair and unequal. I urge you to support HB533 and care for all of Hawaii's public school students equally. Thank you for your care and consideration.

Sincerely,
Maria Kottwitz

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 2:31 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: heanu@kaumeke.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB533

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heanu Weller	Individual	Support	No

Comments: House Committee on Finance Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Ty J. K. Cullen, Vice Chair Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 Time: 3:00 P.M. Place: Room 308 HB 533 HD1 RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS – STRONG SUPPORT Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee: Welina mai me ke aloha. My name is Carol Ioane and I have been a public school teacher since 1982. For the last 27 years, I have been a teacher in Hawaiian medium education located at Keaukaha Elementary School. I am submitting this testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 533 HD1. HB 533 HD1 seeks to support public charter schools by appropriating monies for the State Public Charter School Commission to allocate to public charter schools for facilities projects and rent assistance. HB 533 HD1 is very much appreciated since facilities have always been of grave concern to charter schools. This bill is critical to the survival of charter schools in general and to my school, Ka ‘Umeke Kā‘eo Public Charter School, in particular. As of June 3, 2017, Ka ‘Umeke Kā‘eo, the first Kula Kaiapuni ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i on the Island of Hawai‘i may no longer exist. Our grades K-2, the last grades affected by the DOE’s “relocation process,” must leave our portable classrooms built specifically for us with nowhere to go. We need help now to ensure the survival of Ka ‘Umeke Kā‘eo, 1 of only 2 Hawaiian medium pathways of education in East Hawai‘i; 1 of only 4 on the entire Island of Hawai‘i. I, along with the undersigned teachers at Ka ‘Umeke Kā‘eo, urge the support and passage of HB 533 HD1. We look forward with hope and anticipation that this critical bill may ensure the survival of our small but vital Hawaiian medium education charter school located on the Hawaiian homestead. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 533 HD1. Me ke aloha, me ka ha‘aha‘a, a me ka ‘oia‘i‘o, Nā Kumu Kula Ho‘āmana ‘o Ka ‘Umeke Kā‘eo Carol R. Ioane

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 1:23 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ahia.dye@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM*

HB533

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ahia Dye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Gabriel Struempf <zyndiqwuneqdqkh@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 3:22 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: gabriel.struempf@whea.net <Gabriel Struempf>

Message:

I think it would be cool to get more money for my school WHEA because lots of projects such as the robotics project work hard on fundraising and still dont get as much as other schools. it would be nice to have money to use to fundraise more money too.

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen,

Mahalo for hearing HB 533 HD1, a bill to provide facilities resources for Hawaii's public charter schools.

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Gabriel Struempf

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 9:56 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: milholen.jennifer@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM*

HB533

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Stephanie Bernardi <lwpqbgdrrxlplak@ujoin.co>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:31 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: s.bernardi@seeqs.org <Stephanie Bernardi>

Message:

As a teacher at SEEQS, I am hopeful and excited for the work our students and staff are doing to better Hawaii today and in the future. The success our students have experienced thus far has the potential to be even greater at the high school level. Each year we can't expand into a high school the disappointment is palatable amongst our parents, students and faculty. Our community is thriving and ready to push our work to the next level with a new facility.

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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Every child is deserving of safe public school facilities including those who chose an education in public charter schools. Mahalo for your support of HB533 HD1.

From: Melanie Tanaka <rcshrkbxbonexfrh@ujoin.co>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:22 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: meltanaka1@gmail.com <Melanie Tanaka>

Message:

My grandchildren go to Ke Kula O Samuel M Kamakau - A Laboratory Public Charter School In Haiku. They love their school. My grandchildren are part of an Ohana that loves and lives the Hawaiian culture fully with so much Aloha. I met the grandfather of one of my grandsons friends he is Hawaiian and was forbidden to speak his language as a child and was hit if he did he was only allowed to speak English, I was with him at the pre-school where they taught the family members Hawaiian so we could support our children at home. He was so excited to be leaning and speaking his own language again. That so impressed me. The Hawaiian Culture and language is on the rise thanks to emersion schools and the love and care of the teachers there. Please continue to support the schools with funding. By the way my grandchildren have no Hawaiian blood but can speak Hawaiian and know the culture better then many who do.

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen,

Mahalo for hearing HB 533 HD1, a bill to provide facilities resources for Hawaii's public charter schools.

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Every child is deserving of safe public school facilities including those who chose an education in public charter schools. Mahalo for your support of HB533 HD1.

Melanie Tanaka

From: James Ishimoto <acabgjwwftsqxph@ujoin.co>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 2:29 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: portlockpool@yahoo.com <James Ishimoto>

Message:

Aloha, I believe in the charter schools, their mission, goals and their urgent plea for help in every aspect of their operations; facilities, staffing, and maintenance. Everyone knows that charter schools get far less per pupil in funding from the state than public school students. Everyone, especially politicians, should visit a charter school campus if they haven't done so already, to witness first hand how the children are enriched by everyone involved in running the school. There is an immense amount of nurturing, creativity and enjoyment everyday. We always hear from candidates at election time how "education of our keiki in priority". Well, NOW IS THE TIME TO PUT WORDS INTO ACTION. PLEASE GIVE ALL THE SUPPORT YOU CAN TO CHARTER SCHOOL. MAHALO NUI LOA FOR OUR KEIKI.

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen,

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Every child is deserving of safe public school facilities including those who chose an education in public charter schools. Mahalo for your support of HB533 HD1.

James Ishimoto

From: Charlene Ishimoto <tsouuogvltokygc@ujoin.co>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 2:51 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: charishimoto@yahoo.com <Charlene Ishimoto>

Message:

Aloha, I support the charter schools, their mission, goals and concerns. They are in dire need of funding from the state for facilities. Everyone, especially elected politicians, should visit a charter campus to witness the nurturing, creativity and enjoyment the students experience everyday. Every election we hear candidates proclaim that education is priority. NOW IS THE TIME TO PUT WORDS INTO ACTION FOR OUR KEIKI. Mahalo nui loa

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

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From: Jennifer Cirillo <uxpluxidtoohjb@ujoin.co>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:03 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: jcirillo@tssphotography.com <Jennifer Cirillo>

Message:

Aloha, My girls attend a charter school in which we absolutely love. One of the biggest challenges is a permanent school site/facility. It is extremely stressful for the students, staff and families to wonder each year if we will have a proper learning environment for our children. I hope our Hawaii charter schools will receive funding to find a permanent facility.

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

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From: Chloe Winant <zgcmlbrkwgfvlyy@ujoin.co>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:02 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: metalchloe@gmail.com <Chloe Winant>

Message:

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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Chloe Winant

Gainesville

Florida

From: Deanna Dolier <pwhpnydpwofcbth@ujoin.co>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:11 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: torresds@msn.com <Deanna Dolier>

Message:

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen,

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Deanna Dolier

Honolulu

Hawaii



1101 15th Street, NW
Suite 1010
Washington, DC 20005
T. 202.289.2700
F. 202.289.4009
www.publiccharters.org

LATE

February 27, 2017

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

Via Email: FINtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

**RE: HB 533 HD1 - Relating Charter Schools – Support Testimony
Conference Room 308 – Hawaii State Capitol – Feb. 28, 2017, 2:00 P.M.**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Hawaii House Finance Committee Members:

I am writing today in support of House Bill 533 HD1. This important measure will provide much-needed facilities support to public charter school students in Hawaii.

One of the biggest challenges facing public charter schools in Hawaii, much like their counterparts in other states, is the fact that many charter school laws place the ultimate burden of obtaining and paying for facilities on charter schools themselves. As a result, charter school leaders struggle to find suitable and affordable facilities to house their growing numbers of students.

States play an important role in determining the options available to help fund charter school facilities. Increasingly, states are enacting and updating state policies to help offset the cost of leasing, purchasing, and maintaining charter school facilities. Current state policy options include

- Providing a per-pupil facilities allowance to charter schools,
- Creating a charter school facility grant program,
- Providing a charter school facility revolving loan program,
- Ensuring that charter schools have equal access to all of the existing state facilities programs for district-run public schools in a state, and
- Providing charter schools with access to local property tax dollars generated for facilities.

As of this writing, 30 jurisdictions have authorized one or more of these options. If Hawaii enacts House Bill 533, it will join this growing list of states. More importantly, it

will provide much needed relief to public charter schools, allowing them to focus more resources on teaching and learning.

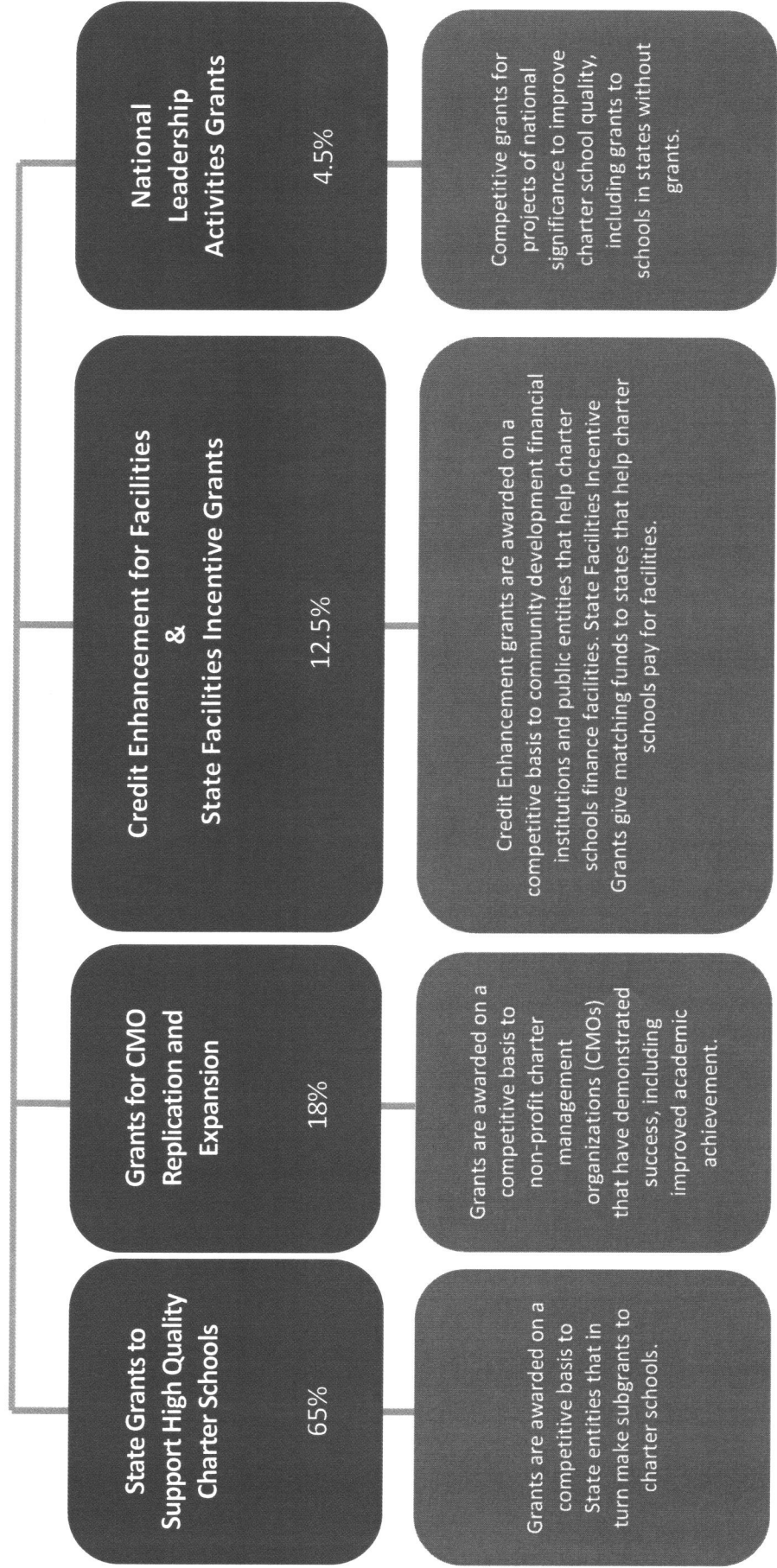
If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me at todd@publiccharters.org. Thank you for your support of public charter school students.

Sincerely,

Todd Ziebarth
Senior Vice President, State Advocacy and Support
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

U.S. Department of Education Charter Schools Program
FY2016 Funding Levels

Charter Schools Program
(ESSA, Title IV, Part B)
\$333.1M



My name is Zoe Ingerson, a teacher at SEEQS: The School for Examining Essential Questions of Sustainability. I am testifying in support of measure HB533 (hearing date: February 28, 2017).

LATE

In our state, thousands of students attend charter schools. Parents and students choose these schools for a variety of reasons, including the school's educational approach or its integration of Hawaiian language and culture. However, many of these schools are suffering because of limited facilities and resources.

At my school, SEEQS, for example, not all classes are guaranteed an indoor classroom space, and our school's growth has been limited because of our non-permanent facility. We are unable to serve our students to the full extent of our charter simply because of lack of space. Our charter was written for a 6-12 grade school, and we are struggling to fit just our 6-8 graders.

If a school's charter has been approved, it should also be the state's responsibilities to provide some funding for our facilities. Already, our funding (per student) is far less than any non-charter public school, with no facilities provided. On top of that, our school will be forced to move locations for the 2017-2018 school year. Students, parents, and teachers are not only feeling uncertainty, but it may add unnecessary hardship to members of our community.

All students in Hawaii deserve to have a school on which they can count - a school where they feel safe. In Hawaii, we have 34 charter schools that are innovating on a daily basis, and expanding our conceptions of education. Please support HB533 in the name of those students, teachers, and communities.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 8:13 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: dhcret@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB533

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: Please provide equitable funding for all students in Hawaii Public Education, including Charter Schools!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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LATE

Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

**House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017
Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM
Support for HB533 HD1**

Dear Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen,

Mahalo for hearing HB 533 HD1, a bill to provide facilities resources for Hawaii's public charter schools.

We depend on our charter schools to innovate and find solutions to improve our public education system. Yet we force charter schools to operate within a model that nearly sets them up for failure. Passage of HB533 is a critical step towards giving some of the most promising public charter schools, like SEEQS: the School for Examining Essential Questions of Sustainability, a chance at long-term sustainability. SEEQS' students are outperforming their public school counterparts on state assessments and other barometers. Faculty are engaged, innovative and move together towards a shared and impactful mission. SEEQS has been recognized for its achievements by local, national and international professionals and experts in the education and policy fields. It's a fantastic school with great results, despite the fact that children are learning in make-shift tents and other inadequate facilities. The school would be allowed to thrive at its full potential and expand as planned if it were provided with adequate facilities supported by the state like any other public school. This bill will help to level the playing field for charter schools, especially the ones, like SEEQS, that we, as a community, want to see succeed and raise the bar for public education in Hawaii.

All students deserve to learn in a quality setting. For too long too many of Hawaii's public charter schools have not had facilities resources. Our students have had to "make-do" by holding classes under tents, in open air settings exposed to elements like rain, mud and heat. Some have had port-a-potties as toilets for years. Many schools and families fundraise to repair, replace and secure donated spaces to accommodate our student's needs.

Twenty-eight of Hawaii's 34 public charter schools are not in DOE facilities. Three more charter schools starting up without any resources are preparing to open their doors to students in 2017.

While we support the state's commitment to provide resources to conversion (former DOE) charter schools, we are testifying because the larger majority of charter schools do not get any facilities support from our state. This is a problem because a school's building costs must be squeezed out of a small funding pot -- \$7089/per pupil allocation (PPA) per year. Cost for facilities and maintenance is roughly 9% of a school's budget, but this varies among start-up or conversion schools. The same PPA must also stretch to pay for salaries, collective bargaining costs, curriculum, equipment and supplies, utility services and a mountain of other expenses required to run a school.

The lack of facilities support has consistently short-changed public charter school students and has been a problem for too long. It's time to change this equation by adding facilities funding for charter schools in the state's budget this year.

Every child is deserving of safe public school facilities including those who chose an education in public charter schools. Mahalo for your support of HB533 HD1.

Selena Ching
(808) 395-4887

From: John Lozano <kzinisepyztgutn@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 3:54 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: john@hawaiiislandevents.com <John Lozano>

Message:

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen,

Mahalo for hearing HB 533 HD1, a bill to provide facilities resources for Hawaii's public charter schools.

All students deserve to learn in a quality setting. For too long too many of Hawaii's public charter schools have not had facilities resources. Our students have had to "make-do" by holding classes under tents, in open air settings exposed to elements like rain, mud and heat. Some have had port-a-potties as toilets for years. Many schools and families fundraise to repair, replace and secure donated spaces to accommodate our student's needs.

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Every child is deserving of safe public school facilities including those who chose an education in public charter schools. Mahalo for your support of HB533 HD1.

John Lozano

From: Hannah Lozano <arneybdmjipetyu@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 3:53 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: konalozano@gmail.com <Hannah Lozano>

Message:

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen,

Mahalo for hearing HB 533 HD1, a bill to provide facilities resources for Hawaii's public charter schools.

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Every child is deserving of safe public school facilities including those who chose an education in public charter schools. Mahalo for your support of HB533 HD1.

Hannah Lozano

Kailua Kona

Hawaii

LATE

From: Summer Zandovskis <pbfgdzvdgrouiwl@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 3:39 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: summermahina@yahoo.com <Summer Zandovskis>

Message:

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen,

Mahalo for hearing HB 533 HD1, a bill to provide facilities resources for Hawaii's public charter schools.

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Every child is deserving of safe public school facilities including those who chose an education in public charter schools. Mahalo for your support of HB533 HD1.

Summer Zandovskis

From: Thad Coffin <ypsgwllwqcqmrcmv@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 4:06 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: dharmathad@gmail.com <Thad Coffin>

Message:

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen,

Mahalo for hearing HB 533 HD1, a bill to provide facilities resources for Hawaii's public charter schools.

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Every child is deserving of safe public school facilities including those who chose an education in public charter schools. Mahalo for your support of HB533 HD1.

Thad Coffin



LATE

1101 15th Street, NW
Suite 1010
Washington, DC 20005
T. 202.289.2700
F. 202.289.4009
www.publiccharters.org

February 27, 2017

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

Via Email: FINtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

**RE: HB 533 HD1 - Relating Charter Schools – Support Testimony
Conference Room 308 – Hawaii State Capitol – Feb. 28, 2017, 2:00 P.M.**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Hawaii House Finance Committee Members:

I am writing today in support of House Bill 533 HD1. This important measure will provide much-needed facilities support to public charter school students in Hawaii.

One of the biggest challenges facing public charter schools in Hawaii, much like their counterparts in other states, is the fact that many charter school laws place the ultimate burden of obtaining and paying for facilities on charter schools themselves. As a result, charter school leaders struggle to find suitable and affordable facilities to house their growing numbers of students.

States play an important role in determining the options available to help fund charter school facilities. Increasingly, states are enacting and updating state policies to help offset the cost of leasing, purchasing, and maintaining charter school facilities. Current state policy options include

- Providing a per-pupil facilities allowance to charter schools,
- Creating a charter school facility grant program,
- Providing a charter school facility revolving loan program,
- Ensuring that charter schools have equal access to all of the existing state facilities programs for district-run public schools in a state, and
- Providing charter schools with access to local property tax dollars generated for facilities.

As of this writing, 30 jurisdictions have authorized one or more of these options. If Hawaii enacts House Bill 533, it will join this growing list of states. More importantly, it

will provide much needed relief to public charter schools, allowing them to focus more resources on teaching and learning.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me at todd@publiccharters.org. Thank you for your support of public charter school students.

Sincerely,

Todd Ziebarth
Senior Vice President, State Advocacy and Support
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools



From: Marileigh Hale <bezxyvxalegsds@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 5:05 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: marileighshale@gmail.com <Marileigh Hale>

Message:

Our family is so grateful for West Hawaii Exploitation Academy charter school! This school has allowed my kids to tap into the fields they love at an early age and building work ethic and life skills when it seems other kids are just going through the motions in traditional school.

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen,

Mahalo for hearing HB 533 HD1, a bill to provide facilities resources for Hawaii's public charter schools.

All students deserve to learn in a quality setting. For too long too many of Hawaii's public charter schools have not had facilities resources. Our students have had to "make-do" by holding classes under tents, in open air settings exposed to elements like rain, mud and heat. Some have had port-a-potties as toilets for years. Many schools and families fundraise to repair, replace and secure donated spaces to accommodate our student's needs.

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Every child is deserving of safe public school facilities including those who chose an education in public charter schools. Mahalo for your support of HB533 HD1.

Marileigh Hale

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 5:05 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: supwithus1@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM*

HB533

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: Theron Hadjes <miocmnvniydxjte@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 6:03 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: thadjes@yahoo.com <Theron Hadjes >

Message:

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen,

Mahalo for hearing HB 533 HD1, a bill to provide facilities resources for Hawaii's public charter schools.

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Every child is deserving of safe public school facilities including those who chose an education in public charter schools. Mahalo for your support of HB533 HD1.

Theron Hadjes



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 11:03 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: bradpunu@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB533

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bradley Punu	SEEQS Foundation	Support	No

Comments: To whom it may concern, My name is Brad Punu and I am a SEEQS Foundation Board member and a supporter of HB533. Charter Schools need a level playing field by providing them facilities budget so that they can create a functional learning environment and use their funding for the best purpose which is the education of their students. Regards, Brad Punu bradpunu@gmail.com

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
 Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:34 PM
 To: FINTestimony
 Cc: strang@hawaii.edu
 Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB533

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dave Strang	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I would like to support this bill as long as the start date does not stay 2051 per HD1

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LATE

February 27, 2017

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

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: HB 533 HD 1 – Relating to Charter Schools
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308, February 28, 2017, 3:00 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support HB 533 HD 1 – 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. Last fall, HCAN convened input in person and online from more than 50 organizations and individuals that came forward to support or express interest for a number of issues affecting children and families in our state that resulted in the compilation of 2017 Hawai'i Children's Policy Agenda, which can be accessed at <http://www.hawaii-can.org/2017policyagenda>.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:03 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: richard@blueplanetfoundation.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB533

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Wallsgrove	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee Members, I am a father, facing the daunting prospect of providing my son with a first-rate education. If I am honest, it is more likely than not that I will send him to a private school. And if I am lucky, our family will be able to afford this. But not every family is that lucky. For all children, first-rate education is a right and a necessity. It is not a luxury. I am also a former public school teacher. From that, I understand first-hand some of the challenges educators face in providing that first-rate education. We must do all we can to help address those challenges. Our society's "return on investment" for our support of education is simply too valuable and too important to ignore. With these perspectives in hand, I SUPPORT HB 533 HD1. This bill would provide facilities funding to help house Hawaii's public charter schools. 28 of Hawaii's 34 public charter schools are not housed in DOE facilities. Without the benefit of a DOE facility, hard-working students in some of the most innovative and successful charter schools have had to "make-do" by holding classes under tents, and in open-air settings. We must do all we can to support and improve the success of our public schools, including our public charter schools. Please forward HB 533. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:45 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: rachelrounds@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM*

HB533

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel Rounds	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Hawaii State House of Representatives
 Committee on Finance
 February 28, 2017



Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Finance Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 533. As the School Leader of SEEQS, a four year old start-up public charter school, I can attest that funding for facilities is a significant burden for charter schools in general and deeply challenging for ours in particular; this bill would go a long way toward easing that burden. Please consider the following in your consideration today:

Charter schools are public schools | More than 10,000 students attend Hawai‘i’s 34 existing charter schools; three recently authorized schools are slated to open for the 2017-2018 school year to make a total of 37 schools. Charter schools’ community-based, mission-focused education programs include a variety of approaches such as multi-discipline project-based learning, multi-age grouping, blended learning, multi-generational learning, and individual student learning plans. Charter schools in Hawai‘i have the potential to serve as research and development arm for the public school system. With greater curricular freedom and operational flexibility, charters have been able to innovate to meet community-based needs and to explore new ideas that the Department of Education (HIDOE) is often too large to experiment with. Charter schools provide proof of concept for the type of educational innovation now being discussed across the State, the kind of innovation that must continue and grow over the course of the next two decades in order to prepare our students and our state for the future.

Hawai‘i charter schools must do more with less | The long-term viability of the charter school movement in Hawai‘i is at stake due to a combination of factors, the most easily solvable of which is the lack of facilities funding. Charters schools operate within an environment of funding has not kept pace with growing demands and increasing expenses.

History of Hawai‘i Charter School Per Pupil Funding

2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
\$7,837	\$6,667	\$7,260	\$5,938	\$5,919	\$6,009	\$6,315	\$6,846	\$7,089

The absences of facilities funding (and facilities) is crippling | Hawai‘i’s charter schools do not get any facility support. Charter schools must use their per pupil funding allotment to pay for facility expenses in addition to all education expenses. For start-up charter schools such as SEEQS that is located in a high rent district, facilities expenses can be as high as 15-20% of the annual per pupil allotment. In addition to the financial strain this puts on charters (which are typically much smaller than DOE schools), school-level leaders are tasked with the difficult job of finding and often developing or remodeling a site to meet school code requirements, which requires a skill set far beyond that of instructional leadership, and may need to be outsourced at additional expense to the school. By contrast, conventional DOE public schools have multi-million dollar facilities often occupying multiple acres of campus; repairs and maintenance for these schools are covered by DAGS and do not affect individual school’s budgets.

This is a critical time for charter schools in Hawai‘i | Charter schools in Hawaii, including SEEQS, are showing great promise in modeling educational innovation to meet the needs of our students and our state. However, the model is unreasonable and unsustainable without support for facilities. I urge you to vote yes on this bill, and I welcome any questions or opportunities to provide clarity and details.

Mahalo for your consideration,
 Buffy Cushman-Patz
 School Leader & Founder
 SEEQS: the School for Examining Essential Questions of Sustainability



A public charter secondary school in Honolulu

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 7:00 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: rnaasuncion@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB533

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
rhea asuncion	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Please consider the benefits to our community children if PCS are provided funds for facilities. The quality of education is outstanding at charter schools as it is based on a whole child model and sincerely honors students individual needs. As charter schools are held to the same state of accountability, it makes logical sense that they are provided equal funds. Mahalo~ Rhea Asuncion

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From: Sammi Goldberg <jgoxzmgsyftjd@ujoin.co>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 7:30 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: sammi.goldberg423@gmail.com <Sammi Goldberg>

Message:

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen,

Mahalo for hearing HB 533 HD1, a bill to provide facilities resources for Hawaii's public charter schools.

All students deserve to learn in a quality setting. For too long too many of Hawaii's public charter schools have not had facilities resources. Our students have had to "make-do" by holding classes under tents, in open air settings exposed to elements like rain, mud and heat. Some have had port-a-potties as toilets for years. Many schools and families fundraise to repair, replace and secure donated spaces to accommodate our student's needs.

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The lack of facilities support has consistently short-changed public charter school students and has been a problem for too long. It's time to change this equation by adding facilities funding for charter schools in the state's budget this year.

Every child is deserving of safe public school facilities including those who chose an education in public charter schools. Mahalo for your support of HB533 HD1.

Sammi Goldberg

Kamuela

Hawaii

From: Misty Silva <tlbngthxsjuhyly@ujoin.co>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 6:53 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: misty.kawasaki@yahoo.com <Misty Silva>

Message:

WHEA, an amazing charter school, has provided a viable option for two of my children that were not thriving at other public schools. Charter schools are necessary for families who need options and can not afford private schools. THANK YOU!

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen,

Mahalo for hearing HB 533 HD1, a bill to provide facilities resources for Hawaii's public charter schools.

All students deserve to learn in a quality setting. For too long too many of Hawaii's public charter schools have not had facilities resources. Our students have had to "make-do" by holding classes under tents, in open air settings exposed to elements like rain, mud and heat. Some have had port-a-potties as toilets for years. Many schools and families fundraise to repair, replace and secure donated spaces to accommodate our student's needs.

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The lack of facilities support has consistently short-changed public charter school students and has been a problem for too long. It's time to change this equation by adding facilities funding for charter schools in the state's budget this year.

Every child is deserving of safe public school facilities including those who chose an education in public charter schools. Mahalo for your support of HB533 HD1.

Misty Silva

LATE

From: Amalie Dorn <xwlggyhtxtrfzlg@ujoin.co>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 6:06 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: amaliedorn1@gmail.com <Amalie Dorn>

Message:

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen,

Mahalo for hearing HB 533 HD1, a bill to provide facilities resources for Hawaii's public charter schools.

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Amalie Dorn



From: Joanna Browning <kvbxclwbnybyct@ujoin.co>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:47 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: jomaedo@gmail.com <Joanna Browning>

Message:

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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Joanna Browning

From: Leihua Naeole <ecrpoydfndvvue@ujoin.co>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:42 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: lnaeole.smk@gmail.com <Leihua Naeole>

Message:

It shouldn't be a request to fund these charter school. It is the state's kuleana to do so! These students deserve an equal a fair education just as much as those in regular D.O.E. schools. Have you ever visited a charter school? They are doing amazing things. Do what is pono for ALL of Hawai'i's children. It is everyone's kuleana!

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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Leihua Naeole

From: Kim Saffery <omurimnujxpkwgt@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 11:19 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: safferyk@yahoo.com <Kim Saffery>

Message:

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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Kim Saffery

Honolulu

Hawaii



From: Mark Olson <xmuiucxhhwlfmvmf@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 11:18 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: markolson68@gmail.com <Mark Olson>

Message:

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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Mark Olson

From: Liana White <rmnaqpwkqfkmkjd@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 11:06 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: white@whea.net <Liana White>

Message:

Charter schools are public schools, please give them the support they deserve!

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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From: Michelle Takahashi <cgafezdhkswuani@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:49 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: michelle.e.takahashi@gmail.com <Michelle Takahashi>

Message:

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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Michelle Takahashi

From: Dr B Blackwell <pdedfjuzcveqxbi@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:48 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: drb.onkauai@gmail.com <Dr B Blackwell>

Message:

As one of the approved Charter Schools, Alaka`i O Kaua`i Public Charter School, is trying to open August 2017 without start-up funds or any funding for facilities. This is truly a hardship for our Kauai keiki. Although Kauai has four other charter schools, two are Ni`ihau and the other two are Hawaii immersion and culture. Our school will have Hawaiian culture and language, but we will be the one and only charter school open to ALL students.

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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Dr B Blackwell

From: Alisa Avery <pamowobemtzrgeq@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:45 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: aurabe@usc.edu <Alisa Avery>

Message:

Charter schools in Hawaii are providing students with free innovative education. They deserve to have more support as they work to make education better for our children.

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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Alisa Avery

Honolulu

Hawaii

From: Melissa Yoshimoto <osalluqkmqawpxs@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:11 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: melissa1@hawaiiantel.net <Melissa Yoshimoto>

Message:

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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Melissa Yoshimoto

Honolulu

Hawaii

LATE

From: Alexis Jamison <iweybpunridyak@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:10 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: jamisona@hawaii.edu <Alexis Jamison>

Message:

Charter schools deserve proper facilities.

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

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Alexis Jamison

Mililani

Hawaii

From: Joy Gallaher <mnuggracflkgkke@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:05 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: joygallaher@gmail.com <Joy Gallaher>

Message:

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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Joy Gallaher

From: Charlene Mersburgh <jfnvdmcpzenskc@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:55 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: charlenemersburgh@gmail.com <Charlene Mersburgh >

Message:

I support HB533 HD1 for the much needed facilities funding for charter schools. Our daughter attends Hawaii Technology Academy. She is excelling in 9th grade. Her school could use the facilities fund to maintain and expand her learning center. Thank you for your support

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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Charlene Mersburgh

Kailua Kona

Hawaii

From: Dr. Mark Hines <lgjwtpffdhzvdhr@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:33 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: hinesmark@mac.com <Dr. Mark Hines>

Message:

As a member of the SEEQS community, I feel strongly that charter schools deserve the same support for facilities as all Publicly funded schools. Please do what is right for our keiki and their education and support this bill.

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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Dr. Mark Hines

From: Tomoko Hotema <puclkbdzqxgpdnq@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:14 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: gojojogo7@gmail.com <Tomoko Hotema>

Message:

I love SEEQS! We've been with SEEQS for three years, and I believe in everything Buffy and her team are doing. They work hard, and truly care about the children and our community. I'm so grateful for them. Mahalo.

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen,

Mahalo for hearing HB 533 HD1, a bill to provide facilities resources for Hawaii's public charter schools.

All students deserve to learn in a quality setting. For too long too many of Hawaii's public charter schools have not had facilities resources. Our students have had to "make-do" by holding classes under tents, in open air settings exposed to elements like rain, mud and heat. Some have had port-a-potties as toilets for years. Many schools and families fundraise to repair, replace and secure donated spaces to accommodate our student's needs.

Twenty-eight of Hawaii's 34 public charter schools are not in DOE facilities. Three more charter schools starting up without any resources are preparing to open their doors to students in 2017.

While we support the state's commitment to provide resources to conversion (former DOE) charter schools, we are testifying because the larger majority of charter schools do not get any facilities support from our state. This is a problem because a school's building costs must be squeezed out of a small funding pot -- \$7089/per pupil allocation (PPA) per year. Cost for facilities and maintenance is roughly 9% of a school's budget, but this varies among start-up or conversion schools. The same PPA must also stretch to pay for salaries, collective bargaining costs, curriculum, equipment and supplies, utility services and a mountain of other expenses required to run a school.

The lack of facilities support has consistently short-changed public charter school students and has been a problem for too long. It's time to change this equation by adding facilities funding for charter schools in the state's budget this year.

Every child is deserving of safe public school facilities including those who chose an education in public charter schools. Mahalo for your support of HB533 HD1.

From: Lala Lee <tirstbqcylyzvqa@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:00 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: 5252stars@gmail.com <Lala Lee>

Message:

My son currently attends West Hawaii Explorations Academy. Another son graduated a few years back. As a parent whose children have attended overcrowded public schools, WHEA, a charter school of excellent resources and staffing deserves to have all of their needs met in order to continue providing educational excellence. I support their endeavors.

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

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Lala Lee

From: Buffy Cushman Patz <ibeuuqatmvwhzmd@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 8:59 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: buffycushman@gmail.com <Buffy Cushman Patz>

Message:

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

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Buffy Cushman Patz

From: Dulcy Dawson <ugwcxwsaxjsev@ujoin.co>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 7:53 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Finance Testimony in support of HB533 HD1 - charter schools facilities funding

From: dulcydawson@gmail.com <Dulcy Dawson>

Message:

Please do the right thing.

House Committee on Finance - February 28, 2017

Agenda #3 - Conference Room 303 at 3 PM

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