

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: Wednesday, March 29, 2017
TIME: 1:40 PM
COMMITTEE: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
ROOM: Conference Room 211
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz 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 has met twice, and will meet again next month. It is tasked with providing a framework to assist with the allocation of funding to support charter school facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



HB533 HD1
RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 29, 2017

1:40 PM

Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **SUPPORTS** HB533 HD1, which would provide funding to the State Public Charter School Commission for charter schools' facilities projects and rent costs. **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 innovation labs" (emphasis added).

Hawai'i's public charter schools are indeed deserving of equity, and have already demonstrated their potential for innovation and excellence notwithstanding their unique financial challenges. Most recently, public charter schools have achieved high rankings in the latest Strive HI SY 2015-2016 performance scores, with certain public charter schools even dominating in certain indicators; lessons learned in such high-performing charter schools can benefit students and schools throughout our public education system. **To fully realize the potential for innovation in charter schools that may in turn foster greater student success in our public school system as a whole, it is critical that public charter schools receive adequate appropriations for facilities funding.** HB533 HD1 will help bring equity to charter schools and address the longstanding problem of financing charter schools' facilities.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2017 11:37 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: steved140.6@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Mar 29, 2017 13:40PM

HB533

Submitted on: 3/26/2017

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2017 13:40PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Davidson	Kamalani Academy	Support	No

Comments: I am the Vice Chair of the Kamalani Academy Governing Board. Kamalani is a new charter school, opening in August 2017. Finding a facility is one of the greatest challenges a new charter school faces. We have been fortunate enough to find a Catholic School building which has been unused for 12 years. We are now spending \$2.5 million to ready this building for students in the Fall. This includes removing hazardous waste (lead, asbestos, and more,) resizing classrooms to make optimal use of the space, installing an elevator to meet requirements for those with disabilities, changing out railings to meet code, and repainting the entire building. This does not even include the cost of furniture, fixtures, equipment, IT, etc. We have had to put on hold some of our plans, including a playground, landscaping, and a covered lunch area because of the increasing cost of our renovations. We will need to pay back the loan our foundation has taken out for all this work. That is on top of the monthly lease cost. The total of these monthly expenses will use up approximately 16% of the \$7,000 annual per pupil allocation we will receive. That is dollars we will not have available for the education of our students. This is while DOE schools have about \$14,000 for each of their students. Charter schools are designed to drive innovation and to give Hawaii's families a choice in where they send their children. Is it at all fair that we should have to do this on less than half of what the DOE schools spend? I ask that you approve HB 533, providing for facilities funding for Hawaii's charter school students.

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



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**

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hon. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Hon. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair**

**Wednesday, March 29, 2017, 1:40 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

Honorable Chair Tokuda 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, HD1, 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



March 29, 2017

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Sen. Jill Tokuda, Chair; Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair; and Committee Members
Public Hearing, March 29, 2017 at 1:40 p.m., Conference Room 211

**TESTIMONY of WILLIAM F. ANONSEN
MANAGING PARTNER/PRINCIPAL of THE MARITIME GROUP, LLC
IN SUPPORT of H.B. 533 HD1
(FACILITIES FUNDING BILL FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS)**

My name is William Anonsen and I am the Managing Partner/Principal of THE MARITIME GROUP, LLC. We support HB 533 HD1 which would provide funding to State Public Charter Schools for school facilities.

We can be very proud of the continued successes the Hawaii's Public Charter School Network continues to make on several educational learning fronts, which has excelled in program development, excellence and student achievement, despite the lack of appropriate funding, facilities and sufficient sustainable resources.

I continue to be a strong advocate for the importance of education; it is the best investment we can make in our collective future. We have a fiduciary responsibility as a community to ensure that all students are well prepared for higher education and have the opportunity to pursue the career of their choice by ensuring mastery of the basic learning skills, knowledge, and tools needed to succeed in this ever evolving 21st century global economy.

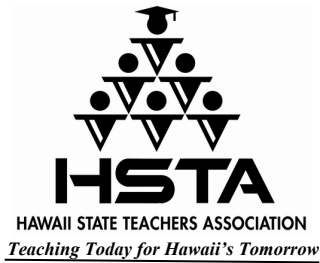
HPCSN's unique educational model helps to improve academic performance, developing the "whole child," to best prepare themselves for life-time learning and a rewarding future. Through innovative, challenging classroom learning experiences and extended learning programs, I believe our charter schools instill an appreciation for education and high academic and personal standards, preparing students to become responsible contributors to their communities and world. These unique structured charter schools throughout Hawaii help to motivate students to achieve high academic standards, enjoy learning, and develop as ethical, literate, well-rounded and self-sufficient citizens who will contribute actively to their communities.

Encourage your support of one of the most important investments we can make as a community

Sincerely,

William F. Anonsen

William F. Anonsen
Managing Partner/Principal



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

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Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2017

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Tokuda 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.

To: Senator Jill Tokuda
Members, Senate Ways & Means Committee

From: Laura Smith, President/CEO
Goodwill Hawaii

Date: March 28, 2017

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

Hearing:

Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:40 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 on August 7, 2017 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.

DONATE STUFF. CREATE JOBS.





Native Hawaiian Education Council

March 28, 2017

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
State of Hawai'i Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

Via: Electronic Upload - WAMtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: HB 533 - RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS¹

Aloha 'oluha mai,

The Native Hawaiian Education Council (NHEC or the Council) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB533** which appropriates funds for charter school facilities.

The Council is mindful that Hawai'i operates in a unique context of having a single State Educational Agency (SEA) and Local Educational Agency (LEA); two official languages—English and Hawaiian—that are mediums of instruction in the State's public education system; a public charter school system that is a blend of Hawaiian medium immersion and Hawaiian culture based schools; and a SEA in the midst of implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)—the most pervasive federal policy change since No Child Left Behind in 2001, returning control to State's by Congressional intent.

Hawai'i's charter schools are intended to support the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) tenants of access, autonomy and accountability. In Hawai'i this provides families and communities choices for community based education in both Hawaiian medium immersion and Hawaiian culture based education schools that are more responsive and attuned to the needs of families in our island communities and model innovative curriculum, instructional and assessment practices.

Addressing public charter schools' facilities needs has been a critical and longstanding issue in the charter school community. Currently, start-up (vs. conversion) charter schools must pay for facilities costs (\$5.3MM in SY 15-16 collectively among the charter schools) using their already-stretched, meager operational funds. This is a cost that

¹ Appropriates funds for charter school facilities.



Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
March 28, 2017
Page 2

is not borne by conversion charter schools, or schools under the Hawai'i Department of Education.

Most recently, the State Board of Education (BOE) recognized the importance of public charter schools, as an integral component of a 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. Lessons learned in such high-performing charter schools as labs of innovation will benefit students and schools throughout our public education system and particularly with families and communities. 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 will help address the longstanding problem of financing charter school facilities.

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

Please feel free to contact the Council's Executive Director, Dr. Sylvia Hussey, directly via e-mail (sylvia@nhec.org), office (808.523.6432) or mobile (808.221.5477) telephone with any questions.

Sincerely,



Dr. Lisa M. Watkins-Victorino, Chair

cc: Policy & Advocacy and Executive Committees and staff



From: [Kua O Ka La Charter School Osborne](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 6:11:07 AM

From: susie@kuaokala.org <Kua O Ka La Charter School Osborne>

Message:

Please support this important facilities bill. The quality of facilities is directly linked to student success and their sense of safety and feeling valued. It is a great challenge getting external funding because funders believe as a state school, it is the states responsibility. While we have all of our building permits in place, but we have not raised enough funds to build our facility that houses our toilets. Our students still use porta potties. It is very hot in lower Puna, the chemical smell is strong and the young students in grade 1-3 struggle to flush the pump in the porta pottie. We need your support to at least have our core facilities needs supported. Thank you!

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Dela Cruz,

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, including public charter schools. For too long too many of Hawaii's public charter schools have not had facilities resources. 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 schools which can see facilities costs eat up 25% of their per pupil budget. 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.

Kua O Ka La Charter School Osborne

Pahoa

Hawaii

NOTICE OF HEARING
Senate Ways and Means Committee
HB533 HD1
Testimony in SUPPORT

DATE: Wednesday, March 29, 2017
TIME: 1:40pm
PLACE: Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM Committee,

I personally have been testifying in support of charter school facility funding for over 15 years. I have served on a task force set up by the legislature to study facilities funding formulas. I have worked with key legislators to inform them of the real needs in charter schools. After a legislative bill hearing, I check on line and actually have read hundreds of supporting testimony from administrators, teachers, staff, parents, students, and community members. 99% of the testimony has been positive and in favor of some kind of support for our public charter schools. The BOE supports it, a number of key legislators support it, past governors supported it, foundations and trusts support it, HSTA supports it, OHA supports it, as well as many citizens that have no stake in charter schools. So why is it, that after all these years with tax paying citizens supporting the civil rights of public education students, there has been no movement on the common sense premise that children need education, children need safe environments to learn, children are our future, children know when they have been left out on something? So let's do it for the children. Let's educate them that fair is fair and that all children should have an educational setting that will bring out the excellence in them. Please pass this bill and put some money into it. The time has come and past, come and past, and now is that time again to make a difference in children's lives. Please find the ways and means to make this happen. Charter school lives matter.

Steve Hirakami, Director

Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science PCS



KAMALANI ACADEMY

March 28, 2017

Dear Legislators:

I am the Chairperson of the Board of Directors for Kamalani Academy - a newly approved, pre-opening charter school, opening in Wahiawa in August 2017. I am also a lifetime Oahu resident and mother of ten (10) native children. I am writing in support of HB 533 HD1 because I believe strongly and passionately in the state's responsibility to provide diversity of choice in the realm of public education.

Kamalani Academy will be employing an arts integration teaching model. Studies show that this approach to learning, which encourages movement and participation, results in a deeper and longer lasting understanding in most students. Our school will also proudly focus on Hawaiian culture and instilling important life skills such as cooperation, collaboration, and community.

Our biggest challenges as a start-up have been financial. In addition to building a future operating budget based on a per pupil allocation of roughly half the amount received by other public schools, we have not received any funding for our facility. Though we were fortunate to find a vacant school building in Wahiawa, on a Catholic Church campus, the building is old and has been out of use for over a decade. It was deteriorated, out-of-compliance, and unsuitable for a modern day school operation. The necessary renovations – just to bring the building up to code, repair dangerous conditions, and replace old fixtures and paint – are projected to cost roughly \$2.5 million. When added to our lease payments, we ***expect to pay roughly 18%*** of our already low per pupil allocation ***towards our facility***, rather than our students and teachers.

Charter schools offer vital academic choice and flexibility. To make these choices available for our local keiki, it is important that we provide adequate funding for these schools to flourish – from a passionate idea to a safe and successful school.

Please support HB 533 HD1 – which is good for our children, good for our communities, and good for Hawaii.

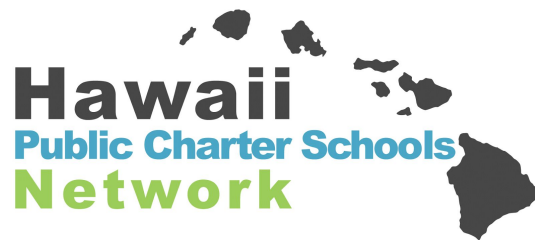
Mahalo nui loa!

Ku'uipo Laumantia

Board of Directors Chairperson

KAMALANI ACADEMY

kuuipo.laumatia@kamalaniacademy.org



March 29, 2017

To: Hon. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Hon. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee Members
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

Re: HB 533 HD1 - Relating Charter Schools - SUPPORT
Conference Room 211 – Hawaii State Capitol – March 29, 2017, 1:40 PM

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 -- \$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 schools especially those in Urban Honolulu where rents are much higher, up to 33%.) 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. We need to allocate facilities resources and funding for public charter schools and leverage federal investment in programs that support public school choice.

This month the Trump Administration unveiled a budget that expands funding by \$1.4 billion more to support school choice programs. Currently, the the federal charter school program is funded at \$333 million (see attachment). The federal investment in this area is expected to increase to \$1 billion over the next four years. Earlier this month, Kentucky became the 44th state to authorize a charter school law. Increasingly states are expanding investment in charter schools and jockeying for position to compete for increased funding in the public charter school sector, but only 16 states currently provide various form of facilities funding for charter schools and may be eligible to compete for federal state facilities incentive grants which provide matching funds for facilities funding distributed on a per pupil level. We need to catch up again.

The Need for Public Charter School Facilities Resources Persists

When charter schools were first authorized in 1999, legislators 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 elementaries 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 public charter schools.

There is steady growth for public charter schools in the state and across the nation, with nearly 11,000 students enrolled in Hawaii and 3 million students enrolled in the U.S. 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 to Leverage Federal Investments

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 and the Trump Administration's commitment to increase funding for the federal charter school program.

We should not miss the boat for the next round of State Charter School Facilities Incentive Grant Program when competition re-opens to qualifying states with facilities funding appropriations. 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 and positioning the state to compete for increasing federal investments in public school choice programs.

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.



LATE

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Time: 1:40 p.m.

Date: March 29, 2017

Where: State Capitol Room 211

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee

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

E ka Luna Ho'omaluku Tokuda, ka Hope Luna Ho'omaluku Dela Cruz, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike o nā Loa'a a me nā Ho'olilo o ka 'Aha Kenekoa, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education 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. **Please advance this measure.**

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

March 27, 2017

LATE

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

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

Re: **HB 533 HD 1– Relating to Charter Schools**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211, March 29, 2017, 1:40 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>.



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

March 29, 2017

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Legislature

Sent via email: WAMtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: Hearing on HB 533 HD1 - Relating Charter Schools - SUPPORT
Conference Room 211 – Hawaii State Capitol – March 29, 2017, 1:40 P.M.

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Hawaii Senate Ways and Means 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 HD1, 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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 4:58 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: hawaiifishingfanatic@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Mar 29, 2017 13:40PM

HB533

Submitted on: 3/24/2017

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2017 13:40PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Don Aweau	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Full support of measure as a parent and grandparent of charter school students. Including, many family members with children attending charter schools in substandard facilities. Ask committee members to appropriate funding for facilities to better service students who deserve a respectable venue/learning environment. Mahalo.

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: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 7:30 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: nakoolaniw@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB533 on Mar 29, 2017 13:40PM*

HB533

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2017 13:40PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nāko'olani Warrington	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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 11:08 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: markolson68@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB533 on Mar 29, 2017 13:40PM*

HB533

Submitted on: 3/27/2017

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2017 13:40PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Mark Olson	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: [Jeff Vilardi](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 9:26:59 AM

From: jvilardi@voyagerpcs.com <Jeff Vilardi>

Message:

Please vote to approve HB 533 for all of us Charter Schools who desperately need the funding. Our schools are funded at 50% of what the DOE schools get, and they do not have to pay for their own facilities rent or maintenance. We can use this money to directly impact STUDENT LEARNING/ACHIEVEMENT. Mahalo for your consideration and passing of this bill.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Dela Cruz,

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, including public charter schools. For too long too many of Hawaii's public charter schools have not had facilities resources. 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 schools which can see facilities costs eat up 25% of their per pupil budget. 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.

Jeff Vilardi

Honolulu

Hawaii

From: [B Iokepa Guerrero](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 9:19:18 AM

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

Message:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Dela Cruz,

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.

B Iokepa Guerrero

Kaneohe

Hawaii

From: [Paul Vierling](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 9:03:50 AM

From: vierling1@hawaiiintel.net <Paul Vierling>

Message:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Dela Cruz,

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.

Paul Vierling

From: [Pam Elders](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 8:49:04 AM

From: nflick@baymoon.com <Pam Elders>

Message:

I support HB 533. All students need safe, comfortable, and appropriate learning spaces, even in charter schools.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Dela Cruz,

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.

Pam Elders

From: [Scot Matayoshi](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 8:39:11 AM

From: smatayoshi@gmail.com <Scot Matayoshi>

Message:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Dela Cruz,

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, including public charter schools. For too long too many of Hawaii's public charter schools have not had facilities resources. 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.

Scot Matayoshi

From: [Dr. Marta Forero Wayne](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 6:32:12 AM

From: drmwayne@yahoo.com <Dr. Marta Forero Wayne>

Message:

Dear Senate, Research indicates that "school facilities influence student achievement and behavior. Fifty-three studies conducted since 1980 were synthesized that included the independent variables of noise, facility age, color, lighting, maintenance, density, climate conditions, and classroom structure. Data suggest that all the independent variables have an affect on student achievement and behavior. Additionally, the literature indicates that student attitudes and behaviors improved when the facility improves" Thanks for understanding .

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Dela Cruz,

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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.

Dr. Marta Forero Wayne

From: [Samantha Kapele](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 6:15:10 AM

From: az_randolia@yahoo.com <Samantha Kapele>

Message:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Dela Cruz,

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.

Samantha Kapele

From: [Lisa Barnard](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 5:48:49 AM

From: barnard_lisa@yahoo.com <Lisa Barnard>

Message:

Please support funding for facilities for charter schools. All our children deserve decent facilities in which to learn!

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Dela Cruz,

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.

Lisa Barnard

From: [David Wells](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 8:27:03 PM

From: dwells@volcanoschool.net <David Wells>

Message:

[Click to watch video message](#)



Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Dela Cruz,

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.

David Wells

From: [Dr B Blackwell](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 7:21:52 PM

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

Message:

Please support HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill. As Chair of the Governing Board for the newly approved Alaka`i O Kaua`i Public Charter School, I urge you to support this bill so as to provide much needed funding for us to open. Mahalo, DrB

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Dela Cruz,

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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.

Dr B Blackwell

Kapaa

Hawaii

From: [Mara Saltzman](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 3:54:00 PM

From: artistmarasaltz@hotmail.com <Mara Saltzman>

Message:

Charter Schools in Hawaii are struggling very badly. The students that attend those schools are equal citizens, Their families are equal taxpayers and equal community members, and they deserve equal education, not reduced child count funding, lesser than public building state standards or lesser than acceptable facilities. Have you seen the horrible conditions charter school facilities are in on the Big Island? Have you taken tours of the charter schools on the Big Island? Why do you support giving these students and their families less than standard funding?

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Dela Cruz,

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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.

Mara Saltzman

Hilo

Hawaii

From: [Karen Costales](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 2:44:24 PM

From: mahalo.costa@gmail.com <Karen Costales>

Message:

Please support HB 533 to help there to be a little bit more equity for our students who choose to be in public charter schools. The comparison between what public charter school kids have to work with in terms of facilities and what our regular D.O.E. schools have is almost laughable. As a former D.O.E. substitute teacher, I am so pleased that our D.O.E. buildings are continuously being improved for our island keiki. Please consider helping our keiki in public charter schools also have access to proper facilities. The education they are getting is worth it, and so are they!

[Click to watch video message](#)



Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Dela Cruz,

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, including public charter schools. For too long too many of Hawaii's public charter schools have not had facilities resources. 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 schools which can see facilities costs eat up 25% of their per pupil budget. 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.

Karen Costales

From: [Usha Kilpatrick](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 1:20:21 PM

From: ushakilpatrick@gmail.com <Usha Kilpatrick>

Message:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Dela Cruz,

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

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Usha Kilpatrick

Kealakekua

Hawaii

From: [W. Mapuana Waipa](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 8:25:52 AM

From: mwaipa@kalpcs.com <W. Mapuana Waipa>

Message:

I humbly ask for your support in providing equal resources and funding for Public Charter Schools.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Dela Cruz,

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

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W. Mapuana Waipa

HILO

Hawaii

From: [Donna Therrien](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Sunday, March 26, 2017 9:50:26 PM

From: donnatherrien@gmail.com <Donna Therrien>

Message:

Thank you for doing the rightthing

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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Donna Therrien

Kailua

Hawaii

From: [Shoshana Dutton](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 1:03:20 PM

From: sdutton@myhta.org <Shoshana Dutton>

Message:

I support funding for facilities for ALL Schools

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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Shoshana Dutton

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 1:22 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: alex.teece@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB533 on Mar 29, 2017 13:40PM

HB533

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2017 13:40PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alex Teece	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, My name is Alex Teece and I am an educator and proposed founding school director for DreamHouse Ewa Beach, a charter school project currently in the application phase with the State Charter Commission. I am writing in full support of HB533. This Bill means everything to charters, both existing and aspiring. The heavy use of operating funds to develop facilities is holding back the true potential of innovative education programs across our islands. Per pupil dollars are going to fund the rental of portable and modular units, capex, and other expenses that are in desperate need of targeted funding support. Without this appropriation, charters will continue to heavily spend operating funds and per pupil dollars on facilities, which will ultimately hold our public school keiki back from their full potential. Thank you for your time and consideration today. Mahalo nui, Alex Teece DreamHouse Ewa Beach

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: [Kristin Keast](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 12:57:15 PM

From: drkkeast@yahoo.com <Kristin Keast>

Message:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Dela Cruz,

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.

Kristin Keast

From: [Melissa Yoshimoto](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 12:22:42 PM

From: melissa1@hawaiiantel.net <Melissa Yoshimoto>

Message:

Public Charter Schools provide an option for students who benefit from different teaching approaches or smaller settings. Charter schools would be able to maximize support in meeting the needs of our keiki with funding that update facilities and provide more funding for infrastructure. Please support Public Charter schools and increase funding. Thank you

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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Melissa Yoshimoto

Honolulu

Hawaii

From: [Ka'iulani Pahi'o](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 11:57:52 AM

From: nln@kalo.org <Ka'iulani Pahi'o>

Message:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Dela Cruz,

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Ka'iulani Pahi'o

From: [Leialii Manoi Cuban](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 11:49:25 AM

From: leialii.manoicuban@gmail.com <Leialii Manoi Cuban>

Message:

My son attends one of 28 public charter schools that do not receive funding for facilities. While the school goes above and beyond to provide a safe and nurturing environment for the students, with appropriate funding the staff can focus on the educational goals of the school without having to worry about appropriate facilities.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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Leialii Manoi Cuban

From: [Olani Lilly](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 10:52:13 AM

From: olani@kaumeke.net <Olani Lilly>

Message:

Your support is crucial for providing Hawai'i's children and families the best educational opportunities. Mahalo

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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Olani Lilly

From: [Daron Key](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 10:44:53 AM

From: daron@kuaokala.org <Daron Key>

Message:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Dela Cruz,

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Daron Key

From: [Starr Domingo](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 4:15:58 PM

From: starrdomingo@gmail.com <Starr Domingo >

Message:

I am in support of HB533. The state of Hawaii should provide facilities funding to public charter schools in Hawaii.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Dela Cruz,

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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.

Starr Domingo

Kaaawa

Hawaii

From: [Erica Yamauchi](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 4:30:12 PM

From: erica.yamauchi@gmail.com <Erica Yamauchi >

Message:

I strongly support this bill to support our state's charter schools.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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Erica Yamauchi

Lecturer

Honolulu

Hawaii

LATE

HB533

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2017 13:40PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Fitzpatrick	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: andiandlen@gmail.com <Andi Pawasarat Losalio>



Message:

Please support facility funding for charter schools. Every school operating with state funds should be able to serve children without the worry for a "roof" over their heads. Public or charter, all these schools are serving all of our children in the state of Hawaii and all teachers and children deserve facilities to operate. Please support funding.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

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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.

Andi Pawasarat Losalio

From: ethan@worldclasshawaii.com <Ethan Olins>

LATE

Message:

I support HB 533

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Dela Cruz,

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Ethan Olins

LATE

From: laury@hawaii.rr.com <Laurence Scott>

Message:

Charter Schools are treated like second class citizens - it is the kids that suffer. They receive annual funding of approx. \$7,000 per student and have to pay for their facilities out of that sum. Public Schools receive approx. \$14,000 per student and are provided with free facilities. Just think what Charter Schools could do with the extra money! After school programs, music, art, etc. Please support HB533

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Laurence Scott

LATE

From: scarlin@volcanoschool.net <Star Carlin>

Message:

Charter school students are public school students and deserve to be supported with adequate facilities. We have to meet our facility expenses with per pupil funding while other public schools have facilities paid for. This is inequitable. Please provide adequate funding.

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Star Carlin

LATE

From: gcalvert@hawaiiantel.net <Glen Calvert>

Message:

As a Board member of the Kua O Ka La Charter School I understand that this is the last time this bill will be heard in a committee. KOKL needs WAM to advance this bill, so it can move to the Senate Floor for Third Reading and then be considered for the Conference Period, which is held the last two weeks of April for the 2017 Legislative Session. It's important to note that federal investment in public charter schools has increased in the Obama administration and is set to increase during Trump's tenure. Our charter school needs facilities funding to start so we can compete for state facilities funding program when the application period re-opens. Please advance this bill!

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Glen Calvert

Keaau

Hawaii

From: shannonacleary@gmail.com <Shannon Cleary>

LATE

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Shannon Cleary

Honolulu

Hawaii

LATE

From: evananderson2@gmail.com <Evan Anderson>

Message:

Aloha. As a parent of two children in a Hawai'i Public Charter School, I give thanks every day for the educational alternative and choice that our school provides. The personalized learning environment and the responsive curriculum my keiki enjoy are a perfect fit for their needs. The only thing that is not a perfect fit is our charter school facility. Though we are more fortunate than most charter schools in that we have found a site that we can use in the long term, our students still do not have sufficient green space, assembly areas, nor even a play structure for their physical play and development. And because the school budget must bear the full cost of renting--and maintaining--our urban Honolulu school building, we are left with less than 80 percent of our per-pupil allotment to fund our educational program. HB 533 is a welcome first step toward addressing the glaring disparities in resources and learning conditions faced by children like mine who attend Hawai'i's start-up charter schools. Thank you for your support of this bill.

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Evan Anderson

Honolulu

Hawaii

From: jenna.ishii@gmail.com <Jenna Ishii>

LATE

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Jenna Ishii

From: ckleanio@gmail.com <Fredanette Leanio>

LATE

Message:

I support the Charter School Facilities Funding HB533. Please support it too.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

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Fredanette Leanio

LATE

From: nakakura@whea.net <Heather Nakakura>

Message:

Please support this bill! My charter school spends over \$325,000 each year to pay our federal facilities loan. That money should go to the students! Thank you!

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

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Heather Nakakura

Kailua-Kona

From: hoconnel2000@yahoo.com <Heather O'connell>

LATE

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Heather O'connell

Kailua-Kona

Hawaii

LATE

From: hoodananda@gmail.com <Heather Laursen>

Message:

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Heather Laursen

LATE

From: shellesethings@gmail.com <Shellese Guieb>

Message:

I support charter school facilities funding bill. My children have attended a charter and deserve equal funding to students attending a DOE school with dedicated funding to maintain the facility.

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Shellese Guieb

Kailua Kona

Hawaii



From: larryk@whea.net <Larry Kniffin>

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Larry Kniffin

From: mark.ravelo@gmail.com <Mark Ravelo>



Message:

Please vote to support our local charter schools with equal funding opportunities as public schools. Right now, my daughters charter school (WHEA) has no cafeteria or kitchen facilities.

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Mark Ravelo

LATE

From: nrshove13@gmail.com <Renee Shove>

Message:

My son was not prospering in his public school and was receiving services for behavioral health, speech and special education help. He had absolutely no social skills and no friends. We decided it wasn't working for him and enrolled him at West Hawaii Explorations Academy in 6th grade. My son is now finishing 7th grade and he is an amazing young man. He has a group of really great friends and he is keeping up with his class without any special services (except speech). His GPA is 3.4 and he takes pride in his school work and the projects he is involved in at WHEA. My younger son will start WHEA in the fall. WHEA gave us an opportunity to stay in the public school system but give our son something traditional public schools were not giving him. Please support WHEA and other charter schools and give them equal funding. There are children who don't function in traditional public schools and the charter schools give those children a place to flourish and blossom into amazing young adults. WHEA saved our child from being lost in the public school system and we know without a doubt he wouldn't be where he is socially and academically without WHEA.

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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.

Renee Shove

LATE

From: sarahriznyk@yahoo.com <Sarah Riznyk>

Message:

Please support facility maintenance funding for public charter schools. Our family will be deeply appreciative! And what our children learn in their healthy environment will in turn bless the next generation. Aloha nui, Sarah, Nicholas, Jacob & Noa Riznyk

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

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Sarah Riznyk

LATE

From: alohaamyinkona@icloud.com <Amy Patterson>

Message:

Charter schools are an amazing hands-on learning alternative to traditional (failing) public schools. If all schools in America were charters, we wouldn't be in the educational crisis we are in (when competing with other nations) academically on a global scale.

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Amy Patterson

Kailua-Kona

Hawaii

From: gregoryjamespatterson@yahoo.com <Greg Patterson>

LATE

Message:

Charter schools have helped our children find their love of learning again, after having self esteem and focusing issues, struggling for years on end in public schools. Charter schools teach based around each child's unique learning style, whereas public schools attempt to fit children into "one size fits all" government boxes. All public schools should transition to becoming charters so that teachers can teach again and students can learn again. Kids are so much more than little standardized test takers...and teachers are so much more than government robots.

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Greg Patterson

From: konamarsha@hotmail.com <Marsha Eckert>

LATE

Message:

Please support this legislation, HB 533 so that charter schools can receive needed funds. I am familiar with three of the charter schools in West Hawaii. They all do excellent work. But they are desperately short of funds. This bill is an important step to help our children attend schools with better infrastructures.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

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Marsha Eckert

From: joelwilliamrogers@gmail.com <Joel Rogers>

LATE

Message:

[Click to watch video message](#)



Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

Support for HB533 HD1

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Joel Rogers

Media Producer

Kailua-Kona

Hawaii

From: kamaaina@pilipono.com <Don Najita>

LATE

Message:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

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Don Najita

Honolulu

Hawaii

From: akeemy123@hotmail.com <Gary Goldberg's >



Message:

I'm writing in support of funding for public charter schools. I have 3 children currently attending that are flourishing in the west Hawaii exploration academy. All my children are doing well My oldest daughter has been taking College level classes. She has volunteered working for Senator schatz and she has been encouraged to have an intellectual curiosity not seen in many schools.. next academic year she will be attending Reed college to pursue her dreams.... I have donated thousands of dollars to this school because I have seen the value first hand . Please help fund these institutions so that this unique program can continue

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Gary Goldberg's

Kamuela

Hawaii

From: [Alex Gupton](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 11:31:32 AM

From: alex@alexgupton.com <Alex Gupton>

Message:

We are thrilled with the progress our 3 children have made at WHEA, and do look forward to seeing them continue to thrive under the watchful and knowledgeable guidance of the excellent staff.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

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Alex Gupton

Kailua-Kona

Hawaii

From: [Justine Smith](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 12:22:49 PM

From: justinej28@hotmail.com <Justine Smith>

Message:

Hawaii public charter schools have been invaluable to our family. My children thrive in the charter environment.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

Conference Room 211 at 1:40 PM

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Justine Smith

From: [Peter Dodge](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Send Testimony in to Senate WAM in Support of HB 533 - Facilities Funding Bill
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:13:12 PM

From: redhenmama@hotmail.com <Peter Dodge>

Message:

Our family appreciates the freedom of having a choice in how our children are educated. More choices and competition for charter school dollars would improve existing charter schools. I look forward to a time when there are more than two choices for my high school students, my children.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means - March 29, 2017

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