

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



RODERICK K. BECKER
Comptroller

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Deputy Comptroller

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY OF
RODERICK K. BECKER, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2018
2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

S.B. 2382, S.D. 1, H.D. 1

RELATING TO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. 2382, S.D. 1, H.D. 1.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports the intent behind the measure to amend Section 302D-35, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and we are agreeable to conducting mail-out surveys and reporting on a biennial basis.

While last year's proactive outreach efforts by the State Public Charter School Commission confirmed that very few (actually no) suitable vacant properties for consideration are available, and since whole facility availability generally does not change very often, we believe this is a reasonable and feasible approach to support efforts to identify potential vacant facilities for Public Charter Schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

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: SB 2382 SD1 HD1 Relating to Public Charter Schools
DATE: March 28, 2018
TIME: 2:00 P.M.
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 SB 2382 SD1 HD1**, which provides biennial surveys of unused state facilities and under-utilized schools of the Department of Education and an inventory of these unused and under-utilized facilities from the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS).

The Commission appreciates the Legislature’s support and efforts of DAGS in addressing the ongoing charter school facilities issue. The Commission looks forward to collaborating with the Legislature, DAGS, and public charter schools in moving this legislation forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



SB2382 SD1 HD1
RELATING TO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS
House Committee on Finance

March 28, 2018

2:00 p.m.

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB2382 SD1 HD1, which would require the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) to conduct biennial surveys of all state departments to identify unused facilities that may be used by public charter schools, and to maintain an inventory of all such unused facilities. This measure would also require DAGS to provide biennial reports of this inventory to the State Public Charter School Commission (Commission). **This measure would help to alleviate the unique burdens faced by our public charter schools, including Hawaiian language immersion and Hawaiian-focused 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 substantial facilities costs using 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 (DOE).

OHA notes that Act 234 (Session Laws Hawai'i 2015), now codified in HRS §302D-35, requires state departments to notify the Commission and the DOE Superintendent of unused suitable facilities that may be appropriate for public charter schools and early learning programs affiliated with public charter schools. Act 234 also requires DAGS to inventory such suitable facilities. It is OHA's understanding that an inventory of suitable facilities has not been completed. Accordingly, OHA respectfully submits that SB2382 SD1 HD1 will help clarify DAGS's responsibilities in the furtherance of Act 234, and will better facilitate the use of vacant state buildings by public charter schools.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SB2382 SD1 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Finance

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Date: March 28, 2018

Where: State Capitol Room 308

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

RE: SB 2382, SD1, HD1 Relating to Public Charter Schools

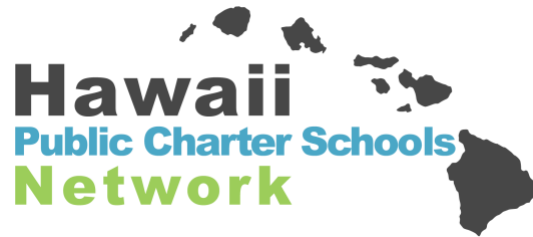
E ka Luna Ho'omaluku, ka Hope Luna Ho'omaluku Cullen, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Waiwai o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka'āinana, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Division of Kamehameha Schools.

We are writing to **support** SB 2382, SD1, HD1, relating to public charter schools, which requires the Department of Accounting and General Services to conduct biennial surveys of all departments regarding unused facilities or underutilized Department of Education schools that may be used by public charter schools and to maintain an inventory of the facilities. This measure also requires the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide biennial reports on the inventory to the State Public Charter School Commission. This measure is an important step toward alleviating ongoing facilities challenges for many public charter schools and early learning programs that are affiliated with public charter schools.

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

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.



March 28, 2018

LATE

To: Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

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

**Re: SB 2382 SD1- RELATING TO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS- SUPORT
Conference Room 308 - Hawaii State Capitol - March 18, 2018, 2 P.M.**

On behalf of the Hawaii Public Charter School Network (HPCSN), I respectfully submit our testimony for SB 2382 SD1 - which would require the Department of Accounting and General Services to conduct semi-annual surveys of all departments concerning any unused facilities that may be used by public charter schools and maintain an inventory of all such unused facilities and to provide semi-annual reports on the inventory potentially useable unused department facilities to the State Public Charter School Commission.

All charter schools receive the same level of per pupil funding of \$7383/student in SY17-18 to provide for its instructional operations. But unlike most public schools, there are no facilities provided or funding from separate facilities budget to help start-up charter schools secure a building or property to establish a new campus. This is a problem because the lack of a facility and funding for it are the largest expenses for charter schools after personnel and direct instructional costs. Unlike most public schools, many start up charter schools do not have the means to provide school meals or transportation for students because the lack of facilities support represents the largest inequity gap for students.

HPCSN believes every student is deserving of access to adequate public-school facilities. For these reasons, we humbly ask your support for this bill to close the equity gap for public charter school students.

Mahalo for your consideration. HPCSN works to improve the operation and governance of public charter schools in Hawai'i and to be a voice for children and families that seek choices and quality in an independent public-school setting.