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

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FOR: SB 2383 SD1 Relating to Education  
DATE: February 23, 2018  
TIME: 11:00 A.M.  
COMMITTEE: Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
ROOM: Room 211  
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 2383 SD1**, which provides teacher incentive funds as a separate budgetary appropriation. This proposed amendment to the charter school law, Chapter 302D, HRS, would allow for a permanent solution that would fully fund teacher incentive pay for charter school teachers who teach in hard-to-staff areas and who have earned National Board certification.

The current Master Agreement between the Board of Education and the Hawaii State Teachers Association requires that teachers in specific geographic areas be paid an annual differential of \$3,000. The Commission looks forward to working with the Legislature and charter schools in securing the funding for this incentive this legislative session.

National Board Certified teachers represent another group of teachers charter schools are required to provide an incentive to. Section 302A-706, HRS, establishes the teacher national board certification incentive program which provides a \$5,000 bonus to teachers who maintain national board certification. Incentives are also provided for completion of the certification program and an additional \$5,000 is provided to national board certified teachers who teach at a designated hard-to-fill area.

For the 2017-2018 school year, there are currently sixteen teachers in eleven charter schools who have current national board certification. Of these sixteen teachers, three teachers work in designated hard-to-fill areas.

The Commission is grateful for the inclusion of the appropriation in this measure and its specific mention of public charter school teachers.

The Commission also appreciates the efforts of the Legislature in providing a permanent solution to this funding challenge through the amendment proposed in this measure. The Commission looks forward to collaborating with this committee and the Legislature as a whole in advancing this important legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.