

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

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

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
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FOR: SB 2527 Relating to Education
DATE: January 31, 2018
TIME: 2:45 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Senate Committee on Education
ROOM: Room 229
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission ("Commission") appreciates the opportunity to **SUPPORT THE INTENT of SB 2527**, which makes school meals available under the school meals program to public charter schools.

The majority of charter schools provide food service at various levels from a variety of sources which include the Department of Education (DOE) and private, contracted vendors. As self-governed state agencies, charter schools have the authority to seek out and contract with either public or private providers for school meal services.

Currently, charter schools can request meal service from the DOE. The capacity of a DOE school's school meal program at each individual school may determine the DOE school's ability to provide meal service to the charter school. The Commission will continue to facilitate and assist the continuing collaboration between charter schools and the DOE in providing meals to charter school students.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

SB-2527

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:45:52 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sylvia Hussey	Prince Kuhio Hawaiian Civic Club	Support	No

Comments:

January 30, 2018

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

State of Hawai'i Senate

Senate Committee on Education

Via: Electronic Upload

RE: SB2527 – RELATING TO EDUCATION, SCHOOL MEALS IN PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

Aloha 'olua mai,

The Prince Kuhio Hawaiian Civic Club (PKHCC) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB2527 – RELATING TO EDUCATION, SCHOOL MEALS IN PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS** based on Resolution 17-44 Urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to Enact a Law Ensuring that all Public School Student have Equal Access to Appropriate Educational Facilities and Food Service, passed by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs' House of Delegates (with PKHCC having 15 delegates present) at its 58th annual convention in Seattle, Washington, November 2017.

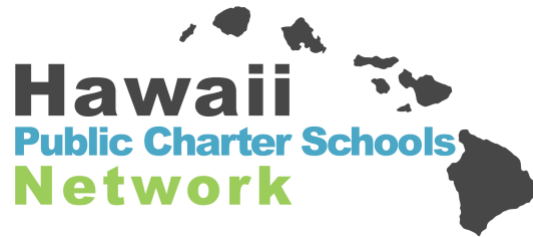
Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole formed the first Hawaiian civic club in 1918 to stimulate civic efforts and education within the Hawaiian community and promote Hawaiian culture. Preservation and perpetuation of Hawaiian values, culture and education are at the core of the mission and vision of the PKHCC (organized in 1919).

PKHCC is an autonomous organization in the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC), the oldest Hawaiian community-based grass roots organization founded in 1918 by Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole, Delegate to the United States House of Representative; and is a confederation comprised of fifty-eight (58) Hawaiian Civic Clubs located throughout the State of Hawai'i and in the States of Alaska, California, Colorado, Illinois, Nevada, Utah, Virginia, Washington State, Tennessee and Texas. As part of the AHCC, PKHCC also advocates for improved welfare of native Hawaiians in culture, health, economic development, education, social welfare, and nationhood, to name a few; and perpetuates and preserves language, history, music, dance and other cultural traditions. Preservation and perpetuation of Hawaiian values, culture and education are at the core of the mission and vision of the Prince Kuhio Hawaiian Civic Club.

Me ka ha`aha`a,

Sylvia Hussey, Education Committee Chair

Prince Kuhio Hawaiian Civic Club



January 31, 2018

To: Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair
Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

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

Re: **SB 2527 – RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS – SUPORT INTENT**
Conference Room 229 – Hawaii State Capitol – Jan. 31, 2017, 2:45 P.M.

On behalf of the Hawaii Public Charter School Network (HPCSN), I respectfully submit our testimony for SB 2527, Relating to Education.

HPCSN supports this intent of this bill to provide school meals to students in public charter schools. While there are unknown details of how this initiative will be implemented, this bill does take a step forward to provide equity and balance access to resources for all Hawaii public school students. We respectfully ask for a friendly amendment to allow charter schools that have over time secured grants to establish commercial kitchens and provide school meals another option to access state subsidies to help cover for the non-federal costs which they incur for operating this program.

All charter schools receive the same level of per pupil funding of \$7383/student in SY17-18 to provide for its instructional operations. But unlike most public schools, there is no separate facilities budget for start-up charter schools and no non-per pupil state subsidies to help pay for school meals or student transportation that some charter schools provide to meet basic needs for their students. This is a problem because these non-instructional costs are major expenses for charter schools and subtract from per pupil resources that should be dedicated to the classroom. Not all charter schools are able to provide school meals because often the cost of facilities expenses takes a larger percentage of the school's annual budget, especially in urban areas of the state. Charter schools serving a larger percentage of free & reduced lunch eligible students or in CEP-designated areas especially need state subsidies for school meals so that students gain access to nutrition programs designed to assist at-risk and underserved communities.

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

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

SB-2527

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:49:06 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca Hatch	The Volcano School of Arts & Sciences	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Rebecca Hatch and am a teacher at The Volcano School of Arts & Sciences. First of all, charter schools are severely underfunded compared to our DOE counterparts. These gaps in funding are found in many areas: facilities, resources, principal salary, etc. The costs for our food program are not completely covered. Our food program is a huge drain on our resources, costing us about \$60,000 a year.

Please vote for the DOE to provide school lunches for the charter schools. It would be lifting part of that heavy burden off of our already stretched finances.

Mahalo,

Rebecca Hatch

SB-2527

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:49:38 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I have been teaching at a charter in Volcano on the Big Island of Hawaii for 14 years.

I fully support this bill because many of our students are from the high-risk, poor community

of Ka'u. Many of them are part-Hawaiians and are struggling with their education.

Please support this bill so you can help our students.

Mahalo,

Tamara Laulani Wong-Morrison

English Language Arts teacher

SB-2527

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:49:40 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support Hawaii Children in all charter schools to have healthy lunches.

Yes, the state should support public charter school children with lunches.

Allocate state funds for the charter school to serve lunches. ... if having the local DOE school provide the service is difficult, then provide funds to charter to cover cost.

Charter schools are public schools and should be treated equal in their food service opportunity.

SB-2527

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:50:02 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha!

It would be wonderful for our Charter school (VSAS) to receive food from DOE schools. If this is the only option, then we need it. However, if there are options, then we would appreciate equitable funding to purchase our own food. The bottom line is that our keiki need healthy, balanced meals. We are in support of this bill, because if our keiki do not have the fuel for their bodies, then they can not learn. Thank-you!
Mahalo!

SB-2527

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:50:18 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of Bill 2527 to provide school lunches for charter schools as well as for DOE schools. If this is not feasible, we would like to have equal funding for our own lunch program.

Lisa Barnard

PO Box 253

Volcano, HI 96785

SB-2527

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:50:19 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha! Please vote in favor of SB2527 for Big Island, rural keiki!!! On behalf of The Volcano School of Arts & Sciences and the keiki we serve, I request your consideration to include our students in the lunch funding that other students receive. Remember that we are serving the very same students that our local D.O.E. schools are serving. We are serving children in rural Puna and rural Ka'u. Grocery costs are high for our families. Grocery stores are few and far between. Even if you can approve that Charters receive an allotment of money per child per day, that would be a wonderful help as we want our children to eat healthy food, and we are working hard to give them great fruits and veggies and whole grains each day. Mahalo!

SB-2527

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:51:37 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I am a teacher at a public charter school on the Big Island. Currently, with how our school lunches are federally funded partially, our school is running a huge financial deficit to keep our school lunch program going. Please vote to fund a state-funded lunch program for charter schools provided by the DOE and please make sure this ensures healthy meals. Thank you.

Mara Saltzman

SB-2527

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:52:51 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this bill!

I have 3 kids that go to public charter schools and they receive a quality education and experiences. I feel strongly in having options for all parents and students as we move forward into the future. I believe that charter schools just add more diversity and options for our state. What I don't understand is why my kids get less funds than DOE schools. My kids just as valuable as any and it should be equitable. It's just dad.

SB-2527

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:12:53 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

I would like to see all charter schools receive funding for healthy lunches on their campus. Its important for the state of Hawaii to offer healthy meals to our children. Thank you, Lydia

SB-2527

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:58:00 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2527

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:06:25 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2527

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:46:58 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hawi Stecher		Support	Yes

Comments:

I support this bill as an additional choice for charter schools. However, I would like to see that charter schools still have the choice to manage their own lunch programs.

SB-2527

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:09:12 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
CECILIA GOLIS BAUTISTA		Support	No

Comments:

Yes! Vote yes. These children are Hawaii public school students and deserve healthy lunches served daily. Mahalo, Mrs. Cecilia Golis Bautista