



February 12, 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 3060 – RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS – SUPORT WITH REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT**
Conference Room 229 – Hawaii State Capitol – Feb. 12, 2017, 2:50 P.M.

On behalf of the Hawaii Public Charter School Network (HPCSN), we respectfully submit our testimony for SB 3060, Relating to Charter Schools.

HPCSN supports this bill which takes a significant step to deliver equity and access to resources by providing school meals for all students and providing additional funding to support this initiative. We respectfully ask for a friendly amendment to allow charter schools that have already established commercial kitchens and provide school meals another option to access state school meal funding to help subsidize 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.



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting SB 3060 – Relating to Charter Schools
Senate Committee on Education
Scheduled for hearing on Monday, February 12, 2018, 2:50 PM, in Conference Room 229

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of **SB 3060**, which would require the department of education to provide school meals to students at charter schools, as well as appropriate funds for costs of meals.

The federal school meals programs – National School Lunch and School Breakfast – are critical to the health and well-being of students, especially low-income students, and ensures that they have the nutrition that they need to learn. Research shows that receiving free or reduced-price school lunches reduces food insecurity, improves dietary intake, and positively impacts health and obesity rates. In addition, the new school meal nutrition standards are improving student consumption rates of fruits and vegetables.

With over half of our state's students qualifying for free or reduced-price school meals, these meals can provide crucial nutritional and financial support to our low-income and working-class families. Since they are facing the highest costs of living in the nation, knowing that their children can get free or very low-cost breakfast and lunch every day at school can help relieve some of the economic pressure felt by many parents.

School meal programs come with both start-up and operational costs. We support the provision of adequate funds in order to ensure success and believe that public charter schools should receive equivalent levels of financial support for their school meals as do "regular" Department of Education schools.

We appreciate your consideration of this testimony.

The Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.

SB-3060

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 2:30:43 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/12/2018 2:50:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melodie Aduja | OCC Legislative Priorities | Support | No |

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
THE SENATE
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Monday, February 12, 2018**

2:50 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 229

RE: Testimony in Support of SD 3060, RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS

To the Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair; the Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on Education:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No.3060, relating to school meals for charter school students.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No.3060 and supports its passage as denying charter school students of public school food services has caused a loss of federal school lunch subsidies for qualifying students.

Senate Bill No. 3060 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requires the Department of Education to provide equal access to food service facilities for charter school students and to provide funds to provide school breakfasts and lunches to charter school students.

The DPH Platform states that "[w]e believe that the future of our state as well as our county depends upon an educated and knowledgeable citizenry. We support the prioritization of our resources toward providing quality public education and library services to every student, regardless of learning capacity or ability to pay, in an environment conducive to the learning process. These resources shall be made available at every level, from pre-school through higher education, including life-long learning. Educational facilities must be maintained, renovated and built to 21st-century innovations so that our students learn in a well-designed, safe environment." (Platform of the DPH, P. 6, Lines 296-302 (2016)).

We support community health initiatives that provide opportunities for the overall health of communities through strategic projects and programs focusing on increased interaction and physical activities among all age groups, as well as on better nutrition." (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 378-380 (2016)).

Given that Senate Bill No. 3060 requires the Department of Education to provide equal access to food service facilities for charter school students and to provide funds to provide school breakfasts and lunches to charter school students, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ **Melodie Aduja**

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

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SB-3060

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 8:39:52 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/12/2018 2:50:00 PM

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

Comments: