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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

RE: SB 3060 - RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 3060**, relating to charter schools.

Every public charter school student should be provided access to school meals. In Hawai'i, food insecurity is one of the most pressing manifestations of overall socioeconomic inequality. Nearly 91,000 public school students qualify for free or reduced-price meals in our state. For the 2016-2017 school year, 50.5 percent of public school students were classified as “economically challenged.” Thus, for many students, including in the charter community, school meals may be the only nutrition they receive during the day.

Congress established the National School Lunch Program, in 1946, and School Breakfast Program, fully implemented in 1975, to ensure that low-income students are properly nourished. Yet, many local families struggle to provide nutritious meals for their children. According the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, in Hawai'i, 15.3 percent of families experience food insecurity, meaning that “they do not always know how they will afford their next meal.” An additional 3.9 percent are “very low food secure” families that have significantly reduced food consumption because of economic hardship.

The number of students qualifying for the Department of Education's free and reduced lunch program has risen by over 20 percent since 2007 because of economic decline and cost of living increases. Low-income students are, again, less likely to receive adequate meals at home, leaving them without the basic sustenance

necessary to perform academic tasks. Cases of chronic hunger can lead to achievement gaps, concentration loss, illness, increased absenteeism, behavioral problems, depression, and misdiagnosed learning disabilities. Providing a decent meal for our children, therefore, is a moral and educational imperative, especially when those children live in the high-poverty districts serviced by many charter schools (including a disproportionately high percentage of charter schools that emphasize Hawaiian culture).

Hungry students cannot focus. To ensure that our students are well-fed and ready to learn, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Education

Time: 2:50 p.m.

Date: February 12, 2018

Where: State Capitol Room 229

TESTIMONY

By Kaʻanoʻi Walk

RE: **SB 3060 Relating to Charter Schools**

E ka Luna Hoʻomalū Kidani, ka Hope Luna Hoʻomalū Kahele, a me nā Lālā Kenekoa o kēia Kōmike Hoʻonaʻauao o ka ʻAha Kenekoa, aloha! My name is Kaʻanoʻi Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Division of Kamehameha Schools.

We are writing to **support** SB 3060, relating to charter schools, which requires the Department of Education to provide school meals to students at charter schools and appropriates funds for costs of meals. We respectfully request that clarifying language be inserted into the measure to ensure that Hawaiʻi public charter schools retain authority to “opt out” or decline to accept meals provided by the Department, at the schools’ option. Charter schools are intended to provide maximum amounts of innovation, individualized and customized learning. As such, some Hawaiʻi public charter schools are seeking culturally-relevant, healthier or sustainability produced food options for students accompanied by curricula to support the food choices. While we acknowledge the importance of Department-provided meals for students, we strongly support the option for Hawaiʻi’s public charter schools to be able to choose meals that align with their mission.

Kamehameha Schools advocates for and supports the achievement of Hawaiʻi’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.

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 3060 Relating to Education
DATE: February 12, 2018
TIME: 2:50 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 3060**, which makes school meals available under the school meals program to public charter schools and appropriates funds to the Department of Education (DOE) to provide meals to public school students.

The majority of charter schools provide food service at various levels from a variety of sources which include the Department of Education 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. While the appropriation provided in this measure may assist the DOE in increasing its capacity to provide meal service to charter schools, the Commission defers to the department on the appropriation amount needed.

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-3060

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 11:49:56 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Garris	Self	Support	No

Comments:



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/12/2018
Time: 02:50 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 3060 RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of education to provide school meals to students at charter schools. Appropriates funds for costs of meals.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education supports the intent of SB 3060, but feels that the bill is not necessary.

Currently, the School Food Services Branch provides school meals to seven public charter schools and will continue to provide meals to other charter schools upon request.

Should SB 3060 pass, the charter schools will need some time to learn and implement the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) rules and regulations of procurement, meal patterns, civil rights training, and sanitation. Hawaii Child Nutrition Program will have to conduct an Administrative Review on every new school during their first year per USDA regulations.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.