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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

RE: SCR 194/SR 131 - URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS, INCLUDING PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS, HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AND FOOD SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SCR 194/SR131**, urging the Department of Education to ensure that all public school students, including public charter school students, have equal access to appropriate educational facilities and food service.

Facilities funding is a long-standing issue for charter schools. In Hawai'i, start-up charter schools have paid the costs of their facilities from operational funds. In 2013, however, lawmakers authorized the Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission to request facilities funding as part of its annual budget request. Later, in 2015, legislators called for a working group to establish a framework for providing facilities funding and support for public charter school facilities with adequate prioritization, oversight, and accountability.

Today, amounts received by charter schools fail to keep pace with the cost of providing and quality instruction and maintaining adequate facilities. Charter schools receive \$7,323 per-pupil, most of which is disbursed toward operational expenses, often leaving charters to rely on private donations to fund facilities and rent. Charter schools' per-pupil operating funds cover items like salaries, collective bargaining costs, curricula, school supplies, equipment, and utilities, but do not

encompass the facilities and maintenance costs that comprise approximately 10 percent of charter school budgets, according the Hawai'i Public Charter Schools Network.

Poorly funded charter schools are sometimes forced to hold classes in unstable temporary structures to the detriment of their students' learning and safety. Accordingly, we urge the Legislature to approve additional state funds for the repair, maintenance, acquisition, and rental of charter school facilities. We also encourage your committee to consider ways of improving charter school facilities funding over the long-term to ensure that our state's charter school students have the opportunity to receive instruction in 21st Century facilities that prepare them for today's cutting-edge workplace.

Moreover, we appreciate that this measure urges equitable funding for student meals for charter school students. Every public 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, school meals may be the only nutrition they receive during the day.

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).

To provide charter schools with the funds they need for their students to succeed, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this resolution.



Native Hawaiian Education Council

March 27, 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: SCR194-SR131 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS, INCLUDING PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS, HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AND FOOD SERVICE.

Aloha 'olua mai,

The Native Hawaiian Education Council (NHEC or the Council) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** **RE: SCR194-SR131** URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS, INCLUDING PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS, HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AND FOOD SERVICE, based on our Native Hawaiian Education Platform and 2017-2018 Education Priorities (attached) and in support of the Native Hawaiian Education Mission, Vision and two Goals (attached).

Because of the current exclusion of public charter schools by the Department of Education (HiDOE) regarding school meals and the related impact on over 11,000 students, we **strongly support SCR194-SR131** because it is a matter of equitable resourcing as it relates to meals/food services for ALL students.

In addition to school meals, we strongly support **adding the provisions for transportation** to be expanded to include public charter school students that watch DOE buses pick up "regular" students and pass by charter students on the bus pickup route heading to schools in the same communities. This transportation inequity is exacerbated in rural and neighbor island communities.



Michelle N. Kidani
Kaialii Kahele
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The current "O'ahu-centric" mindset at HiDOE does not serve neighbor island schools, families and communities.

The Native Hawaiian Education Council was established in 1994 under the federal Native Hawaiian Education Act. The Council is charged with coordinating, assessing and reporting and making recommendations on the effectiveness of existing education programs for Native Hawaiians, the state of present Native Hawaiian education efforts, and improvements that may be made to existing programs, policies, and procedures to improve the educational attainment of Native Hawaiians.

Please feel free to contact the Council's Executive Director, Dr. Sylvia Hussey, directly via e-mail (sylvia@nhec.org), office (808.523.6432) with any questions.

Sincerely,



Dr. Lisa M. Watkins-Victorino, Chair

cc: Policy & Advocacy and Executive Committees and staff





KEAOMĀLAMALAMA

www.keaomalalama.org

Nu'ukia (Vision)

'O Hawai'i ke kahua o ka ho'ona'auao.

Hawai'i is the foundation of our learning.

Ala Nu'ukia (Mission)

I nā makahiki he 10 e hiki mai ana e 'ike 'ia ai nā hanauna i mana i ka 'ōlelo a me ka nohona Hawai'i no ka ho'omau 'ana i ke ola pono o ka maui Hawai'i.

In 10 years, kānaka will thrive through the foundation of Hawaiian language, values, practices and wisdom of our kūpuna and new 'ike to sustain abundant communities.

Pahuhopu (Goals)

In the next 10 years, our learning systems will . . .

Goal #1 — 'Ōlelo Hawai'i:

- **Advance 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Expectations**
Develop and implement a clear set of expectations for 'ōlelo Hawai'i that permeates all levels of education.
- **Actualize a Hawaiian Speaking Workforce**
Increase a prepared 'ōlelo Hawai'i workforce to ensure community and 'ohana access and support.
- **Amplify Access and Support**
Increase 'ōlelo Hawai'i context and programming to support the kaiāulu.
- **Achieve Normalization**
Pursue normalization of 'ōlelo Hawai'i.

Goal #2 — 'Ike Hawai'i:

- **Actualize 'Ike Hawai'i**
Increase use of knowledge from traditional and diverse sources.
- **Amplify Leo Hawai'i**
Increase 'ohana and kaiāulu learning and participation.
- **Advance Hana Hawai'i**
Increase resources to support practice and leadership.

Native Hawaiian Education Platform*

‘O Hawai‘i ke kahua o ka ho‘ona‘auao.
Hawai‘i is the foundation of our learning.

Perpetuate ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i

Actions on advancing ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i expectations; actualizing a Hawaiian speaking workforce; amplifying access and support; and achieve normalization of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i

Amplify Family and Community Voices

Recognizes parents and families as first educators; Actions that inform, illuminate, elevate and strengthen parent, family and community engagement in education

Advance Hawaiian Culture Based Education

Actions that promote further understanding, connecting, supporting and advancing ‘ike and ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i: policy and pathways; teachers, leaders and communities; pedagogy and programs; curriculum, instruction, assessment and research practices; and evaluation and accreditation mechanisms.

Intensify Systems Engagement

Actions that intensify systems level action---federal, state, primary, secondary, tertiary, national and international, health, housing—to strengthen families and communities.

* Formal set of principal goals



**Native Hawaiian
Education Council**
735 Bishop Street, Suite 224
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
808-523-6432
www.nhec.org

2017-2018 Native Hawaiian Education Priorities

Native Hawaiian Education Council

Perpetuate 'Ōlelo Hawai'i

- Support the Working Group recommendations re: the Expansion of Hawaiian Language Instruction Throughout the University of Hawai'i Systems.
- Support continuing work on Hawaiian language standards and assessments.

Amplify Family and Community Voices

- Advocate for the effective implementation of ESSA for the benefit of families and communities.
- Aggregate field data on family and community voices by island community.

Advance Hawaiian Culture Based Education

- Illuminate Models and Practices of Innovation.
- Elevate Accreditation Frameworks, Designations and Schools.
 - Create a Native Hawaiian research agenda.
 - Continue Native Hawaiian education meta-evaluation.
- Include CBE in Teacher Education and Preparation Programs and Professional Development

Intensify Systems Engagement

- Continue national advocacy work re: ESSA implementation and Native Control of Native Education.
- Engage in early learning planning and implementation work.
- Advance the implementation of Board of Education Policy E-3 Na Hopena A'o.
- Support the continuing 2-Pathways of Education Design and Development



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March 28, 2018

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Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
State of Hawai'i, Senate
Committee on Education

RE: SCR194/SR131 - URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS, INCLUDING PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS, HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AND FOOD SERVICE.

Aloha Chair Kidani and Honorable Members,

The Prince Kūhiō Hawaiian Civic Club **SUPPORTS** SCR194/SR131. These resolutions call upon the department of education to ensure that all public school students, including our public charter school students, have equal access to appropriate educational facilities and food service. There are approximately 12,000 public charter school students that do not have equal access to facilities and food service. Further, many of these school children are eligible for free or reduced meals but are not being provided them. Let us work with the department to help ensure that our keiki can focus on their education with appropriate facilities and food in their bellies.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Ke aloha no,

Anthony Makana Paris
Pelekikena



**Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
PO Box 1135
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96807**

March 27, 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: SCR194-SR131 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS, INCLUDING PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS, HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AND FOOD SERVICE.

Aloha 'olua mai,

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB2527 – RELATING TO EDUCATION, SCHOOL MEALS IN PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS** based on the attached ***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 House of Delegates at its 58th annual convention in Seattle, Washington, November 2017.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC) is 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. AHCC is governed by a 16-member Board of Directors and is a strong voice at city, state and federal levels. AHCC 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. The vision of the AHCC is to remain a recognized voice of the Native Hawaiian people and make the organization self-sustaining; and the mission is to serve with pono in advocacy of culture, health, economic development, education, social welfare and nationhood.

Michelle N. Kidani
Kaiali'i Kahele
March 27, 2018
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sylvia M. Hussey". The signature is stylized with loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sylvia M. Hussey, Chair
AHCC Education Committee

Attachment



**ASSOCIATION OF
HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS**

A RESOLUTION

No. 2017 - 44

**URGING THE HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENACT A LAW ENSURING
THAT ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO
APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AND FOOD SERVICE**

WHEREAS, all charter schools in Hawai'i are chartered by the State Public Charter School Commission (SPCSC) under the oversight of the Board of Education (BOE) and subject to the operating parameters of the Department of Education (DOE) for facilities and food services; and

WHEREAS, there are two types of charter schools in Hawai'i, start-up charter schools with no operating facilities and conversion charter schools (for DOE school with facilities); and

WHEREAS, there are 37 charter schools in Hawai'i of which over half are committed to Hawaiian epistemology (the theory of knowledge, especially with regard to its methods, validity, and scope, the investigation of what distinguishes justified belief from opinion); are community designed and controlled, and reflect, respect and embrace 'ōlelo Hawai'i, 'ike Hawai'i, Hawaiian cultural values, philosophies and practices; and

WHEREAS, there are nearly 12,000 charter school students in Hawai'i, all of whom should have equal access to appropriate facilities and food subsidies as do all other public school students, but this is currently not the case; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE) assesses the free and reduced lunch applications of all public school students and determined in the 2016 Title 1 Status Reports that 70% of the student population of Hawaiian charter schools is considered economically disadvantaged and qualifies for federal food subsidies; and

WHEREAS, there are two types of charter schools in Hawai'i, start-up charter schools with no kitchen facilities and conversion charter schools with existing DOE kitchen facilities; and

WHEREAS, some charter schools, especially those in rural areas of Hawai'i, are denied access to National School Lunch Program subsidies because there are no appropriate United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) certified kitchens besides those existing in DOE public schools; and

WHEREAS, since 2000, the inception of start-up charter schools in Hawai'i, the charter school Commission has repeatedly requested the legislature appropriate facilities funding for charter schools but none has been approved; and

WHEREAS, without USDA appropriate kitchens in charter schools, low income families are not able to receive federal free and reduced food subsidies that are provided to all other traditional DOE families; and

WHEREAS, without USDA appropriate kitchens, Hawai'i is losing millions of dollars in food subsidies for low income families per year; and,

WHEREAS, although Hawai'i charter school statutes, Section 302D, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, ensures that charter schools and traditional public schools enjoy the same per pupil general funding amounts and access to state and federal financing, or parity in funding, it is ironic that Section 302D-29.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, makes plain that charter schools alone are solely responsible for their facility building costs and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the lack of appropriate free and reduced food service severely burdens and adversely impacts charter school families as a result of the State's decision prohibiting students from purchasing USDA lunches under the National School Lunch Program; and

WHEREAS, beginning 2012, the DOE decided that charter schools would no longer have access to the nearest existing DOE food service which effectively resulted in the denial of access to qualified families receiving federal subsidized meals under the USDA National School Lunch Program; and

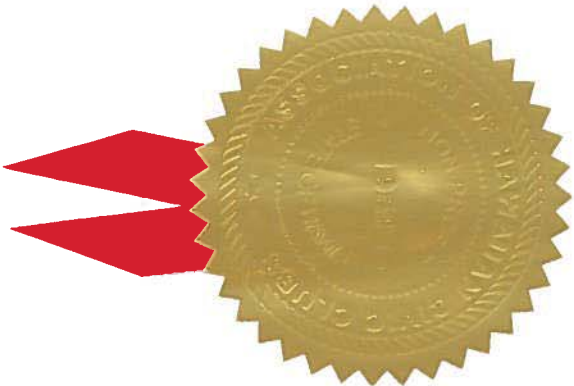
WHEREAS, the Hawai'i State Legislature has the authority and power to enact a law that ensures that all public students have access to appropriate educational facilities and food service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 58th annual convention in Seattle, Washington, in the malama of 'Ikuwā and the rising of Māhealani, this 4th day of November 2017, urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to enact a law ensuring that all public school students have equal access to appropriate educational facilities and food service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, urge the BOE and DOE of the State of Hawai'i to immediately provide school breakfasts and lunches to charter school students who qualify at no additional expense to the school or students, and the State legislature provide equitable facilities support to charter schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to Chair of the Board of Education, the Executive Director of the Charter School Commission as well as the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State

House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate Committee on Education, Chair of the State House Committee on Education, Chair of the State Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted in the malama of 'Ikuwā and the rising of Māhealani on the 4th day of November 2017, at the 58th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Seattle, Washington.


Annelie C. Amaral, President

SCR-194

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 8:03:54 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/28/2018 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taffi Wise	Testifying for KANU O KA AINA	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-194

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 10:53:50 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/28/2018 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janlyn Ryusaki-Phillips	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill and local farmers. Mahalo.

SCR-194

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 9:23:51 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/28/2018 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katie Benioni	Testifying for Kanu o ka Aina Learning Ohana	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-194

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 8:22:24 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/28/2018 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Levenson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SCR194. Appropriate school facilities and access to quality food service play an important role in school success. Please support SCR 194 to ensure equal access to ALL public school children in Hawaii.