

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



JOHN S.S. KIM  
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

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FOR: HB 1347 RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS  
DATE: January 31, 2019  
TIME: 2:15 P.M.  
COMMITTEE: Committee on Lower & Higher Education  
ROOM: Conference Room 309  
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of HB1347**. The Commission is grateful for the support of the committee in strengthening its oversight role and appreciates the bill’s intent to provide more accountability and transparency for state funds by clarifying an authorizer’s ability to access public charter school financial records.

In addition, this bill would allow the authorizer to review and determine the independent auditors eligible to service the public charter schools. Currently, Section 302D-32, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires public charter schools to complete an annual financial audit or financial review.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**HB-1347**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:52:41 AM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2019 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Taffi Wise	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**HB-1347**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:35:17 AM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2019 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kahele Nahale-a	Laupahoehoe Community PCS	Oppose	No

Comments:

**HB-1347**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:59:44 AM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2019 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Levenson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**HB-1347**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:25:09 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2019 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brandon Keoni Bunag	Halau Ku Mana Public Charter School	Oppose	No

Comments:

**HB-1347**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:36:14 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2019 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janlyn Ryusaki-Phillips	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill!

Thank you, Janlyn

**HB-1347**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 1:46:21 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2019 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hedy L Sullivan	Kula Aupuni Niihau A Kahelelani Aloha (KANAKA) PCS	Oppose	No

Comments:

**HB-1347**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 2:00:29 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2019 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Charlene Hoe	Ka Huli o Haloa	Oppose	No

Comments:



**HB-1347**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 2:08:39 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2019 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gene Zarro	South Maui Learning Ohana, inc.	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose this bill.

This bill erodes the autonomy of Hawaii's Public Charter Schools. The charter schools are already required to have external audits on a yearly basis. The governance boards of the charter schools choose the auditor for the school.

I cannot see how this bill provides any value to this current arrangement.

Aloha

Gene Zarro, CEO, South Maui Learning Ohana

**HB-1347**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 2:14:14 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2019 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Steven Sullivan	KANAKA PCS	Oppose	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-1347**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 2:40:48 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2019 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Valentina Kanahale	Kula Aupuni Niihau A Kahelelani Aloha (KANAKA)PCS	Oppose	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-1347**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 2:48:29 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2019 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Thatcher	Connections PCS	Oppose	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-1347**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 3:13:32 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2019 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kalima Cayir	Volcano School of Arts & Sciences	Oppose	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-1347**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 3:45:21 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2019 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeffrey Mermel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As homeowner and taxpayer and someone who does VOTE in each election, **I strongly OPPOSE this bill.**

Thank you for your consideration,

Jeffrey Mermel

**HB-1347**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 5:30:23 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2019 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Roberta Meier-Mcgrath	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-1347**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 6:54:40 AM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2019 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Denise Espania	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:



# Late Testimony

**HB-1347**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 12:20:33 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2019 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Hirakami	HAASPCS	Oppose	No

**Comments:**

I oppose this bill for obvious reasons. Charters are already required to conduct annual audits. Choosing our auditor takes away from the term "independent" audit. Long before it was a requirement, HAASPCS conducted its first independent audit in fiscal year 2004. This was only our third year in existence and leadership and the governing board wanted to see how friscally sound we were. It was the most helpful tool to gain financial stability. That was in the day when the funding was a mere \$5365 per pupil. Don't fix something that is not broken.