

**HB-1526-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 9:14:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Steve Hirakami	Testifying for HAASPCS	Support	No

Comments:

In all my years at the helm of a charter school, Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science, I have never experienced legislation that specifically targets the omissions in our per pupil funding. For instance, I noticed that you are specifically adding funds to EDN 600 to cover the opening year and second year of Dreamhouse Charter School. In 2009, when 3 new charters were authorized (HTA, Kamaile, and SEEQS), no additional funding was added to charter schools. Charters had to divide up the existing \$56M budget by 8,000 students. The previous year the \$56M was divided by 7000 students. So having the foresight to cover the new charter school students is great foresight.

Covering the Teacher incentives is also good foresight. Every year, we are mandated to pay out hard to staff bonuses because of the union contract. Charters always have to wait to get either B&F or the governor to release these funds to the schools.

The per pupil adjustment is also a good sign that the legislature recognizes that charter school funding has had very little increase in the past few years. From SY16 to SY19 the per pupil has been \$6846, \$7089, \$7354, \$7466 respectively. Compare this to SY08 when the per pupil was at its highest: \$9063. Then in SY11 it dropped to \$5363. This inconsistency in funding makes it hard to run an efficient educational institution. Charters can do so much more with a stable and adequate budget.

One diifficiency I see is in the collective bargaining adjustment. It allots \$115K for FY20 and \$140K for FY21. This figure seems low as one charter school's CB increases total twice as much as that being allotted for collective bargaining for the entire charter school system.

Thank you for coming up with a comprehensive way to add additional amounts to our per pupil allocation. I commend you for taking a closer look at our needs. When these financial obligations are funded, we will be able to utilize more of the allocation to benefit our children in charter schools.



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org  
hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro  
Executive Director

March 28, 2010

Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

**HawaiiKidsCAN supports HB 1526 HD1 SD1**, which Appropriates funds for the fiscal biennium 2019-2021 operating budget for Department of Education programs relating to charter schools.

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawaii has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, has a transformational impact on our children and our state. HawaiiKidsCAN is a branch of 50CAN: The 50-State Campaign for Achievement Now.

HawaiiKidsCAN is supporting HB 1526 HD1 SD1 because Hawaii's public charter schools are making a transformational difference for students, providing diverse learning environments and driving some of the highest academic outcomes for students in the state. Hawaii is fortunate that our public charter schools are true partners in the effort to ensure every child – regardless of family income – has the opportunity to access the learning environment that works best for them. Our local public charter schools provide many different models for learning, including: project-based learning, arts integration, Hawaiian culture, Hawaiian language immersion, voyaging, a focus on sustainability and the environment, and blended in-person and online learning, to name just a few. Sometimes these specialized learning environments enable kids who have struggled in traditional school settings to thrive and reach their potential.

HB 1526 HD1 SD1 provides vital funding for our public charter schools, including additional funding support for teacher incentives such as working in a hard-to-staff geographic location or earning the prestigious National Board Certification. In terms of educational equity, we must invest in teachers who will support our most high-need kids and continue their own professional growth and development. This equity is critical, especially as charter schools are often at a financial disadvantage compared to traditional Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) schools, despite the fact they are still public schools, with unionized teachers and no tuition for families. While DOE public schools receive close to \$14,000 per student and do not have to pay for facilities or utilities, charter schools get by with approximately \$7,000 per pupil while paying for facilities, utilities and repairs in one of the most expensive real estate markets in the nation. The 2019 HawaiiKidsCAN Public Education Survey (<http://tinyurl.com/HKCpoll>) shows that 77% of Hawaii voters want more funding for public education, so increasing financial equity across schools should be one of our top priorities.



We all want to see kids in our public schools succeed, so we should ensure that all of these schools are equipped with the fundamental resources they need to provide an excellent education.

Mahalo,

David Miyashiro  
Founding Executive Director  
HawaiiKidsCAN

**HB-1526-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 9:38:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
LYDIA TRINIDAD	Testifying for Kualapu'u Public Conversion Charter School	Support	No

Comments:

Kualapuu Public Conversion Charter School, on the island of Molokai, supports this bill especially for separate funding for TEACHER INCENTIVES (HARD TO STAFF/NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION).

Lydia Trinidad, Principal

Kualapuu Public Conversion Charter School

Kualapuu, Molokai

**HB-1526-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 9:28:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Osborne	Testifying for Kua O Ka La NCPCS	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo for your continued support to Charter Schools offering choice in education for our Hawaii public school system!

**HB-1526-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 9:19:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Heather J McDaniel	Testifying for Connections Public Charter School	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1526-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 12:54:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
phil fisher	Testifying for Kona Pacific Public Charter School	Support	No

Comments:

Our charter schools deserve your support of this bill.



## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Time: 10:20 a.m.

Date: March 28, 2019

Where: Conference Room 211

### TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

#### RE: **HB 1526, HD1, SD1, Relating to the State Public Charter Schools Budget**

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Dela Cruz, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Keith-Agaran, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike o nā Loa'a a me nā Ho'olilo o ka 'Aha Kenekoa! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk, the Senior Policy Analyst for Kamehameha Schools.

Kamehameha Schools is in **support, with comments** of HB 1526, HD1, SD1, relating to the State Public Charter Schools Budget, which appropriates funds for the fiscal biennium 2019-2021 operating budget for Department of Education programs relating to charter.

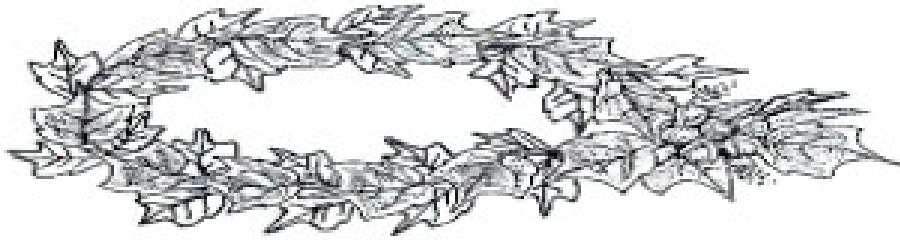
Kamehameha Schools advocates for and supports the achievement of Hawai'i's Native Hawaiian public school students. As such, we have been a collaborator with the Hawai'i public charter schools for over a decade. Through our work with and support of Hawaiian-focused public charter schools, we hope to significantly impact more children and their families through education.

We support the appropriation for charter school teacher incentives and strongly urge this committee to appropriate funds for charter school facilities funding. The funding of both teacher incentives and facilities funding are essential to achieving effective and sustainable funding for public charter schools.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an educational organization striving to restore our people through education and 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'ohē hana nui ke alu 'ia. No task is too large when we all work together! **Please advance this measure.**





*'A'ole pau ka 'ike i ka hualau ko'okahi*

## **Connections Public Charter School**

*A Community, Business & Education Learning 'Ohana*

**Testimony in Support of HB 1526 HD1 SD1**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

This is the most significant issue charter schools in Hawaii face. Our school strongly supports HB 1526 and we ask for your support. Charter school laws across the country place the burden of obtaining and paying for facilities on the charter schools themselves. As a result, charter schools often struggle to find suitable and affordable facilities, and charter leaders routinely identify facilities as one of their top challenges of running a school.

After fifteen years of charter schools in Colorado, state policy continued to provide an inadequate and inequitable structure for charter school capital needs. In response, the Colorado League of Charter Schools commissioned a 2010 Task Force to build the case for changes to remove barriers to adequate and equitable access to public school facilities and financing for Colorado charter schools. While the need to improve the landscape of charter school facilities and facilities financing was evident within the charter community, the League understood that anecdotes and hearsay were insufficient to influence policy makers; a key missing piece was reliable data on the condition and cost of charter school facilities. In order to provide reliable data in support of the League's Task Force objectives, the League developed a comprehensive survey, the Charter School Facilities Survey, to gather objective, reliable facilities data from Colorado's charter community. The League published the results of the Charter School Facilities Survey in a 2008 report entitled "Shortchanged Charters: How Funding Disparities Hurt Colorado's Charter Schools." The Report, and the data the survey revealed, provided the League's Task Force with the necessary information to build its policy framework.

Seeing the success of the Colorado facilities initiative, the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools partnered with the League to use the Colorado facilities survey model in other states to assess the charter facilities landscape across the country. In a pilot program spanning six months in 2010-2011, the League and the Alliance partnered with state charter school organizations in Georgia, Indiana and Texas to collect state specific data comparable to what took place in Colorado. Since then, many additional states have joined the project.

The CSFI project has performed research and published findings from 18 states. In comparing each state's findings, many common trends and themes have been discovered.

**174 Kamehameha Ave., Hilo, Hawai'i - Phone 1-808-961-3664 FAX 1-808-961-2665**

In fact, it appears that charters in the 18 states studied thus far often face similar facilities challenges.

The following are some examples of common findings that have arisen so far.

- Charter schools are forced to spend significant operating dollars on buildings.
- Fewer than half of charter schools have kitchen facilities compliant with National School Lunch Program NSLP guidelines.
- Local and state capital funding programs are not a significant source of funding for charter school facilities.
- Charter school access to empty or underutilized public school land or buildings is sporadic.
- Common amenities such as libraries, sports fields, gymnasiums, lunch rooms, etc. are limited for charter school students.
- Charter school facilities and classrooms are too small compared to industry standards.

There is a federal financial incentive for having in place strong facilities policies at the state level. The federal Charter Schools Program awards funds to states that open, replicate, and expand high-quality charter schools with priority given to states based on the availability of facilities to charter schools. The program prioritizes applicants located in states that provide their charter schools with direct facilities funding, assistance with acquiring facilities, access to public facilities, provide charter schools with access to bonds or mill levies, or provide them with low or no-cost leasing privileges. State policy funding options include: providing a per-pupil facilities allowance to charter schools, creating a charter school facility grant program, providing a charter school facility revolving loan program, ensuring that charter schools have equal access to all of the existing state facilities programs for regular public schools, and providing charter schools with access to local property tax dollars generated for facilities.

On September 28, 2018, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement awarded the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools a \$2.4 million grant over three years to establish the Charter School Facilities Center (CSFC), the first-ever entity solely dedicated to helping public charter schools access better and more affordable facilities and facility financing.

Over the past 10 years enrollment in charter schools has nearly tripled in the United States and doubled in Hawaii. Demand for charter schools is increasing and there is significant unmet demand due to lack of capacity. Hawaii law allows the state charter school commission to request facilities funding as part of its annual budget request. The Commission's top priority during the 2018 legislative sessions was to continue to seek funding for school facilities. The Hawaii Board of Education has also asked the Legislature for facilities support for charter schools. In its 2017 annual report to the Legislature, the state charter schools commission noted that charter schools "were generally in fair financial position as of June 30, 2017" but "may not remain on firm financial footing for the long term if current levels of available funding are not maintained in coming years." Facilities funding is critical for the long-term survival of charter schools in Hawaii. We urge you to support HB 1526 HD1 SD1.

Mahalo!

**HB-1526-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 8:40:31 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jessell Tanaka	Testifying for Kawaikini New Century Public Charter School	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1526-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 10:54:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrew Stever	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1526-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 11:03:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patricia Boland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support.this bill for Charter Schools!!!

**HB-1526-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 11:14:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mio Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1526-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 11:21:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dyson Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1526-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 1:29:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nina Buchanan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Charter schools are underfunded. While this legislation will not equal the playing field to funding given DOE schools. This is a step in the right direction!!



**HB-1526-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 3:49:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Martin Groark	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Charter schools are leader in the public school space - and deserve more and equal funding.

Schools are so challenged in so many ways in Hawaii it seems - our charter schools on the Big Island are excelling - and create incredible hybrid learning spaces for children. Good education is so important and so difficult to find in Hawaii for all. Charter schools deserve more funding to continue their trend and grow. The money goes a long way.

Wish Kona town alone had 3-4 more charter school options right now. Over 100 kids apply to Innovations Public Charter School Kindergarten every year and only a handful get in.

Mahalos for supporting this logical bill.

**HB-1526-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 5:17:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gene Madriaga	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1526-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 11:19:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Doreen Ho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1526-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 11:56:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Megan Kawatachi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an educator of 20+ years, both here at home in Hawai'i and on the East Coast of the continent, I have been witness to the power of charter schools in transforming a community. They serve populations that continue to be underserved and offer parents choice for their children. I have worked closely with several public charter school in Hawai'i and know well, for many of them, how financially tenuous their existence is. The inequitable gap in funding between public and public charter schools makes bills like this one especially important. It supports the adult educators in schools, which without a doubt, supports the students as well. Young people will only serve to benefit from adults in school who are continuously growing and learning and enriching their teaching as a result.

March 27, 2019

Committee on Ways & Business  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Keith-Agaran,

I am a current high school senior and I put my full support into supporting HB1526 because it will allow public charter schools to further educate the youth of Hawai'i through an increase in teacher incentives.

By allocating funds to aid public charter schools, the youth of Hawai'i will have access to a greater quality of education.

In the name of aiding the public charter schools of Hawai'i, I support HB1526.

Mahalo,

Dayevin K. Bunao

**HB-1526-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 6:17:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Thalia Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My children went to Innovations Public Charter School...it was a fantastic educational option for our entire family. Our state needs to offer diverse education options for our youth and supporting equality in funding for all public schools will allow for such opportunities. Thank you for your support!

**HB-1526-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 8:56:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Terri York	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1526-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 7:10:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
mary jennings	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**HB-1526-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 9:13:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leila Kealoha	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Aloha, I humbly ask for your support of HB1526. I am a teacher of a charter school and my son attends a charter school. The opportunity to work for a charter school has been insurmountable in furthering my education and the education of our youth. I appreciate any and all support in continuing to support of our charter schools today. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha Kakahiaka e Honorable Chair Dela Cruz a me Honorable Vice Chair Keith-Agaran,

O wau Phoenix Maimiti Valentine. He haumana au. Noho au ma Mākaha. O wau kahi kupa o ka honua. I am Phoenix Maimiti Valentine, a homeschooler from Mākaha and a citizen of the world. I support education because it helps to expand horizons and cultivate interests beyond one's personal circumstance.

HB1526 HD1 SD1, would give funding to Public Charter Schools. As a former Public Charter School student myself (Hawai'i Technology Academy), I have experienced the benefits of educational diversity. I understand that students have different interests. There is also a wealth of knowledge in our State of Hawai'i to gain from. *'A'ohe pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'okahi. All knowledge is not learned in just one school.* [One can learn from many sources.]

I write to humbly ask you to support HB1526 HD1 SD1, which would grant funding to Public Charter Schools. I believe in supporting education that would inspire keiki! This bill would help to support education from another aspect. Public Charter Schools takes a different approach to engage young minds in their quest for knowledge. Therefore, I support HB1526 HD1 SD1 for the potential of diversity Public Charter Schools create. I hope you chose to support HB1526 HD1 SD1 as well.

Mahalo ia 'oukou, Phoenix Maimiti Valentine

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 1526 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS  
BUDGET

DATE: March 27, 2019

TIME: 10:20 A.M.

COMMITTEE: Committee on Ways & Means

ROOM: Conference Room 211

FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission ("Commission") appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of HB1526 HD1 SD1 with Comments**. The Commission is grateful for the support shown to the public charter school system with the inclusion of certain items requested from the executive budget. The Commission also supports the request from the Senate Education Committee of incorporating the items in this measure into the appropriate legislation or amend this measure to allow its purpose and intent to be effectuated.

- **EDN 600**

The inclusion of teacher incentive funds as a separate budgetary appropriation addresses a long-standing issue pertaining to the funding of statutorily and collectively bargained teacher incentives for charter school teachers who teach in hard-to-staff areas and charter school teachers who have earned National Board certification.

There are currently 230 teachers in eight charter schools designated as being in hard-to-fill areas. The current Master Agreement between the Board of Education and the Hawaii State Teachers Association requires that teachers in areas designated as hard-to-fill be paid an annual differential of \$3,000.

National Board Certified teachers represent another group of teachers that charter schools are required to provide an incentive to. There were about twenty-one teachers in thirteen charter schools who were national board certified.

Section 302A-706, HRS, establishes the teacher national board certification incentive program which provides a \$5,000 bonus to teachers who maintain national board certification. Incentives are also provided for completion of the certification program and an additional \$5,000 is provided to national board certified teachers who teach at a designated hard-to-staff area.

The adjustment to collective bargaining funding is requested to provide funding to three newly opened charter schools that were not included in the original calculations that determined collective bargaining allocations to the individual charter schools.

While the Commission appreciates the inclusion of the per pupil adjustments for DreamHouse Ewa Beach (a new charter school scheduled to begin operations in July 2019) and per pupil adjustments in general, the Commission believes these adjustments are mandated by the charter school funding formula set in statute and should not be considered as separate budgetary requests. The Commission is eager to work with the Legislature and the Department of Budget and Finance on this in future legislative sessions.

In addition to the general fund inclusion of approximately \$6 million, the Commission is requesting an increase of about \$3.1 million in the federal fund expenditure ceiling for public charter schools in order to allow for the total anticipated award amount for the next fiscal year.

- **EDN 612**

The Commission is not requesting any general fund add-ons for the upcoming biennium budget at this time. As with EDN 600, the Commission is requesting an increase in its federal fund ceiling and federal fund position count to accurately reflect current operations and staffing.

The Commission appreciates the support for public charter schools shown by this committee and the Legislature through the initiatives funded through this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**LATE**



**HB1526 HD1 SD1**  
**RELATING TO THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS BUDGET**  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 28, 2019

10:20 a.m.

Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** the provisions of HB1526 HD1 SD1 that would provide funding to the State Public Charter School Commission (Commission) for teacher incentive pay required by law or collective bargaining. OHA also takes this opportunity to respectfully request that the Committee consider restoring funding provisions in the original and HD1 versions of this measure, which would provide for long-awaited funding to the Commission for state public charter schools' facilities costs.

**Hawai'i's public charter schools play a unique and critical role in public education innovation, and have already demonstrated their potential to improve educational outcomes for their students and our public school system as a whole.** Most recently, some public charter schools have outperformed the state average in areas such as on-time graduation rates, college matriculation rates, and reduced chronic absenteeism, as reflected in the latest Strive HI SY 2017-2018 performance scores; lessons learned in such charter schools can also benefit students and schools throughout our public education system. As a testament to Hawai'i's charter schools' success, on December 6, 2016, the State Board of Education (BOE)-approved updated State Education Strategic Plan (Plan) for 2017-2020 describes "the shared objectives for equity and excellence for every child across Hawai'i's nearly 300 public schools, including our public charter schools and Hawaiian language medium schools" (emphases added). The Plan also includes the objective that "Hawai'i public schools will foster innovation and the expansion of existing public school 'Bright Spots,' which includes learning from charter schools that were established as innovation labs" (emphasis added). **The recognized success of our public charter schools accordingly counsel greater efforts to address their unique financial challenges, to provide them with equity with Department of Education (DOE) schools, and to allow them realize their full innovative and educational potential.**

OHA accordingly appreciates HB1526 HD1 SD1's provisions relating to charter school teacher incentive funding. OHA understands that the DOE maintains a designated fund to pay mandatory incentive compensation to DOE school teachers who have earned National Board certification, or who teach at hard-to-fill schools. In contrast, there is no such designated fund for teachers in public charter schools who have similarly earned National Board certification, or who teach at hard-to-fill schools.

Consequently, public charter schools have had to pay these incentive bonuses out of each individual school's per-pupil funds, a cost that is not currently calculated into the moneys public charter schools are provided each year by the State. This places an enormous burden on public charter schools already struggling to balance their lean budgets, and may substantially inhibit our public charter schools, including hard-to-staff schools, from realizing their full potential, and providing innovative education solutions that may benefit our public education system as a whole. OHA therefore supports this measure's allocation of funding for public charter schools' teacher incentive compensation.

With respect to the charter school facilities funding provisions deleted from the most recent draft of this measure, OHA notes that their lack of facilities funding is the greatest unaddressed disparity faced by Hawai'i's public charter schools. Unfortunately, although Hawai'i's public charter schools continue to demonstrate their distinct value to Hawai'i's students, unaddressed facilities costs continue to be a critical and longstanding issue that may substantially inhibit the realization of their full potential. Start-up charter schools in particular must pay for substantial facilities costs using their already stretched operational funds; such costs are not borne by conversion charter schools, or schools under the DOE, and may impede such schools from realizing their potential in educating their students and in serving as "innovation labs" for public education as a whole. **Accordingly, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to reinsert provisions that would provide public charter schools with facilities funding, or otherwise provide them with equitable support for their unique facilities needs.**

Notably, the BOE itself has acknowledged the longstanding need to address charter schools' facilities funding disparity, and its most recent report to the 2019 Legislature "recommends that the Legislature provide some form of facilities funding to charter schools to address this unmet [facilities funding] need." Like the Plan, this recommendation recognizes the importance of our public charter schools as an integral component of our public education strategy. **By restoring appropriations for charter schools' facilities funding in this measure, this Committee will help to more fully realize the potential for innovation in charter schools and thereby foster greater student success in our public school system as a whole.**

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB1526 HD1 SD1, and to consider restoring the previously proposed funding for charter schools' facilities costs. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**HB-1526-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 10:38:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ac'Lynne Uesugi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

March 28, 2019

Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha,

My name is Camron Johnson- Lee, I am currently a 16 year old junior attending Hawaii Technology Academy in Waipahu and I would like to testify in support of the HB 1526 HD1 SD1 bill. The HB 1526 HD1 SD1 bill gives charter schools like mine the opportunity to better assess a child's needs in order to create an environment that yields better success for the student, long term. Though incredibly beneficial, public schools are still blanket solutions and as such their ability to reach every child will always be severely limited. I've personally met many students from public schools that say the lack of student motivation in their schools is becoming an increasingly concerning problem. When schools solely cater to the student rather than the whole child, they create a divide that can stunt a child's educational development during its crucial years of growth, stimulating bad habits and negative attitudes that shape who they become as adults. On the other hand I can testify that switching from a small private school to the charter school Hawaii Technology Academy was the best decision I've made in my young life. My life has begun down a whole new path since becoming a part of



HTA's ohana, I'm proactive, I'm involved, and I'm inspired all because I was lucky enough to stumbled across a school where I felt comfortable attending and that has exposed to me to the world beyond school, preparing me enter into society unafraid. Every charter school comes with its own unique perks that work best for students, and to be comfortable in a place of development is more important than its given credit for.

Mahalo for listening.

**LATE**

**HB-1526-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 1:01:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Katie Benioni	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-1526-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 11:37:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/28/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priorities Committee	Support	No

Comments:

March 27, 2019

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Laura Nevitt, Policy Director  
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **H.B. 1526, HD 1, SD1– RELATING TO THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS BUDGET**  
**Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211, March 28 10:20 AM**

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**On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), I am writing in SUPPORT of H.B. 1526, HD1, SD1, which would appropriate funds for the fiscal biennium 2019-2021 operating budget for Department of Education programs relating to charter schools under the purview of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Lower and Higher Education.**

- At this moment, charters just want to maintain/sustain what they have. \$4M is the legislative request

- o They've invested in personnel by providing ongoing data-based professional development for teachers, educational assistants and principals/directors.

- o Though teacher retention challenges are even greater in remote areas, the commission has done well to retain their qualified teachers

- Charter schools are included in the Executive Office on Early Learning's 10-year plan

- EOEL is tasked with entire early learning system, and the charter pre-K program is part of that system.

- Charter school pre-K programs offer:

- o Family choice

- o Increase access to preschool programs in areas that do not have or have very limited pre-K programs or slots (private preschools or DOE public pre-K)

**For these reasons, HCAN asks that you pass H.B. 1526, HD1, SD1.**

*HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education.*