

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

---

FOR: HB 1526 RELATING TO STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS BUDGET  
DATE: February 7, 2019  
TIME: 2:00 P.M.  
COMMITTEE: Committee on Lower & Higher Education  
ROOM: Conference Room 309  
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

---

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 HB1526**. The Commission is grateful for the support of Chair Woodson and this committee with the approved add-ons in the public charter school budget.

- **EDN 600**

The add-ons for EDN 600, the charter school budget are:

| <b><u>EDN 600 Add-</u></b><br><b><u>ons</u></b> | <b><u>FY2019-2020</u></b> | <b><u>MOF</u></b> | <b><u>FY2020-2021</u></b> | <b><u>MOF</u></b> |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Facilities Funding                              | \$11,160,000              | A                 | \$11,160,000              | A                 |
| Teacher Incentives                              | \$892,000                 | A                 | \$892,000                 | A                 |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>\$12,052,000</b>       | <b>A</b>          | <b>\$12,052,000</b>       | <b>A</b>          |
| Federal Ceiling Increase                        | \$3,150,000               | N                 | \$3,150,000               | N                 |

The Commission greatly appreciates the inclusion of facilities funding in the charter school budget as facilities costs have been one of the greatest unaddressed challenges for Hawaii’s chartering system. Facilities funding has been and continues to be a long-standing issue for charter schools and has been identified as one of the Commission’s standing advocacy principles.

In addition, 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. In order to fully fund these 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.

In addition to the general fund inclusion of approximately \$12 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 add-ons for EDN 612, the Commission budget is:

| EDN 612 Add-ons          | FY2019-2020 | MOF | FTE | FY2020-2021 | MOF | FTE |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----|-----|-------------|-----|-----|
| Federal Ceiling Increase | \$1,384,300 | N   | 5.0 | \$1,384,300 | N   | 5.0 |

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 House through the initiatives funded through this measure. The Commission further appreciates the support of this committee in advancing legislation that provides the funding, in the amount of \$4 million, to sustain the 18 pre-kindergarten classrooms currently operating in 11 charter schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**LATE**

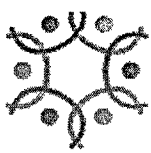
**HB-1526**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 3:40:49 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2019 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>   | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melodie Aduja       | O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:



February 7, 2019

To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair  
Representative Mark Hashem, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Lower and Higher Education

**Late  
Testimony**

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

Re: **H.B. 1526– RELATING TO THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS BUDGET**  
**Capitol, Room 309, January 31, 2:00 PM**

---

**On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), I am writing in SUPPORT of H.B. 1526, 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.**

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