



HB246 HD1
RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS
House Committee on Finance

February 21, 2019

12:30 p.m.

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB246 HD1, which would provide funding to the State Public Charter School Commission to allocate to state public charter schools for infrastructure costs, rental or lease of facilities, and repair and maintenance of network infrastructure, as determined by the Commission. **This bill would help alleviate the unique financial burdens borne by start-up public charter schools in meeting their basic facilities needs.**

Hawai‘i’s public charter schools are indeed deserving of equity, and have already demonstrated their potential for innovation and excellence notwithstanding their unique financial challenges. 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 benefit students and schools throughout our public education system. As a testament to Hawai‘i’s charter schools’ success, on December 6, 2016, the BOE-approved updated State Education Strategic 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”; 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).

Unfortunately, although Hawai‘i’s public charter schools continue to demonstrate their distinct value to Hawai‘i’s students, addressing public charter schools’ facilities needs continues to be a critical and longstanding issue in the charter school community. Start-up charter schools in particular must pay for substantial facilities costs using their already-stretched operational funds. This is a cost that is not borne by conversion charter schools, or schools under the Hawai‘i Department of Education, and that may unfairly impede start-up schools from realizing their full potential for their students and as “innovation labs” for public education as a whole.

Notably, the State Board of Education (BOE) itself has acknowledged the longstanding need to address this 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.” The BOE’s report also recognized the importance of our public charter schools as an integral component of our public education strategy.

To fully realize the potential for innovation in charter schools that may in turn foster greater student success in our public school system as a whole, it is critical that public charter schools receive adequate appropriations for facilities funding. HB246 HD1 will help bring equity to our public charter schools, and address the longstanding problem of funding for charter schools’ facilities.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB246 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Corey Rosenlee
President
Osa Tui Jr.
Vice President
Logan Okita
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

RE: HB 246, HD1 - RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

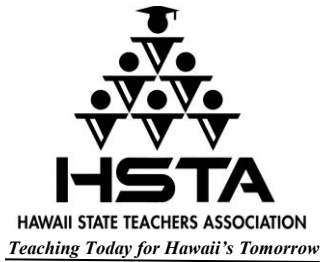
Chair Luke, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports HB 246, HD1** relating to charter schools.

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 \$7,359 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 to 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 committee 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, rather than through one-year legislative



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add-ons, 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.

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 bill.

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 246 HD1 RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS
DATE: February 21, 2019
TIME: 12:30 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Finance
ROOM: Conference Room 308
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of HB246 HD1**. This measure provides funding for rental or lease of facilities, infrastructure costs, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure for charter schools.

Facilities costs for charter schools is one of the greatest unaddressed challenges for Hawaii’s chartering system. One of the Commission’s Standing Advocacy Principles, adopted in 2015, is that “charter schools must be funded and supported adequately to be able to meet the educational needs of their students... this includes funding and other supports for adequate facilities.”

In fiscal year 2017-2018, charter schools expended approximately \$11.0 million for rent/lease payments, repair and maintenance, and utilities payments. The Commission determined this figure based on information provided from the annual audits that all charter schools are required to complete, pursuant to Section 302D-32, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The needs of each individual charter school vary greatly as shown by a range of facility-related expenses in fiscal year 2017-2018, which start at about \$42,000 to a high of \$1.3 million. The reasons for this wide disparity can be attributed to the wide range of facilities that charter schools operate in, which include former Department of Education schools, unused state facilities, private buildings, and new campuses built from scratch.

Any support provided by this committee and the Legislature would go far in addressing the challenge that charter schools have faced in regards to facilities funding. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Finance

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Date: February 21, 2019

Where: State Capitol Room 308

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

RE: **HB 246, HD1, Relating to Charter Schools**

E ka Luna Ho'omaluku, ka Hope Luna Ho'omaluku Cullen, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Waiwai o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka'āinana, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk, the Senior Policy Analyst for Kamehameha Schools.

Kamehameha Schools is in **support** of HB 246, HD1, relating to charter schools, provides funding for rental or lease of facilities under legislative appropriations and bond authorizations to the State Public Charter School Commission for the design, planning, construction, repair, and maintenance of public charter school improvements. This measure also appropriates general funds for infrastructure costs, rental or lease assistance, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure for charter schools.

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 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. This bill is a great step forward toward achieving necessary 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'ohe hana nui ke alu 'ia. No task is too large when we all work together! **Please advance this measure.**



DREAMHOUSE
'EWA BEACH

February 18, 2019

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee on Finance Members,

Mahalo for hearing this bill.

DreamHouse 'Ewa Beach is an approved public charter school committed to empowering homegrown leaders for our island community; we were not able to open in 2018 because we could not find a facility or afford one.

Our charter school will open this year in empty, shell-condition office space.

This is all we can find and afford. With your help, our keiki in public schools can get the facilities and buildings the deserve.

Please support this bill and continue to fuel innovation and growth of our islands public charter school.

Aloha,

Alex Teece
Founding School Leader
DreamHouse 'Ewa Beach

DREAMHOUSE

PO BOX 1058 | Honolulu | HI | 96808



Hālau Kū Māna
New Century Public Charter School

Before the House Committee on FINANCE

RE: **HB 246, HD1 - Relating to Public Charter Schools**

February 21, 2019, 12:30P, Rm 308

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee

STRONG SUPPORT

Hālau Kū Māna Public Charter School **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB246, HD1 which purpose is to:

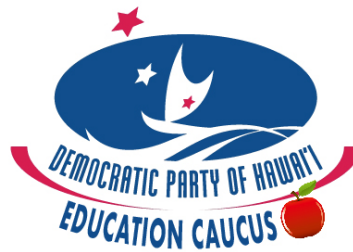
- 1) Provide funding for rental or lease of facilities under legislative appropriations and bond authorizations to the Commission for the design, planning, construction, repair and maintenance of public charter school improvements; and
- 2) Provide funding to the Commission for infrastructure costs, the rental or lease of charter school facilities, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure for charter schools

Facilities funding has been a long-standing and ongoing discussion that has yet to come to fruition. Hālau Kū Māna is fortunate to have secured a 35-year lease of State property with a reasonable annual lease. Currently, all of our classrooms are portable trailers, including our school restroom. One-half of these trailers are showing their age and the cost for repairing them continues to increase. We have already lost the use of 2 classroom trailers due to unrepairable roofing, which has caused mold to develop in the interior. We are on the verge of losing use of a third classroom trailer. Our restroom trailer is also in dire need of replacing.

There is a direct correlation between quality facilities and quality of learning. How can we expect our students to excel when the facilities they are forced to learn in are sub-par. It is exciting that this discussion continues in to this legislative session and that an amount has been included in the bill. We are hoping that the State can fulfill its commitment to all students by providing the necessary resources so that we can provide adequate facilities for our students.

Mahalo nui,

Brandon Keoni Bunag, Ed.D.
Po‘o Kumu (Principal)



HOUSE BILL 246, HD 1, RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS

FEBRUARY 21, 2019 · HOUSE FINANCE
COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. SYLVIA LUKE

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports HB 246, HD 1, relating to charter schools, which provides funding for rental or lease of facilities under legislative appropriations and bond authorizations to the State Public Charter School Commission for the design, planning, construction, repair, and maintenance of public charter school improvements, and appropriates general funds for infrastructure costs, rental or lease assistance, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure for charter schools.

Public charter schools serve as sources of scholastic innovation. While many charter schools operate in urban areas, others meet the academic needs of remote areas lacking comprehensive public school facilities and programming. Additionally, many charter schools provide immersive instruction in Native Hawaiian culture and language.

Yet, charter schools receive inadequate funding to support student learning. While traditional DOE schools receive \$13,748 per-pupil each year, charter schools receive roughly \$7,500 per-pupil, out of which must be paid operational costs including curricula, salaries, and school supplies, leaving little for facilities, maintenance, and rent. Although the Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission may request facilities funding as part of its annual budget request, amounts received

in recent fiscal years have not satisfied the rising cost of providing and maintaining quality facilities. In turn, charter schools that lack adequate building space are forced to conduct class outdoors, on covered lanais, or in unsafe provisional structures.

To compensate for insufficient facilities funding, charter schools often seek revenue from nongovernmental, nonprofit, and corporate entities. While all charter schools in Hawai'i are required to operate as public schools, forcing charter schools to rely on nongovernmental funding sources increases private involvement in charter school programming, which undermines public accountability of the state's charter school network. Furthermore, reliance on private funding by public charter schools could generate efforts to establish private charter schools and private charter school authorizers in Hawai'i, which would transfer control of public education to private entities and erode available resources for traditional public schools. To maintain the public status of charter schools, then, lawmakers should appropriate no less than \$10 million to HSPCSC to allocate based on need and financial performance.



THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

House Committee on Finance

Pō‘ahā, Pepeluali 21, 2019
Lumi ‘Aha Kūkā 308
Ke Kapikala Moku ‘āina
415 South Beretānia Street

Re: HB246 HD1 - RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS

Aloha Luna Ho‘omalu Sylvia Luke, *Hope Luna Ho‘omalu* Ty Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **SUPPORTS** HB246 HD1. This bill provides funding for rental or lease of facilities under legislative appropriations and bond authorizations to the State Public Charter School Commission for the design, planning, construction, repair, and maintenance of public charter school improvements and it appropriates general funds for infrastructure costs, rental or lease assistance, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure for charter schools. At its 57th annual convention, the Association passed resolution 2017-44, which, in part, urges the legislature to pass legislation that ensures public school students have access to appropriate educational facilities, especially at charter schools.

Thus, the Association respectfully urges the committee to **PASS** HB246 HD1.

The civic club movement was founded in 1918 by Congressional Delegate Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana‘ole with the creation of the Hawaiian Civic Club; the Association was formally organized in 1959 and has grown to a confederation of over sixty (60) Hawaiian Civic Clubs located throughout the State of Hawai‘i and the United States. The Association is the oldest Hawaiian community-based grassroots organization. The Association is governed by a 16-member Board of Directors; advocates for improved welfare of Native Hawaiians in culture, health, economic development, education, social welfare, and nationhood; and perpetuates and preserves language, history, music, dance and other Native Hawaiian cultural traditions.

Mahalo for allowing us to share our *mana* 'o.

Me ka 'oia 'i 'o,

Hailama Farden
Pelekikena

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

A RESOLUTION

No. 2017 - 44

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

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

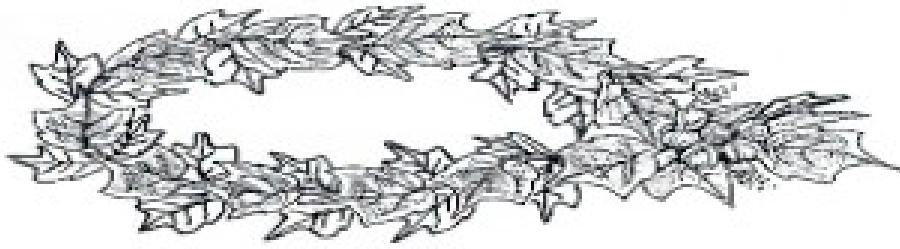
House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate Committee on Education, Chair of the State House Committee on Education, Chair of the State Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Annelie C. Amaral". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Annelie C. Amaral, President



'O'ohē pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'ohāki

Connections Public Charter School

A Community, Business & Education Learning 'Ohana

Testimony in Support of HB 246 HD1

John Thatcher, Principal, Connections PCS

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Charter School Facilities Initiative (CSFI) informs states of policies and practices by collecting and disseminating comprehensive data regarding charter school facilities, including the cost and quality of charter school buildings, charter school access to school district facilities, and availability of local and state funding for charter school facilities. The Charter School Facilities Initiative is funded in part by the National Charter School Resource Center (NCSRC).

The NCSRC works to support the development of high-quality charter schools. It provides technical assistance to sector stakeholders and has a comprehensive collection of online resources addressing the challenges charter schools face. The website hosts reports, webinars, and newsletters focusing on facilities, funding opportunities, authorizing, English Learners, special education, military families, board governance, and other topics. The NCSRC is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and led by education consulting firm Safal Partners.

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.

Since then the League has been able to leverage that combination of data and policy to make substantial gains in its facilities efforts. For example, the League was able to successfully obtain more capital construction funds for charter schools, make legislative changes that required school districts to include district authorized charter schools in bond election discussions, and provide for the inclusion of charter schools as eligible applicants in the Colorado Building Excellent Schools Today program, a competitive grant program that provides funding to school districts and charter schools for capital construction projects.

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. 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.

There are an estimated 5 million additional students that would attend a charter school if they had access to one today, but current charter school supply can't keep pace with demand. One key reason is lack of access to facilities. While district schools have access to many options for financing, renovation, and construction of school buildings, charter schools cannot access those financing mechanisms to get the facilities they need to open, grow, and expand.

“At a time when demand for charter schools is increasing, lack of access to affordable, suitable facilities is our biggest challenge,” said Nina Rees, president and CEO of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. “Studies show that nearly one-in-five schools were forced to delay their opening by a year or more due to facilities related issues. The Charter School Facilities Center is a critical step to addressing this problem and ensuring all students have access to a high-quality public-school building.”

The CSFC will capture and share existing best practices for improving and funding facilities for charter schools, and will develop new, innovative solutions to address this challenge. Among other activities, the CSFC will create a national advisory board of industry leaders to improve the collection of existing best practice resources and identify new ideas that merit wide dissemination. In addition, the CSFC will support discrete projects to address specific needs, such as acquiring affordable funding for rural facilities.

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 246 HD1.

Mahalo!

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 4:47:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

It is encouraging to finally see some facilities support for charter schools. It has been many years in the making so the time has come to support our students' learning in charters. Adequate facilities definitely have a correlation to student achievement. On behalf of the twelve thousand children in charter schools, I commend you on taking action on their behalf.

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 5:18:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Osborne	Kua O Ka La NCPCS	Support	No

Comments:

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 10:56:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kaleolani Kaiwi-Lehano	halau ku mana	Support	Yes

Comments:

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 10:54:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kalima Cayir	Volcano School of Arts & Sciences	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Esteemed Legislators,

Facilities remains a dire need for many charter schools. Charter schools serve an important role in our state by providing greater school choice for families to meet the needs of our diverse learners. Charter school students are state of Hawai'i public school students and deserve the same funding as DOE students. Although HB 246 will not fully address the equity issue, it is a step in the right direction.

Mahalo for your support of HB 246.

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 11:08:23 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kauanoë	Halau Ku Mana	Support	No

Comments:

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 1:22:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julia Lolofie	SEEQS Public Charter School	Support	No

Comments:

I work at a public charter school in Kaimuki. Because of the lack of facilities funding for charter schools, our students are not provided the same safety of environment that is provided with a school building. Additionally, because we are required to use semi-permanent tents as classrooms, our teachers do not have a secure place to store classroom instructional supplies, etc, and much of our equipment is at risk of being damaged due to weather.

I am in full support of providing charter schools with facilities funding so that we are able to provide our students and teachers with a high-quality, safe learning environment.

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 3:56:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kehaulani Aipia-Peters	Ke Kula O Nawahiokalaniopuu	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of the governing board of Ke Kula 'O NÄ• wahÄ«okalani'Ä• pu'u Iki LPCS, I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 246 HD1 to provide facilities funding for charter schools.

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 12:10:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 2:37:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wilson Peters	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this measure. Our Charter schools are innovative hubs of learning that provide options for Hawai'i families. I am an educator and I support fair and equitable funding of our public charter schools.

I am a resident of Kaunakakai, Molokai.

Mahalo,

Wilson Peters

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 10:05:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaia Eagle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 10:29:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephany Cecil	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I supprt charter school continued autonomy.

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 10:31:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leoni	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a student a SEEQS public charter school and I suport this bill because at my school we have tents for classrooms and every time it rain our classromms flod.

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 10:34:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vanessa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Vanessa Steenhuis and I am in support of HB246 for many reasons. The main one is that I am a student at SEEQS, the School for Examining Essential Questions of Sustainability, and I can say, we don't get enough money. We have tents as classrooms and not only is that not a safe learning environment if there is a threat but it is not a good place to teach or learn. Every time it rains, the floors get flooded. If there is a storm, the whole tent shakes and no one can even hear the teacher which, takes away from learning.

Most of the students eat outside because we don't have a cafeteria. In order to have more room and more learning areas, we transformed half of a cafeteria into two classrooms so now there's no permanent seating inside. Why do we only have half of the cafeteria and why don't we just use the other half you may ask? Because we can't. We share, or rather Kaimuki High School shares, their campus with us because we don't have enough money to have a whole campus of our own.

These are the reasons, along with many more, of why I am in strong support of HB246. Thank You.

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 10:36:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kalamakahi Crabbe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha my name is Kalamakahi Crabbe and I am a 7th grader at SEEQS public charter school. I am in STRONG SUPPORT for HB 246 because this provides a great opportunity to charter schools all around Hawai'i to receive the money we need. My school has tents as classrooms! We don't have enough money for a campus that Kaimuki High School lended us some of the property which was amazingly kind. Everytime it rains our whole classroom floods and we are so used to it we know the drill to lift up our bags and sweep the water out. Water flies in through the doors and mesh like windows, and recent had leakage from our roof. Water dripping onto our heads, onto our chromebooks and having soaking wet tables just because we can't afford a campus neither a classroom. Even though we have our ups and downs through our campus it's all we have and we make the best of it, but even though we shouldn't have to learn in this type of in environment each days. When the tents get bursted with sunlight it becomes a greenhouse. We can't continue to learn like this, it is not right! I hope you do consider my testimony. Thank you and mahalo for your time! Sincerely, Kalamakahi Crabbe

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 10:48:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Burgandy Singleton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please help out charter schools continue to provide a safe learning environment for our keiki. Charter schools have been providing excellent education while being continually underfunded and making the best of the facilities provided. My daughter would not have succeeded as well as she has given her dyslexia without our amazing charter school in Volcano, HI.

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 10:50:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanoë Kina	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The Ala Wai Canal Project, developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), was recently awarded more than \$212 million in federal funding.

I understand and support that the Project was created to prevent flooding and damage problems, in the event of a storm, in the Ala Wai watershed area (Manoa, Palolo, and Makiki drainages, into Waikiki). What I do NOT support is how It calls for the construction of six in-stream debris and detention basins in the upper reaches of Makiki, Manoa and Palolo streams.

My school, Halau Ku Mana, is situated on the banks of the Makiki stream, below the Ko'olau, in Makiki Valley. Our classes are held primarily outdoors on projects (botany and earth science for Lo'i project, chemistry for Loko I'a project, physics and astronomy for Wa'a project). We integrate traditional Hawaiian values and practices (i.e. methods of land/resource management) with the best of modern academic practices (i.e. use of technology and multimedia). A detention basin in Makiki would jeopardize the safety of our school. The detention basin poses a risk to all those downstream of it, if it should ever fail. The project would also destroy much of the natural stream and acres of land that we currently use.

At my school, Halau Ku Mana, we are taught to value the knowledge of our ancestors and our community. I encourage you and USACE to integrate traditional Hawaiian methods of land and resource management into the Ala Wai Canal Project; and in so doing, coming up with a better plan. A plan that doesn't destroy Makiki with a debris and detention basin. Please protect our Aina.

Sincerely,

Kanoë Kina,

Halau Ku Mana PCS

2101 Makiki Heights Drive

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822

(808)945-1600

kanoe.kina@halaukumana.org

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 11:05:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Kama Kanahale-Nations, I am a student at Halau Ku Mana Public Charter School which is located in Makiki Valley. I support this bill. I support it because then it would help our school Halau Ku Mana with a lot of new things. We would get a new bathroom that can have for stalls in it and it's not so small. We could maybe get a cafeteria where we can eat under a covered place instead of when we eat and it rains we don't get wet. We could possibly get awnings because when it rains we get wet, and if we get new awnings we can put them up and not get wet. We would also possibly repair our classrooms because some of them leak and while we're having class we sometimes get wet. Halau Ku Mana could get a lot of things with that.

Sincerely,

Kama Kanahale-Nations

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 11:07:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Before the House Committee on FINANCE

RE: HB 246, HD1 - Relating to Public Charter Schools

Feburuary 21, 2019, 12:30P, Rm 308

I am Kai Uta, a student at Halau Ku Mana (Oahu). I have been a student for 15 years, and a student at Halau Ku Mana for 5 years. As a student, I had the honor of going to places with great libraries that afford me an education that will prepare me for the future. It is my hope that my class and I, the ‘opio of Hawai’i, will be afforded a higher education with access to needed texts, and because of this, I urge you to pass HB 246 and HD1.

Supporting these bills will not only provide an education to all of our ‘opio, but in particular, I would like to highlight the issue of facility funding for charter schools. A lack of permanent facilities funding threatens the long term sustainability of many charter schools. With regards to reading, since many charter schools lack good places to learn, they also lack a good classroom or school libraries, as well as funds to purchase texts to meet the needs of their students. I would like to suggest that charter schools receive access to enough funding, especially facility funding, as a main source to building effective and balanced literacy programs for all Hawaii students. I further suggest that a fair percentage of this facility funding be used to provide our haumana with culturally-relevant libraries. Research (Guthrie & Wigfield, 2000; Putnam & Walker, 2010; Schunk, 1993; Russell, 1961; Campbell, Voelkl, and Donahue, 1997, etc.) connects literacy successes to levels of reading motivation. Research further shows that students are motivated to read when presented with interesting and culturally relevant texts. Seventeen of the thirty four public charter schools are are Hawaiian-focused or Hawaiian language immersion

schools, so it can be suggested that libraries filled with culturally relevant texts are crucial for carrying grounded foundations in Hawaiian values, concepts, and language.

However, in order to provide students with access to texts, schools need funds to both purchase texts and create space for libraries on campus. Also as a student, we see our own teachers consistently spend their own funds to make sure our haumana are provided with culturally-relevant and rigorous texts. Over the last five years, I have seen Hawaiian charter schools where facility funding does not support our students from access to high quality libraries. Hakipu'u Learning Center has a library, but many of the texts are uninteresting or inappropriate for the students' level and interests (most books are donated). Other charter schools I have seen do not have the space for a classroom library at all. I understand facilities are expensive, but our students, at the very least, deserve access to quality learning materials. This, too often, is not the case. As such, I ask you support for HB 246 and HD1. In support of these bills, more equitable funding will be provided to charter schools, as well as increased facility funding that is necessary to provide the learning space and materials needed to meet our classroom goals. To deliver the schools our keiki deserve, please support these bills.

Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Kai Uta

10th Grade Halau Ku Mana Charter School

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 11:08:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Holli Shiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge this committee to pass HB246, so our charter schools, which play an important role in meeting both student and community needs, have adequate funding to provide quality education.

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 11:10:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly Jeffers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Charter schools provide government-funded, high-quality education for parents seeking a more specific learning environment for their children as an alternative to local public schools. Increasing funding for charter schools will allow these educational institutions to better help children learn content and philosophies that may not be taught at state DOE public schools. While there has been some recent scrutiny over how certain charter schools spend the money they receive from the government, which may have cast a cloud over the whole of charter schools, many of these organizations have proven that they can use these funds responsibly toward educating our children. I am also in support of additional safeguards that may be put into place to ensure that all charter schools use the potential increased funding appropriately in order to ease public concerns over future mismanagement of allocated tax money.

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 11:16:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cristin Priolo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As the 2018 Charter School teacher of the year, I would like to support this bill to provide funding of facilities for charter schools. I currently teach science classes within a tent that experiences flooding and consistent vandalism by the community. Although I am able to make the best experience I can for my students, I believe this is not an ideal environment for our keiki and teachers alike. Imagine how much more students and teachers could accomplish with adequate facilities. I believe it is in our best interest to provide safe and comfortable structures, as a public entity. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 11:30:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shane Albritton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members,

My name is Shane Albritton and I'm a teacher at SEEQS Public Charter School in Kaimuki.

I'm writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HB246.

At SEEQS, we hold five classes a day in large tents. Because charter schools don't receive facilities funding, many charter schools like SEEQS hold classes in tents, in Matson containers, or even under tarps.

As a charter school community, we feel that this situation is no longer safe or conducive to learning. The tents are hot and loud, but most importantly, they cannot be locked down.

In the event of a lockdown, or God forbid a school shooting, our students would have to run across campus to a secure building.

In talking to legislators during HSTA's Lobby Day this month, several of your colleagues mentioned that charter schools are supposed to have facilities secured before applying for their charter.

This is true, and the reality of charter schools is that because we are not provided with a facility, circumstances can change, resulting in the loss of the original facility.

In the case of SEEQS, when the lease expired on our original campus, it was not renewed, and we were forced to go looking for an alternate site.

We consider ourselves fortunate to have been welcomed onto Kaimuki High School's campus, and the fact remains that holding classes in tents is insecure.

Charter schools students are public school students. These are our children, and they deserve to have safe, secure facilities in which to learn.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this serious issue.

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 11:39:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keali'i Domingo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Before the house committee on Finance

Re: HB 246, HD1 - Relating to Public Charter Schools

Februar 21, 2019, 12:30P, Rm 308

I am Kealii Domingo, a student of Halau Ku Mana (Oahu), I recently heard of this bill and i encourage the state to support this bill aswell. I think that this bill will be enourmously helpfull to charter schools. This bill will help charter schools by giving the schools more money to do things like repair and/or get new things specifacly trailers and restrooms.

We need new trailers because the trailers the school uses are already broken or are starting to break, i think that this will be extremely helpfull cause if we dont have trailers we have no classrooms to learn in. also if this bill does get selected we will have more money to do things like getting a gym.

Another thing that is mandatory is a new restroom, Halau Ku Manas restrooms could use an upgrade theyr are always problems and alot of the times students cant use the restrooms at school.

Sincerely, Keali'i

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 12:08:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kehaulani Shintani	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

He IÄ• IÄ• au 'o ka 'Ahahui Siwila 'o Ke Aloha 'Ä€ina, he mÄ• mÄ• ho'i o kekahi mau kaikamahine e hele nei i kekahi kula ho'Ä• mona. Ma loko o ka mana'o he maika'i, 'a'ole nÄ• nÄ• mahele a pau o kÄ"ia he kÄ• ko'o ho'i i ke kumu i ho'okumu 'ia ai nÄ• kula ho'Ä• mana.

Do NOT Support.

Me ka 'oia'io,

na KÄ"haulani Shintani

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 12:18:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malia Slevin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Before the house committee on FINANCE

RE: HB 246, HDI Facility funding

February 21, 2019 12:30, Rm 308

IN AGREEMENT

This bill will provide funding for rental or lease of facilities under legislative appropriations and bond authorizations to the State and public charter school commission for the design, planning, construction, repair, and maintenance of public charter school improvements. This also appropriates general funds for infrastructure costs, rental or lease assistance, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure for charter schools.

I am writing on behalf of charter schools everywhere. Our specific school, Halau Ku Mana NCPSC, is in need of more funding. We want to be able to build a larger bathroom. The money could also be used to repair our leaking classrooms. I also think that some extra funding could be used to build a more permanent lunch area. So we could focus our energy on different things.

- Funding our school will also make us be able to properly pay our educators for any over time, and subbing hours.
- Possibilities for better extracurriculars such as an art class, theatre program, or chess clubs
- The extra funding could also give us the opportunity to do actual labs for science
- Maybe even a water fountain

For all of these reasons, I would like you to consider supporting this bill.

Sincerely, Malia Slevin(A concerned HKM student)

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 12:20:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victoria Russ	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members,
My name is Victoria Russ and I'm a teacher at SEEQS Public Charter School in Kaimuki.

I'm writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HB246.

At SEEQS, we hold five classes a day in large tents. Because charter schools don't receive facilities funding, many charter schools like SEEQS hold classes in tents, in Matson containers, or even under tarps.

As a charter school community, we feel that this situation is no longer safe or conducive to learning. The tents are hot and loud, but most importantly, they cannot be locked down.

In the event of a lockdown, or God forbid a school shooting, our students would have to run across campus to a secure building. I think it is important to know that even if students are involved in a lockdown the CURRENT set up is not safe. There are no secure spaces to hide, or walls to protect from debris/weaponry of any kind. Overall it does not feel safe for students OR teachers.

In talking to legislators during HSTA's Lobby Day this month, several of your colleagues mentioned that charter schools are supposed to have facilities secured before applying for their charter.

This is true, and the reality of charter schools is that because we are not provided with a facility, circumstances can change, resulting in the loss of the original facility.

In the case of SEEQS, when the lease expired on our original campus, it was not renewed, and we were forced to go looking for an alternate site.

We consider ourselves fortunate to have been welcomed onto Kaimuki High School's campus, and the fact remains that holding classes in tents is insecure and unsustainable for safety and functionality.

Charter schools students are public school students. These are our children, and they deserve to have safe, secure facilities in which to learn.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this serious issue.

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 12:21:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janelle Chong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write as a charter school teacher in support of charter schools facilities funding so that students and teachers at charters schools can have a safe and comfortable learning/working environment. As a charter school teacher for the last 4 years, I have taught in less than ideal conditions including open-sided tents exposed to the elements. I have taught while having to hold my classroom (tent) down and even with a pet parakeet landing on me in the middle of class, and while they were interesting memories, it was far from ideal teaching and learning environment.

In an era of school shootings and as an educator who started her career in small-town Connecticut in the year of the Sandy Hook shootings, I don't always feel safe in the non-permanent structures that I have/do teach in.

For that reason, I write this is strong support of facilities funding for charter schools.

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 12:27:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kir klein	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 12:28:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kauanoë Kamana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 12:34:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Morem	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I work at a public charter school in Kaimuki. Because of the lack of facilities funding for charter schools, our students are not provided the same safety of environment that is provided with a school building. Additionally, because we are required to use semi-permanent tents as classrooms, our teachers do not have a secure place to store classroom instructional supplies, etc, and much of our equipment is at risk of being damaged due to weather.

I am in full support of providing charter schools with facilities funding so that we are able to provide our students and teachers with a high-quality, safe learning environment.

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 2:04:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lily Washburn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and committee members,

My name is Lily Washburn, and I'm a student at SEEQS: The School for Examining Essential Questions of Sustainability, a charter school in Kaimuki. I am writing to say that I strongly support HB246

As a passionate charter school student, I am in strong support of this bill because my school can't provide my classmates and I with necessary classroom facilities. Instead, we are taught in tents, which don't provide us with an adequate learning environment. These classroom tents flood with water when it rains, and can reach unbearable heats on warm days, making it a struggle for myself and others to focus.

If this bill is passed, and charter schools get more funding support from the government, these problems could be solved, and charter schools all across Hawaii would be able to provide students like me with quality classroom facilities.

Thank you again for your consideration of this serious issue.

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 2:48:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristin Wolfgang-Volcano School of Arts and Scien	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Charter schools provide education for public school students. Many times, charter schools fill a niche that the DOE schools are not able to fill. The school I work for, Volcano School of Arts and Sciences has filled a niche on the Big Island because there wasn't a school in Volcano. In fact, there wasn't a school between Pahala and Mountain View We provide education for students here in Volcano, as well as 30% of our students coming from Ka'u. We are able to alleviate some of the educational difficulties faced by families in Ka'u where it is very hard to attract and keep teachers. We do what we do without facility money. That means that we have to fundraise to create buildings for our classes. It also means that we are constrained from growing by the facilities that we have. If we were provided with facilities funds, we could build new buildings which are already planned and permitted. Keeping facilities funding from Charter schools is a way to keep these schools from progressing. But why do you want to do that? Thank you for working to supply facilities funding for Charter schools. I appreciate you!

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 3:31:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandie Kealoha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 3:49:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terri York	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 4:45:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please oppose HB246. The money should go toward public schools, which have state oversight.

Thank you for your time.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 4:56:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Yoshimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 4:57:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Courtney Mattson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a parent of a student at Halau Ku Mana Public Charter School, I strongly support HB246, HD1 and encourage you to appropriate the necessary funds our charter school desperately needs. Our facility lacks paved walkways for our children, who are constantly having to walk in mud and on gravel just to get to their classrooms, along with having inadequate facilities to eat their lunches and gather as a school in. The splintered picnic tables and temporary tents will only sustain so much of the elements before they become unusable. And while I'm sure this is a significant improvement to the facility HKM first received, our children deserve more. Our keiki are taught at this school that it is their kuleana, or responsibility, to maintain their campus and preserve it to the best of their ability; however, they should know that the State supports them in their efforts by allowing them the same quality of facilities that their peers and friends have at other schools. The teachers and faculty at Halau Ku Mana provide as much support and resource as they can, but we deserve more legislative and community support to give our charter school keiki the same facilities, luxuries and opportunities that our DOE children receive. Please show your support for this bill and vote for our keiki.



Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau
Laboratory Public Charter School

LATE

46-500 Kūneki St. Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i 96744 *Kelepona: 808.235.9175 *Kelepa'i: 808.235.9173
E mālama 'ia ana ka mauli ola o kākou mai kēlā hanauna a i kēia hanauna.

Before the House Committee on Finance Committee, House Bill 246 HD1 Relating to Charter Schools

February 21, 2019 12:30 p.m., Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty J.K.Cullen, and members of the Committee

FULL SUPPORT

Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau **strongly supports** the appropriation of general funds for infrastructure costs, rental or lease assistance, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure for charter schools.

Funding is an important issue, as charter schools struggle to meet our many expenses with the modest per-pupil funding and no food, transportation or facilities support. Public charter schools receive inadequate funding to support student learning and currently received NO funding to support the rising costs to develop, repair and maintain our public school facilities.

1. Hawai'i Charter Schools are PUBLIC schools in the State of Hawai'i. Our students deserve access to safe and high-quality charter school facilities.
2. Kamakau is currently working on four capital improvement projects to expand our campus and address our enrollment needs. Although we feel that the state has a responsibility to support the facilities needs of all public charter schools, our Governing Board has actively sought other non-state funding to support these projects.

Once again, we are in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB246 HD1 to appropriate charter school funding to support the infrastructure costs. In closing, we would like to thank the House Committee on Finance for this opportunity to share our mana'o.

Me ke aloha,

I Kelling Kahu, Director

LATE

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 10:28:51 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, my son attends Volcano School of Arts and Sciences, a public charter school. I volunteer at the school 5 days a week. It's a wonderful school but in dire need of fiscal support from the state, as is the case with all charter schools in Hawai'i. Our family embraces HB 246 and urges you to please pass this critically needed legislation. Thank you so much. Sincerely, John, Susanne and Jussi Lyle Volcano/Ka'u

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 1:49:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
T. Noelani Perreira	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am Noelani Perreira. I am a makua / parent of students at Halau Ku Mana Public Charter School located at 2010 Makiki Heights Drive. Please note my strong support for HB246, HD1. HB 246 appropriates \$11M to the charter school Commission for facilities funding. This is a long discussion spanning over many years. Please vote in favor of this bill to make this happen during this 2019 legislative session.

Thank you for reading this testimony in strong support of HB246, HD1. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

T. Noelani Perreira

LATE

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 9:51:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Devan Wilhelm	Halau Ku Mana	Support	No

Comments:

Before the House Committee on FINANCE

RE: HB 246, H.D. 1 - Relating to Public Charter Schools

February 21, 2019, 12:30 PM, Rm 308

Committee on Finance

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Facility Funding

In Support

Dear Hawaii State Legislatures,

Aloha, my name is Meakala Wilhelm. I am a sophomore student at a Hawaiian Public Charter school, Halau Ku Mana, located in Makiki Valley. Our school's focus is to educate students about our host culture, environment, history, past and current issues. I have attended a variety of schools, including Hawaiian immersion, homeschool, online school, public and now a Hawaiian charter school. There are many similarities and differences between these schools, but the most prominent difference I have seen so far are the facilities.

Public Charter schools do not receive the same funding for facilities as regular DOE schools receive, therefore the amount money received for facility design, planning, construction, repair and maintenance is less. For regular DOE school, they receive \$14,000 per people and charter schools receive \$7,089 per people a year. That is nearly half of the money that regular DOE schools receive. This

impacts the school's ability to pay for facilities while trying to provide for the proper amount of money for education alone.

Learning environments are greatly affected by the environment of a school and its facilities. If a student is not comfortable with a moldy classroom, small bathroom or an outside cafeteria, it can have a negative influence on the students learning. It can cause distractions and complications to the teachers as well, therefore detaining from education. As a student that has been in many different schools, I have learned in the different learning environments and have experienced these distractions, in which can be prevented by an increase in facility funding.

It is for this reason that I support HB 246.

Mahalo nui loa,

Meakala Wilhelm



LATE

February 21, 2019

Aloha members of the House,

It is unethical to deny facilities funding for certain students at public schools. Charter schools are public schools. Charter schools have the highest percentage of Native Hawaiian students. To deny facilities like bathrooms and classrooms and kitchens for certain schools with certain populations is unethical. Charter schools are now held to the same academic standards as other public schools. How can charter schools be expected to out-perform other public schools with less per-pupil funding AND less facilities.

This is our strongest, most cohesive facilities bill we have introduced. It is time to be the legislature that finally supports economic and social justice for the rest of our public schools.

Mahalo for your time,

Trevor Atkins, Advisor, Ke Ea Hawaii

LATE

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 11:43:34 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen Schaefle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Charter schools should not have to pay for facilities out of the per pupil funding but rather should have the same advantage as DoE schools receiving state funding for facilities.

LATE

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 11:51:49 AM
Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joanna Howard	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong support for this bill.

HB-246-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 2:23:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Finance Committee Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members,

HB246 HD1 RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS. Provides funding for rental or lease of facilities under legislative appropriations and bond authorizations to the State Public Charter School Commission for the design, planning, construction, repair, and maintenance of public charter school improvements. Appropriates general funds for infrastructure costs, rental or lease assistance, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure for charter schools.

I'm a Halau Ku Mana makua and stand in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB246 HD1**. PCS facilities funding has been discussed for many years while our children continue their education in oftentimes substandard settings. This lack of facilities support and funding, on top of the INADEQUATE student funding per PCS vs DOE student (approx \$7,000 of \$12,500), contributes to a recipe for failure. I look to you to correct the recipe and provide facilities funding like DOE schools.

Yes, PCS like Halau Ku Mana are schools of choice and we chose HKM because we know our children will learn how to successfully overcome obstacles, be innovative, recognize & speak the truth, and much more. Despite financial challenges, we continue to be impressed by HKMs education, social, governmental and community engagement that extends far beyond their facilities.

While we're appreciative for the legislature's approval of PCS education twenty (20) years ago, we're hopeful that reasonable facilities funding is forthcoming now. I look to THIS legislature to step up for our keiki o ka aina, our future leaders. Mahalo for the opportunity to express my STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 246 HD1 and belief that you have what it takes to succeed too.

Me ke aloha,

Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai,

Concerned Waianae makuahine

