

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



JOHN S.S. KIM
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

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FOR: SB 2254 Relating to Education
DATE: January 31, 2020
TIME: 2:45 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 229
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony providing **COMMENTS on SB 2254**, which extends the enrollment exemption for University Laboratory School (ULS) from July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022.

While the Commission recognizes the school’s service and dedication to its students, there are concerns regarding the school’s enrollment policy and procedures. First, it is unclear, through any published research, that ULS’ enrollment exemption has increased student outcomes or added any value to the school’s education system. Second, it is unclear how the selection of students allowed by the enrollment exemption aligns with requirements pertaining to equity in access to quality public education.

The Commission is available to provide any needed assistance to the committee and other interested stakeholders as this legislation moves forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



UNIVERSITY LABORATORY SCHOOL

A Hawai'i Public Charter School
1776 University Avenue UHS #3-121, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
Telephone (808) 956-7833 Fax Number (808) 956-7260

Senate Committee on Education
Friday, January 31, 2020, 2:45pm
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 229

The Governing Board of the University Laboratory School (ULS) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB2254**, which will allow ULS to continue to conform its student enrollment profile to meet the research needs of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Education.

ULS is a unique state charter school with two interlocking missions: to design and deliver the best possible education to our own students, and to serve the educational research and development community as a seedbed of curriculum research and development. With our purposive enrollment, heterogeneous classes, emphasis on innovation and research, and provision of ongoing professional development for educators, our school serves as an experimental site for teaching, learning, and assessment in grades K-12.

Currently, ULS utilizes a weighted admissions lottery and process to create a student body reflecting the ethnic distribution of Hawai'i and that is inclusive of students across a range of academic achievement and family socioeconomic levels. This admissions system allows our school to maintain a student body that is representative of students statewide, which is needed by the College of Education in its research and testing of curriculum and assessments being developed for use in Hawai'i's schools. Through the flexibility afforded under an enrollment provision in the state charter school law, ULS has continued its long-standing collaborative relationship with the College of Education, which has in turn contributed to the development of educational materials that have been successfully implemented across the State of Hawai'i school system and beyond.

The underlying statutory basis for ULS's unique curriculum testing environment is set to be automatically repealed on July 1, 2020. Without this statutory provision for ULS enrollment found in HRS 302D-34(d), ULS would be forced to shift to a basic enrollment lottery and would be severely limited in its ability to adjust enrollment in order to maintain the student demographics necessary under the College of Education's research standards.

Therefore, ULS strongly supports the repeal or extension of the sunset date for its enrollment provision under the state charter school law. We believe our current admissions system, as authorized by HRS 302D-34(d), affords ULS the best chance to meet our school's missions and fulfill our unique role as a Hawai'i charter school, which in turn benefits the state's education system overall.

We respectfully ask this Committee to **PASS** this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2254

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 10:16:58 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Travis Palmeira	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

January 30, 2020

To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Education

Re: *Letter in strong support of SB 2254*

Hearing: Friday, January 31, 2020 @ 245 PM, Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Chair Kidani, Vice-Chair Kim and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

I am writing in strong support of SB 2254 and the long-term enrollment exemption for the University Laboratory School. I believe that this will allow the school to continue to conform its student enrollment profile to meet the research needs of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Education.

The University Laboratory School is a unique state charter school with two interlocking missions: to design and deliver the best possible education to its own students, and to serve the educational research and development community as a seedbed of curriculum research and development. With the school's purposive enrollment, heterogeneous classes, emphasis on innovation and research, and provision of ongoing professional development for educators, the school serves as an experimental site for teaching, learning, and assessment in Kindergarten to the Twelfth Grade.

Currently, the University Laboratory School utilizes a weighted admissions lottery and process to create a student body reflecting the ethnic distribution of Hawai'i and that is inclusive of students across a range of academic achievement and family socioeconomic levels. This admissions system allows the school to maintain a student body that is representative of students statewide, which is needed by the College of Education in its research and testing of curriculum and assessments being developed for use in Hawai'i's schools. Through the flexibility afforded under an enrollment provision in the state charter school law, the University Laboratory School has continued its long-standing collaborative relationship with the College of Education, which has in turn contributed to the development of educational materials that have been successfully implemented across the State of Hawai'i school system and beyond.

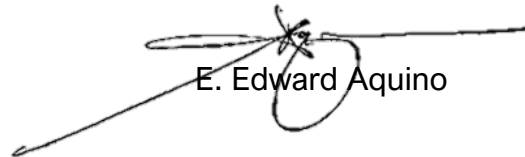
The underlying statutory basis for the University Laboratory School's unique curriculum testing environment is set to be automatically repealed on July 1, 2020. Without this statutory provision for the school enrollment found in HRS 302D-34(d), the University Laboratory School would be forced to shift to a basic enrollment lottery and would be severely limited in its ability to adjust enrollment

in order to maintain the student demographics necessary under the College of Education's research standards.

Therefore, I strongly support the repeal or extension of the sunset date for its enrollment provision under the state charter school law. I believe the current admissions system, as authorized by HRS 302D-34(d), affords the University Laboratory School the best chance to meet the school's missions and fulfill the school's unique role as a Hawai'i charter school, which in turn benefits the state's education system overall.

Accordingly, I urge this Committee to pass this SB2254.

Sincerely,



E. Edward Aquino

LATE

SB-2254

Submitted on: 1/31/2020 7:52:33 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Yoshimori-Yamamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The University Laboratory School (ULS) has been ranked as one of the top public schools in the state consistently for many years.

ULS has been the test lab for innovative curriculum and their diverse student population is critical to reflect the diversity of our state's population. As a test lab for the University of Hawaii College of Education CRDG, ULS is able to support testing new curriculum to help all the students of Hawaii as well as around the world!

I support SB2254 and a long-term enrollment exemption for the University Laboratory School, which will allow ULS to maintain a diverse student body that serves the research needs of the UH College of Education.

Please pass this bill.

Thank you!

Denise Yoshimori-Yamamoto

LATE

SB-2254

Submitted on: 1/31/2020 11:01:31 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
karyn yoshioka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a parent of two students who graduated from the University Laboratory School, the diverse student body allowed my kids to adapt to various classmates. The education they have learned has prepared them to be the college students they are today. My kids would not be who they are today without the assistance of the University Laboratory School and their acceptance of various students across the state.

I support SB2254 and a long-term enrollment exemption for the University Laboratory School, which will allow ULS to maintain a diverse student body that serves the research needs of the UH College of Education. Please pass this bill.