

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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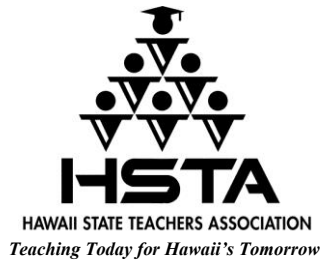
FOR: SB 939 RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS
DATE: February 8, 2019
TIME: 1:30 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 225
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

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

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 939**, which requires transportation costs for charter school students to be included in the annual budget request rather than including it in the per pupil funding amount.

Approximately half of the 36 operating charter schools provide student transportation services at various levels, which include pick-up to and from school and transportation to outdoor learning experiences and laboratories. Since the Commission does not collect any information on charter school transportation costs at this time, the Commission will consult and work with public charter schools to provide this committee, the Senate, and other affected state agencies with the information needed to move this legislation forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
EDUCATION AND TRANSPORTATION

RE: SB 939 - RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani, Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports SB 939**, relating to charter schools.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) is the exclusive representative of the state's 13,700 public school teachers as the local affiliate of the 2.2 million member National Education Association. This measure would eliminate the deduction of funds for student transportation from charter school per-pupil allocation.

HSTA believes that funding for transportation of students to and from school should be a separate line-item budget request and should not be deducted from weighted student formula. Charter schools receive \$7,323 per-pupil, most of which is used to cover items like salaries, collective bargaining costs, curricula, school supplies, equipment. When charter schools are required to dip into weighted student formula to fund the cost of student transportation, students suffer because they are not receiving the full extent of their per-pupil allocation and there is less funding available for school resources.

To provide charter schools with the funds they need for their students to succeed, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support SB 939**.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



RODERICK K. BECKER
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

REVISED TESTIMONY
TESTIMONY BY RODERICK K. BECKER
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND TRANSPORTATION
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 939

February 8, 2019
1:30 p.m.
Room 225

RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS

Senate Bill No. 939 requires student transportation costs for Charter School students to be included in the Department of Budget and Finance's (B&F) annual budget request rather than including it in the per-pupil funding amount.

B&F has the following concerns with this measure.

- 1) It is unclear if transportation costs are limited only to traditional pickup/drop off service or also encompass student activities during the day.
- 2) It is unclear if transportation costs apply to charter schools with a defined school attendance area or all charter schools. Currently, students in Grades K-5 must reside a mile or more, and students in Grades 6-12 must reside 1.5 miles or more, from the school within their attendance area to qualify for regular school bus service. With the exception of conversion schools, it is our understanding that charter schools do not have prescribed attendance areas. As such, most charter school students would not be eligible for regular bus service – this is similar to the treatment of students with geographic exceptions.

- 3) It is unclear how school transportation costs will be determined for budgeting purposes. Should the cost parameters be determined based on the Department of Education's (DOE) per-pupil student transportation costs in the respective school district? Or some other method? Or should the DOE provide this service for qualified charter schools like it does for DOE schools?
- 4) B&F does not have a budget for school transportation costs unlike fringe benefit costs. It may be more appropriate to budget for these transportation costs in the Charter Schools Commission budget and allocate these to schools that qualify for transportation costs in addition to their per-pupil allocations.

We are willing to work with the committee to find the most equitable and appropriate means to address this situation.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

SB-939

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 6:59:58 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/8/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sheadon Freitas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-939

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 3:42:15 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/8/2019 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

LATE

SB-939

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 2:07:56 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/8/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Olani Lilly	Testifying for Ka Umeke Kaeo Immersion Charter School	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable members of this committee,

Ka 'Umeke KÄ• 'eo supports this bill. Currently Ka 'Umeke covers the entire cost of transportation including personnel, vehicle (bus), repairs and fuel. Our bus is crucial for our 'ohana to make sure their keiki are in school each day as well as to facilitate our unique curriculum that necessitates regular and frequent huaka'i (research trips) to community site to practice our traditional practices.

Currently the Department of Education receives funding via EDN 400 for support costs including appropriately trained personnel, vehicle, repairs and fuel.

Creating a line item funding for transportation will be a step to creating financial equity between charter and department schools.

Mahalo for your time.