

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>
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1100, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: SB 864 Relating to Charter Schools
DATE: February 26, 2021
TIME: 9:30 A.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Ways and Means
ROOM: Conference Room 211
FROM: Yvonne Lau, Interim Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

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

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony providing **COMMENTS on SB 864** which amends HRS §302D-32 to require that two of the three independent auditors selected by the authorizer have offices on the neighbor islands.

The Commission respectfully suggests that the amendment to HRS §302D-32 proposed in **SB 813** would address the concerns raised in this legislation by allowing the authorizer to approve more than three independent auditors.

In order to meet the current requirements of HRS §302D-32, the Commission has already conducted a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to identify three approved independent auditors. However, based on concerns and feedback from charter schools, particularly neighbor island charter schools, on the availability of these audit services on the neighbor islands, the proposed amendment in **SB 813** was requested. Should the statute be amended, the Commission would reopen the RFQ process to review and approve any additional qualified auditors, which could include auditors on the neighbor islands, that complete and meet the requirements of the RFQ process.

The Commission looks forward to collaborating with the committee, other interested stakeholders, and public charter schools in moving this legislation forward. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.