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GOVERNOR



CATHY K. IKEDA
CHAIRPERSON

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

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FOR: HB 1345 Relating to Education
DATE: February 7, 2023
TIME: 2:00 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
FROM: Yvonne Lau, Interim Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to **provide COMMENTS on HB 1345** which establishes a pilot program in the state public charter school commission to provide an educational pathway for teacher licensure or staff certification for cultural practitioners.

The Commission supports efforts to provide additional pathways for teacher licensure or certification for cultural practitioners. However, the State Public Charter School Commission is primarily the authorizer of public charter schools and one of its primary functions is to monitor, in accordance with charter contract terms, the performance and legal compliance of public charter schoolsⁱ. The Commission does not have the capacity nor the expertise to administer such a pilot program.

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) is the state entity that has jurisdiction and authority to create such a certification pathwayⁱⁱ and offers a Hawaiian Permit that is issued to an unlicensed individual employed by a Hawai‘i Department of Education or Hawai‘i State Public Charter School in Kaia‘ōlelo-Kaiapuni Hawai‘i, Hawaiian Language Immersion, or Hawaiian Knowledge classrooms when no licensed teacher is available.

We would defer to the HTSB or other Hawai‘i State approved educator preparation programs as to the development of a pathway for teacher licensure or certification for cultural practitioners.

Putting together a teacher certification pathway requires research and planning time and would not likely meet the bill's 2023-2024 fiscal year implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

ⁱ §302D-5 Authorizer powers, duties, and liabilities. (a) Authorizers are responsible for executing the following essential powers and duties:

- (1) Soliciting and evaluating charter applications;
 - (2) Approving quality charter applications that meet identified educational needs and promote a diversity of educational choices;
 - (3) Declining to approve weak or inadequate charter applications;
 - (4) Negotiating and executing sound charter contracts with each approved charter applicant and with existing public charter schools;
 - (5) Monitoring, in accordance with charter contract terms, the performance and legal compliance of public charter schools; and
 - (6) Determining whether each charter contract merits renewal, nonrenewal, or revocation.
- (b) An authorizer shall:
- (1) Act as a point of contact between the department and a public charter school it authorizes;
 - (2) Be responsible for and ensure the compliance of a public charter school it authorizes with all applicable state and federal laws, including reporting requirements;
 - (3) Be responsible for the receipt of applicable federal funds from the department and the distribution of funds to the public charter school it authorizes; and
 - (4) Be responsible for the receipt of per-pupil funding from the department of budget and finance and distribution of the funding to the public charter school it authorizes.
- (c) An authorizer shall have the power to make and execute contracts and all other instruments necessary or convenient for the exercise of its duties and functions under this chapter.
- (d) An authorizer may delegate its duties to officers, employees, and contractors.
- (e) Regulation by authorizers shall be limited to the powers and duties set forth in this section, and shall be consistent with the spirit and intent of this chapter.
- (f) An authorizer, members of the board of an authorizer acting in their official capacity, and employees or agents of an authorizer are immune from civil and criminal liability with respect to all activities related to a public charter school authorized by that authorizer, except for any acts or omissions constituting wilful misconduct. Members of the commission shall be afforded the same protection afforded the members of the board pursuant to section 26-35.5.
- (g) An authorizer shall not provide technical support to a prospective charter school applicant, an applicant governing board, or a charter school it authorizes in cases in which the technical support will directly and substantially impact any authorizer decision related to the approval or denial of the charter application or the renewal, revocation, or nonrenewal of the charter contract. This subsection shall not apply to technical support that an authorizer is required to provide to a charter school pursuant to federal law. [L 2012, c 130, pt of §2; am L 2013, c 159, §5; am L 2014, c 99, §5; am L 2015, c 114, §3; am L 2016, c 113, §1]

ⁱⁱ **§302A-803 Powers and duties of the board.** (a) In addition to establishing standards for the issuance and renewal of licenses and certificates and any other powers and duties authorized by law, the board's powers shall also include: . . .

- (13) Approving teacher preparation programs;
- (14) Establishing policies and procedures for approving alternative pathways to teaching;
- ...
- (16) Conducting research and development on teacher licensure systems, beginning teacher programs, the assessment of teaching skills, and other related topics;
- (17) Participating in efforts relating to teacher quality issues, professional development related to the board's standards, and promotion of high teacher standards and accomplished teaching;

HB-1345

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:39:54 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taffi Wise	KANU O KA AINA	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

Strongly request amendments

Mahalo for this bill, I appreciate the intent and purpose. Kanu o ka Aina Learning Ohana already has a State Approve Teacher Licensing Program (SATEP) "Kahoiwai" that is long-standing and nationally accredited. We are currently servicing our 10th cohort of student teachers and have successfully placed 116 teachers in Hawaii schools who have been culturally trained with the appropriate curriculum. The student teachers do not pay tuition, we have funded the program through grants and would greatly appreciate state funding to serve more. However, the Kahoiwai program should be administered in conjunction with the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) to serve all of Hawaii's schools with high populations of Native Hawaiians, not the Charter Commission. HTSB would need to change its minimal requirements, this has been done in the past with a "limited area" teacher license for the relevant aina cultural expertise. Kahoiwai already has the developed and approved 33-unit curriculum which takes 18 months and requires 400 hours of student teaching. This would also serve the Ni'ihau community with its own unique dialect that is currently underserved and whose language is not recognized by HTSB. I have provided markup language to Representative Tarnas. Mahalo nui for your service to our communities!

HB-1345

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 2:11:04 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl Burghardt.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT. As a retired educator who follows the charter schools, especially those that continue the cultural practices of these islands I SUPPORT this bill that establishes a pilot program in the state public charter school commission to provide an educational pathway for teacher licensure or staff certification for cultural practitioners. I would add that I would like to see that funds are also included in the bill to support this endeavor.

HB-1345

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 9:26:30 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
W. Mapuana Waipa	Ke Ana La'ahana PCS	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of HB 1345