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David Miyashiro  
Executive Director

March 21, 2024

Committee on Education

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee,

**HawaiiKidsCAN strongly supports HR64/HCR79**, which requests the Board of Education, in partnership with the State Public Charter School Commission, to submit a report on increasing access to stable, suitable, and affordable facilities for public charter schools.

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a local nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawaii has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, has a transformational impact on our children and our state. We strongly believe that all students should have access to excellent educational opportunities, regardless of family income levels and circumstances.

Hawaii's public charter schools play a critical and growing role in our local education system. From Pre-K to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, there are 37 charter schools in the state serving more than 12,000 students on five islands; Hawaii Island, Kauai, Maui, Molokai, and Oahu. Unfortunately, charter schools have long struggled with attaining and sustaining high-quality facilities, a challenge that has been well-documented over the years.

While state appropriations to specifically support charter school facilities would be tremendously impactful, HR64/HCR79 is an important step forward in recognizing that there are additional strategies that could enable schools to address their facilities needs. This includes accessing unused or underutilized state facilities, exploring innovative financing options like revolving loan funds, and better supporting schools to access existing federal funds.

In uncertain economic times, it's more important than ever that our education system and legislature can exhaust the full range of opportunities to support public charter schools.

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro  
Founding Executive Director  
HawaiiKidsCAN

### Co-signers



Name	Zip code	Organization
Lillian Coltin	96813	
Phaedra Elisabeth Robinson	96734	RAI Hawaii LLC
Mataifono Tamapua	96707	



## *Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u*

*"No 'Ane'i Ko Kākou Ola"*

20 March 2024

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

Date of Hearing: 03-21-2024

Time: 2:00pm

Location: Conference Room 309

Testimony of Dr. Kauanoe Kamanā, Director, Principal

Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u

E ka Luna Ho'omalū Woodson, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalū La Chica me ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao,  
Aloha pumehana kākou,

Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HR64, that will help address long-standing issues surrounding the lack of safe and appropriate facilities for students, teachers and staff in Hawai'i Charter Schools.

My name is Dr. Kauanoe Kamanā, Director and Principal of Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u Iki, LPCS, (Nāwahī). We have an enrollment of 519 in grades K-8. Nāwahī's main campus is in Kea'au, Hawai'i and has two satellite sites, one in Wai'anae, O'ahu and the other in Waimea, Hawai'i.

HR64 provides specific strategies that will support our efforts at Nāwahī to increase and maintain secure learning spaces at our three school communities. Diversity of community comes with unique needs and requirements. Lack of space makes it difficult to keep up with the growing number of families who are requesting enrollment.

Like all other charter schools, we have the will and perservance to succeed, but need your support. As a public school, we are committed to our work and our families. Our children deserve no less.

Again, I urge passage of HR64.

Me ka mahalo 'oia'i'o,

Dr. Kauanoe Kamanā

Director, Principal

**HR-64**

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 3:11:17 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Taffi Wise	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this resolution. As the Hawaii State Constitution clarifies below:

"This article was renumbered from Article IX to be Article X by Const Con 1978 and election Nov 7, 1978.

The former Article X now appears as Article XI.

10.1

Public education

The State shall provide for the establishment, support and control of a statewide system of public schools free from sectarian control, a state university, public libraries and such other educational institutions as may be deemed desirable, **including physical facilities therefor...**"

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Taffi Wise

**LATE**

**HR-64**

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 8:27:57 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
LYDIA TRINIDAD	Lydia Trinidad, Principal, Kualapuu Public Charter School (Molokai)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the increasing access to stable, suitable, affordable, and SAFE facilities for ALL public charter schools.

Mahalo,

Lydia Trinidad

Principal

Kualapuu Public Charter School (Conversion, Molokai)