

1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Osa Tui, Jr.
President
Logan Okita
Vice President
Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer
Ann Mahi
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 283 - RELATING TO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL PER-PUPIL FUNDING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 283**, relating to public charter school per-pupil funding. The bill excludes from the charter school per-pupil funding calculation all amounts relating to programs that provide comparable benefits for all public school students regardless of whether the student is a Department of Education school student or a public charter school student.

Adequate funding is a long-standing issue for our public charter schools. Today, amounts received by charter schools fail to keep pace with the cost of providing and quality instruction. Charter schools were expected to receive \$8,745 per-pupil this school year, according to the Charter School Commission quoted in a Civil Beat article in August, most of which is disbursed toward operational expenses, often leaving charters to rely on private donations to fund extra costs including facilities and rent. Charter schools' per-pupil operating funds cover items like salaries, collective bargaining costs, curricula, school supplies, equipment, and utilities. Poorly funded charter schools are sometimes forced to hold classes in unstable temporary structures to the detriment of their students' learning and safety.

This bill will help the committee on weights, when calculating the per-pupil amount for our public charter schools, by asking them not to include amounts relating to programs that provide comparable benefits to students in both the DOE and in public charter schools. This will help our public charter schools with their funding issues.

To provide charter schools with the funds they need to succeed, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

JOSH GREEN. M.D.
GOVERNOR



CATHY K. IKEDA
CHAIRPERSON

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

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: SB283 Relating to Public Charter School Per-Pupil Funding
DATE: February 10, 2023
TIME: 3:00 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
FROM: Yvonne Lau, Interim Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

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

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony providing **COMMENTS on SB 283** which excludes from the charter school per-pupil funding calculation all amounts relating to programs that provide comparable benefits for all public school students regardless of whether the student is a Department of Education school student or a public charter school student.

The Commission appreciates the intent of this measure as it presents the opportunity for charter schools, the Commission, and the Department of Education to engage in meaningful and straightforward discussion on these programs that are accessible and available to all public students. These discussions can begin to address any misconceptions and allow for a clearer focus on ensuring that the needs of all public school students are being met.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:00:47 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ginelle rivera	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am a (parent, grandparent, student, employee, community member) and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 that would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, who are already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are amongst the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

Mahalo!

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 6:48:40 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please understand that all public charter schools fall under our Department of Education. What happened to equity? Why exclude special ed?

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 1:42:54 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
W. Mapuana Waipa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ke Ana La'ahana Public Charter School opposes SB 283. Charter School students have not had **comparable benefits or funding** as written in SB 283. We strongly oppose this proposal.

Mahalo,

W. Mapuana Waipa

Po'okula - Ke Ana La'ahana Public Charter School

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 1:45:20 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rand Kanoa Castro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB283.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 1:49:41 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marion K A Kapuniaia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is no justification for this descrimnatory recomendation!

The Hawaii State Constitution, to which you all raise your hand to uphold, requires that the State of Hawaii through its LEGISLATURE is required to provide all customary and necessary resources to educate ALL OF HAWAII'S PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS: WHETHER UNDER THE KULEANA OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OR THE CURRENT AUTHORIZER OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS, THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER COMMISSION, BY PROVIDING EQUITABLE FUNDING AND SERVICES WHICH SHALL BE DESIGNED TO ELEVATE EACH STUDENT TO REACH THEIR HIGHEST POTENTIAL. YOU, ALL, HAVE NO OTHER PURPOSE!!!

Thank you, M Kapuniaia, concerned citizen and Charter School Board Chair

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 1:51:09 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather Nakakura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern - I am greatly opposed to SB283 which would decrease or cut funds to our public charter schools. I am both a former parent of three children that attended several charters and an administrative of a charter school on the Big Island. For years charters have fought for equal funding and have never received it compared to their DOE counterparts. I have great concerns regarding this bill and what targeted funding they are referring to in the bill since we don't receive facilities funding and our Sped funding comes from the DOE. Please support charters and not SB 283. Thank you - Heather Nakakura

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 6:48:10 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Xavier	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a concerned citizen, taxpayer and a Highly Qualified Charter School teacher, I strongly oppose this bill. Having worked in a charter school the past 5 years, I have personally experienced and witnessed how charter schools are innovative and capable of meeting EVERY student's learning needs. The quality of education our keiki receives at charter schools is just as good as any other public school. Teachers teach to the Common Core Standards with a focus on STEAM and Reading. Charter schools are diverse and many are focused on fostering equity in education. Both our SPED students and English Language Learner's needs are being met, as we differentiate and monitor for their growth and progress. Many charter schools also gravitate towards social justice, which further meets and recognizes the diversity of Hawaii's increasingly growing population. Cutting funding for our charter schools keiki will go against the promise of equality and equity for all students in K-12 Charter Schools!

I would like to say that our charter school has provided needed support and environment to the students who attend. It has made a difference in my son's life and is impacting many students who are facing a lot of challenges. I would like to oppose this bill due to the fact that this bill, should it pass, would bring financial hardship to our school who is already struggling to provide for our students.

I am sure that the education of our children takes high priority. So I ask that you will strongly oppose this bill on behalf of our children.

Thank you,
Deissery Pestano

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 10:13:26 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Levenson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Charter school per pupil is NOT double dipping. Please do not pass this bill, it will unfairly penalize charter school students.

W. D. Keōmailani Case
65-1198 Hoku‘ula Rd
Kamuela, Hi. 96743

February 8, 2023

RELATING TO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL PER-PUPIL FUNDING. (SB 283)

This letter strongly opposes any cuts to the per-pupil funding for charter schools.

Charter schools in Hawai‘i continue to serve Hawai‘i’s children through their innovative and creative approaches to education. Over the past twenty years, charter schools throughout the islands have provided unique ‘āina-based learning opportunities that are culturally grounded and academically rigorous.

As a retired educator, a mother and grandmother of charter school graduates, an advocate of culture-base education opportunities for all of Hawai‘i’s children, a supporter of relevant stewardship that is promoted by community and school partnerships, and a practitioner of aloha ‘āina, I have experienced the remarkable success of charter school education. I would therefore ask you to support equitable funding for charter schools rather than contemplating any cut to the current per-pupil funding.

Me ke aloha,

W D Keomailani Case

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 8:31:00 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Gallagher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha all,

I am asking you to support funding for charter schools to maintain sustainable and stable per pupil allocations. Inequality has persisted in what students in our schools receive from state funding and what students in DOE schools receive. The systematic inequality involves numerous line items in the funding formally being allotted to DOE schools but not charter schools. There is no reasonable justification for this sustained disparity.

Public charter schools provide innovative teaching methods that help learners gain the needed skills for success in adulthood. The successful examples and data gained from these innovative practices can help all of us adapt to a changing world. I ask you to vote in favor of charter school funding. Our students need your help.

Mahalo, John Gallagher

High school Teacher

Connections Public Charter School

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 9:56:36 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nali Salas-Ferguson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB283. I live in Fern Forest and the nearest and best school for my 6 year old son is a charter school, Volcano School of Arts and Sciences. Please do not cut funding for charter schools. Thank you

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 9:54:54 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Herbert K. Laranang Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our Charters schools supports our overwhelming population growth. These schools like our Public Schools are not funded or equipped properly but they continue to strive and develop our young.

I oppose this bill as funding is an important part of our Charter Schools operational needs.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:00:56 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Wells	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

I strongly oppose SB283. As a parent of 3 children that attend a charter school I have to ask, "Why would my child receive less funding than a student who attends a DOE school?" The idea sounds discriminatory- to propose giving less to charter schools when they are often greatly unfunded. Look, my kid's school gives a high quality education just like other schools and should be appreciated just like other schools. If you don't believe so then go visit a few. Charter schools give parents more choices when choosing the best needs for their keiki. That is good for all.

Again, as a kanaka of this 'āina who pays taxes I strongly oppose this bill.

Mahalo, David

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:03:39 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Campbell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our schools have bad enough funding; Hawai'i has terrible ratings for schools; why reduce funding even more? Especially considering the charter schools are a more sustainable model, this bill would be detrimental not just to the future of na keiki Hawai'i, but to the future pool of local leaders we desperately need.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:03:07 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Clowe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Megan Clowe and I am a HS science teacher at a public charter school. Reducing funding per pupil for Hawaii public charter schools will have a negative impact on our haumāna (students). Public charter schools provide the keiki of Hawai`i with learning opportunities that are not available at traditional Hawai`i DOE schools. This funding is necessary to provide our students with an equitable and unique educational experience. Students often seek out alternative educational oppurtuinties, such as charter schools, because their needs are not being met in a traditional setting. At our charter school we are able to meet the unique needs of a varitey of learners and provide them with a safe and personalized learning environment. Taking any funding away from a charter school would be detrimental to all the students who attend as it would be taking learning opportunities away from them. Our charter school is Hawai`i focused and many native Hawaiian students travel from near and far to attend. They love that they get to learn about their culture and learn their language at school. I strongly urge you not to take this bill any further. Our students depend on their government officials to do what is right for them and for the future of Hawai`i. It is imperative that you do not support this bill because it is deterimental not only to our students, but to Hawai`i as well. Please do what is right for the students of Hawai`i.

Mahalo nui loa, Megan Clowe

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:08:57 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matt Warholic	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i's public charter schools begin to fill an a huge void in the educational opportunities available to our keiki. More funding and support is needed for this mission, not less!

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 9:52:09 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hulali Laranang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our charter schools are already underfunded and the passing of this bill will have a significant impact on its students, staff, and infrastructure! How much more are you willing to take away from our children? How much longer will teachers and staff be considered unimportant by you, politicians? Stop taking away from our children! My name is, Hulali Laranang, and I am AGAINST bill SB283.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:05:17 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Tarson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our public charter schools thrive and rely on funding they receive. If anything, this bill will take away from students and education altogether. I can't believe anyone would propose removing finances from the education of our children. After our child has attended the same reputable public charter school for the past 10 years, we've seen them work tirelessly to flourish and grow, despite the struggles that schools face. And despite government entities making changes that at times have made their difficult jobs even harder. Please do not take away what little is already given. PLEASE. For our children and their hardworking teachers.. These schools need to continue to succeed in order for the future to be the brightest possible. We all suffer down the line when the schools are negatively affected. And passing this bill will indeed have a negative affect. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:10:15 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vasyl Bagmut	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Public charter schools are great for my kids!

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:10:20 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rynella Pasco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill SB283 because our future are our keiki. Education is so important for them to become successful adults who will one day run our state. Cutting any funding for education is a derelict of duty as adults/parents to our keiki. Please do NOT pass this bill. Thank you for your time

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:20:08 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Boyer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill SB283. Charter schools are a huge asset to our state and provide such a huge service to our community. We should not be taking any funding away from them, and should be looking at ways to better support them instead.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:02:39 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Bagmut	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please don't cut funding from public charter schools.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:09:38 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noah Pacheco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need the funding for our Charter Schools! My children attend The Volcano School of Arts and Science on the Big Island of Hawai'i and they do an amazing job educating our children of Hawai'i!! These charter schools are awesome here in Hawai'i and not only teach basic curriculum but also the native Hawaiian culture along with other cultures that have been in Hawai'i for generations! We need to keep these schools in tact as they are and also better them for the future of the next generations of all of Hawai'i.

To: Michelle Kidani, Chair
Donna Kim, Vice Chair

For: Senate Bill 283

Date of Hearing: Feb. 10, 2023

Position: In Opposition

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee,

My name is Apollo Rygh and I am a student at Connections Public Charter School. If approved, SB283 could drastically impact our funding in a negative way; it could mean fewer teachers and less support for teachers and students. Our school is currently operating on a tight budget and further negative adjustments to per-pupil funding will definitely affect our school.

Connections and other charter schools provide a unique alternative to DOE schools, and a small-school environment for families seeking a personalized and differentiated education for their children.

We are seeking an opportunity to engage in conversations with you and other key legislators to design a new funding formula for charter schools that provides equal access to high quality education for students like me and my peers. SB283 should be amended, with clearer wording and less ambiguity.

Inequality has persisted in what students in our schools receive from state funding and what students in DOE schools receive. The systematic inequality involves numerous line items in the funding formally being allotted to DOE schools, but not charter schools. There is no reasonable justification for this sustained disparity.

While the original law that initiated charter schools in Hawai'i was negotiated with the acknowledgement that charter schools would need to establish their own facilities, the inequities that persist relate to line items that have no relationship to facilities being established.

Students like me who attend public charter schools deserve equal funding, as well as funding for our programs and resources; programs and resources that are available to DOE students.

I hope you consider students enrolled in charter schools and the quality of our education when making your decision on Friday.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Apollo Rygh
Eighth Grader at Connections PCS

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:28:05 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leone Sutton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to emphatically oppose this bill.

Charter schools are already dramatically underfunded and by passing this bill it will defund them even more!! Both of my children go to a charter school and deserve the best support and services that can be offered.

Do Not Pass this bill!!!

Mahalo,

Leone Sutton

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:31:20 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James M Sutton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is absolutely a horrible bill for students and their education at charter schools. This bill Excludes from the charter school per-pupil funding calculation all amounts relating to programs that provide comparable benefits for all public school students regardless of whether the student is a Department of Education school student or a public charter school student. Charter school budgets are already razor thin. Charter schools fulfil a huge need with rural students who live in economically depressed areas. Volcano School serves major communities on Big Island that are considered the most economically impoverished in the state. This bill short changes their Education by slashing funding and reduces their ability to excel in the future with academic studies.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:15:05 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Farahi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Public charters are already severely underfunded. This bill to slash funding more will negatively impact our Keiki. Public charters provide an alternative to traditional schools that are already crowded and stretched thin. Public charters should be funded at least the same as regular DOE schools. It is unethical to deprive children of the education they deserve.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:11:43 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tammy Rey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this measure because it will restrict funding to charter schools. The budget is strained as it is. Please do not pass SB283.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 9:58:57 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael McDaniel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I adamantly oppose SB283 to cut funding to charter schools. If anything we should be increasing funding to charter schools.

Charter schools on Hawaii Island have helped thousands of students succeed who would otherwise have failed in the public school system. The support they receive, the caring teachers they are mentored by and the no bullying environments they enjoy are worth every cent we allow these schools to use.

There is unabated bullying in the large public schools in my district with nothing being done about it for generations! Students tell me themselves how new kids are pummelled in their schools.

I have worked with local high school students every year for the last 15 years through my employer, who I am not allowed to disclose in testimony. The charter school students are consistently more engaged, clearly more supported and excel in academics and confidence in comparison to the other students. They show up in appropriate clothing and pay attention, they are supported in their school environments and their school employees care about them and their futures. These are the students perceptions as well from speaking with at least a thousand over the last 15 years. The other high school students are left flailing for assistance and do not know who to turn to ... and when they do they are often discounted, or even refuted by overwhelmed counselors who are burned out.

I am appalled that we are even considering cutting funds for our amazing charter schools who are saving our next generation of citizens. How about supporting our next generation instead?

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 9:42:32 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Sarbin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will substantially cut funding for charter schools, which are already underfunded. Please DO NOT cut funding to charter schools! Mahalo!

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 9:48:50 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jon Li	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose you underfunding charter schools, they are already underfunded enough! These are our children your affecting.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 9:48:24 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C Herrforth	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My children's charter school is the only option for education in our town. The only other schools are 25 minutes away and are already overcrowded and underfunded. His school provides a dire need for community members. Additionally my oldest son has an IEP with developmental delay as many of his classmates and they absolutely require additional resources. This bill will disenfranchise those in rural areas and further lead to shortage of professionals... as a doctor this is the number one reason I often consider leaving Hawai'i, lack of good educational options for my children.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:43:37 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pam Anderson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not stop funding to charter schools, they are a asset to my community ! Charter schools are where any child can go just like public schools so they should also have funding the same

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:31:44 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret Stirber	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB283.

To: Michelle Kidani, Chair
Donna Kim, Vice Chair

For: Senate Bill 283

Date of Hearing: Feb. 10, 2023

Position: In Opposition

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee,

My name is Manokalanipoemakanaokamalu Taber and I am a student at Connections Public Charter School. If approved, SB283 could drastically impact our funding in a negative way; it could mean fewer teachers and less support for teachers and students. Our school is currently operating on a tight budget and further negative adjustments to per-pupil funding will definitely affect our school.

Connections and other charter schools provide a unique alternative to DOE schools, and a small-school environment for families seeking a personalized and differentiated education for their children.

We are seeking an opportunity to engage in conversations with you and other key legislators to design a new funding formula for charter schools that provides equal access to high quality education for students like me and my peers. SB283 should be amended, with clearer wording and less ambiguity.

Inequality has persisted in what students in our schools receive from state funding and what students in DOE schools receive. The systematic inequality involves numerous line items in the funding formally being allotted to DOE schools, but not charter schools. There is no reasonable justification for this sustained disparity.

While the original law that initiated charter schools in Hawai'i was negotiated with the acknowledgement that charter schools would need to establish their own facilities, the inequities that persist relate to line items that have no relationship to facilities being established.

Students like me who attend public charter schools deserve equal funding, as well as funding for our programs and resources; programs and resources that are available to DOE students.

I hope you consider students enrolled in charter schools and the quality of our education when making your decision on Friday.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Manokalanipoemakanaokamalu Wailand Luke Taber
Seventh Grader at Connections Public Charter School

To: Michelle Kidani, Chair
Donna Kim, Vice Chair

For: Senate Bill 283

Date of Hearing: Feb. 10, 2023

Position: In Opposition

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee,

My name is Ke'ilikai Kaua and I am a student at Connections Public Charter School. If approved, SB283 could drastically impact our funding in a negative way; it could mean fewer teachers and less support for teachers and students. Our school is currently operating on a tight budget and further negative adjustments to per-pupil funding will definitely affect our school.

Connections and other charter schools provide a unique alternative to DOE schools, and a small-school environment for families seeking a personalized and differentiated education for their children.

We are seeking an opportunity to engage in conversations with you and other key legislators to design a new funding formula for charter schools that provides equal access to high quality education for students like me and my peers. SB283 should be amended, with clearer wording and less ambiguity.

Inequality has persisted in what students in our schools receive from state funding and what students in DOE schools receive. The systematic inequality involves numerous line items in the funding formally being allotted to DOE schools, but not charter schools. There is no reasonable justification for this sustained disparity.

While the original law that initiated charter schools in Hawai'i was negotiated with the acknowledgement that charter schools would need to establish their own facilities, the inequities that persist relate to line items that have no relationship to facilities being established.

Students like me who attend public charter schools deserve equal funding, as well as funding for our programs and resources; programs and resources that are available to DOE students.

I hope you consider students enrolled in charter schools and the quality of our education when making your decision on Friday.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Ke'ilikai Kaua
Eighth Grader at Connections PCS

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 9:53:48 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Riley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent with children who attended charter schools all their lives, please do not undercut them financially. Charter school education is vital to our kids. Favoring unionized schools show an institutional bias. This hurts our kids not helps them.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:52:07 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Nahale-a	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Nohea Nahale-a and I am the po‘okumu of Ka ‘Umeke Kā‘eo Hawaiian Immersion PCS in Keaukaha, Hilo, Hawai‘i. I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

We urge you to oppose SB283 and feel free to reach out to me or other Charter School Directors for more information and if there are any questions regarding our opposition and concerns.

Mahalo nui.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:53:21 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pualililehua Carriaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha no kākou,

I am a parent of a student at Ka ‘Umeke Ka‘eo PCS, and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 that would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, who are already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are amongst the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding. Please do the right thing by our keiki.

Me Ka Ha'aha'a,

Pualililehua Carriaga

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:51:41 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lehua Miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 that would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, who are already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are amongst the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public-school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:56:44 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Loki Vares	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent of a student at Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo PCS and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 that would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, who are already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are amongst the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:57:35 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isaac Ahuna	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent of two (soon to be three) keiki that are currently attending Ka ‘Umeke Kā‘eo PCS here in Hilo, Hawai‘i, and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 that would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, who are already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are amongst the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:03:25 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Whitehall	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a **(parent)** and I am in strong **OPPOSITION** to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

Mahalo

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 9:47:40 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wai Lin Duncan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaiian Public charter schools are instrumental to our keiki in Hawaii. Public charter schools provide educational opportunities we could not get at a public school. Many Ohana do not have the financial abilities to afford greater educational opportunities. Funding to Public charter schools should be protected. I strongly oppose bill SB283 and I hope those in favor reconsider their position.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 9:01:12 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Piper Selden	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Michelle Kidani, Chair

Donna Kim, Vice Chair

For: Senate Bill 283

Date of Hearing: Feb. 10, 2023

Position: In Opposition

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to write my testimony in opposition to SB283. My name is Piper Selden, and I am an English teacher at Connections Public Charter School. I teach at the very same school that both of my children attended, both having graduated with honors.

This bill is important to me because there is a real need for public charter schools, and those schools should be fully funded, not kneecapped, which is what SB283 would do to their funding. Please let me tell you a bit about myself, and how I came to be a teacher at a public charter school.

My son should have attended Waiakeawaena Elementary, but they were UNABLE to offer him an inclusive setting for special education. My son is autistic but high functioning. Initially, the team at Waiakeawaena told me that a school counselor had evaluated him and

found nothing "wrong" with him. I was told that because he wasn't "retarded" (yes, they used that word) that he didn't need services. This shocked me, having moved from the State of Oregon with a full folder of his medical records showing otherwise. I was told that if he was, in fact, autistic (doubting me), that he would need to be in a fully self-contained classroom. It was that or nothing. So, we chose Connections Public Charter School, where my son was able to have an aide and be in a classroom with his typical peers.

Years later, my daughter was diagnosed with cancer. We had to leave the islands for her treatment. The oncologists at Kapiolani on Oahu couldn't even treat her. We spent a year and ten days away from home at Seattle Children's Hospital. And when we returned to Hawaii, my daughter wanted to join her friend at what they called a "real school." She enrolled at Keaau High School, but that school could not accommodate her medical appointments every three months back to the mainland. So, guess what? We enrolled her back to Connections. We did so because the charter school was willing to work with us so that she could stay in school and do school work when she was on the mainland for treatment. Keaau was unwilling to do that for her.

Here's the deal: Not every child is a cookie cutter typical kid. My son wasn't. He needed a place to thrive, a place that could meet needs that he couldn't get at school in our geographic location. My daughter wasn't a cookie cutter kid either. Some students have unique needs that just are not met at a regular DOE school. And this need for public charter schools that CAN meet those needs is important. It's why I went back to school and earned two master's degrees and a teaching certificate... so that I could contribute to a community of educators dedicated to teaching at-risk youth and those who don't fit the regular model.

I have taught at a DOE school (Waiakea High School), and I've taught at UH Manoa, UH Hilo, and Hawaii Community College. But Connections is my heart-home school because they were able to take care of my children when they were in need. They were able to make accommodations for my children when the DOE schools were either unwilling or unable to do so. And so, I give back to this educational community that made my own children's education a priority. I'm paying it forward for other people's children.

Please don't gut an important educational option for Hawaii's youth. Students in my class are, in fact, at risk. Many come from difficult family situations, and this place is their safe space to learn and become contributing members of society.

One size does not fit all. It is important for you to know this. There are more at-risk students in the State of Hawaii than maybe you know there are, and they need an option like public charter schools to not only learn and grow, but to thrive.

I ask you to oppose SB283 for myself and all of the wonderful, unique keiki in Hawaii. My own and those I teach. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Piper Selden

Connections Public Charter School

piperselden@gmail.com

(808) 937-2233

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:38:14 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sunn Sarsfield	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ALOHA,

MY NAME IS SUNN SARSFIELD, PARENT OF A CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENT. I STRONGLY OPPOSE THE CUTTING OF FUNDING TO THE CHARTER PROGRAMS THAT ARE IN PLACE TO DEVELOPE AND ENCOURAGE THE MINDS OF OUR FUTURE. FUNDING CUTS TO EDUCATION SHOULD NEVER BE AN OPTION. PERHAPS WE SHOULD ALL TAKE AN EXTENSIVE AUDIT INTO OUR ELECTED POLITICIANS-LEADERS PAY. IF CUTS ARE TO BE MADE THAT IS WHERE IT SHOULD START. LEAD BY EXAMPLE. WHEN THERE IS LITTLE FOOD TO EAT AT HOME AND MONEY IS TIGHT, PARENTS ARE THE 1ST TO SACRIFICE FOR THE FAMILY. AS ELECTED LEADERS OF OUR STATES FAMILIES YOU ALL SHOULD SACRIFICE. START WITH THE ONES WHO PUT FORTH THIS BILL. MAHALO FOR YOU TIME.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:28:10 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristin Wolfgang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I have worked as a teacher in Hawaii and Texas since 2000. I worked at Ka'u High and Pahala Elementary from 2000-2012, then at NYOS Charter in Austin, Texas from 2012-2017 and now at Volcano School of Arts and Sciences from 2017-now. My four children have attended all of these schools plus others. My two daughters are currently at Waiakea High School.

I mention this to let you know that I have a lot of experience as a teacher and as a parent with both regular DOE schools and with public charter schools.

I can tell you that there are pros and cons to charters and DOE schools, as there are to all schools. But removing per pupil funding from all charter schools is a radical and irrational proposal. Charter schools already provide their own transportation and facilities funding. Can you imagine your local public school having to pay for their own buildings or bus service?

Now imagine that those schools who do provide their own facilities and bus service would have to find more money to pay teachers, provide curriculum and more.

Any cuts to charter school funds will substantially change how they are able to provide education. In many areas, especially, but not only here on Hawaii Island, charter schools fill gaps between DOE schools. We serve students who are underserved elsewhere.

Please reconsider this proposal,

Mahalo,

Kristin Wolfgang, parent and teacher

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:56:14 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Kahaunaele	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 that would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, who are already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are amongst the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

Donna K. Kahaunaele

Hilo, Hawai'i

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:33:47 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa Cook	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

charter Schools are already underfunded. How would this help our children? Please take a sincere look at what you are proposing . Would you want your child's school to loose any funding ? Would it be in their best interest ? My children all attend a charter school and are in the happiest most well rounded environment they have ever been in compared to thier past public school history. The way they have flourished and continue to progress has been remarkable. Please do not take more fund away from these charter schools.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:25:11 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MICHAEL LINNOLT	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators, **I OPPOSE SB283**, as it clearly will cause further cuts in funding for our precious charter schools. These schools are **already underfunded**, and this bill will result in even LESS funding available for charter school students!

Hawaii's charter schools often place more emphasis on native Hawaiian issues, sustainability, language, culture than the public school system does, and are thus vital for continuation of our core values of Kapu Aloha. These values have been the foundation of our historical lifestyle, and to prevent even further erosion of such, it is vital our legislature support any and all native focussed education, to the maximum of its ability.

Mahalo for your thoughtful consideration of maximal funding for our charter schools!

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 9:50:09 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
GEORGE EDWARD REEBERG	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose bill SB283 on grounds that my child attends a charter school on the Big Island. Having experience with public schools and now a charter school, I find the academic standards to be higher, the faculty highly involved and the students very much engaged.

Legislators, do your children go to private, public or charter schools? If you reserve the right to answer that question aloud, then you should also respect childrens' rights to attend a school of their choice, one in which they thrive and have the prospect of a bright future free of bullying and discrimination.

Certain states will refund taxpayers for sending their kids to charter schools; is this the case in Hawaii?

Mahalo for your time,

George Reeberg

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:12:48 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Honeyrose Watai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Bill SB283.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:05:37 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Olson-Moore	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent and former teacher and school counselor. I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter Schools are already stretched thin and strained for money and resources, yet they are made to follow the same laws and rules as DOE schools and must provide comparable services. Charter schools receive NO dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding. Please Oppose SB 283! Mahalo!

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:50:05 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
FUMIKA INOUE	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 that would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, who are already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are amongst the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:54:10 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharra Dancel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE SB283. Our Hawaiian immersion charter school keiki already get \$41 less per pupil than other DOE public school keiki. This would only exacerbate the disparity and targets a large amount of us k̄naka Hawai'i and our keiki.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:08:32 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Riain Noa Sarsfield	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Michael Riain Noa Sarsfield oppose SB 283, Charter programs provide students with a great education. Elected State officials as well as those who created SB 283 should reduce there hourly/salary wages, and pensions to help with the State budget.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:10:39 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charissa Kelekolio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:17:08 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kahikina Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools; which is already 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:20:40 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Osorio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent, employee and community member and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

Mahalo nui,

Kelly Osorio

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:22:52 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sierra S McDaniel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a resident of the Puna district and parent of a third grade charter school student. Charter schools absolutely deserve to have equal per-pupil funding as the general fund per-pupil amount. Charter schools fill an essential educational function in our communities and would be hurt by reduced funding. I oppose SB 283 that would reduce funding for these critical resources.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:24:56 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hawk Hanoa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in opposition to bill SB 283. Reducing funding to charter schools will only further continue to negatively impact the longevity of our islands. In general, public and charter are already underfunded as it is, along with the several other entities we need Daily. Now, with this bill you wish to impact not only our present but our future as well? These types of ruling are what makes our people move away. Our children aren't something any of us can afford to cut corners on now more than ever. They need to know that the governing entities in Hawaii will continue to support them in the hopes that they will grow and support the community.

This isn't just reducing funding, it's reducing the potential for our children which in turn with impact our entire community as it already is. Don't forsake the children's future.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:39:06 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike D'Amico	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not decrease the charter school per pupil funding. As the difference might seem as if charter schools are benefitting more, this is not accurate. The funding we currently receive is adequate, and allows continuity and equity of education for the students who choose an alternative method of learning. Often times, students in charter schools need extra support, or cannot receive the education they desire in other public school settings (Like full immersion Hawaiian studies).

To continue to provide support for our students, I humbly request that you do not decrease the charter school per pupil amount of funding. Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration!

Aloha,

Mike D'Amico

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:52:14 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mckenzie Barney	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Charter schools are already underfunded. Our children deserve better education opportunities in the state of Hawaii

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:54:04 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edward Halealoha Ayau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB283 OPPOSITION

I am a parent of three keiki who attend Ka ‘Umeke Kā‘eo Public Charter School in Keaukaha on the island of Hawai‘i and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 that would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, who already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are amongst the most fundamental services needed to support student success.

Additionally charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention.

Charter School and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding. My opposition therefore is based upon the my keikis legal rights to equal protection under the law and this proposed bill represents a potential violation of their due process. Please do not allow this to happen by OPPOSING SB283, mahalo.

Me ke aloha,

Edward Halealoha Ayau

Father to Kaniaulono Hāpai, Hā‘enaala Hāpai and Kūaea Hapāi.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:54:49 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
?Auli?i Nathaniel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our closest public school is 30 minutes away so my keiki have been going to a charter school in our neighborhood. They have been thriving and are getting the educational services they have not been able to receive elsewhere. Please oppose SB283. Mahalo!

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:57:06 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Shaw	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Education modalities and styles exist in a multitude of ways. It's important that we resource charters equitably as an option for education and this Bill does not support that.

This is especially important for our Hawaiian immersion charters who have used the charter system to make needed space for Hawai'i teaching methodologies and content.

Pleasw oppose SB283.

Mahalo,

Noel

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:57:45 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Xiomara Mejia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Charter Schools are considerably underfunded. This bill will further hurt the students education as less funding means less teachers and support staff for our students.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:04:34 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nalani Garmon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent and I am in **strong OPPOSITION** to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve **equitable access** to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:05:08 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Kanahale	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou. I am a parent of a charter school student and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 that would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, who already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are amongst the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:06:18 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris King-Gates	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it would cut funding to Charter schools which are already under funded.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:09:27 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica Wells	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Charter schools serve a critical function in our community, which is largely rural, and underserved. In fact, I believe that all funding should be increased for all schools, including charter schools. Coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, you have a greater obligation than ever before, to ensure the future of our children, and thus our state.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:10:11 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahana Kaawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation recieved by charter schools, which already recieves 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools recieves no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserves equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:11:56 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deanna Jaeger	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

I humbly ask you to vote in OPPOSITION to SB283.

Mahalo nui,

Deanna Jaeger

Parent of student at Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:13:52 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Akala N Neves Chinchilla	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an employee (a teacher) of a charter school as well as a parent with two sons enrolled at a charter school, and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283, which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding. Charter schools have been actively supporting and serving not just their students, but families, and communities.

To: Michelle Kidani, Chair
Donna Kim, Vice Chair

For: Senate Bill 283

Date of Hearing: Feb. 10, 2023

Position: In Opposition

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee,

My name is Kamalani Tahutini and I am a student at Connections Public Charter School. If approved, SB283 could drastically impact our funding in a negative way; it could mean fewer teachers and less support for teachers and students. Our school is currently operating on a tight budget and further negative adjustments to per-pupil funding will definitely affect our school.

Connections and other charter schools provide a unique alternative to DOE schools, and a small-school environment for families seeking a personalized and differentiated education for their children.

We are seeking an opportunity to engage in conversations with you and other key legislators to design a new funding formula for charter schools that provides equal access to high quality education for students like me and my peers. SB283 should be amended, with clearer wording and less ambiguity.

Inequality has persisted in what students in our schools receive from state funding and what students in DOE schools receive. The systematic inequality involves numerous line items in the funding formally being allotted to DOE schools, but not charter schools. There is no reasonable justification for this sustained disparity.

While the original law that initiated charter schools in Hawai'i was negotiated with the acknowledgement that charter schools would need to establish their own facilities, the inequities that persist relate to line items that have no relationship to facilities being established.

Students like me who attend public charter schools deserve equal funding, as well as funding for our programs and resources; programs and resources that are available to DOE students.

I hope you consider students enrolled in charter schools and the quality of our education when making your decision on Friday.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Kamalani Tahutini
8th grader at Connections PCS

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:20:07 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison Makekau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent and community member and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:20:11 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Billi Jo Pike	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

.

I am a parent and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:21:44 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Boyd	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I opposit ANY charter school loosing funding. They already receive less than DOE schools and do such a great job. We should be supporting them becasue they are educating ALL of our students. There should not be any difference from a child of hawaii enrolled at a charter school or DOE.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:24:38 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Loren Kahakua	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a (parent, grandparent, student, employee, community member) and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:24:39 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mokonuiarangi Makekau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:25:33 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shawna sale	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent of a public charter school child and as a teacher working at a public charter school, I strongly oppose bill SB 283. As a tax payer and extremely hard worker of the DOE it astounds me that there are measures introduced to infringe upon the right to an equal education for ANY pupil in the public school system. We all are perfectly aware that segregation continues to exist in our school system due to government funding, which varies from state to state. Charter schools are public schools and deserve to have the same per pupil funding as all DOE schools. Why is there a continuous attempt to deny the right of my child and my students' rights to equity in education, which we know comes from equity in funding. Why does the State of Hawaii continue to make this such a financialy difficult road for PublicCharter schools? Why do I keep having to send in oppositional testimony to measures like this EVERY year??? Why does Hawaii continue to discriminate and hold public charter schools down through cutting per pupil funding? There are so many amazing Charter Schools doing amazing things in Hawaii. Teachers of Charter schools and parents in charter schools volunteer so many extra hours to make things happen that we can't afford in our budgets. Please consider reward instead of continous discrimination and punitive funding cuts. We are not a thorn in your side, we are productive members who work hard to evolve and innovate education. Please stop trying to cut us down.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:25:43 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Hoffman Gilbert	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I highly Oppose SB283. This is a very small Charter School. The staff, families and students who are involved with Volcano School of Arts and Science are a tight knit, caring community. The school budget is already tight as it is. Taking away any type of funding would be detrimental. If anything, they need and deserve more funding! The state needs to prioritize their spending, education should be at the top of the list! {Not allocating over \$1 million for frivolous ideas like "thinking about how your going to solve the traffic/roadway problems!" Over \$1 million to do a study?!! But take more away from schools?! You have lost your integrity, and morals.} Do the right thing and reject this Bill!!

Jamie,

A concerned parent

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:27:00 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Kennedy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Ashley Kennedy, and I oppose bill SB283, due to the fact that the schools are already understaffed and struggling. I feel that the last place funding should ever be pulled from is a place in which is educating our future generation to become independent and successful adults. There are many places in which are not considered as advantageous, and that should be something to take into consideration before making a choice that can lead to the destruction of a good education for our keiki.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:27:31 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
peter kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please dont make it harder for students to get an education. Do the right thing. Wake up you!

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:27:49 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chantel Perrin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:29:10 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lei ?ilima Rapozo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:31:17 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Gilbertson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a (parent , community member) and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:32:34 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayne Perrin Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:33:59 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Michelle Kidani, Chair

Donna Kim, Vice Chair

For: Senate Bill 283

Date of Hearing: Feb. 10, 2023

Position: In Opposition

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee,

My name is Jesse and I am a student at Connections Public Charter School. If approved, SB283 could drastically impact our funding in a negative way; it could mean fewer teachers and less support for teachers and students. Our school is currently operating on a tight budget and further negative adjustments to per-pupil funding will definitely affect our school.

Connections and other charter schools provide a unique alternative to DOE schools, and a small-school environment for families seeking a personalized and differentiated education for their children.

We are seeking an opportunity to engage in conversations with you and other key legislators to design a new funding formula for charter schools that provides equal access to high quality education for students like me and my peers. SB283 should be amended, with clearer wording and less ambiguity.

Inequality has persisted in what students in our schools receive from state funding and what students in DOE schools receive. The systematic inequality involves numerous line items in the funding formally being allotted to DOE schools, but not charter schools. There is no reasonable justification for this sustained disparity.

While the original law that initiated charter schools in Hawai'i was negotiated with the acknowledgement that charter schools would need to establish their own facilities, the

inequities that persist relate to line items that have no relationship to facilities being established.

Students like me who attend public charter schools deserve equal funding, as well as funding for our programs and resources; programs and resources that are available to DOE students.

I hope you consider students enrolled in charter schools and the quality of our education when making your decision on Friday.

Mahalo for your consideration,

JesseJames Dean Douglas, 8th Grade Connections Student

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:35:02 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dreama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:35:11 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charla Ann Kahele	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou, my name is Charla Ann Kahele. I am a parent of two children attending Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo PCS in Hilo, Hawai'i. I am strongly OPPOSED to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools like ours. Charter schools already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding! I urge you to remember that all public school students are required to follow the same guidelines under the DOE. They should be treated equally when it comes to the PPA. Mahalo nui for your consideration.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:38:38 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather Penfield	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill SB283. I strongly oppose less funding for charter schools, or any schools. Charter schools are already underfunded, I strongly disagree with limiting any resources for education. Instead I would like to see more funding and a strong commitment from elected government officials in supporting better education for our Keiki. Listen to your constituents. You work for us. Why would you underfund and make life harder for teacher, students and parents? Do the right thing and protect our Keiki and show them you are committed to not becoming a third world country. Show them you are committed to a better future, including well funded education in charter schools.

Concerned and angry,

Heather Penfed

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:38:47 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mikihala Mahi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an employee at Ka Umeke Kaeo Hawaiian Immersion Public Charter School in Hilo and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

I also feel that our Legislators need to be more familiar with charter schools and the services we provide, which is the same as any other DOE school. They need to stop thinking that we provide subpar education. Charter schools are sometimes a much better option for our haumana who can get lost in the sea of students at a regular school. We follow the same guidelines as any other school because we are still a STATE ENTITY. What most people are not used to, is the medium in which we teach our students or the curriculum used to teach our students. What we value most are our children. Please treat them with the same respect as any other student here.

If there are ever any questions about what we teach or how our students learn, I challenge our legislators to come and visit our school and see how we operate.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:41:45 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaysha Mauga-Kaili (Anderson-Letreta)	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am the parent of Kalilia and Kiona Kaili Whom attends Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo Charter school and I am also a community member of Panaewa Hawaiian Homestead and their grandparents sits on the board. Acting Vice president and Project coordinator. We are in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to SB283 which would effectively reduce the per pupil allocation (PPA) received by charter schools. Charter schools receives **NO** dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, Charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:47:01 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gene (Jenny) Gragas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Parent and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:48:51 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Briann Starkey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to our Legislators,

My name is Briann Starkey and was born and raised on Molokai. I am a Kula Kaiapuni teacher and a parent at Kualapuu Conversion Charter School on the island of Molokai and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 that would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, who are already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are amongst the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

This would negatively impact our school community and our greater Molokai community!

Mahalo!

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:49:59 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ilene Danielle Barro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our public charter schools are the only options for many big island families that live in rural communities. They are already severely under funded and I oppose this bill.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:51:52 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Olivia greenwood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our hawaii public charter schools need full support from our state, and this support is bettering parents lives.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:53:14 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Barnard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

I am writing to oppose SB283 which would cut funding for charter schools. i know how much families appreciate alternatives to regular DOE schools in my area. So many of the students and parents I know have withdrawn their students from non-charter schools because of bullying, because their child(ren) have special needs or learning differences that make it more difficult to attend a large school. Hawaii's schools all have enormous challenges including the safety of their children and teachers. Charter schools just have the added challenge of not having full funding for facilities nor for transportation. All our students deserve better. Investing in our young people now makes more sense than investing in prisons and other social services down the road,

Mahalo,

Lisa Barnard

PO Box 253

Volcano, HI 96785

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:58:40 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emilia Kaawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a paren, an employee, and a community member and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 1:06:18 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
agnes repasi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose of this bill!

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:58:59 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Davelyn Lokelani Han	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

My name is Lokelani Han and I was born and raised on Molokai. I am a Kula Kaiapuni teacher and a former parent at Kualapuu Conversion Charter School on the island of Molokai. I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 that would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, who are already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are amongst the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

This measure would negatively impact our Kualapu‘u school community as well as our greater Molokai community as a whole!

Mahalo!

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 1:07:27 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kailey K Lapenia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a teacher and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 1:16:54 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Meyer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposing this bill based on the affects it'll have on funding for charter schools. Charter schools are a valuable aspect to the families of Hawai'i. Hawaiian immersion schools in particular because they are focusing on 'Ōlelo Hawai'i when Hawai'i is a leading place on language revival in the world.

these schools are very important and could use more funding along with public schools.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 1:21:27 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Stubbs	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 1:28:08 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradley Greenlee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My children go to a charter school, because the state hasn't provided a public school that's closer than 30 minutes away. These schools are already underfunded. Please don't short them more money.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 1:38:05 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dena Nakahashi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi,

My name is Dena Nakahashi and I live in Volcano. My 2 children go to Volcano School of Arts and Science.

I oppose SB 283. Our charter schools need more funding, not less.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 1:40:53 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Nickens	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 1:42:28 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samantha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a community member. I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 1:48:08 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolz\$	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Michelle Kidani, Chair

Donna Kim, Vice Chair

For: Senate Bill 283

Date of Hearing: Feb. 10, 2023

Position: In Opposition

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to write my testimony in opposition to SB283. My name is Caroline Hauanio , and I am a student at Connections Public Charter School.

This bill is important to me because my best friend goes to Connections Public Charter school. I know how important this is for her to be able to stay in this school. It's small unlike public schools and because the classrooms are small, teachers are able to focus and help each of them individually. Unlike public schools which I am familiar with, there are so many students that teachers are not able to help every single student. My friend loves this school because she has the freedom to do ILP's and will get the help she needs. I strongly don't think you should cut charter schools funding. Please.

Please consider opposing this bill. Thank you for your time and efforts

Sincerely,

Caroline Hauanio

Connections Public Charter School

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 1:49:34 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendi M Okazaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB283. It will lower the amount my school gets per pupil. They already have a difficult time having enough teachers and support staff to provide for the students with the current budget. If passed, it will negatively impact the students because they will not be able to get all the support they need.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 1:49:35 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mica Mahalak	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Michelle Kidani, Chair

Donna Kim, Vice Chair

For: Senate Bill 283

Date of Hearing: Feb. 10, 2023

Position: In Opposition

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to write my testimony in opposition to SB283. My name is Mica Mahalak, and I am a student at Connections Public Charter School.

This bill is important to me because

Because my school is a school that if this bill was passed then it would be affected. I am testifying because I am a part of the student body government and I have a close relationship with the staff and students that this bill would affect. Many of the great staff members that work so closely with me would have to be cut because of a lack of money. I

would like to put my thoughts out there so you may hear them. This issue important to me because i know as a student i would not do as well in a different school if this bill was passed. This school is unique because it has allowed me to do an ILP to leave school and go sailing for 3ed period.

Please consider opposing this bill. Thank you for your time and efforts

Sincerely,

Mica Mahalak

Connections Public Charter School

mmahalak@connectionspcs.org

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 1:54:27 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel McLain	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My children go to Na Wai Ola Public Charter School and they are learning so much and thriving there. Cutting funds would greatly harm all the pupils there and at every other charter school. The school needs all the resources they can get to provide the best learning opportunities they can. I would be so incredibly disappointed and angered to hear their funding was cut. We need to put our keiki first, not last. Please oppose this ridiculous bill and keep all the funds for our charter schools who go above and beyond to provide education in all areas and teach our keiki about their beautiful Hawaiian culture!!

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 1:57:03 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moana Ching	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Moana Ching, I am a Mākua and a Governing Board Member at Ka ‘Umeke Kā‘eo Public Charter School in Keaukaha, Hilo. I submit this written testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to SB283. Our school, and other charter schools across the pae ‘āina, already subsists on 41% less Per Pupil Allocation (PPA). We receive no dedicated facilities, food, or transportation funds. In addition to that, we also receive no dedicated funding for other basic student support services and administrative support that would ensure our hāumana thrive. Our children, along with other charter school kamali‘i, deserve the same level of dedicated support. Please ensure our haumāna have equal access to quality education and vote in **OPPOSITION** of SB283.

Mahalo nō,

Moana Ching

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 1:57:23 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmin Thomas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Michelle Kidani, Chair

Donna Kim, Vice Chair

For: Senate Bill 283

Date of Hearing: Feb. 10, 2023

Position: In Opposition

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to write my testimony in opposition to SB283. My name is Jasmin Thomas, and I am a 11th grader at Connections Public Charter School.

This bill is important to me because I have been attending this school since the 2nd grade and over the years I have seen people flourish and pass with flying colors. Lots of kids feel more comfortable in charter schools because of the small, safe learning environment along with the extra academic support from teachers. One of the only reasons I have gotten as far as I have is because of the extra academic support that the teachers and E.A's have provided here. I also feel most comfortable here because all the teachers and staff know each other as more than just the student/teacher relationship, but as person to person. I also strongly feel that cutting the funding to charter schools could decrease the states overall learning percentages due to the fact that the

kids who are so used to learning in charter school environments could have a harder time adjusting or learning to D.O.E schools. This school has been the only school that I have genuinely felt safe to be in and that has to do with the fact that everybody knows each other.

Please consider opposing this bill. Thank you for your time and efforts

Sincerely,

Jasmin Thomas

Connections Public Charter School

jthomas@connectionspcs.org

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 1:58:36 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Gillingwater	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I object to cutting funding for education.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 1:59:33 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ross Montgomery	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in opposition to SB283 because both of my children are in charter school at Volcano School for arts and science. I have looked at our other school options available, and the education that Volcano school for arts and sciences provides my children is superior. I feel that charter schools are an important and vital part to Hawaii, public school, education and funding for these types of programs should not be diminished.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:01:30 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ana Tufui	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Michelle Kidani, Chair

Donna Kim, Vice Chair

For: Senate Bill 283

Date of Hearing: Feb. 10, 2023

Position: In Opposition

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to write my testimony in opposition to SB283. My name is Ana Tufui, and I am a student at Connections Public Charter School.

This bill is important to me because I want to help keep charter schools open. I feel it is unfair how charter schools get less money for each student attending school. What makes us any less worthy of the money than students at public schools ? Charter schools give students more help and with the money cut we are going to be losing our staff, which will cause our schools to close. Some of us really need the extra help our school gives us, and some of us don't work well and will struggle in public schools. This will cause job losses and will mess with our learning.

Please consider opposing this bill. Thank you for your time and efforts

Sincerely,

Ana Tufui

Connections Public Charter School

atufui@connectionsps.org

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:01:43 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zaven-Kamakana Kodani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Michelle Kidani, Chair

Donna Kim, Vice Chair

For: Senate Bill 283

Date of Hearing: Feb. 10, 2023

Position: In Opposition

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to write my testimony in opposition to SB283. My name is Zaven-Kamakana Kodani, and I am a softmore at Connections Public Charter School.

This bill is important to me because

Its not right for our schools bill and other school bills to be halved because the staff needs to be paid for the time they put into teaching us, the funds for the equipment, tools, and supplies for the schools to keep running. Im testifying because the bill got halved from 8000 to 4000 and that is a bit to low of an amout of money for the amout of kids and staff that needs to be paid. The reason why this is a issue for me personaly is that people are going to be fired for the fact about

the small amount of money. I would be affected by the fact that good teachers are going to be gone and kids won't graduate if this happens.

Please consider opposing this bill. Thank you for your time and efforts

Sincerely,

Zaven-Kamakana Kodani

Connections Public Charter School

zkodani@connectionspsc.org

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:02:43 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corie Yanger	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Corie Yanger and I am writing to oppose the funding decrease proposed in SB 283. I am a mother of two young children, one of whom (7 years old) is a charter school attendee and the other who I hope will soon be a charter school student (preschool). My daughter's school is small, but it provides an invaluable service to our rural community of Volcano and to surrounding rural towns. The teachers and staff stretch to make quality education available to our children and from my view, my daughter is thriving and feels safe and nourished because of what the teachers and staff at her school make happen. Many of the families attending our school are low income and of native Hawaiian ancestry- in my mind it makes sense to increase funding to charter schools so that they can continue to serve the families and communities who need them most. At the very least, funding should remain unchanged but most certainly not cut. Please do not pass SB 283 so that our charter schools do not increasingly burdened by low funding.

Mahalo nui for your time and attention,

Corie Yanger

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:05:10 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander Kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Michelle Kidani, Chair

Donna Kim, Vice Chair

For: Senate Bill 283

Date of Hearing: Feb. 10, 2023

Position: In Opposition

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to write my testimony in opposition to SB283. My name is Alexander Kim, and I am a student at Connections Public Charter School. This bill is important to me because The bill proposes a cut to funding for charter schools. I find this to be detrimental to charter schools especially Connections and the students enrolled in them because the proposed cut would drastically limit the amount of resources and staff allocated to the students, who in many cases need that special attention because they cannot or have trouble competing in other schools academically or socially. Connections PCS also gives students a opportunity to graduate early through ILPs or gain college credit while still in high school, a large portion of the students who attend this school who are less academically or socially gifted than other students would be metaphorical fish out of water in other schools and would be bullied, ridiculed and mocked. Im not going to pretend that Connections is perfect or the right fit for some students, it isn't but cutting the funding for charter schools would be detrimental for the students who go there and the community as a whole.

Please consider opposing this bill. Thank you for your time and efforts

Sincerely,

Alexander Kim

Connections Public Charter School

school email:

akim@connectionspcs.org

personal email:

ax.jk.1000@gmail.com

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:09:49 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Lauwa`e Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a employee and I strongly OPPOSE SB283 that would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools. Charter schools already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. They receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are amongst the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:15:01 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laci leialoha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Public charter schools should get just as much if not more funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:15:11 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kulani Calina	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a **parent** and I am in strong **OPPOSITION** to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools.

Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention.

Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding. My son is a Papa Malaa`o (Kindergarten) student at Ka `Umeke Kā`eo. Please keep his education Quality, mahalo.

Kūlani Calina

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:26:54 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KAYLE ALAMEDA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 that would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, who are already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are amongst the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:29:44 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonnie Stebbins	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a teacher and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:33:52 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen R Henderson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a **parent** and I am in **strong OPPOSITION to SB283** that would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, who are already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools.

Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are amongst the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention.

Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding. Please ensure this is the case and do not allow this bill to pass.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:38:31 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sophia Grafton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a mother of 4 children in Na Wai Ola charter school. I choose charter schools because I like the flexibility of the curriculum while still keeping up with state/ national standards. I love how charter schools feel like family. Please support the children in charters schools.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:39:57 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malani Alameda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 that would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, who are already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are amongst the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:42:56 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pua Paglinawan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a community member and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, who already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:43:17 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daline Arce	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Michelle Kidani, Chair

Donna Kim, Vice Chair

For: Senate Bill 283

Date of Hearing: Feb. 10, 2023

Position: In Opposition

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to write my testimony in opposition to SB283. My name is Daline Arce, and I am an after-school site coordinator for Studio Shaka at Connections Public Charter School. As someone who has been both a student and an educator in Studio Shaka, I can proudly say that it has helped me change my life for the better. I have learned things I wouldn't have ever been able to in a regular classroom setting. After-school programs provide a safe and supportive environment for students to continue learning and growing outside of the traditional classroom. These programs offer a variety of engaging and educational activities, such as tutoring, visual arts, sports, and hands-on STEM projects. These opportunities allow students to explore their interests and develop new skills for the outside world.

In addition to educational benefits, after-school programs also have a positive impact on student behavior and well-being. These programs help reduce behavioral issues, increase attendance, and

provide a structured environment for students to build positive relationships with their peers and mentors.

After-school programs play a crucial role in the educational and personal development of children and youth, and that's why these programs need to receive funding. After-school programs often offer unique and engaging activities and programs, such as robotics, agriculture, and art, that may not be available during the school day. These opportunities allow students to explore new interests and develop new skills. Funding helps to ensure that afterschool programs can provide high-quality programming and resources for students. This includes things like educational materials, supplies, and equipment, as well as hiring qualified staff to lead and mentor students.

Please consider opposing this bill. Mahalo nui for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Daline Arce

Connections Public Charter School

daline_arce@connectionsps.org

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:43:30 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Simpson Steele	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a professor of education and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:46:15 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keahi G	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 that would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, who are already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are amongst the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:52:57 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandi sheldon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

This is unacceptable. We need to put our children's education first, they are the future. Cutting Hawaii's schools (already underfunded) charter programs is the exact opposite of that. VSAS is an excellent school which I am so grateful to let my children attend, their knowledgeable and caring teachers and staff have made all the difference in our families life these past few years. They can't continue to provide support for the many families they serve without that support from the state. Please do not pass this bill.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:48:08 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Link	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am Ryan Link. I am a 6th grade teacher at Kualapu'u Public Conversion Charter School. I am in strong opposition to SB283 that would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by charter schools. We already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are amongst the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding of support for any services that fall under EDN100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to educational funding.

Don't deprive the students because they go to a charter school. Kualapu'u is the town's regular school that the children of Kualapu'u and Ho'olehua would go to no matter what. Why should they receive any less money than other children of the island. It is blatant discrimination and taking away from the education that the children receive.

Respectfully, Ryan Link

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:51:02 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Star Carlin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Star Carlin

Mountain view, HI 96771

Dear Senators,

I am writing to express my opposition for SB283 which would cut funding for charter schools. This bill is detrimental to the students of Hawaii. Hawaii's charter schools offer options for parents and students in our state. They are particularly important in supporting the renewal of the Hawaiian language and cultural practices. They have the strongest programs for place based learning in our state. Charter schools are underfunded with the current funding situation. This bill will make substantial cuts in funding. Cuts in funding may cause charter schools to shut down. This bill is likely to disrupt the education of many students and cause chaos if they must be absorbed into other schools. Very few children would choose to leave their school of choice. Please consider the interests of charter school students and vote no on AB283.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Star Carlin
Retired Teacher

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:53:54 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lennon Lord	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:54:37 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rob Hamnett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in opposition to SB283 relating to public charter school per pupil funding. This bill would severely impact Hawai'i's already poorly-funded charter schools. Children in rural areas like Puna/Volcano are extremely dependent on these charter schools for access to education. Passage of such a bill would severely impact these schools' abilities to provide an accessible, quality education. Families and children of this state are currently depending on the charter school system and passage of this bill would reflect a disregard for those families and their children.

Mahalo,

Robert Hamnett

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:56:19 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Delostrico	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a community member and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 that would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, who are already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are amongst the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:56:24 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael harber	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It will create hardship trying to get our two sons to school way down town Also we are so happy and pleased with the quality of education they are receiving at the charter school.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:58:13 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Link	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am Kim Link, a 5th grade teacher at Kualapu'u Public Conversion Charter School. I am in strong opposition to SB283 that would reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by charter schools. We already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are amongst the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding of support for any services that fall under EDN100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to educational funding.

Don't deprive the students because they go to a charter school. Kualapu'u is the town's regular school that the children of Kualapu'u and Ho'olehua would go to no matter what. Why should they receive any less money than other children of the island?

Thank you for your time,

-Kim Link

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:58:31 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an educator at a Hawaiian focused Public Charter School I can testify as to how our haumāna depend on per pupil monies to have an equitable educational experience. Charter schools need all the support we can get to not only continue the already underfunded alternative to the traditional classroom, but to expand and offer more ways (sometimes it is the only way!) for many of our keiki to be successful. Mahalo.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:59:10 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kahiau Frietas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Auina Lā,

My name's Kahiau Freitas and I am writing in opposition to senate bill 283. As a previous student of a Hawai'i public charter school I can attest to the additional need of funding and support to the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission and their community. The overall lack of adequate building facilities, infrastructure, and failing to address issues of health, safety, legal compliance, and food services forces us (SCPSC and family) to use non-facility general fund per-pupil funding to cover those cost. The conditions of these facilities or lack thereof have a detrimental effect on our students. The current learning environments shortchange our students by having to use allocated funds meant toward student learning for the facility maintenance.

As of the 2022, over 50% of funding for the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission comes from the State of Hawai'i. By allowing this bill to pass it will further burden the Commission and local communities who rely on its resources without addressing the larger issues that may remedy future expenses and funding required.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Kahiau Freitas

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 7:33:31 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Tanigawa	Testifying for Connections Public Charter School	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I strongly oppose Bill SB 283 because it will cut funding from charter schools that need to the money properly support the education of our students. As a current middle school teacher of Connections Public Charter School, a public DOE charter school in Hilo, it has already been a struggle to provide all necessary materials and resources that I need to facilitate their learning with the current laws. By passing Bill SB 283 it would only worsen their classroom experiences and make teachers use more "out of pocket" money to pay for the afformentioned resources needed.

Please consider opposing this bill. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Me ke aloha,

Emma Tanigawa

Connections Public Charter School



Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau
Laboratory Public Charter School

46-500 Kūneki St. Kāne'ōhe, Hawai'i 96744 *Kelepona: 808.235.9175 *Kelepa'i: 808.235.9173
E mālama 'ia ana ka mauli ola o kākou mai kēlā hanauna a i kēia hanauna.

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and Committee Members,

Re: HEARING SB283 - Friday, February 10, 2023, 3:00 PM, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **opposition** of SB283, which will further decrease our per pupil allotment for the charter schools.

It must be clarified that Charter Schools do not have access to the services offered its DOE counterpart schools as shared in the the DOE's EDN 100 and as described in the DOE Supplemental Budget Request (Page 472), totaling 17 positions and \$154,670,151 for various programs.

While the Charter Schools are held to the same state standards as the DOE schools throughout the state, the inequity of funding continues. With the current per pupil allotment, charter schools are expected to develop and maintain their facilities, feed, educate, recruit highly qualified teachers and tend to the overall well-being of the communities/'ohana we serve. The current per pupil funds alone are not sufficient to cover these basic needs. We are asking that you not change the per pupil funding formula or further decrease the per pupil funding, which would result from this bill.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this measure.

Me ke aloha,

I Meahilahila. Kelling, Ed.D.
Kahu, Director

To: Michelle Kidani, Chair
Donna Kim, Vice Chair

For: Senate Bill 283

Date of Hearing: Feb. 10, 2023

Position: In Opposition

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to write my testimony in opposition to SB283. My name is Kate Wines, and I am a teacher at Connections Public Charter School. This is my 17th year as a teacher at Connections Public Charter School. I have a Masters of Education degree. I am a highly qualified teacher.

This bill is important to me because in my entire teaching career funding for public charter schools has always been less than what it should be. The funding for public charter schools has always been less than DOE public schools. The lack of funding is a travesty that has resulted in out of pocket spending for classroom needs, struggling teachers, and lack of support in the classroom. At public charter schools, we have learned to do amazing things with much less funding and support. However with proper funding, even more could be done without the stress of the lack of funds.

Every year there is a threat of taking away funding for public charter schools, yet I wonder if those who want to cut funding are aware of the learning and positive growth that happens every day at our schools? Learning where students are in a small classroom, supportive environment where they are comfortable to take risks in their learning knowing that there is support and a pathway that is best for them to reach their learning goals. If this bill passes with the resulting cuts in funding, then struggles will increase for teachers, classroom support, and most importantly, the students who will be missing out.

Please oppose SB283. Thank you for your time and efforts

Sincerely,

Kate Wines
Connections Public Charter School
174 Kamehameha Ave
Hilo, HI 96720

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 9:59:54 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Murcia	Testifying for VSAS	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill that will substantially cut funding for charter schools, which are already underfunded.

I have worked at charter schools for over ten years on the Big Island. The high quality education that is growing strong hearts, minds and bodies needs MORE support to thrive, not less.

Please consider all the keiki that this bill will ultimately have a negative impact on. Please.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:54:26 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Gopaul	Testifying for West Hawaii Explorations Academy Middle School (7t	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WHEA PCS

73-4500 Kahilihili St.

Kailua-Kona, HI. 96740

Aloha mai,

The STEAM, culture, ‘āina-based focused public charter school West Hawai’i Explorations Academy (WHEA PCS) would like to invite you to visit our kula in 2023 to witness innovative and creative approaches to education. Growing the future of our lāhui is rooted in the work happening in our school across the pae ‘āina. Over the last 20 years, with your support we have reached tens of thousands of students across our island, providing unique options for public school education through these types of learning opportunities that are culturally grounded and academically rigorous.

We are extremely appreciative of the recent efforts by the Commission or Legislature to provide increased equity and support for our STEAM, ‘āina-based focused public charter school. We are especially thankful for the separate budget allocations EDN 612 for hard-to-fill and Hawaiian language differentials for our staff. This funding helps us to provide competitive compensation for our teachers and to maintain our highly qualified, site-based workforce.

We aim to provide high-quality systems of support and innovation that will allow for the continued growth of our kula, an improved charter school system, and access to funding and resources. These are the most high-leverage ways you, our Legislature and/or Commission can utilize your leadership and authority to better the lives of our keiki, kumu, ‘ohana, and communities:

1. Support and create access to equitable funding for charter schools through revising the per pupil formula to include facilities, maintenance, and other infrastructure and overhead that is currently not included.
2. Create avenues for additional authorizers and fund them adequately, as allowable by law.

3. Support an additional pathway for Effective Educator licensure that aligns with the Mission, Vision, and Values of the school.
4. Support sustainable and stable per pupil allocations considering compression and differentials for educators.

We invite you to visit our mission and vision driven school to learn more about the powerful teaching and learning that is happening on our campuses and to talk stories with our students, staff, and 'ohana. We look forward to working alongside you and our commission for Charter Schools in this next legislative session. Mahalo for your time and commitment to Hawai'i's public school students.

Aloha me pumehana,

Katherine Gopaul

(WHEA PCS, TIER 1 TEACHER)

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:27:26 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Fossel	Testifying for Volcano Community Association	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write to you today as President of the Volcano Community Association, so my statements here in fact reflect a collective consensus opinion of our whole local community, and are exceptionally broadly held across all 3,500 residents of the town of Volcano, who I speak to regularly. I stand strongly opposed to any reduction in funding to our cherished and revered local school, the Volcano School of Arts and Sciences, which is a living embodiment of the promise of all that Charter Schools can and should be in Hawaii and indeed--around our great Nation. My own two children in fact themselves attend the Volcano School of Arts and Sciences, where they too are inspiring embodiments of that same promise made to them by their School--a modern approach to multi-dimensional and integrated learning for the whole child, rooted deep in our collective Hawaiian heritage, and proudly setting its eyes upon that brighter future ahead that they will make and remake with their own hands--a one-of-a-kind investment in their lifelong learning which is simply not possible within a mainstream public school. I know---because I long attended one when I myself was young. So ask yourself: Why would I unilaterally withdraw my support for that promising future that they have already steadfastly set for themselves, supported by both their families and their community? I encourage you to look deeper in your heart and oppose this bill--instead crafting new legislation that invests more deeply in our other Charters in Hawaii, and not just in dollars, but in the caring guidance and oversight that will let them step out from the crowd, guiding those that perhaps may not have yet been able to properly set the bearing of their compasses for that still distant point on the horizon--the positive future that we all want to share.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:12:01 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charleyn	Testifying for Ka Umeke Ka?eo	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent of a student who attends Ka Umeke Kā‘eo and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 that would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, who are already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are amongst the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

Mahalo

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:21:59 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DAVINA SOARES	Testifying for Ka 'Umeke Ka`eo	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent of student and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:32:24 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
R. Keala	Testifying for KA ?UMEKE KA?EO	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Roxanne Keala oppose SB283.

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:30:55 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noah-James Aiona	Testifying for Connections PCS	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Michelle Kidani, Chair

Donna Kim, Vice Chair

For: Senate Bill 283

Date of Hearing: Feb. 10, 2023

Position: In Opposition

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to write my testimony in opposition to SB283. My name is Noah-James Aiona, and I am a student at Connections Public Charter School.

This bill is important to me because

I am at the tail end of my junior year and currently passing with my best efforts (A's across the board) and facing the possibility of Connections closing down due to more cuts into our funding. Learning a new curriculum at a new school, in a new area, will backfire come senior year. I have been attending Connections since third grade and have received the

majority of my education here. Connections opened many doors for me for my future college career and I plan to continue it even after graduating. Furthermore, I know many students who are taking the opportunity to take up college courses because our school has offered scholarships as a recognition for their hard work, yet I feel these students would not be recognized for their hard work if they were to be transferred into a bigger public school.

Please consider opposing this bill. Thank you for your time and efforts

Sincerely,

Noah-James Aiona

Connections Public Charter School

(808) 747-7243

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:01:46 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moira Eckert	Testifying for Connections PCS	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Michelle Kidani, Chair

Donna Kim, Vice Chair

For: Senate Bill 283

Date of Hearing: Feb. 10, 2023

Position: In Opposition

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to write my testimony in opposition to SB283. My name is Moira Eckert, and I am a student at Connections Public Charter School.

This bill is important to me because I attend a public charter school. I have been in both public schools and charter schools, I chose to continue to attend charter schools for both middle and high school. My reasonings were that the schools were smaller which helps with my anxiety and that the curriculum was going to be more diverse. Even people who go to public school should be concerned about this bill. This bill would cause schools to close and not have resources available for students. Students who benefit from smaller schools, more one on one time with teachers and a diverse curriculum will be negatively impacted by having to switch schools. Students with disabilities that need more attention and resources

will also be affected. I hope that this will help to sway your minds in the decision regarding this bill.

Please consider opposing this bill. Thank you for your time and efforts

Sincerely,

Moira Eckert

Connections Public Charter School

meckert@connectionspcs.org

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:18:20 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sonya Carvalho	Testifying for Connections PCS	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Michelle Kidani, Chair

Donna Kim, Vice Chair

For: Senate Bill 283

Date of Hearing: Feb. 10, 2023

Position: In Opposition

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to write my testimony in opposition to SB283. My name is Sonya Carvalho, and I am a teacher at Connections Public Charter School.

This bill is important to me because if it is passed the results would be detrimental to the education of my students, as well as, adversely affect the efficiency and ability of our school in offering a free and appropriate education. Charter schools already have to function with half the amount of per pupil allocation in comparison to DOE Public schools. Charter schools offer a better adult to student ratio. Many of our students thrive in this type of small school setting where they receive greater support in their learning. Charter schools also offer diverse strategies in teaching which is greatly beneficial to the current population of young adolescents. Charter schools are not for all students but for those who find a niche within a charter school, it makes a world of difference. Here, at Connections Public Charter School, we are concerned with and work on mentoring the whole child so that they will become future contributors to society.

Upon pondering all the aspects of how this bill, SB283, will affect charter schools I'm sure you will agree that it is in the best interest of the whole community to oppose this bill.

Thank you for your time and efforts

Sincerely,

Sonya Carvalho

Connections Public Charter School Teacher

sonya_carvalho@connectionspcs.org

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:06:45 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Romey lee	Testifying for connectionspcs	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Michelle Kidani, Chair

Donna Kim, Vice Chair

For: Senate Bill 283

Date of Hearing: Feb. 10, 2023

Position: In Opposition

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to write my testimony in opposition to SB283. My name is Romey Lee, and I am a student at Connections Public Charter School.

This bill is important to me because

Connections Public Charter School is a good school with good students. Connections have given a lot of the students that go to school there a lot of good opportunities. Some of the students that I know are going to go to college early. I personally would like to graduate

from Connections Public Charter School so I would appreciate it if you would not cut the funding for the school

Please consider opposing this bill. Thank you for your time and efforts

Sincerely,

Romey Lee

Connections Public Charter School

(Contact Information)

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:31:35 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roqulynn Jarrett	Testifying for Connections Public Charter School	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Michelle Kidani, Chair

Donna Kim, Vice Chair

For: Senate Bill 283

Date of Hearing: Feb. 10, 2023

Position: In Opposition

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to write my testimony in opposition to SB283. My name is Sunshine Jarrett and I am an after-school educator at Connections Public Charter School. Specifically at our middle and high school after-school program, Studio Shaka. Studio Shaka is what brought me to Connections in the first place. I've worked here for almost four years, starting as a freshman in high school. The aloha, the love and support, and the amazing resources Studio Shaka has to offer is unlike anything I've ever seen or felt before. I have been able to explore many of my interests, try new things, travel, and honestly figure out who I am because of Studio Shaka. Learning and working in such an encouraging and supportive environment has helped me to discover my passion for jewelry creation and teaching. It has also helped me to reach many goals to start my career in such a field, which leads me to my second point, Connections PCS itself.

The teachers, administrative staff, and support staff at Connections were true lifesavers for me when I transferred here in eighth grade. I was shy, behind a year, and would later need special education accommodations for my mental health. All of the staff at connections really cared for my needs and helped to fill my education gaps. During Covid, they kept the support strong and I was even able to complete extra classes that allowed me to graduate a whole year early. The support didn't stop there. The school registrar, Mrs. Gray helped me to apply for Hawaii Community College and financial aid. Because of her I was able to get my first year fully paid for. All of the Connections staff has helped to become the person I am today. I can wholeheartedly say that all of Connections staff has always had all of the students best interests at heart. Their unwavering support, especially when it comes to special needs, is absolutely

astounding. That being said, please consider opposing this bill. Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sunshine Jarret

Connections Public Charter School

Sunshine_jarrett@connectionspcs.org

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:43:17 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hazel Mahahlak	Testifying for Connectionspscs	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Michelle Kidani, Chair

Donna Kim, Vice Chair

For: Senate Bill 283

Date of Hearing: Feb. 10, 2023

Position: In Opposition

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to write my testimony in opposition to SB283. My name is _____Hazel____, and I am a ____Student____at Connections Public Charter School.

This bill is important to me because this will affect me and the rest of the student body and also staff. Students may be less motivated to try because they feel they wouldn't be taken seriously. If the budget is cut in half the resources will dwindle and the suppliers will become less quality and kids will lose most of their responsible mindset. A lot of the students in this school get extra help and if this school had to shut down because of funding many students would either drop out or struggle in a different type of school.

Please consider opposing this bill. Thank you for your time and efforts

Sincerely,

Hazel Mahalak

Connections Public Charter School

hmahalak@connectionspcs.org

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:54:13 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal Fortin	Testifying for Connections Public Charter School	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

If approved cutting charter school funding would have a negative impact on all of our students. The staff and students need the support and stability at this time of when we are coming out of a pandemic. If we lack the proper resources it may cause a negative impact. We want the best and strive to have a positive outcome on student achievement, curriculum options, improved test scores and an increased graduation rate. Thank you for hearing my concern and please support not cutting charter school funding.

Hello,

My name is Cade Loftin, and I am an administrator at Connections PCS.

Reducing per pupil funding would be incredibly detrimental to our school. In general, a charter school gives a child a choice. A choice to be educated in an environment where students have a say in their education. A choice to be educated in an environment where the teacher to pupil ratio is lower than a public school. A choice to pursue their dreams.

Sincerely,

Cade Loftin

To: Michelle Kidani, Chair
Donna Kim, Vice Chair

For: Senate Bill 283

Date of Hearing: Feb. 10, 2023

Position: In Opposition

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee,

My name is Saaliyah Liborio-Balles and I am a student at Connections Public Charter School. If approved, SB283 could drastically impact our funding in a negative way; it could mean fewer teachers and less support for teachers and students. Our school is currently operating on a tight budget and further negative adjustments to per-pupil funding will definitely affect our school.

Connections and other charter schools provide a unique alternative to DOE schools, and a small-school environment for families seeking a personalized and differentiated education for their children.

We are seeking an opportunity to engage in conversations with you and other key legislators to design a new funding formula for charter schools that provides equal access to high quality education for students like me and my peers. SB283 should be amended, with clearer wording and less ambiguity.

Inequality has persisted in what students in our schools receive from state funding and what students in DOE schools receive. The systematic inequality involves numerous line items in the funding formally being allotted to DOE schools, but not charter schools. There is no reasonable justification for this sustained disparity.

While the original law that initiated charter schools in Hawai'i was negotiated with the acknowledgement that charter schools would need to establish their own facilities, the inequities that persist relate to line items that have no relationship to facilities being established.

Students like me who attend public charter schools deserve equal funding, as well as funding for our programs and resources; programs and resources that are available to DOE students.

I hope you consider students enrolled in charter schools and the quality of our education when making your decision on Friday.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Saaliyah Liborio-Balles
8th Grader at Connections PCS



16-120 'Ōpūkaha'ia St
Kea'au, HI 96749
(808) 982-4260
(808) 966-7821
www.nawahi.org

Ka Papa Alaka'i

Dr. Kēhaulani
'Aipia-Peters,
Pelekikena

Kēhaulani Shintani,
Hope Pelekikena

Kyla Manzano,
Kākau 'Ōlelo

Leilani Ka'apuni,
Pu'ukū

Kamalei Hayes

Dr. Kauanoe
Kamanā

Nāmaka Rawlins

Dr. Pila Wilson

Kayla Asing

'Ānela Freitas

No 'Ane'i Ko
Kākou Ola!

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice-Chair

Date of Hearing: 02-10-2023
Time: 3:00pm
Location: Conference Room 309

*Testimony of Dr. Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters, Governing Board Chair
Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u Iki LPCS*

SB 283, RELATING TO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL PER-PUPIL FUNDING COMMENTS

E nā Po'o Kōmike a me nā Lālā Kōmike Ho'ona'auao, aloha nui kākou,

My name is Dr. Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters, and I am the Governing Board Chair of Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u Iki, Laboratory Public Charter School. I am providing comments on **SB 283**.

We, the governing board of Nāwahī, are providing comments to SB 283 that “excludes from the charter school per-pupil funding calculation all amounts relating to programs that provide comparable benefits for all public school students regardless of whether the student is a Department of Education school student or a public charter school student”.

We have been informed that this bill aims to fix an accounting issue regarding funds that are currently being dispersed to charter schools. Our concern with this bill is the possibility that charter schools and their funding will be negatively impacted. With a per pupil budget that is already strained by providing the necessary funding to maintain a charter school, any decrease in funding will only hinder the progress and advancement of our program and other charter school programs.

If this bill proposes that funding for “comparable programs” be cut from per-pupil funding for charter schools, then we propose allowing charter schools the latitude to choose the option to receive funds rather than receiving the resources for programs that are considered “comparable benefits for all public school students regardless of whether the student is a department school student or a public charter school student”. In our experience, currently, the **Hawai'i Department of Education CANNOT provide “comparable services” through the medium of Hawaiian language and through a Hawaiian world perspective**. Providing funding directly to charter schools will allow us to continue to use the resources in a way that will benefit our students, families, staff and communities.

Mahalo,

Ke. Kēhaulani Aipia-Peters

Dr. Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters
Chair, Governing Board
Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u Iki LPCS

SB-283

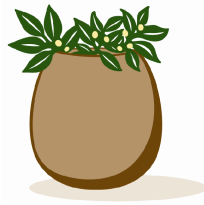
Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:33:07 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Rockstroh	Testifying for Na wai ola pcs	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent of a child in charter school and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 which would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, which already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are among the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally, charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding. Mahalo for your consideration!



Ka'Umeke Kā'eo

Hawaiian Immersion Public Charter School

I N K E A U K A H A

TO: Hawai'i State Senate
The Thirty-second Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
Committee on Education
Senator M. Kidani, Chair
Senator D. Kim, Vice Chair
Senator D. Kanuha
Senator K. Fevella
Senator T. Richards

FROM: Louisa Lee
Director of Operations
Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo Public Charter School

DATE: Friday February 10, 2023

RE: Testimony in opposition to SB283, related to public charter school per-pupil funding

Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo Hawaiian language immersion public charter school located in Keaukaha on Hawai'i Island was established in 2001 from what was previously Kula Kaiapuni 'O Keaukaha. We are one of two Hawaiian language immersion schools located in East Hawai'i and currently serve 270 students in PreK3-12th grade. Our school leadership is strongly opposed to SB283.

SB283 would effectively enable cuts to the per-pupil allocation (PPA) and further contribute to the funding inequities that exist between charter school students and DOE students. Charter schools do not receive dedicated funding for facilities, school food service, and transportation and do not receive any of the services or funding that fall under EDN 100 our haumāna are not getting "two bites of the apple" or "double dipping."

We thank you for this opportunity to testify and ask that you do not cut the per-pupil funding or change the general fund per-pupil funding formula. We urge you to oppose SB283.

I Ulu i ke Kuamo'o ~ I Mana i ka 'Oiwī ~ I Kā'eo no ka Hanauna Hou!

Inspired by Our Past ~ Empowered by Our Identity ~ Prepared for Our Future!

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:33:58 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Francis K. Francisco	Testifying for Na Wai Ola Public Charter School	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou!

This testimony is in opposition to the proposed SB283 relating to Public Charter Schools Per Pupil funding.

There is already an inequity in Public Charter Schools Per Pupil funding and it is preposterous to imply that it is double dipping.

How about introducing a bill that will make Public Charter Schools Per Pupil funding equal to what the Hawai'i Department of Education Schools receives?

Public Charter Schools serve the families and students of Hawai'i just as the HIDOE schools do so why is there an inequity in funding?

Our children served in Public Charter Schools are not aliens so why treat them as such?

We invite you to visit our Public Charter Schools and see for yourselves the work being done and the academic, social, and emotional progress being made.

Mahalo!

Aloha to our Legislators,

My name is Ka'ala FI am a teacher and a parent at Kualapuu Conversion Charter School on the island of Molokai and I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB283 that would effectively reduce the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) received by Charter schools, who are already receive 41% less per student than DOE schools. Charter schools receive no dedicated funding for facilities, food, or transportation which are amongst the most fundamental services needed to support student success. Additionally charter schools do not get funding or support for any services that fall under EDN 100 including custodial and support services, school health aides, substitute teacher pay, and funding for teacher recruitment and retention. Charter and DOE students are all public school students who deserve equitable access to education funding.

This would negatively impact our school community and our greater Molokai community!

Mahalo!

LATE

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 3:01:01 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
T. Kaleimamahu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. My grandchildren attend charter schools on the island of Hawaii and have thrived. I humbly ask that you rule against the proposal for decreasing the funds allotted to charter schools as you truly do not realize how helpful charter schools have been in the smaller communities amongst native hawaiian students. My moopuna have learned more about their culture in a charter school setting than they have in a traditional public school setting. They have learned the true history and practice of being kanaka maoli from their charter school instructors than they have while attending public school. We live in Hawaii right? Why would you want to take away from our children.

LATE

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 3:02:54 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Chao	Testifying for Connections Public Charter School	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Michelle Kidani, Chair

Donna Kim, Bice Chair

For: Senate Bill 283

Date of Hearing: Feb. 10, 2023

Position: In Opposition

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to strongly testify against Bill SB283. My name is Grace Chao, a veteran teacher with the Hawaii Department of Education, and Connections Public Charter School (CPCS) in Hilo, Hawai'i.

I thought at Hilo Intermediate School for 10 years, and CPCS for 18 years. These two teaching experiences allow me to make a strong case for the support of more school funding for public charter schools and not less. Both schools are considered extreme low-income, low-test scores, multi-ethnic, and high disfunction within the homes. Both schools has a high percentage of Special Needs students. Prior to the choices of charter schools, many students fell to the wayside due to high student-teacher ratio. These students became problems in our community with high pregnancy rate, drugs, and crime.

Connections Public Charter School in downtown Hilo provide alternatives to education in smaller class sizes, and diversity in teaching methods, and community assistance. These elements save students by providing more opportunities for self-actualization, confidence, and motivation to grow as productive members of our communities. Please, please do not rip these important foundations from under these students. Students and families need charter schools in Hawai'i today more than ever. More funding for charter schoos will prevent more upheaval in our beautiful islands.

I humbly ask for you to appose SB283 for the sake of our Ohana as in Hawai'i nei.

Sincerely Yours,

Grace Chao

Connections Public Charter School

grace_chao@connectionspcs.org

Aloha! I am a veteran teacher of with the Hawaii Department of Education

LATE

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 3:11:05 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My children attend a Charter School Na Wai Ola in Mt. View Hawaii. This is the best school any of my children have ever gone to. They are learning indigenous Hawaiian culture, language, way of life, respect for the Aina. This school deserves what the DOE schools get and more if you ask me. Please support Hawaii and give this Charter School the funds it needs to grow and thrive. Mahalo.

Respectfully,

Jessica Clanton

LATE

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 3:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Folks, our family depends on Volcno School, a public charter school, which would lose already precious and insufficient state funding. Please do not pass SB 283. MAHALO from the Lyle family, Ka'u

LATE

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 3:32:53 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Xanthe Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Charter Schools of Hawai'i are a viable and needed educational choice for Hawai'i's keiki and youth. Charter schools successfully serve some of the most needy and underserved groups, and provide a private-school type education for free for those who cannot afford to go to private school but want a similar setting. This model is really working well. My daughter graduated from the Volcano School and is doing well in graduate school now to become an SLP. It was thanks to the great education provided by the charter school that made her life successful. There are so many examples. If the per pupil amount allotted for these public school students is cut, it is discrimination against the students who choose charter schools, which is a better option than DOE schools for many of these needy kids.

LATE

SB-283

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 4:08:08 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaelin Sibayan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill for the simple fact that WE NEED CHARTER SCHOOLS! The only way we keep our 'ōlelo alive besides having individual classes outside. With that in mind, not all schools have a Hawaiian Language or Culture as part of their curriculum. We have to perpetuate our culture on our 'āina for as long as we have it! My brothers are all alumni of public charter schools, all speak fluent 'ōlelo & continue to use what they learned in school day by day. One brother even teaches 'ōlelo to keiki & is soon to become a kumu hula!

OPPOSE BILL SB283 AS A KANAKA MAOLI!