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

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FOR: SB 3180 SD1 MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

DATE: March 11, 2020

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

COMMITTEE: Committee on Judiciary

ROOM: Conference Room 325

FROM: Yvonne Lau, Interim Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates this opportunity to submit this testimony in of **SUPPORT of SB 3180 SD1**.

Section 4 of Act 99, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, appropriated \$75,000 in general funds from the fiscal year 2018-2019 budget for EDN 600 to pay for claims against the State or Hawaii state public charter school. However, this resulted in Waimea Middle Public Conversion Charter School, the Hawaii state public charter school, being requested to use funds for the claim payment that were intended for the operation of the public charter school and education of public charter school students. Additionally, this would negatively affect the financial operations of the charter school.

The Commission seeks to address this issue by requesting the funding be provided to the Commission so that the students and families of the public charter school are not negatively impacted. Should it be more appropriate to not request this funding as an emergency appropriation, the Commission is available to collaborate with the Legislature on this matter of importance.

The Commission and the public charter schools will endeavor to better communicate with the Legislature and the Department of the Attorney General to ensure that should there be future claims of this nature, that the appropriate funding be provided that would not negatively affect the operations of a school or the education of public charter school students.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.