

HB1251 HD1

Measure Title: RELATING TO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS.

Report Title: State Public Charter Schools Commission; Facilities Funding; Appropriation; General Obligation Bonds (\$)

Description: Requires state departments, upon the closure of facilities, to consider the facility's suitability for use by public charter schools or early learning pre-plus programs, and to notify the State Public Charter School Commission or Executive Office on Early Learning of the availability and suitability of the facility. Requires more detailed annual reporting by the State Public Charter School Commission. Establishes a Charter School Facilities Funding Working Group. Appropriates funds for public charter schools. Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for public charter school facilities' design, planning, construction, repair, and maintenance. (HB1251 HD1)

Companion: [SB836](#)

Package: None

Current Referral: EDU/GVO, WAM

Introducer(s): ITO, AQUINO, ICHIYAMA, MATSUMOTO, OHNO, SAY, TAKUMI

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
1/28/2015	H	Pending introduction.
1/29/2015	H	Introduced and Passed First Reading
2/2/2015	H	Referred to EDN, FIN, referral sheet 6
2/4/2015	H	Bill scheduled to be heard by EDN on Monday, 02-09-15 2:00PM in House conference room 309.
2/9/2015	H	The committee(s) on EDN recommend(s) that the measure be deferred until 02-11-15.
2/10/2015	H	Bill scheduled for decision making on Wednesday, 02-11-15 2:10PM in conference room 309.
2/11/2015	H	The committees on EDN recommend that the measure be PASSED, WITH AMENDMENTS. The votes were as follows: 11 Ayes:

		Representative(s) Takumi, Ohno, Choy, Ichiyama, Ing, Kong, LoPresti, Say, Tsuji, Matsumoto, Tupola; Ayes with reservations: none; Noes: none; and 2 Excused: Representative(s) Aquino, Ito.
2/20/2015	H	Reported from EDN (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 462) as amended in HD 1, recommending passage on Second Reading and referral to FIN.
2/20/2015	H	Passed Second Reading as amended in HD 1 and referred to the committee(s) on FIN with none voting aye with reservations; none voting no (0) and Ito excused (1).
2/23/2015	H	Bill scheduled to be heard by FIN on Thursday, 02-26-15 11:00AM in House conference room 308.
2/26/2015	H	The committees on FIN recommend that the measure be PASSED, UNAMENDED. The votes were as follows: 14 Ayes: Representative(s) Luke, Nishimoto, Cullen, DeCoite, Johanson, Jordan, Keohokalole, Kobayashi, Lowen, Onishi, Tokioka, Yamashita, Pouha, Ward; Ayes with reservations: none; Noes: none; and 1 Excused: Representative(s) Cachola.
3/6/2015	H	Reported from FIN (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 639), recommending passage on Third Reading.
3/6/2015	H	Passed Third Reading with none voting aye with reservations; none voting no (0) and none excused (0). Transmitted to Senate.
3/10/2015	S	Received from House (Hse. Com. No. 116).
3/10/2015	S	Passed First Reading.
3/10/2015	S	Referred to EDU/GVO, WAM.
3/17/2015	S	The committee(s) on EDU/GVO has scheduled a public hearing on 03-20-15 1:30PM in conference room 229.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
CARTY S. CHANG
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
EDUCATION
and
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

**Friday, March 20, 2015
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Room 229**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1251, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS**

House Bill 1251, House Draft 1 proposes to require state departments, upon closure of facilities, to consider the facility's suitability for use by public charter schools or early learning pre-plus programs, and to notify the State Public Charter Schools Commission and the Executive Office on Early Learning of the availability and suitability of the facility. The measure also proposes to require a more detailed annual reporting by the State Public Charter Schools Commission, establish a Charter School Facilities Funding Working Group and appropriate funds for public charter schools. In addition, the measure proposes to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriate funds for public charter school facilities' design, planning, construction, repair and maintenance. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments on the measure.**

The Department has concerns about the rulemaking requirement in the proposed amendment to Chapter 302D, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), contained in SECTION 2 of the bill. The rulemaking requirement would be overly burdensome on the Department's limited personnel and financial resources, especially considering that there are well established statutory requirements already in place that address the intent of this measure. Set-asides to other government agencies via Governor's executive order are subject to Section 171-11, HRS, which requires review and approval by the Board of Land and Natural Resources in a sun-shined public meeting. Furthermore, as the Department's mission is the stewardship of the State's natural, cultural and recreational resources, it does not manage the type of facilities that are contemplated by this measure. Therefore, requiring the Department to engage in a rule-making exercise would ultimately be a fruitless endeavor.

CARTY S. CHANG
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DANIEL S. QUINN
INTERIM FIRST DEPUTY

W. ROY HARDY
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

The Department notes that the Senate Committee on Ways and Means removed the requirement for rule making from Senate Draft 2 of the companion measure, Senate Bill 836. The Department respectfully requests this measure also be amended accordingly to delete this requirement.

DAVID IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
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: HB1251 HD1 Relating to Public Charter Schools
DATE: Friday, March 20, 2015
TIME: 1:30 p.m.
COMMITTEE(S): Senate Committee on Education
Senate Committee on Government Operations
ROOM: Conference Room 229
FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chairs Kidani and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Harimoto and Nishihara, and members of the Committees:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of House Bill 1251 HD1, “Relating to Public Charter Schools,” which would provide much needed support for public charter school facilities.

HB1251, a new proposal introduced this Session on behalf of the Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network, combines several components of other measures introduced this Session that are intended to provide a measure of facilities support to charter schools. Among other things, the House draft of this bill would:

1. Establish a charter school facilities funding working group, to include the Director of Finance, the Comptroller, the Superintendent of Education, and individuals with expertise in real estate and finance, respectively, which would prioritize the allocation of funds and bond proceeds for charter school facilities based on criteria established by the Commission and taking into account considerations specified in the bill, including the amount of risk and availability of recourse to the State;
2. Authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds for charter school facilities design, planning, construction, repair, and maintenance;
3. Appropriate general funds for charter school facilities;
4. Impose related reporting requirements; and

5. Require state departments to identify unused properties that may be suitable for use by a charter school or a pre-plus program.

The Commission would like to note that under Section 302D-19, Hawaii Revised Statutes:

(c) In the event of a public charter school closure for any reason, if the public charter school received an appropriation for capital improvements to its facilities, the charter school or its authorizer shall negotiate with the expending agency for a lump sum or installment repayment to the State of the amounts appropriated.

The Department of the Attorney General had testified before these Committees earlier this Session on another bill that would provide for charter school facilities funding, Senate Bill 849, recommending that the Legislature provide somewhat more direction in the measure as to the types of charter school projects that could be funded. The Commission would appreciate the flexibility to consider as full a range of charter school facilities needs as possible, but if there is any legal concern whatsoever with the broad discretion this bill would afford the proposed charter school facilities funding working group, then we would respectfully suggest that Section 4 of the bill be amended so that the new proposed HRS §302-29.5(a) reads as follows, along with any corresponding revisions to other sections of the bill as may be appropriate:

(a) Beginning with the 2016-2017 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, the legislature shall consider to make an appropriation and bond authorization to the commission for the design, planning, construction, repair, and maintenance of charter school improvements to address issues of health, safety, and legal compliance; expand or improve instructional space; provide for food services; and provide restroom facilities. Such appropriation and bond authorization shall be separate from, and in addition to, any appropriation made to charter schools pursuant to sections 302D-28 and 302D-29.5. These amounts shall be prioritized for allocation by the charter school facilities working group. [New language italicized.]

In conclusion, the Commission would like to acknowledge the State's fiscal challenges. Nevertheless, we remain hopeful that among the various proposals currently in motion in the Legislature, a way can finally be found to make a start in addressing this longstanding problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committees on Education and Government Operations

March 18, 2015

Governing Board

Carole Ota

Chair

Don Najita

Vice Chair

Rachel Orange

Secretary

Jason D'Olier

Treasurer

Buffy Cushman-Patz

SEEQS School Leader

Mark Hines

Melissa Mano

Chairs Kidani and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Harimoto and Nishihara, and Members of the Education and Government Operations Committees:

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony. We, the Governing Board of SEEQS, the School for Examining Essential Questions of Sustainability, submit this testimony in strong support of HB 1251 HD1. This bill would improve charter schools' access to suitable facilities for the communities that they serve. Access to and funding for facilities is a significant burden for charter schools, and this bill would go a long way toward easing that burden.

SEEQS is one of the state's newest public charter schools; we were authorized in December 2012 and opened our doors to our founding class of 6th and 7th graders in August 2013. While we are incredibly proud of the work our students are doing and have done thus far, the intent of our testimony is to provide a glimpse of the additional challenges that start-up charter schools face to find and finance the rental of facilities, especially in Honolulu.

As a new school, we began with 60 students; this enabled us to begin our school with just a few classes and develop our systems, processes, and school culture before we grow to a larger school, as is consistent with best practices in charter schools across the country. In our second year, we expanded to serve more than 120 students in 6th-8th grades. Our vision for our school--what we were authorized by the Charter Commission to create--is a 6th-12th grade secondary school that will serve approximately 420 students.

We opened two years ago in a rented facility in Kaimuki: a Cottage on the Salvation Army's 22nd Avenue property. We renovated this property ourselves to make it suitable for a school facility. Rent and utilities cost us more than \$9,000 per month last year, which accounted for more than 25% of our funding allocation from the state. This year we expanded our usable space by installing a semi-permanent tent-like structure on the property. Purchase and installation of this structure cost us more than \$60,000 total; our rent has also increased due to the increased square footage.

This year, our board was faced with the difficult decision of whether or not we would be able to continue expanding our school to serve students in the 9th grade. The board concluded that we had to postpone the goal of expanding to a high school program until a facility can be secured and financed. Due to lack of facilities, we will continue as a middle school, serving grades 6-8, in the 2015-2016 School Year. It was a heart-wrenching decision that we presented to the parents of our current 8th graders a couple months ago.

For over two years, our search for a facility that SEEQS could grow into has encountered numerous roadblocks. We don't have funds to do major renovations of a new, larger facility, and we have been informed that vacant DOE school facilities were not available for our use. In order to serve the full size student body that we were authorized to serve, we will need on the order of 25,000 to 35,000 square feet. Commercial real estate prices range from \$1.35 to \$2.00 per month and up per square foot. A facility of that size and at those prices will stretch our budget beyond what the per-pupil allocation can support. The ability to use empty or underutilized public facilities, enabled by this proposed bill, would significantly ease our financial burden and would put public facilities to their highest and best use.

Our facilities expenses and challenges already require significant fundraising efforts. Any fundraising we do--and any extra time we spend searching for a facility year after year--is time that we spend away from working with students and expanding our educational capacity. Our accomplishments in our first two years are a testament to the great success our school can be as part of the Hawaii state public school system. We want to spend as much time as possible making our school successful for our students, and we believe that our primary role as a school is to focus on what's happening inside the school, working with teachers, students and content. Facilities support and funding from the legislature will enable us to do the work we set out to do, and that we were authorized to do.

Mahalo for your consideration.
Carole Ota
SEEQS Governing Board Chair

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1251 on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM*
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2015 12:11:43 PM

HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

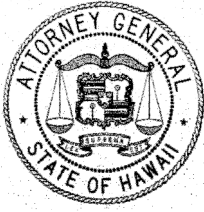
Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charlie DuBois	Hawaii Tech Academy	Support	No

Comments:

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**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2015**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1251, H.D. 1, RELATING TO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

DATE: Friday, March 20, 2015

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 229

TESTIFIER(S): Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or,
Melissa J. Kolonie, Deputy Attorney General

Chairs Kidani and Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General has concerns with this bill.

This bill (1) requires state departments, upon the closure of facilities, to consider the facility's suitability for use by public charter schools or early learning pre-plus programs, and to notify the State Public Charter School Commission or Executive Office on Early Learning of the availability and suitability of the facility; (2) requires more detailed annual reporting by the State Public Charter School Commission; (3) establishes a Charter School Facilities Funding Working Group; (4) appropriates funds for public charter schools; and (5) authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for public charter school facilities' design, planning, construction, repair, and maintenance.

Under this bill, the Charter School Facilities Funding Working Group ("Working Group") will be located "within" the State Public Charter School Commission ("Charter School Commission"). Commissions have only their members "within" the commissions. Section 6 of article V of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii requires that executive and administrative offices, departments, and instrumentalities of the state government be placed in a principal department in such a manner as to group the same according to common purposes and related functions, unless they are commissions or agencies that are both temporary and for special purposes. Thus, we suggest that the Working Group be placed within the Department of Education and not within the Charter School Commission

Additionally, if the Legislature does not intend to have section 26-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes, regarding selection and terms of members of boards and commissions, apply, we

suggest including a provision within the bill that specifies the terms for the two members listed on page 7, lines 12-15.

We respectfully request that if this Committee passes this bill, it do so with the recommended amendments.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1251 on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2015 8:39:00 AM

HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Hecht	Kona Pacific Public Charter School	Support	No

Comments: Hawaii's charter schools are an important component of our public school system, serving as laboratories for educational innovation. Adequate funding of charter schools, including facilities funding, is essential if charters are to develop improved educational practices and strategies that successfully enable learning for all the kamali'i . Without facilities funding, charters are required to use operations funds for facilities, reducing the funding available for educational programming. In addition, lack of facility funding for charters presents an equity issue for charter school teachers, who are held to the same standards in terms of their students' performance, but who have significantly less resources with which to work. Please support this bill, which will allow our public charter schools to achieve their full potential of service to the children and community.

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Wil Okabe
President

Joan Kamila Lewis
Vice President

Colleen Pasco
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES
ON EDUCATION AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2015

RE: H.B. 1251, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

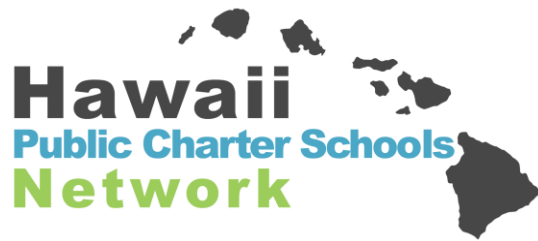
The Honorable Chairs Michelle Kidani, Donovan Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports H.B. 1251, H.D. 1** relating to Charter Schools and Early Learning programs.

HSTA has long supported early learning and believes this bill reinforces the concept of “children first”. Providing facilities for Charter Schools and Early Learning is an appropriate use of state lands and facilities. This is a first step towards the establishment of an ongoing relationship between the departments to facilitate the use of their facilities for the benefit of learning opportunities in a variety of educational scenarios.

HSTA appreciates the support of the legislature in recognizing the need for facilities for both Charter Schools and Early Learning programs.

HSTA, and our 13,500 public and public charter school teachers, **support H.B. 1251, H.D. 1.**



State of Hawaii, The Senate
Committee on Education

DATE: Friday, March 20, 2015

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229, Hawaii State Capitol

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Committee,

Re: HB 1251 HD1 – RELATING TO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify **in strong support** of HB 1251, a comprehensive bill that

- requires state departments, upon the closure of facilities, to consider the facility's suitability for use by public charter schools or early learning pre-plus programs, and to notify the state public charter schools commission or executive office on early learning of the availability and suitability of the facility;
- requires more detailed annual reporting by the state public charter school commission;
- establishes a charter school facilities funding working group;
- authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds; and,
- appropriates funds for public charter school facilities design, planning, construction, repair and maintenance.

HPCSN believes that each and every section is important to providing access to facilities funding and/or support for Hawaii's charter schools. Please see the attached chart that shows why charter schools need every part of this bill to move forward in the legislative process. The lack of appropriate facilities and facilities funding have been a major impediment to fully implementing and realizing the good that can come from the charter school movement. Hawaii's charter schools have been surviving with the help of DHHL, DOE and DLNR land leases, USDA loans, community partners, foundations, donations, volunteer labor and tight fiscal management at schools in order to provide for or plan for real educational facilities. These partnerships brought tens of millions of dollars into Hawaii's public schools.

However, the pressure is immense and the conditions for charter school governing boards and leaders are hard to bear. In addition to high stakes testing and other state and federal demands for charter and DOE schools, charter schools are also faced with managing fixed school level budgets without a safety net and have the sole responsibility to provide facilities for their students.

Charter schools have predominantly demonstrated a positive track record of prudent and responsible management of school budgets and facilities. Along with the new charter school law and the stronger accountability system that was created, the State can take comfort knowing charter school facilities will be maximized and used to their fullest potential.

Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network (HPCSN) represents 30 of 34 public charter schools in Hawaii and is committed to quality education for all public school students in Hawaii through our support of, and work with, Hawaii's public charter schools.

This bill is the right direction and a manageable approach to charter school facilities funding and support. Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this very important matter to charter schools. Your support of Hawaii's public students is greatly appreciated.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Finnegan", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Lynn Finnegan
Executive Director

Attachment

Charter Schools Facilities Bills

			GO Bond	General Funds
On state land	Lease	Kawaikini, Kekaha+, Kanuikapono, Halau Ku Mana, ULS, Hakipuu, Ka Waihona,	P	A
	USDA loan	Kamakau, WHEA+, Kanu o ka Aina, Volcano ~+	P	A
	Conversions	Kualapuu, Lanikai^, Waialae^, Kamaile, Waimea Middle^, Lapahoehoe	P	A
Not on state land	Lease	Kihei, KANAKA, MBTA, HTA, Voyager, Halau Lokahi, Connections+, Na Wai Ola, Kua o ka La , HAAS, SEEQS, Malama Honua		P
	USDA loan	Kona Pacific, Innovations.		P
Facilities are on both on state land and not on state land		Nawahi	A	P
Checking status		Ka Umeke, Laahana		A

Note: Leases could be held by non-profit, school enters lease with non-profit

[Blue](#) = Checking/verifying with schools

P = Priority

A = Applies

+ Received GIA

^ Received CIP and/or upgrades through the DOE system

~ USDA in process

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1251 on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM*
Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 3:34:41 PM

HB1251

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Barville	West Hawaii Explorations Academy	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Thursday, March 19, 2015 10:35:38 AM

HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
SHANNON CLEARY	Hawaii Technology Academy	Support	No

Comments:

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HB1251 HD1
RELATING TO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS
Senate Committee on Education
Senate Committee on Government Operations

March 20, 2015

1:30 p.m.

Room 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** HB1251 HD1, which seeks to alleviate the unique financial burdens borne by start-up public charter schools, in meeting their facilities needs.

Meeting start-up charter schools' facilities needs has been a challenge for Hawai'i's public charter schools. Currently, start-up charter schools must use operational funds to pay for the costs of their facilities. This is a cost that is not borne by conversion charter schools, nor by schools under the Hawai'i State Department of Education (DOE). To address this disparity, HB1251 HD1 proposes the potential use of vacant state facilities by public charter schools; the establishment of a charter school facilities funding working group; the appropriation of funds for the working group to allocate for public charter school facilities; the inclusion of additional funding information, including information relating to facilities and projects funding, in the annual report by the State Public Charter School Commission; and the authorization of general obligation bonds and appropriation of general funds for public charter school facilities' design, planning, construction, repair and maintenance purposes.

OHA believes that every aforementioned element of HB1251 HD1 is critical to relieving the significant and unique financial burdens felt by start-up public charter schools in meeting their facilities needs.

OHA notes that Section 2 of this measure requires the DOE to make final determinations on the use of vacant, non-DOE state facilities by charter schools and pre-plus programs. In its testimony on a similar provision in SB836 SD2, the DOE noted that this may require the DOE to manage state buildings not under its control or oversight. The DOE noted that such a responsibility would be more appropriately overseen by the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS).

In light of the concerns raised by the DOE, and to the extent that Haw. Rev. Stat. Section 26-6(a)(6) authorizes the DAGS to operate and maintain public buildings for departments of the State, OHA respectfully recommends that this measure be amended as follows:

1. Amend page 2, lines 16-17, to read as follows:

pre-plus programs.

2. Amend page 3, lines 1-4, to read as follows:

(2) Early learning programs, including but not limited to the pre-plus program.

3. Amend page 4, line 1, to read as follows:

of accounting and general services for final determination of which public

HB1251 HD1 helps to bring parity to start-up charter schools, and help address the longstanding problem of financing their facilities. OHA strongly supports this measure, and therefore urges the Committee to **PASS WITH AMENDMENTS** HB1251 HD1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

TESTIMONY BY WESLEY K. MACHIDA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1251, H.D. 1

March 20, 2015

RELATING TO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

House Bill No. 1251, H.D. 1, proposes to amend Section 302D, HRS, to allow the use of vacant departmental facilities for charter schools or pre-plus programs; make appropriations starting in FY 2017 to assist the State Public Charter School Commission with its facilities funding needs; establishes the “Charter School Facilities Funding Working Group”; provides unspecified general fund appropriations for charter school facilities funding; and authorizes the Director of Finance to issue unspecified general obligation (G.O.) bond funds for this purpose.

The Department of Budget and Finance would like to make several technical comments on this bill with respect to G.O. bond funding for charter schools. First, charter schools already have the ability to request capital funding as part of the budget process through the proposed charter school programs budget submittal. The availability of G.O. bonds and/or funds for capital projects is competitive across all programs of the State - including, the Department of Education, the Hawaii State Public Library System and the University of Hawaii, and every other program in the State.

Second, in determining the appropriateness of providing G.O. bonds to any charter school, the Legislature should consider the following factors with respect to startup charter schools: a) suitable site control arrangements of property occupancy

that is consistent with the duration of long-term debt; b) disposition of buildings and land back to State ownership should a public charter school discontinue its operations; and c) the major financial commitment of funding capital improvements for start-up public charter schools as well as the recurring repair and maintenance costs associated with these facilities.

Third, federal tax law requires that tax-exempt G.O. bond proceeds be used only to finance projects that serve public purposes. Consequently, charter schools would need to ensure no private activity use of general bond funded facilities.

Finally, as funding for these projects is not included in the proposed Executive Budget, an amount for the corresponding annual debt service will need to be included in the Legislature's version of the budget should this bill pass the Legislature.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1251 on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:01:48 PM

HB1251

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Sakala	Democratic District 5 Chair	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senators, I am writing you today in STRONG support of HB 1251. I am fortunate to serve on the Board of Kona Pacific Public Charter School and know the challenges first hand that are created, on many levels, by not having funds for facilities. Financial support for Hawai'i charter school facilities is the missing piece in terms of supporting charter school success. There is significant research showing that adequate educational facilities contributes to student success. Without facilities funding support, charter schools are required to dedicate funds to facilities, which funds would otherwise be allocated to supporting the schools' educational programs. In addition, lack of facility funding for charters presents an equity issue for charter school teachers, who are held to the same standards in terms of their students' performance, but who have significantly less resources with which to work. This legislation is a great step toward solving the puzzle of how to adequately support public education in charter schools. I hope you will support all the kids of Hawaii by support this bill. Mahalo, Steve Sakala

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allyson H Chambers, MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We are so happy our son is able to attend WHEA. It is a magnificent school! Please let our tax dollars go towards supporting its facilities!! We work so hard on fundraising, but it's not enough. We need support from our state. Our school deserves it! They are creating smart, empowered, creative motivated students that are going to give back to our community. Please give to them so they can continue to thrive.

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amber Alcoran	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I have two children attending WHEA. This school has taught my children so much. They have grown and learned a great deal thru the different leaning. I feel that WHEA will have them ready to take on anything and become very successful adults. I feel that: My child deserves facilities support. My taxes should support my child's school facilities. This will insure that younger children (like my 5year old) will have a great place to go someday. My children love this school and thrives here. Thank you, Amber and Greg Alcoran

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Boleyn	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Public charter schools deserve funding. My daughter has attended Hawaii Technology Academy, a public charter school, throughout high school and is thriving academically and in her personal development. Traditional schools have not met her needs, so we are thrilled that there are places like HTA. She has 4 A's, 2 B's, and 1 C in her classes and she is excited about going to college after she graduates. Give public charter schools the funding they need so they can help more students like my daughter.

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anna Souther	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My son loves to go to his school WHEA and I never thought he would LOVE any school.

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anuschka Faucci	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Many charter schools work hard to give children the best education possible, but struggle because of the facilities issues. This bill would help charter schools enormously!!!

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Brooks	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Innovations PCS provides a wonderful public education to our community's keiki. It is about time they were funded equally!

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Autumn Soda	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: As a parent of three children at Voyager Public Charter School, I have seen, first hand, the hard times we face with Facility Funding over the past nine years. We have had to relocate three times, and struggle to find a location that is a perfect learning environment, but sustainable within the school's budget. Currently, we are in a good position, but that does not mean we are safe from future facility funding struggles. Currently, as renters, we face many challenges on keeping a building perfect for our kids and a proper learning environment. I would greatly appreciate, as a tax paying citizen, knowing that my tax dollars are in fact helping my own children. Autumn Soda

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benjamin Duke	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have been a teacher at West Hawaii Explorations Academy PCS for eight years and have seen the positive effects of giving charter schools freedom to provide a hands-on, real-world, project-based curriculum. My son began kindergarten this year at Innovations PCS and he has grown both academically and socially. In a little more than half a school year he has learned how to read, write, add, and subtract. As a responsible tax payer, I cannot understand why fair funding support for my child and students isn't required by law. Please provide equitable operational funding and equitable access to capital funding and facilities for all public school children. Charter schools provide important options for families and students. WHEA is consistently among the top high schools in the state. WHEA students have to take DOE tests in tents and outdoors. Half of WHEA's Senior Class is already enrolled in college through the UH Running Start Program. Mahalo for your consideration, Benjamin Duke

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Dilley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have two children who have benefited tremendously because of the flexibility and the content of of the Hawaii Technology Academies Charter School. They both feel one of their favorite parts of the program is the opportunity to meet with their fellow classmates in person when it's appropriate. I feel strongly that a portion of my tax dollars should support the facilities for these future leaders of the great State of Hawaii.

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Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caleb Stroud	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charli Beyma	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I really like my children's charter school. Right now they meet in a dojo they rent. It would be great if they had a space all their own to meet.

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chastity	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Charter schools level the playing field for students in Hawaii. Private schools are out of reach for many working families and traditional brick and mortar schools aren't meeting the grade or the DOE schools. Please give our charter schools a fair chance. The educators and administrators can use their time improving and providing even more cutting edge education opportunities if they weren't focused on trying to round up the money for basic needs like viable and safe facilities.

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Submitted on: 3/19/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cheryl Ball	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
christina iokia	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My family loves Hawaii Technology Academy. This public charter school is such a blessing.

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Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Curtis Muraoka	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Facilities support has been the most intransigent obstacle to the progress of programs at West Hawaii Explorations Academy. WHEA has parlayed a \$1.5M GIA provided by the legislature in 2012 into a \$8.5M new campus. Financing included \$1.5M in program savings accumulated over eight years, and a \$5.5M USDA Rural Development loan, the debt for which will primarily need to come out of operational moneys over the 27 year course of the financing agreement. This translates into a \$310,000 fixed facility cost annually, on top of rent and utilities. We thank the Committee for their consideration of this bill. Curtis Muraoka, Co-Director West Hawaii Explorations Academy

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Submitted on: 3/19/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
denise	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Support our charter schools!

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Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dorothy Young	Individual	Support	No

Comments: HAawaii Technology Academy is an amazing school and deserves your support.

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Submitted on: 3/19/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Douglas Mallardi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Charter Schools need financial support to develop and maintain campus facilities. This facilities bill, while focused on utilizing existing buildings for potential charter school use, is a good step in the right direction. Continue the momentum and allocate school taxes toward helping more charter schools maintain their momentum.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elisa Furtado-Fischer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eoin Mast	Individual	Support	No

Comments: HB 1251-Related to facilities funding for Charter Schools March 19, 2014
Dear Sir or Madam, I am a parent of boy and girl 6 year old twins who currently are enrolled as Kindergarteners at Innovations Public Charter School in Kailua Kona on the Big Island of Hawaii and we love our school. Upon deciding to relocate to the Big Island from Boston 4 years ago the issue of available schooling options weighed heavily on my wife's and my mind as we have two sets of boy/girl twins that are currently 5 and 6 years old. After getting settled here on the Big Island we discovered that Innovations Public Charter School (IPCS) was the most respected school option in West Hawaii amongst public and private schools here. Not surprisingly, the ability to enter IPCS through the annual lottery is quite difficult as I believe there are typically over 100 applications for 7 open Kindergarten spaces which places the acceptance rate on par with that of Harvard. IPCS is currently undertaking a project to expand its facilities and I am aware the ability to fund such projects remains a daily challenge for IPCS leaders. Given the demand demonstrated in the annual lottery clearly IPCS is a tremendous asset to the West Hawaii community and by approving the ability to make the funding of facilities for Charter Schools in Hawaii more effective and efficient with the issuance of GO bonds the legislature will succeed in making available high quality education opportunities to more children. IPCS has been a great blessing to our family as the high quality education curriculum it provides coupled with an emphasis of providing numerous activities to help shape a child's character have been greatly appreciated. On a daily basis our children look forward to attending school and miss their friends and teachers when the day is over. Further the IPCS Ohana has been a real asset to the school with parents playing an active role in a variety of school related activities. For example, on Friday's children have an interest group from 10:30am-12:30 pm that can range from Surfing to Tennis to Star Wars interest groups and IPCS parents play a very active role in volunteering to help make these groups possible. In short, I strongly support the passage of Charter School Facilities funding bills as in so doing it will allow other families in Hawaii to experience the blessing of having your children in a stimulating and enriching education experience that our children and family have experienced at IPCS. Sincerely, M. Eoin Mast 808-769-4450

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin Ulman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: All public school students deserve the same facilities support.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fenix Grange	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: My family strongly supports HB 1251. Charter schools greatly expand the educational opportunities in our public school system and can serve as catalysts for innovations in teaching our keiki. This bill will begin to address the drastic financial inequities that non-conversion charter schools face in acquiring, maintaining and funding facility costs. My daughter, Grace, attends SEEQS, a remarkable charter middle school that teaches her to have a "growth mind set". She asked to come with me to testify as she recognizes we need the Legislature's help to allow SEEQS to find a permanent facility so that she will be able to continue to attend SEEQS for high school. We respectfully ask that you pass this measure.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
gs	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: •My child loves this school. •I wish they had schools like this when I was a kid

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Submitted on: 3/19/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Smith	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: My children deserve the support of Hawaii.

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Hauanio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Butts	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I was astonished to discover that my son's school, Hawaii Technology Academy, is not supported by the facility funding that other public schools receive. I took it for granted that charter schools would be under the same umbrella as any other public school. I support education for our next generation, which includes my son. I certainly pay my share of taxes, and I would like for my son to directly benefit from my contribution like the rest of his peers. My son has special needs that the cookie cutter public school is not able to fulfill. He is diagnosed with bipolar disorder. The distraction and the lack of understanding and stress from his peers in the brick and mortar negatively affected his academics and his self-esteem. At HTA he does not have that "noise." I am able to guide and monitor his academic progression much better than at his previous school. As a result, he has become an A/B student. With his disorder, there are good days and there are bad days. I am able to accommodate his needs because the bell doesn't necessarily ring at 3:00 pm. We can wait out until he his ready to perform at his highest level rather than to push him when it is not going to be productive. As a result, my son is healthier and happier. HTA has been the perfect fit for our family and my son's unique needs. I hope that the legislature will recognize that charter school students are members of the public school system as a whole. They deserve the same tax dollars that the rest of the public school system receives. As a productive member of society and a taxpayer, I support the charter school facilities bill.

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Submitted on: 3/19/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jennifer gillette	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jespah Koja	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My daughter and I strongly support HB 1251. Attending SEEQS Charter School has made a positive difference in my daughter's education, and she would like the opportunity to continue attending when they add high school to their curriculum. However, since SEEQS is a start up charter school there is always the issue of not enough funds for facilities (especially at the high school level). My daughter, Aislin, will attend the hearing and may testify in person. We respectfully ask the legislature to pass HB 1251.

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica dos Santos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jodi Malinoski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joni Ishiki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kahealani Kahookaulana	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: My daughter loves her school- WHEA

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ka'iulani Pahi'o	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kerry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: my children deserve equal funding for their educational institutions as the rest of Hawaii's youth whom my tax dollars support.

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kiley nakagawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Innovations charter school is a great charter school here on the big island. I wish there were schools like this available to me.

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kim nelli	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I wish I went to a school like kona pacific public charter school when I was a kid. Our tax dollars should support facilities at charter schools

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberly Yamasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support my child's charter school has a great vision and purpose. It is important to have infrastructure to support such a great school. Also, my taxes should support my child's school facilities.

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Our charter schools in Hawai'i add a rich diversity to our public school system, and to our state. Facilities costs remain on the forefront of every Public Charter School. Not having enough or adequate facilities means a greater financial need for mere basics. Education becomes secondary to the stressors of just staying operational. My children and their Public Charter Schools deserve facilities support. As a taxpayer, I believe my taxes should be paying for facilities support. Do not let another Public Charter School close because of lack of facilities support. Please support HB1251.

Kristin Speltz

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leah Vines	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I really appreciate the quality of education that my daughter receives. With increased funding for facilities, the school could really go to the next level. The concept of having children be familiar with every part of seed to table would be possible with a new kitchen on campus. I support this bill and I think its about time.

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lesley Maxwell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lisa echavez	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: My child deserves facility support. Our tax dollars should support public charter schools like West Hawaii Explorations Academy. My daughter could attend any school she would like, but the charter school curriculum challenges her beyond what other public schools offer. She is a honor student with a 3.9 GPA. She loves her school. Please consider this Bill to get charter schools the funding they deserve. Thank you

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorraine Ward	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing to urge support of HB 1251 HD 1: Relating to Public Charter Schools. My specific area of concern relates to providing adequate facilities for public charter schools. These schools are public schools just like all other public schools, yet I have watched for years as many of them struggle to get by in inadequate makeshift facilities. Until charter schools are supported with this most basic need in the way that all public schools are supported, we cannot say that we have given them a fair chance to succeed. I have long been in favor of using any building designed and built to be a school to house charter schools. That is, I have been in favor of moving DOE offices out of school buildings to free them up for charter school use. While this bill falls short of that solution, making newly vacated school facilities available to public charter schools is a small step in the right direction. I urge you to pass this bill and give our public charter schools this most minimal, basic level of support.

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa Edmonds	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My child loves Kona Pacific Public Charter school. ALL public schools and the children attending deserve facilities support. Thanks so much! Melissa

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My children deserve facilities support. My taxes should support my child's school facilities. My daughter loves this school. I wish they had schools like this when I was a kid.

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nichole Wright	Individual	Support	No

Comments: If the state is using public funds for all other public schools then charter schools (which are public) should be given the same resources. It is a form of discrimination when the state chooses which schools are given facilities funding.

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pablo Penaloza	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Public charter schools are the way to go. Please support them.

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roger	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support our charter schools.

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
SHANNON CLEARY	Individual	Support	No

Comments: HTA serves over 1,000 public school students across the state of Hawaii. HTA requires face-to-face instruction for our students, making it necessary to host students at over 10 sites across the state. Facilities funding will offer these public school students the space to learn that they deserve.

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
shannon tauchert	Individual	Support	No

Comments: If I had the opportunity to go to a school like this when I was a kid I'd have performed profoundly better. Whea is an asset to our community. They should receive the same funding as the public schools in the area. My tax dollars should benefit my children. Why am I paying for other childrens education, with none applied to my own? Whea is not able to reach its full potential without proper funding. Fair, equal funding. If all the children currently attending charter schools in the area were suddenly in need of transfer to the local public schools, the public school system would be over burdened, therefore there is a clear need for alternate education options. They clearly deserve and require the same financial support.

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Aloha,

I would like to submit testimony in support of the Charter School Facilities Bill. Financial support for Hawai'i charter school facilities is so important. It is the missing piece in terms of supporting charter school and ensuring their success. There is significant research showing that adequate educational facilities contribute to student success and achievement. Without facilities funding support, charter schools are required to dedicate funds to facilities. These funds should be allocated to supporting the schools' educational programs. In addition, lack of facility funding for charters presents an equity issue for charter schoolteachers, who are held to the same standards in terms of their students' performance, but who have significantly less resources with which to work. This legislation is a great step toward solving the puzzle of how to adequately support public education in charter schools and how to justly and equitable treat all teachers in our state. I urge you to help ALL (start-up, conversion, lease/rent, on state land, not on state land) charter schools access funding and/or support for facilities. I am strongly in support of ALL of the elements of the HB1251 HD1 Bill.

Thank you,

Shiloh Wright

P.O. Box 455

Kealahou, HI 96750

Telephone (808) 557-0813

shilohw@kppcs.org

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shirley Ames	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Fischer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Charter schools have given my son an opportunity to flourish where he struggled in a typical school with his disability. These schools and my child deserve facility funding!

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sue deuber	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for consideration of this testimony. As a former charter school principal and one who continues to work with charter schools in a variety of capacities, I strongly urge you to support this bill. Financial challenges, particularly with regard to facility funding, have made it difficult for charter schools to deliver on their promise to develop and share new methodologies and approaches that work with Hawaii's keiki. Schools have risen to new levels of accountability and are on the road to success...this would really help us move to the next level! All public school students deserve safe, comfortable settings for learning. Thank you!

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tanya Craig	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Bolton	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Why is Hawaii so bad at supporting our keiki's education? Please help support these hard working educators and children!

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Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tomoko Iwai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: All public school children deserves facilities support from the state. My children love their charter school and they deserves facilities support. My taxes should support my children's school facilities. I wish they had schools like this when I was a kid. Please pass this for the fairness for all children of Hawaii.

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Usha Kotner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Financial support for Hawai'i charter school facilities is the missing piece in terms of supporting charter school success. There is significant research showing that adequate educational facilities contributes to student success. Without facilities funding support, charter schools are required to dedicate funds to facilities, which funds would otherwise be allocated to supporting the schools' educational programs. In addition, lack of facility funding for charters presents an equity issue for charter school teachers, who are held to the same standards in terms of their students' performance, but who have significantly less resources with which to work. This legislation is a great step toward solving the puzzle of how to adequately support public education in charter schools.

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Velma Muraoka	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Charter Schools are public schools and my taxes should be able to fund facilities for my daughter's charter school. She loves going to school and I believe it's because it's a charter school. Please help them. Thank you.

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Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vern Leaman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hawaii Technology Academy is perfect for my son, he has excelled in his classes while pursuing his extracurricular activities. HTA has provided ample classroom and one on one support. This school deserves support so they can continue to provide an educational experience that meets the needs of individual students.

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Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 9:24:07 PM

HB1251

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Inglis	Individual	Support	No

Comments: WHEA charter school has been an ideal fit for my child, and they deserve any and all additional support they can get. Charter schools are the way of the future.

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HB1251

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for EDU/GVO on Mar 20, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wini Hooser	Individual	Support	No

Comments: PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CHARTER SCHOOLS ON THE BIG ISLAND OF HAWAII! WEST HAWAII EXPLORATIONS ACADEMY can really use some funding for expansion, repair and/or construction. They have brought my granddaughter so far in learning. My granddaughter was bullied and the Principal did nothing. Every child should have the option to choose their school whether public or charter. We need to help these Charter Schools with funding!

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