

SCR188 / SR123

Measure Title: REQUESTING THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPACITY ISSUES THROUGH CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICANTS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO STRENGTHEN THESE EFFORTS.

Report Title: State Public Charter School Commission; Public School Overcrowding

Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: EDU, WAM

Introducer(s): DELA CRUZ, CHUN OAKLAND, INOUYE, KIDANI, Galuteria, Kahele, Shimabukuro, Wakai

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
3/13/2015	S	Offered.
3/23/2015	S	Referred to EDU, WAM.
3/23/2015	S	The committee(s) on EDU has scheduled a public hearing on 03-30-15 1:15PM in conference room 229.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

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

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FOR: SCR188 / SR123 Requesting The State Public Charter School Commission To Continue Efforts To Address Public School Capacity Issues Through Charter School Applicants And Make Recommendations On How To Strengthen These Efforts

DATE: Monday, March 30, 2015

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

COMMITTEE(S): Senate Committee on Education

ROOM: Conference Room 229

FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission appreciates the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of this resolution.

Chapter 302D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, charges the Commission with the mission of authorizing high-quality public charter schools throughout Hawaii. To that end, the Commission has welcomed proposals for new public charter schools that will help provide Hawaii’s families with a range of high-quality and innovative educational options. The Commission is committed to quality in every aspect of chartering and firmly believes that high-quality authorizing leads to high-quality schools. In its requests for proposals for prospective applicants, the Commission has emphasized its intent to approve only applicants that it believes convincingly demonstrate, on the front end, the academic, financial, and organizational capacity and vision necessary to operate high-performing schools. The Commission employs a rigorous and transparent application process, based on national best practices.

As this resolution notes, public charter schools are able to fill educational niches, to help address system needs, and to start up in non-traditional facilities. However, the challenges facing prospective applicants for new charter schools are significant, especially, as this Committee is all too aware, when it comes to the need for more support for facilities. The

Commission would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with other key stakeholders on identifying ways in which charter schools could help address the urgent need for more school capacity in certain geographical areas and on finding ways to better support and incentivize such efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2015

RE SCR 188 / SR 123

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

The Honorable Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports SCR 188 / SR 123** requesting “the State Public Charter School Commission to continue its efforts to encourage prospective public charter school applicants to address larger public education system needs...”

HSTA believes that all children have a right to a quality education that addresses their academic, social, emotional, expressive, physical, civic, and technological needs. We support public and public charter schools having basic needs met and consider appropriate facilities a basic need.

The Legislature has demonstrated this session its desire to work in tandem with the State Public Charter School Commission and the Department of Education to reduce the stress and strain of limited access and/or full usage of state facilities.

This resolution is another indication of working together to benefit the children of Hawai‘i.

HSTA supports the SCR188 / SR 123