



February 9, 2018

To: Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair  
Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Education

From: Jeannine Souki, Executive Director  
Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network

**Re: SB 2382- RELATING TO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS- SUPORT  
Conference Room 229 – Hawaii State Capitol – February 9, 2018, 2:45 P.M.**

On behalf of the Hawaii Public Charter School Network (HPCSN), I respectfully submit our testimony for SB 2382 – which would require the Department of Accounting and General Services to conduct semi-annual surveys of all departments concerning any unused facilities that may be used by public charter schools and maintain an inventory of all such unused facilities and to provide semi-annual reports on the inventory potentially useable unused department facilities to the State Public Charter School Commission.

All charter schools receive the same level of per pupil funding of \$7383/student in SY17-18 to provide for its instructional operations. But unlike most public schools, there are no facilities provided or funding from separate facilities budget to help start-up charter schools secure a building or property to establish a new campus. This is a problem because the lack of a facility and funding for it are the largest expenses for charter schools after personnel and direct instructional costs. Unlike most public schools, many start up charter schools do not have the means to provide school meals or transportation for students because the lack of facilities support represents the largest inequity gap for students.

HPCSN believes every student is deserving of access to adequate public-school facilities. For these reasons, we humbly ask your support for this bill to close the equity gap for public charter school students.

Mahalo for your consideration. HPCSN works to improve the operation and governance of public charter schools in Hawai'i and to be a voice for children and families that seek choices and quality in an independent public-school setting.



**SB2382**  
**RELATING TO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS**  
Senate Committee on Education  
Senate Committee on Government Operations

February 9, 2018

2:45 PM

Room 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB2382, which would require the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) to conduct semi-annual surveys of all state departments, to identify unused facilities that may be used by public charter schools, and to maintain an inventory of all such unused facilities. This measure would also require DAGS to provide semi-annual reports of this inventory to the State Public Charter School Commission (Commission). **This measure would help to alleviate the unique burdens faced by our public charter schools, including Hawaiian language immersion and Hawaiian-focused charter schools, in meeting their basic facilities needs.**

Addressing public charter schools' facilities needs has been a critical and longstanding issue in the charter school community. Currently, start-up charter schools must pay for substantial facilities costs using already-stretched operational funds. This is a cost that is not borne by conversion charter schools, or schools under the Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE).

OHA notes that Act 234 (Session Laws Hawai'i 2015), now codified in HRS §302D-35, requires state departments to notify the Commission and the DOE Superintendent of unused suitable facilities that may be appropriate for public charter schools and early learning programs affiliated with public charter schools. Act 234 also requires DAGS to inventory such suitable facilities. It is OHA's understanding that an inventory of suitable facilities has not been completed. Accordingly, OHA respectfully submits that SB2382 will help clarify DAGS's responsibilities in the furtherance of Act 234, and will better facilitate the use of vacant state buildings by public charter schools.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committees to **PASS** SB2382. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.