

DAVID Y. IGE  
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CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

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EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2511

**February 6, 2020**  
**2:10 p.m.**  
**Room 309**

**RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS**

The Department of Budget and Finance offers comments on House Bill (H.B.) No. 2511.

H.B. No. 2511 provides funding for the rental or lease of facilities through legislative appropriations and bond authorizations to the State Public Charter School Commission for the design, planning, construction, repair, and maintenance of public charter school improvements and appropriates an undetermined amount of general funds for FY 21.

It should be noted that there are certain Internal Revenue Code restrictions regarding third-party operations of public facilities that are financed by tax exempt general obligation bonds.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



JOHN S.S. KIM  
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

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FOR: HB 2511 Relating to Charter Schools  
DATE: February 6, 2020  
TIME: 2:10 P.M.  
COMMITTEE: Committee on Lower and Higher Education  
ROOM: Conference Room 309  
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony providing **SUPPORT of HB 2511** which provides funding for the rental or lease of facilities, infrastructure costs, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure for public charter schools.

Facilities costs for charter schools continues to be one of the greatest unaddressed challenges for Hawaii’s chartering system. In school year 2018-2019, charter schools expended more than \$11.1 million for rent/lease payments, repair and maintenance, and utilities payments. The Commission determined this figure based on information provided from the annual audits that all charter schools are required to complete, pursuant to Section 302D-32, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The needs of each individual charter school vary greatly as shown by a range of facility-related expenses, which start at about \$33,400 to a high of \$1.4 million. The reasons for this wide disparity can be attributed to the wide range of facilities that charter schools operate in, which include former Department of Education schools, unused state facilities, private buildings, and new campuses built from scratch. Any support provided by this committee and the Legislature would go far in addressing the challenge that charter schools have faced in regards to facilities funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



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

Corey Rosenlee  
President

Osa Tui Jr.  
Vice President

Logan Okita  
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION

RE: HB 2511 - RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2020

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

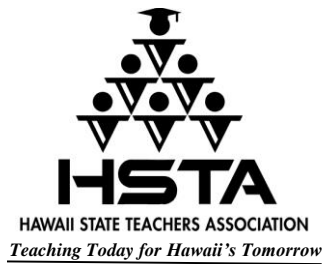
Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports HB 2511** relating to charter schools.

Facilities funding is a long-standing issue for charter schools. In Hawai'i, start-up charter schools have paid the costs of their facilities from operational funds. In 2013; however, lawmakers authorized the Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission to request facilities funding as part of its annual budget request. Later, in 2015, legislators called for a working group to establish a framework for providing facilities funding and support for public charter school facilities with adequate prioritization, oversight, and accountability.

Today, amounts received by charter schools fail to keep pace with the cost of providing and quality instruction and maintaining adequate facilities. Charter schools receive \$7,359 per-pupil, most of which is disbursed toward operational expenses, often leaving charters to rely on private donations to fund facilities and rent. Charter schools' per-pupil operating funds cover items like salaries, collective bargaining costs, curricula, school supplies, equipment, and utilities, but do not encompass the facilities and maintenance costs that comprise approximately 10 percent of charter school budgets, according to the Hawai'i Public Charter Schools Network.

Poorly funded charter schools are sometimes forced to hold classes in unstable temporary structures to the detriment of their students' learning and safety. **Accordingly, we urge the committee to approve additional state funds for the repair, maintenance, acquisition, and rental of charter school facilities.** We also encourage your committee to consider ways of improving charter school facilities funding over the long-term, rather than through one-year legislative add-ons, to ensure that our state's charter school students have the opportunity to receive



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Executive Director

instruction in 21<sup>st</sup> Century facilities that prepare them for today's cutting-edge workplace.

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



## **HOUSE BILL 2511, RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS**

FEBRUARY 6, 2020 · HOUSE EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. JUSTIN H. WOODSON

**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports HB 2511, relating to charter schools, which provides funding for the rental or lease of facilities through legislative appropriations and bond authorizations to the State Public Charter School Commission for the design, planning, construction, repair, and maintenance of public charter school improvements, and appropriates general funds for infrastructure costs, lease or rent assistance, and repair and maintenance of network infrastructure for charter schools.

Public charter schools serve as sources of scholastic innovation. While many charter schools operate in urban areas, others meet the academic needs of remote areas lacking comprehensive public school facilities and programming. Additionally, many charter schools provide immersive instruction in Native Hawaiian culture and language.

Yet, charter schools receive inadequate funding to support student learning. While traditional DOE schools receive \$13,748 per-pupil each year, charter schools receive roughly \$7,500 per-pupil, out of which must be paid operational costs including curricula, salaries, and school supplies, leaving little for facilities, maintenance, and rent. Although the Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission may request facilities funding as part of its annual budget request, amounts received

in recent fiscal years have not satisfied the rising cost of providing and maintaining quality facilities. In turn, charter schools that lack adequate building space are forced to conduct class outdoors, on covered lanais, or in unsafe provisional structures.

To compensate for insufficient facilities funding, charter schools often seek revenue from nongovernmental, nonprofit, and corporate entities. While all charter schools in Hawai'i are required to operate as public schools, forcing charter schools to rely on nongovernmental funding sources increases private involvement in charter school programming, which undermines public accountability of the state's charter school network.

Furthermore, reliance on private funding by public charter schools could generate efforts to establish private charter schools and private charter school authorizers in Hawai'i, which would transfer control of public education to private entities and erode available resources for traditional public schools. To maintain the public status of charter schools, then, lawmakers should appropriate no less than \$10 million to HSPCSC to allocate based on need and financial performance.

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 11:15:51 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taffi Wise	KANU O KA AINA NCPCS	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Woodson and Committee Members,

Thank you for considering HB2426. Facilities support to help get students out of the weather and support for USDA approved kitchens so charter school students may receive school breakfast and lunch will make a world of difference in children's lives.

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 11:38:01 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louisa Lee	Ka 'Umeke Ka;eo	Support	No

## Comments:

Ka 'Umeke KĀ• 'eo Hawaiian Language Immersion Public Charter School strongly supports HB2511. Ka 'Umeke began as Kula Kaiapuni O Keaukaha, one of the first Hawaiian Immersion Schools established in the State (1987). After nearly 30 years at Keaukaha Elementary School, in classrooms that were built with funds intended for Hawaiian language immersion programs (by the legislature), Ka 'Umeke officially vacated all classroom space on the Keaukaha Elementary DOE campus in 2016. The decision to remove Ka 'Umeke from Keaukaha Elementary was supported by the Keaukaha Elementary Principal and the Complex Area Superintendent.

Since 2016 our 240 students have been spread between three campuses at an annual lease cost of nearly \$450,000. This does not include the cost of maintaining infrastructure (water, electricity, internet) and staffing three different sites. These costs are paid for directly out of our Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) which takes valuable funds away from our educational program and direct academic support for our students. Today all three of our sites are on temporary lease with the longest lease set at five years. Our current K-3 site has a remaining lease of three years and is in need of \$1.6 million in renovations to bring the building up to school occupancy. This renovation is a requirement of our county Use Permit, and necessary to meet the organizational performance framework of our charter contract. With no other facility options in Hilo and no financial support from the state for school facilities, these costs are impossible and completely unsustainable. There is a general lack of facilities appropriate for students in East Hawai'i, and a lack of Hawaiian language immersion programs across the state.

For over a decade we have been working to securing permanent facilities. However, setback after setback around a permanent site, and financing/funding for buildings, with no support from the state, make securing permanent facilities even more challenging. Financial support specifically for school facilities would enable our school to more readily pursue permanent school facilities, and use our current PPA funds to provide afterschool tutoring support, aid in Hawaiian language development for students new to 'Ā• lelo Hawai'i, build our early education program, secure additional Hawaiian language and culture curriculum, improve instruction, and offer the most conducive student to teacher ratios (class sizes).



Please support safe and equitable access to appropriate school facilities for all Hawai'i students.

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 11:49:55 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Osborne	Kua O Ka La NCPCS	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

Kua O Ka La strongly supports this bill to provide for facilities/facilities-related expenses.

Mahalo for this consideration.

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 12:27:06 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Smith	Kapolei Charter School	Support	No

## Comments:

Kapolei Charter School, which opened in 2017, serves high school students in grades 9-12. As part of their high school experience, students have the opportunities to earn industry certifications or college credits to give them a head start in the career or secondary educational goals.

Public charter schools exist to innovate and initiate positive change in the educational system. In Hawaii, alternative educational choices are particularly needed for high-risk students, who experience significant obstacles that impede their academic success. Adequate facilities are critical to providing an academic environment in which youth can succeed. An insufficient school environment can affect students' ability to focus and retain knowledge while also limiting the opportunity for application of lessons learned.

Despite the extensive research proving the effects that school facilities have on student learning, and the impact that success in school has on one's future trajectory, charter schools in Hawaii still struggle to develop adequate resources to dedicate to high-quality facilities. Hawaii's charter school do not receive any facilities support from our state, which leaves the burden on the schools to develop funding to support facilities costs.

Financial support provided by this bill would alleviate the significant strain on charter school budgets that is needed for facility costs, and enable schools to focus their resources instead on other academic supports.

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 1:12:43 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nelson JenksPuaa	Kanu o ka Aina Learning Ohana	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support the passing of HB2511 as our community charter schools could use more support in maintaining these important facilities that our communities rely on.



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

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

Before the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education, House Bill 2511 Relating to Charter Schools

February 6, 2020 2:10 p.m., Rm 309

Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J Hashem, Vice Chair Sean Quinlan and members of the Committee

### **IN STRONG SUPPORT**

Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau **strongly supports HB 2511**, to provide funding for the rental or lease of facilities through legislative appropriations and bond authorizations to the State Public Charter School Commission.

Funding is an important issue, as charter schools struggle to meet our many expenses with the modest per-pupil funding and no food, transportation or facilities support. Public charter schools receive inadequate funding to support student learning and currently received NO funding to support the rising costs to develop, repair and maintain our public school facilities.

1. Hawai'i Charter Schools are PUBLIC schools in the State of Hawai'i. Our students deserve access to safe and high-quality charter school facilities.
2. Kamakau is currently working on three capital improvement projects to expand our campus and address our enrollment needs. Although we feel that the state has a responsibility to support the facilities needs of all public charter schools, our Governing Board has actively sought other non-state funding to support these projects.

Once again, we are in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2511 to appropriate funding for the rental or lease of facilities through legislative appropriations and bond authorizations to the State Public Charter School Commission.

In closing, we would like to thank the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education for this opportunity to share our mana'o.

Me ke aloha,

I Kelling Kahu, Director

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 1:36:05 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bobbie Lee Kainoa Bapitste	Ka Umeke Kaeo PCS	Support	No

Comments:

Charter Schools have struggled for as long as I have been teaching. From Commuting daily for 4 years, to Waimea which is an hour and a half away from my home. And now I am working closer to home in Keaukaha at a Hawaiian Immersion Charter School. It remains evident that charter schools are lacking major support in many different areas, but facilities are by far the biggest concern.

1) Charter schools get no funding for facilities and facilities expenses are taken from the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) that should go directly to student programs, the PPA for charter students is significantly less than the calculated PPA for students on DOE campuses

2) Charter Schools across the state pay approximately \$15million annually in lease expenses

3 Please support equitable access to adequate school facilities for all Hawai'i students

PLEASE support this bill and support ALL keiki in Hawai'i. Mahalo nui!

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 2:17:44 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dawn Poiani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support HB2511

This is a great bill. With three children in Charter schools I see this bill as important and helpful to the success of Charter Schools.

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 7:10:04 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monica Morris	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I support HB2511, which provides much needed facilities funding to our Hawaii public charter schools that are making a difference in the lives of many students, their families, and communities. This is a good investment in Hawaii's keiki, and Hawaii's future. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB2511.



**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 11:33:01 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Katie Benioni	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 11:41:34 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephen Hurwitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 12:36:57 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
mikihala mahi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Charter Schools need to have adequate funding for our facilities.

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 12:44:28 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anthony Fraser	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 12:50:45 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pomai Brandt	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Charter schools get no funding for facilities and facilities expenses are taken from the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) that should go directly to our student programs, the PPA for charter students is significantly less than the calculated PPA for students on DOE campuses. Charter Schools across the state pay approximately \$15million annually in lease expense. Please support equitable access to adequate school facilities for all Hawai'i students. All keiki rather they be in DEO or Charter school deserves adequate school facilities.

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 12:57:24 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan L.K. Lee Loy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

## Testimony in Support of HB 2511

Date: 5 February 2020

I Edward Halealoha Ayau, serve as a member of the Board of Directors of Ka 'Umeke Ka'eo Public Charter School and I support the passage of HB 2511 for the following reasons:

- 1) Charter schools get no funding for facilities and facilities expenses are taken from the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) that should go directly to student programs, the PPA for charter students is significantly less than the calculated PPA for students on DOE campuses
- 2) Charter Schools across the state pay approximately \$15million annually in lease expenses
- 3) Please support equitable access to adequate school facilities for all Hawai'i students.

Mahalo,

*Edward H Ayau*

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 1:39:27 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hope McKeen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

1) Charter schools get no funding for facilities and facilities expenses are taken from the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) that should go directly to student programs, the PPA for charter students is significantly less than the calculated PPA for students on DOE campuses

2) Charter Schools across the state pay approximately \$15million annually in lease expenses

3 Please support equitable access to adequate school facilities for all Hawai'i students



**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 1:48:19 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacey Ka?au?a	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this measure help our charter schools.

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 1:48:37 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Malia Keliikoa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support facilities for Charter Schools, mahalo!

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 1:48:59 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Kelekolio	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

1) Charter schools get no funding for facilities and facilities expenses are taken from the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) that should go directly to student programs, the PPA for charter students is significantly less than the calculated PPA for students on DOE campuses

2) Charter Schools across the state pay approximately \$15million annually in lease expenses

3 Please support equitable access to adequate school facilities for all Hawai'i students

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 1:49:32 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Miki?ala Taylor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 1:50:55 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shari Frias	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

1) Charter schools get no funding for facilities and facilities expenses are taken from the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) that should go directly to student programs, the PPA for charter students is significantly less than the calculated PPA for students on DOE campuses

2) Charter Schools across the state pay approximately \$15million annually in lease expenses

3 Please support equitable access to adequate school facilities for all Hawai'i students

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 1:52:51 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sophie Dolera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

He kumu kula kaiapuni hoʻāka māna au no laila kākou koʻo nāka au i kākaia pila. He mea nui ka hoʻolako ʻana i nāka kula hoʻāka māna i hiki iāka kākou ke holomua me ka lanakila no ka pono o kāka kākou mau keiki ma Hawaiʻi nei.

Mahalo nui,

Kaleimomi Dolera.

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 1:53:51 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hauolikeola H Pakele	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB2511

1) Charter schools get no funding for facilities and facilities expenses are taken from the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) that should go directly to student programs, the PPA for charter students is significantly less than the calculated PPA for students on DOE campuses

2) Charter Schools across the state pay approximately \$15million annually in lease expenses

3 Please support equitable access to adequate school facilities for all Hawai'i students

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 1:55:04 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Noah W Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

There should be equitable access to adequate school facilities for all Hawai'i students.  
Charter schools should have State support for facilities.

Mahalo nui loa,

Noah Davis



**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 1:57:40 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaakapua Swain	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ka'akapua Swain. I am a teacher at Ka 'Umeke KĀ• 'eo. I strongly support this bill because I know first hand how it is to look for a facility in which to call home. It is unfair that charter schools must look for their own funding in order to be able to have a facility in which to educate our keiki.

1) Charter schools get no funding for facilities and facilities expenses are taken from the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) that should go directly to student programs, the PPA for charter students is significantly less than the calculated PPA for students on DOE campuses

2) Charter Schools across the state pay approximately \$15million annually in lease expenses

3 Please support equitable access to adequate school facilities for all Hawai'i students

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 1:58:56 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carol Ioane	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

1) Charter schools get no funding for facilities and facilities expenses are taken from the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) that should go directly to student programs, the PPA for charter students is significantly less than the calculated PPA for students on DOE campuses

2) Charter Schools across the state pay approximately \$15million annually in lease expenses

3 Please support equitable access to adequate school facilities for all Hawai'i students

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 2:03:03 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanoe M	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a kumu (teacher), a makua (parent), and most importantly a public educator born and raised in the state of Hawai'i. I am in full support of HB2511! All public schools, charter & regular DOE alike, deserve equal & sufficient funding for facilities. When charter schools have to allocate funds towards facilities which other public schools do not have to, it affects our keiki: socially, emotionally, and academically. Please honestly & seriously reflect upon the need for additional funds to adequately support all charter school facilities. If this was your keiki, or your 'ohana, or your community charter school, would you not agree that they could use more funding to improve their facilities? Please consider approving HB2511.

Mahalo,

Kanoe M.

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 2:05:15 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Iliahi Anthony	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 2:07:03 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Ili	Ka Umeke Kaeo HIPCS	Support	No

Comments:

Funding should be a priority for facilities for all charter schools in Hawaii.

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 2:08:29 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aina Ioane	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Aloha, I'm a parent at Ka 'Umeke KĀ• 'eo PCS in Keaukaha and I am in support of this bill. We learn early on in education that students learn differently and so please let us offer them as many different working options as possible. Charter Schools offer a new way of learning and so please support them with facility expenses. Below are two more reasons:

1) Charter schools get no funding for facilities and facilities expenses are taken from the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) that should go directly to student programs, the PPA for charter students is significantly less than the calculated PPA for students on DOE campuses

2) Charter Schools across the state pay approximately \$15million annually in lease expense

In conclusion, please support equitable access to adequate school facilities for all Hawai'i students

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 2:09:02 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Haawinamaikalani Wise	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a makua of a charter school student. I support the HB2511 bill for the following reasons. Charter schools get no funding for facilities and facilities expenses are taken from the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) that should go directly to student programs, the PPA for charter students is significantly less than the calculated PPA for students on DOE campuses. Charter Schools across the state pay approximately \$15million annually in lease expenses. Please support equitable access to adequate school facilities for all Hawai'i students

**LATE**

**HB2511**  
**RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS**  
House Committee on Lower & Higher Education

February 6, 2020

2:10 p.m.

Room 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** HB2511, which would provide funding to the State Public Charter School Commission to allocate to state public charter schools for infrastructure costs, rental or lease of facilities, and repair and maintenance of network infrastructure, as determined by the Commission. **This bill would help alleviate the unique financial burdens borne by start-up public charter schools in meeting their basic facilities needs.**

Hawai‘i’s public charter schools are indeed deserving of equity, and have already demonstrated their potential for innovation and excellence notwithstanding their unique financial challenges. Most recently, some public charter schools have outperformed the state average in areas such as on-time graduation rates, college matriculation rates, and reduced chronic absenteeism, as reflected in the latest Strive HI SY 2017-2018 performance scores; lessons learned in such charter schools can benefit students and schools throughout our public education system. As a testament to Hawai‘i’s charter schools’ success, on December 6, 2016, the BOE-approved updated State Education Strategic Plan for 2017-2020 describes “the shared objectives for equity and excellence for every child across Hawai‘i’s nearly 300 public schools, including our public charter schools and Hawaiian language medium schools”; the Plan also includes the objective that “Hawai‘i public schools will foster innovation and the expansion of existing public school ‘Bright Spots,’ which includes learning from charter schools that were established as innovation labs” (emphasis added).

Unfortunately, although Hawai‘i’s public charter schools continue to demonstrate their distinct value to Hawai‘i’s students, addressing public charter schools’ facilities needs continues to be a critical and longstanding issue in the charter school community. Start-up charter schools in particular must pay for substantial facilities costs using their 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, and that may unfairly impede start-up schools from realizing their full potential for their students and as “innovation labs” for public education as a whole.

Notably, the State Board of Education (BOE) itself has acknowledged the longstanding need to address this funding disparity, and its most recent report to the 2019 Legislature “recommends that the Legislature provide some form of facilities funding to



charter schools to address this unmet [facilities funding] need.” The BOE’s report also recognized the importance of our public charter schools as an integral component of our public education strategy.

**To fully realize the potential for innovation in charter schools that may in turn foster greater student success in our public school system as a whole, it is critical that public charter schools receive adequate appropriations for facilities funding.** HB2511 will help bring equity to our public charter schools, and address the longstanding problem of funding for charter schools’ facilities.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB2511. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

**LATE**

**HB-2511**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 2:32:48 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/6/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Hirakami	Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science PCS	Support	No

**Comments:**

I could speak volumes on the importance of this bill. Ever since I got involved in charter schools, this subject of facility funding has been at the top of the priority list. We start up schools, especially in rural areas are finding ways to offer excellent education in adequate, but modest facilities. Even without basic lease costs being subsidized, we still face the costs of running the facilities. This includes utilities, repair and maintenance, and ADA upgrades. The students deserve more They have gotten by so far, but with facility funding, administration could install upgrades to its facilities. All of the upgrades would benefit and enhance our students' public school experience. Please pass this bill and attach a meaningful allocation to this bill.

Aloha, Steve Hirakami, School Director