



LATE \*Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 04/02/2026

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** FIN

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB2024, HD1, RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITIES.

**Purpose of Bill:** Authorizes the School Facilities Authority to use public-private partnerships for the development of public school facilities, including facilities at public charter schools. Requires the School Facilities Authority to establish a pilot program to develop three new public schools in areas based on demonstrated need through public-private partnerships. Requires the approval of the Department of Education prior to the development of a public school for the pilot program on Department lands. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on SB 2024, SD 2, HD 1, which authorizes the Hawaii School Facilities Authority (SFA) to pursue a pilot program to develop three new schools through public-private partnerships (PPPs).

The Department recognizes the Legislature's interest in identifying innovative, efficient delivery of school facilities and acknowledges the potential value of PPP models when appropriately structured and applied in appropriate situations.

In Hawaii, conversion charter schools are former Department of Education public schools that must continue to serve their original geographic area. The Department retains ownership and control of all lands and facilities for conversion charter schools. Start-up charter schools, by contrast, are newly established and operate independently of the Department. They are not tied to the Department's attendance boundaries or programming, and their facilities are not situated on Department-owned or controlled land.

Based on this distinction, the Department acknowledges that the PPP structure in SB 2024, SD 2, HD 1 is more appropriate for start-up charter schools. Start-up charters operate with greater autonomy and operational flexibility, are not bound to the Department's educational programming structures, and frequently rely on private or

non-Department lands.

The Department also notes the SFA's expanding responsibilities, which now include housing initiatives and potential PPP projects. As SFA's portfolio grows, it is important that its authority is clearly defined to prevent duplication, ensure coordination, and avoid disruption to Department operations.

For these reasons, the Department appreciates the addition of Section 4, which prohibits the development of pilot-program schools on Department-owned or controlled lands without Department approval. This safeguard is necessary to protect current and future Department facility needs.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on SB 2024, SD 2, HD 1.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



MAKALAPUA ALENCASTRE, ED. D.  
CHAIRPERSON

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

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>  
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1100, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

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FOR: SB 2024 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITIES  
DATE: April 2, 2026  
TIME: 2:00 P.M.  
COMMITTEE: Committee on Finance  
ROOM: Conference Room 308 & Videoconference  
FROM: Ed H. Noh, Ed. D., Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 2024 SD2 HD1** which:

- 1) Allows the School Facilities Authority (‘SFA’) to enter into partnerships for the design, financing, and maintenance of public school facilities and projects on privately-owned land;
- 2) Requires SFA to establish a pilot program for the development of proposals for three new public schools through public-private partnerships; and
- 3) Evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot program through reports to the Legislature.

Securing facilities for public charter schools continues to be an ongoing challenge that affects the performance and success of charter schools and their students. Innovative programs and proposals such as the development of public-private partnership schools by SFA are supported by the Commission as an alternative way to address charter school facility issues. The Commission has already successfully opened two new Preschool-only charter schools utilizing an innovative model of public-private partnerships.

The Commission is available to work with the Legislature and SFA on the passage and implementation of this legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



RIKI FUJITANI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## Hawai'i School Facilities Authority

2759 S. KING STREET, ROOM H201  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

**House Committee on Finance**  
April 2, 2026  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 308

### **Senate Bill 2024, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1, Relating to Charter School Facilities**

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

The School Facilities Authority (SFA) **supports** Senate Bill 2024, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1, which would require the SFA to establish a pilot program to develop three new public schools in areas based on demonstrated need through public-private partnerships (P3s).

Hawai'i continues to face some of the highest public school construction costs in the nation. These escalating costs make it increasingly difficult to provide adequate educational facilities for students, particularly in communities experiencing enrollment growth and capacity constraints. At the same time, traditional school delivery timelines are often too slow to respond to urgent needs. Overcrowding, aging infrastructure, and rising costs require that the State explore new approaches that are both efficient and accountable.

Other jurisdictions have successfully used public-private partnerships to accelerate school delivery. For example, Prince George's County Public Schools in Maryland delivered six new public schools through a long-term P3 model that bundled design, construction, financing, and maintenance into a single performance-based agreement. While the district makes structured public payments over time, the approach provided faster delivery, predictable costs, and long-term accountability for facility upkeep. This illustrates the type of model Hawai'i can evaluate through this pilot program.

SB2024 SD2 HD1 provides a framework for testing alternative delivery methods through a limited pilot program. Specifically, the bill would require SFA to establish a program to develop three new public schools located in different geographic areas based on demonstrated community need using P3s.

SFA supports piloting this approach because it allows the State to evaluate whether P3 models can deliver school facilities that are more cost-effective, delivered more quickly, and designed for long-term durability and quality. Importantly, P3s are not a substitute for public funding, but a tool that may allow the State to deliver facilities more efficiently while ensuring long-term upkeep, performance standards, and public oversight. In some cases, a P3 model may allow the State to deliver a school facility at a substantially lower cost than traditional procurement, potentially reducing the overall capital required for delivery.

SFA appreciates that the bill establishes clear requirements for transparency and accountability. The pilot program would be implemented through competitive requests for proposals evaluated on criteria that include:

- Cost savings to the State
- Community need and enrollment growth
- Quality of design
- Speed of delivery
- Site availability
- Compliance with applicable laws

The bill also includes legislative oversight through required interim and final reports to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot program, including costs, efficiencies, and implementation challenges.

The appropriation provided in this measure would allow SFA to develop and administer the procurement process, engage the market effectively, and ensure that proposals are realistic, financeable, and aligned with community priorities before the State makes major long-term commitments. By investing in this structured planning and procurement process, Hawai'i can make better-informed decisions and build a pipeline of viable school projects that reflect both fiscal responsibility and educational urgency.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Riki Fujitani  
Executive Director



## HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawaii  
The House of Representatives  
Committee on Finance

Testimony by the  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

April 1, 2026

### S.B. 2024, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITIES

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO wishes to provide comments on S.B. 2024, S.D. 2., H.D. 1, which requires the School Facilities Authority (SFA) to establish a pilot program to develop three new public schools in areas based on demonstrated need through public-private partnerships and authorizes the SFA to use public-private partnerships for the development of public school facilities, including facilities at public charter schools.

We recognize and respect the Legislature's desire to prioritize cost-efficiency and community needs but oppose the State entering into public-private partnerships for the development of school facilities, in particular, what that means for the maintenance and upkeep of these schools, duties that historically were provided by civil service employees. This measure does not clearly define the authority, decision-making power, or operating scope of the School Facilities Authority (SFA) in relation to the Department of Education, Department of Accounting and General Services, the Hawaii Public Charter School Commission, and the respective charter school governing boards.

Without clear statutory delineation, this bill risks deepening the confusion and misalignment that already exist between these entities. Our understanding is that the SFA has been tasked with major responsibilities, including building new preschool classrooms, developing a new school in Central Maui, and creating workforce housing for educators. While preschool classrooms have come online, we continue to hear of significant challenges related to the Central Maui school project, and the long-anticipated workforce housing development at Mililani High School has not yet materialized. These examples raise concerns about whether the SFA can take on additional responsibilities without more clearly defined roles and stronger coordination with the State departments and governing bodies aforementioned.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Legislature refine this measure to ensure clear, non-overlapping definitions of authority and responsibility between the SFA, the DOE, DAGS, HSPCSC, and the charter school governing bodies. There should be formalized processes for communication, coordination, and shared decision-making; and

transparent accountability structures that prevent duplication, enhance efficiency, and ensure that private partners are not allowed to prioritize profit over the needs of our students, schools, and communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on S.B. 2024, S.D. 2, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randy Perreira', written over the typed name.

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director



## UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2026

#### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Chris Todd, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Thursday, April 2, 2026, 2:00 PM  
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

#### Re: Testimony on SB2024, SD2, HD1 – RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITIES

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”) is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which includes blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties.

UPW **opposes** SB2024, SD2, HD1, which authorizes the School Facilities Authority (“SFA”) to establish a pilot program to develop three new public schools in areas based on demonstrated need through public-private partnerships. This measure also authorizes the SFA to use public-private partnerships for the development of public school facilities, including facilities at public charter schools.

UPW is opposed to legislation that authorizes the possible privatization of the duties that have historically been performed by public employees. We are concerned with language (page 4, lines 8-9) that would allow the SFA to enter into partnerships for the maintenance of any project. Based on prior private-public partnerships in state government, our concern is that the maintenance of the proposed projects could be contracted out rather than utilizing public workers who can perform these duties. Should this committee choose to pass this measure, we would ask that this language be removed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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*Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.*

To: House Committee on Finance  
Re: SB 2024 SD2 HD1-Relating to Charter School Facilities  
Hawai'i State Capitol room 308 & Via Videoconference April  
2, 2026, 2:00 PM

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Takenouchi, and Respected Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! (HCAN Speaks!) I am submitting testimony in **SUPPORT OF SB 2024 SD2 HD1**, which would establish a pilot program within the School Facilities Authority to develop new public schools in areas of demonstrated need through public-private partnerships and authorize the use of these partnerships for public school facilities, including charter schools.

HCAN Speaks! is an advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring that all of Hawai'i's children especially those in underserved communities have access to the opportunities and resources they need to thrive. Safe, modern, and well-resourced school facilities are foundational to student success.

Across Hawai'i, communities are facing aging infrastructure, overcrowding, and limited facility capacity. These challenges directly impact students' learning environments and can constrain educational opportunity. SB 2024 SD2 HD1 offers an innovative approach to expanding and improving public school facilities by leveraging public-private partnerships to accelerate development in high-need areas.

Charter schools are an important part of Hawai'i's public education system, often serving diverse and historically underserved communities. Yet charter school facilities have long faced funding and infrastructure barriers. By explicitly allowing the School Facilities Authority to utilize public-private partnerships for charter school facilities, this measure helps promote greater equity across our public school system.

Public-private partnerships can bring additional expertise, flexibility, and capital to school development while maintaining public accountability. Establishing a pilot program allows the State to test this approach thoughtfully and report back to the Legislature, ensuring transparency and data-driven decision-making.

Investing in school facilities is investing in our keiki. All public school students whether attending traditional or charter schools deserve safe, high-quality learning environments that support their academic growth and well-being.

For these reasons, HCAN Speaks! respectfully urges the Committee to pass SB 2024 SD2 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support in **SUPPORT of SB 2024 SD1 HD1**.



info@hawaiikidscan.org  
hawaiikidscan.org

April 2, 2026

House Committee on Finance  
Rep. Chris Todd, Chair  
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Regarding: **Support for SB 2024 SD2 HD1 Relating to Charter School Facilities**

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

**HawaiiKidsCAN strongly supports SB2024 SD2 HD1**, which authorizes the School Facilities Authority to use public-private partnerships for the development of public school facilities, including facilities at public charter schools. Requires the School Facilities Authority to establish a pilot program to develop three new public schools in areas based on demonstrated need through public-private partnerships. Requires the approval of the Department of Education prior to the development of a public school for the pilot program on Department lands. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a local nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawai'i has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, has a transformational impact on our children and our state. We believe that all students should have access to excellent educational opportunities, regardless of family income levels and circumstances.

Perhaps more than anyone, the Legislature understands how shifting population patterns are placing uneven pressure on our school facilities. While some communities face under-enrollment, others are experiencing rapid growth that has left existing schools overcrowded. At the same time, public charter schools - serving thousands of Hawai'i students and growing each year - continue to face persistent challenges in accessing stable, adequate facilities. Unlike Department of Education schools, most charter schools independently secure and finance their campuses, creating significant operational and financial strain.

With state budgets tightening and new school construction not keeping pace with need, a new approach is clearly needed. The Hawai'i School Facilities Authority is well



positioned to develop and execute a new model of public charter school facilities development through this pilot. In practice, the structure of this bill creates a pathway that is particularly well-suited to charter schools, which are uniquely positioned to initiate and benefit from P3 arrangements to meet urgent facility needs.

The SFA has already demonstrated its ability to deliver results for Hawai‘i families, including leading the expansion of public pre-K classrooms. It also has the flexibility and creativity to advance innovative funding strategies, such as the P3 model proposed in this bill - an approach that could be especially transformative for charter schools that currently lack access to consistent capital funding streams.

Based on national best practices, P3s create incentives for timely delivery and shared accountability. Private partners have “skin in the game” to deliver projects on budget and on schedule, while also bringing specialized expertise in project management and innovation. This model can help address internal capacity challenges that have contributed to Hawai‘i’s capital improvement backlog. Importantly, P3s can also expand access to upfront capital, allowing critical school facilities - particularly for charter schools - to be built now, with costs spread over time rather than being delayed by limited public funding.

Given the ongoing frustration from communities and policymakers over stalled projects and lapsing funds, this pilot represents a meaningful opportunity to test a more responsive and efficient approach to school facilities development. Charter schools in Hawai‘i have already demonstrated what is possible when given the opportunity to innovate, such as Kīhei Charter School, which developed a high-quality campus for approximately \$18.6 million serving over 650 students. In contrast, recent Department of Education school projects have reached costs that may be difficult to sustain, including Kūlanihākoī High School (\$440 million), East Kapolei Elementary School (\$160 million), and East Kapolei High School (\$700 million).

By focusing this pilot on a model that can effectively support public charter school facilities, SB2024 SD2 HD1 offers a pragmatic and forward-looking step toward modernizing Hawai‘i’s education infrastructure and expanding opportunity for students across the state.

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro  
Executive Director  
HawaiiKidsCAN



32 community members have also co-signed our testimony in support of SB2024 SD2 HD1.

Name	Zip Code	Organization
Misty Cruden	96760	
Elijah Kochenbach	96720	
Alexander Callenback	96778	
Laura	96720	
Doug Imig, PhD	96822	
Kim Guieb	96818	
Keoni Uehara	96792	
Phaedra Robinson, Ph.D.	96734	RAI Hawaii LLC
Silvia Tedeschi	96814	
Brigitte Schell	96816	
Jacqueline Lamontagne	96744	
Sachie Yorck	96816	
Kaela Teho	96813	
Mindy Yang	98613	
Marissa Brooks	96825	FIT4MOM Honolulu
Kate Sowards	96826	
Michelle Lam	96744	
Leilani Kailiawa	96720	
Anne Weber-Yarbrough	96819	
Nick G.	96826	
Paloma Almanza	96734	
Germaine Kaleilehua Tauati, MA.ED.	96720	
Jill Takasaki Canfield	96817	Hawaii Literacy
Momi Mae Ham	96816	



Leilani Kailiawa	96720	
Jillian Levy	96792	
Kalima Kinney	96785	Volcano School of Arts & Sciences Public Charter School
Emily SL Silver	96822	
Lynn Finnegan	96744	
Leilani Burchette	96786	
Felecia Shin	96763	
H. Mitchell D'Olier	96821	



## **Senate Committee on Education**

### **Senate Bill 2024, Relating to Charter School Facilities**

Thursday, April 2, 2026, 2:00 PM

Hawai'i State Capitol

#### **IN SUPPORT**

#### **Aloha e Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,**

We are the largest public charter school in the state, serving over 2,200 students across multiple islands. Like many schools, our biggest challenge is facilities. Especially as we have experienced an approx. 60% enrollment increase over the past few years.

To meet our students' needs, we've made it work. For most of our history, we've leased commercial spaces and converted them into schools—investing millions of dollars into tenant improvements to make them safe and functional.

But those investments remain with private property owners. We are putting public funds into buildings we don't own, don't control long-term, and may eventually have to leave.

At the same time, navigating land acquisition, financing, and development as a public school is complex and difficult—we are doing it now, but it comes with real barriers.

This bill offers a better way forward. A chance to innovate.

SB2024 creates a pathway to partner with the SFA so public investments can result in long-term public assets—while providing greater stability for students, families, and communities.

We respectfully urge your support.

Mahalo.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Matt Zitello

Hawai'i Technology Academy Executive Director

**SB-2024-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 12:33:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Zimdahl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

I am the parent of students who currently attend and/or have graduated from Hawai'i Technology Academy (HTA). In our complex area, Campbell-Kapolei, public schools are overcrowded, and as a result, often struggle to provide high-quality, equitable learning for students. HTA fills this important gap for students and families in my community and across the state. As this need has grown, HTA and other Charter Schools have done all they can to answer the call, and the Charter Commission reports steadily increasing enrollment over the last several years. To continue to support the growing student population with the same high-quality education, Charter Schools need to expand their learning spaces. Unfortunately, high real estate costs and the complex constraints they face as a government agency continue to delay these projects. The unfortunate reality is that the Charter Schools are forced to institute lottery-based enrollment and extensive waitlists. This leaves families and their students in limbo, forced to choose between overcrowded public schools or hefty private school tuition.

SB2024 would provide a pathway to increase the capacity of HTA and other charter schools that continue to meet the needs of their local communities, filling the gaps that traditional public schools in Hawai'i struggle to meet. Allowing Hawai'i Charter Schools to partner with the School Facilities Authority (SFA) would increase their capacity by creating a more feasible pathway to expand their campuses, increase enrollment, and further support the needs of our school-aged keiki in Hawai'i.

The Hawai'i Department of Education Strategic Plan for 2023-2029 has three main priorities: provide high-quality, equitable learning for all students, cultivate a high-quality educator workforce, and ensure efficient, safe school operations. With support from this pilot partnership with the SFA, Hawai'i Charter Schools, like HTA, are poised to support and empower HIDOE to achieve unprecedented success in all three areas by 2029. I urge you to support the development of quality education for Hawaii's keiki and to approve SB2024.

Mahalo for your time and your support.

Kind Regards,

Noelle Zimdahl



**SB-2024-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 2:41:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

**SB-2024-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 2:59:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Krystal Baba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

I **support** SB2024.

Thank you for the committee's careful consideration!

– K. Baba

**SB-2024-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 9:37:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Meehan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

New public schools are needed to support effective class sizes which in turn attracts and retains great teachers. The keiki are the real winners too! **Please support SB 2024.** Thank you.

Ted Meehan