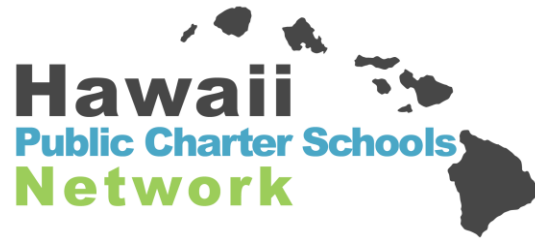


LATE



State of Hawaii Senate  
Committee on Education

DATE: Wednesday, March 16, 2015

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229, Hawaii State Capitol

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

Re: HB 831 HD 2 – Relating to Public Charter Schools

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on HB 831 HD2, a bill that authorizes charter school closure if determined necessary by an authorizer in the event of financial insolvency or due to health and safety issues and requires authorizer to establish protocols for closure.

HPCSN understands the need to support students and staff in the case of a charter school closure and/or for a swift closure process to protect public interest in the case of financial insolvency of a charter school. However, **HPCSN does have strong concerns with the broad language and lack of definition of “financial insolvency.”**

There is a tremendous amount of trust that is needed for not just the existing commissioners and commission staff, but for all future commissioners and commission staff when language is this broad based. HPCSN is working with the Commission staff and will seek feedback from member charter schools with hopes to come up with language that defines financial insolvency.

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 through our support of, and work with, charter schools. 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Finnegan".

Lynn Finnegan  
Executive Director

Marion K A Kapuniai  
P. O. Box 6753  
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743

March 16, 2015

**LATE**

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

Hearing: Monday, March 16, 2015 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Rm 229 State Capitol, Hawaii

**TESTIMONY ON HB 831 HD2**

Authorizes charter school closure if determined necessary by an authorizer in the event of financial insolvency or due to health and safety issues, and requires the authorizer to establish protocols for closure.

I, an interested and concerned citizen, testify to **OPPOSE HB 831 HD2**.

**SECTION 1. OPPOSE**

This bill will provide **“sole discretion to the authorizer”** to determine:

- A. That a public charter school has become financially insolvent
- B. That the school shall be “deemed” to have surrendered its charter
- C. That school closure is necessary

**I oppose sole discretion to the “authorizer” to determine the above – the “authorizer” cannot conduct a complete and impartial study because the “authorizer”, as the recipient and disbursing of funds would be in a “conflict of interest” position.**

**An impartial body would have to conduct this study, present the information and provide recommendations. (The review shall include the record of funds received for, and disbursed to, the particular public charter school in question, including dates of receipt and disbursement for the current year and the prior two school years.)**

**The governing board of the charter school in question shall decide, after all considerations to remedy have been exhausted, and present its final decision of the Charter School Commission. Let us remember that the Governing Board executes the contract, hires the employees, champions the educational component, shepherds the administration, and is therefore the responsible party to notify the Charter School Commission of its decisions.**

**SECTION 2. OPPOSE**

only **after** the “authorizer” determines that school closure is necessary, is the authorizer required by legislation to develop a public charter school closure protocol which already should have been developed per 302D-19(2) which states **“Prior to any public charter school closure decision, . . .”**  
**This is backwards and irresponsible.**

Same comment for predetermined school closure based on health and safety issues which has yet to be determined.

Thank You, M Kapuniai,  
Waimea, Moku O Keawe

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