



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 832 HD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify **in support** of HB 832 HD1, a bill that aims to allow a public charter school student who has been notified of the prospect of charter revocation, nonrenewal or school closure, to enroll in a school outside of the student's service area.

In the very unfortunate case when a charter school has been notified of revocation, nonrenewal or closure, HPCSN supports the effort to make the transition for charter school students and their families to a new school as easy and seamless as possible.

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 in Hawaii through our support of, and work with, Hawaii's public charter schools.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

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

Lynn Finnegan
Executive Director

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB832 on Mar 16, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 12:57:45 PM

HB832

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for EDU on Mar 16, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kelley puuohau	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: The Department of Education would like to provide comments with concerns regarding H.B. 832, HD1. The purpose of this measure is to ensure students enrolled in a school whose charter is revoked are able to enroll in another public school with minimal interruptions in learning. The Department has concerns that the proposed statutory changes are redundant to existing policies and processes and have the potential unintended consequence of creating a system where charter students and families receive preferential treatment. Safeguards already exist in Board of Education policy 4155 and Department of Education processes relative to geographic exceptions (GE). These safeguards were proven sufficient during a recent charter revocation. In the case of a charter revocation, the students would automatically be enrolled in their home schools. If families are interested in sending their student(s) to a school other than their home school, they have the opportunity to apply for a geographic exception under current policy. Board of Education Policy 4155 assigns responsibility of permission to attend a school other than the home school to the Department of Education. Policy 4155 also directs the Department to establish the procedures for such requests, with provisions to ensure equity, with the welfare of the child as a major consideration. The Department's guidance currently allows for families to apply for a GE based on the following notable considerations: · Authorized physical residence; · Child of school staff member; · Sibling of child attending the same school; and · Program of study not offered at the home school. The Department's guidance also allows for flexibility in the application process, should there be unforeseen mitigating circumstances. Specifically, the guidance states "applications for the current and next school year can be submitted at other time periods, whenever unforeseen circumstances arise or as necessary." This process has proven sufficient during the recent and ongoing revocation process for Halau Lokahi Public Charter School. Unintended consequence of creating an inequitable system. As the state education agency, the Department has a duty to consider the educational needs of all children attending DOE public schools. To that end, the Department not only strives to provide a quality education, but also equitable access to education. The Department is concerned that the proposed statutory language may result in an unintended consequence of providing preferential treatment to students from charter schools. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure. We are happy to answer any questions.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov