

Linda Lingle  
Governor



Vanelle Maunalei Love  
Executive Director

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**FOR:** SB 2587 Relating to Charter Schools  
**DATE:** Monday, February 8, 2010  
**TIME:** 1:45 p.m.  
**COMMITTEE(S):** Education and Housing  
**ROOM:** Conference Room 225  
**FROM:** Maunalei Love, Executive Director

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Testimony in **support** of S.B. No. 2587

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

Aloha, I am Maunalei Love, executive director of the Charter School Administrative Office (“CSAO”). I want to thank the chair and the entire committee for the time and effort being spent to remedy the issue of adequately providing needed resources to all public schools students to give them the educational opportunities that will enable them to succeed.

*We support SB2587, establishing a task force to clarify sources of funding for the per-pupil funding formula for charter schools, identify discrepancies in the calculation of the formula for charter schools and non-charter schools, and recommend the portion of certain expenses that should be allocated to charter schools. Requires a report to the legislature.*

*This bill will assist with clarification of how the calculation for public school students is determined. This issue has not been adequately addressed and Hawaii’s public charter schools have seen their enrollment grow however, their per pupil amount has been drastically reduced each year for the past two years with the budget request for SY 2010-11 taking further cuts. Efforts to address this by stakeholders are already under way.*

The CSAO is ready, willing, and able to help with any revisions. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, February 08, 2010

TIME: 1:45 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 225

SUBMITTED BY: Linda Elento, parent of children in public, private and charter schools, and board member of the Hawaii Down Syndrome Congress

**IN SUPPORT OF HB2587 (Charter Schools)**

Dear Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the EDH committee:

Please also consider the following to be included in HB2587:

A member of the Board of Education and/or Charter School Review Panel and Director of Special Education/DOE be added to a task force.

If not already implemented by the Department and Charter Schools options such as a “high-risk” fund (per IDEA federal special education law) that could be shared among all schools, including charter schools, might make balancing of funds for special education that would allow for a per-person value that would be very helpful in preparing a budget for each charter school, with the added protection of the high-risk fund that is available to all schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony to the Education committee.



**SB 2587**

**RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS**

Senate Committee on Education and Housing

February 10, 2010

1:20 p.m.

Room: 225

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB 2587, which establishes a task force to: 1) clarify sources of funding for the per-pupil funding formula for charter schools; 2) identify discrepancies in the calculation of the formula for charter schools and non-charter schools; 3) recommend the portion of certain expenses that should be allocated to charter schools; and 4) submit a report to the Legislature.

In their 2004 "Redesigning Hawai'i Public Education," the Hawai'i Business Roundtable found that: "Charter schools should be treated like an independent school district with equal funding and accountability." They also made the following recommendation:

Base financing of public schools on a weighted student funding formula that takes into account the unique learning needs of each student. This is a critical, essential component of improving student achievement. Dollars should follow students directly to schools, using a formula that gives different weights to different characteristics of students that may impact learning. For example: students with disabilities or where English is a second language may require more funding than others. Two schools with students of equal characteristics would receive similar funding. Parents can choose schools of their choice, outside of their District, if there are any openings. Funds follow the child.

OHA and Kamehameha Schools have actively supported Hawaiian-focused charter schools through grants-in-aid programs. Given our track record of working with charter

schools and the growth and progress of Hawaiian-focused charter schools (Buchanan and Fox 2003, Kanaʻiaupuni and Ishibashi, 2005), OHA advocates for a representative on the proposed task force. We also recommend that seats on the task force be given to Kamehameha Schools and Hawaiʻi Business Roundtable.

Therefore, OHA urges the committee to PASS SB 2587. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.