

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 10 2015

RE: H.B. No. 1251
H.D. 1
S.D. 2

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred H.B. No. 1251, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to provide assistance to public charter schools and early learning programs.

Specifically, this measure:

- (1) Provides a framework for public charter schools and early learning programs to use and occupy vacant state facilities;
- (2) Requires the Board of Education to include information on facility and project funding in its annual report on public charter schools;
- (3) Requires the Legislature, starting with the 2016-2017 fiscal year, to consider appropriations and bond authorizations for charter school facilities;
- (4) Establishes a charter school facilities funding working group to advise the State Public Charter School Commission on prioritizing general fund appropriations and bond proceeds for public charter schools; and



- (5) Appropriates funds for charter school facilities and improvements.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, State Public Charter School Commission, Hawaii State Teachers Association, Kamehameha Schools, Ke Kula o Samuel M. Kamakau, Kona Pacific Public Charter School, and eleven individuals. Your Committee received written comments on this measure from the Department of Budget and Finance.

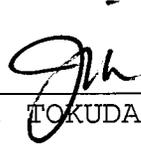
Your Committee finds that, unlike conversion charter schools and Department of Education schools, start-up public charter schools must use operating funds for facility expenses. This creates significant financial burdens for public charter schools and ultimately results in less funds expended directly to educate students. This measure takes necessary steps to address the funding needs of public charter schools.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion on the measure; and
- (2) Making technical nonsubstantive amendments for purposes of style, clarity, and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1251, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1251, H.D. 1, S.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,



JILL N. TOKUDA, Chair



