

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 06 2017

RE: S.B. No. 197

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2017
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred S.B. No. 197 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate monies for start-up grants for newly approved, pre-opening public charter schools.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the State Public Charter School Commission, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Hawaii Public Charter School Network, Kamalani Academy, and four individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawaii State Teachers Association and IMUAlliance.

Your Committee finds that some Department of Education schools are operating at or near-full capacity, and that overcrowding in schools is a serious issue throughout the State. Public charter schools can be a crucial part of the solution to the problem of school overcrowding. Your Committee further finds that the start-up costs associated with opening a charter school are significant, even after the charter school has been approved by the State Public Charter School Commission. These start-up costs present a serious obstacle to opening charter schools to meet the needs of Hawaii's students. Funding provided by this measure will help ease the cost of opening new charter schools in the State.



As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 197 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Education,

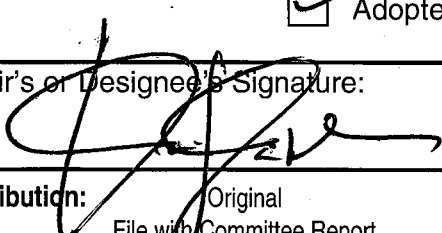


MICHELLE N. KIDANI, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Ninth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Education
EDU

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>SB 197</i>	Committee Referral: <i>EDU, WAM</i>	Date: <i>1/30/2017</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIDANI, Michelle N. (C)	✓			
KAHELE, Kaiali'i (VC)	✓			
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M.				✓
ESPERO, Will				✓
RIVIERE, Gil	✓			
TOTAL	3			2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes