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FOR: SB 813 Relating to Charter Schools
DATE: February 26, 2021
TIME: 3:00 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Ways and Means
ROOM: Conference Room 221
FROM: Yvonne Lau, Interim Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong **SUPPORT of SB 813** which amends HRS §302D-32 to allow charter school authorizers to provide a list of approved independent auditors instead of selecting three independent auditors.

The requested amendment would allow the Commission to approve more than three independent auditors to conduct audits for the 37 charter schools that operate on five islands across the state. In order to meet the requirements of HRS §302D-32, the Commission has already conducted a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to identify three approved independent auditors. However, the Commission has requested this amendment based on concerns and feedback from charter schools, particularly neighbor island charter schools, on the availability of these audit services on their islands. Should this measure be passed, the Commission would reopen the RFQ process to review and approve additional auditors.

Additionally, the Commission has contacted the three auditors selected and was advised that they may not have the capacity to conduct audits for all 37 public charter schools and meet the strict audit deadlines required to meet state financial reporting requirements.

The Commission looks forward to collaborating with the committee, other interested stakeholders, and public charter schools in moving this legislation forward. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.