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From: christine denton

To: Commission Mail

To: State Public Charter School Commission (commission.mail@spcsc.hawaii.gov)

Testimony: April 10, 2014 Agenda Item IV: Action on Request for Revisions to Malama Honua Learning Center, A Public Charter School's Application Relating to Projected Enrollment and Budget

From: Christine Denton, Board Member MHLC PCS

Aloha,

Thank you for your support and for working with Malama Honua Learning Center PCS (Malama Honua) to find the best way forward along with members of the community of Waimanalo. Our board's in the community has been extremely inspiring, culminating in a Waimanalo Neighborhood Board meeting in March at which there was much emotional and tearful testimony from Waimanalo residents in support of Malama Honua and its application for a permit to lease land from the St. Matthews Episcopal Church. We were proud to receive a unanimous vote of support from the Waimanalo Neighborhood Board both last October for the establishment of the school in Waimanalo, and in March the application for a permit at St. Matthews. As we attend events in the community in collaboration with Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center, Hui Malama O Ke Kai, Kamehameha Schools, and others, we have community members pulling us aside and telling us how much Waimanalo values education and how they will do anything to support the school.

We are excited about our school leader, Denise Espania, and the wonderful teaching staff she has recruited, knowing that they will enrich and advance the lives of their students. In the words of my fellow board member Herb Lee, this is not your "run of the mill team. This is an extraordinary teaching team!" We are thrilled to be working toward opening our doors this coming school year with our friends and neighbors in Waimanalo.

With Thanks,
Christine Denton