

Subject: iLEAD Kauai Written Testimony

Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 at 7:21:25 AM Hawaii-Aleutian Standard Time

From: Deena Moraes

To: Commission Mail

Aloha Sylvia:

Please find the attached files that I am submitting as written testimony on behalf of the entire iLEAD Kauai team. The first document titled: iLEAD Kauai Middle School Justification is a stand alone document. However, the iLEAD Kauai Data Addendum and the iLEAD Kauai- iLEAD Schools Data Report are two documents that go together.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Deena Fontana Moraes

iLEADership Administration Resident

iLEAD Lancaster Charter School

254 E. Ave K-4

Lancaster, CA. 93535

(661) 722-4287

Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.

John Dewey

iLEAD Kauai- Middle School Justification

Our Motivation:

- 961 students are currently enrolled at Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School. This school is in closest proximity to our proposed location. For the last two years, this school has received a focus rating under the STRIVE HI evaluation system.
- According to the 2012-2013 School Status and Improvement Report, school facilities are considered inadequate if below 70%; marginal if between 70% and 99%; and in excess of state standard if above 100%. Chiefess Kamakahelei Adequacy of School Space ratings are as follows:
 - Administration- 180%
 - Library 181%
 - Cafeteria/Auditorium- 252%
 - Classrooms- 134%

With these figures in mind, iLEAD Kauai will help ease the burden of overpopulation in surrounding schools and also facilitate the results of learning with those students who would profit from a more alternative education experience.

Our projected enrollment numbers with the inclusion of the middle school program are as follows:

Grade Level	Year 1 2016	Year 2 2017	Year 3 2018	Year 4 2019	Year 5 2020	Capacity 2025
Brick & Mortar	B&M	B&M	B&M	B&M	B&M	B&M
K	23	40	40	40	40	40
1	23	23	46	40	40	40
2	13	25	25	50	50	50

3	12	13	25	25	50	50
4	13	12	13	25	25	50
5	12	13	12	13	25	50
6	10	13	25	12	13	50
7	10	10	15	25	12	50
8	9	10	10	25	25	50
Totals	125	159	211	255	280	430

Following this enrollment pattern all enrolled students will be guaranteed a space in each subsequent year.

Our Academic Plan

- Delivers instruction in a multiage context
- Incorporates Common Core Standards through Project-Based Learning in a backwards mapping design
- Designs driving questions that are open ended to reach standards within a concept for all grade-levels
- Increases affective learning, such as improved self-concept, increased pro-social behavior, greater responsibility and more positive attitudes toward school

Our Organizational Plan

Only in the first year of instruction we will hire two half-time teachers who will be HQ certified in two areas. This organizational arrangement will simply entail a teacher who is HQ certified in one area to pass a Praxis test in a second area before we open our doors. We have already begun conversations with three teachers who have expressed an interest in being hired to work in our school with the understanding of these particular conditions. (Please see Attachment A, Attachment B, and Attachment C) Due to the terms outlined in Hawaii State Teacher’s Association agreement with the Hawaii Department of Education, our half time teachers will be allotted additional planning time in order to facilitate this proposal

effectively. This allotment has already been accounted for in our main proposal summary and budget.

Concessionary Statement

As mentioned throughout our application, our middle school will fulfill a great and important need on Kauai. However, if the commission wishes to approve our application with the revision of opening as a K-5 school HRS§ 302B-5 (c7-8) states the following:

Hawaii Revised Statutes § 302B-5 c7-8

(c)The start-up charter school application process and schedule shall be determined by the panel, and shall provide for and include the following elements:

(7) The timely notification of the applicant of any revisions the panel requests as necessary for a recommendation of approval; - (8) Following the submission of an application, issuance of a charter or denial of the application by the panel by majority vote; provided that if the panel does not approve the application and issue a charter, provisions requiring the panel to:

(A) Clearly identify in writing its reasons for not issuing the charter, which may be used as guidelines for an amended plan; and

(B) Allow the interim local school board to revise its plan in accordance with the panel's guidelines, and resubmit an amended plan within ten calendar days

Our team recognizes that HRS § 302B was replaced by the unofficial HRS § 302D, which proposes that: “Any applicant whose charter application is denied by the authorizer shall not be allowed to amend or resubmit the charter application to the authorizer during a given cycle, as defined by the authorizer; provided that an applicant shall have the right to appeal the authorizer's denial of its charter application pursuant to section 302D-15.” (HRS § 302D-13 9e) However, in Act 99/2014 this proposal was repealed and currently is highlighted with strikethrough in the unofficial HRS § 302D statutes. Therefore it appears that Hawaii Charter School Law may leave room for necessary amendments.

With this in mind, if conditions for our approval require us to decide between a K-5 school, or no charter at all, our group would graciously accept a K-5 charter approval and would be happy to resubmit any necessary documents.

Attachment A

Bee
Malihini
<beccamalihini@gmail.com>
Jun 25

Aloha Deena,

My name is Rebecca Stevenson and I am a highly qualified (licensed through HSTA) secondary teacher in English language arts. I currently teach full time at a public charter school on Kauai. I teach 7th through 12th grade, in mixed-grade groups, with a project/problem/land/culture based curriculum. If I were to work with iLead Academy, I would be very willing to pursue a second subject area certification in the first year of operation. And a part-time secondary teaching position would be ideal for balancing family, career, and professional development-- not just for me, but for many teachers who struggle to balance home and teaching lives. Mahalo!

Attachment B

June 25, 2015

State Public Charter School Commission

1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516

Honolulu, HI 96813

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Leslie Frasier and I am a certified teacher in the Hawaii DOE. I am currently teaching English/Language Arts at a local middle school here on Kauai in sixth grade. I currently hold a MST credential for grades K-6 and will be pursuing becoming highly qualified in English (single subject) this coming school year (2015-16).

I fully support the philosophy of iLead Kauai and believe that it is a much-needed choice for families in our community for the middle school years. To this end, I am willing to work part time in the first year to see this program get off to a successful beginning. I am also willing to pursue a second highly qualified status in Social Studies during the first year, so much do I believe in what iLead has to offer our community.

Sincerely,

Leslie Frasier

Attachment C

Jaron Lawson <jaronlawson@hotmail.com>

to me

Greetings,

My name is Jaron Lawson, and I currently teach at the middle school grade level here on Kauai. I am certified to teach social-studies for grades 6-12 in the state of Hawaii, and I am also currently working towards my certification for teaching grades 6-12 science.

I am very interested in teaching full-time or part-time at the prospective charter school proposed by Deena Fontana Moraes. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jaron Lawson

iLEAD Schools Data Report

Student Success Data

Academic Measures

Due to the drastic changes in education, the rapid implementation of the Common Core Standards and the National and State standards for Technology Literacy and College Readiness, the California Department of Education had to seek a federal waiver from portions of the No Child Left Behind Act, because the outdated assessments such as the STAR testing, did not generate valid and reliable student achievement data. Therefore, the most consistent data that we have to monitor and assess student growth is the NWEA MAP assessments. Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) is a state-aligned computerized adaptive assessment program that provides our educators with the information they need to improve teaching and learning and make student-focused, data-driven decisions.

Students are tested three times per year in math, and reading. Educators use the growth and achievement data from MAP to develop targeted instructional strategies and to plan school improvement.

MAP assessments:

- Are recognized by the National Center on Response to Intervention
- Inform instruction using valid, reliable, and real-time data
- Measure the growth of every student over time regardless of on, above, or below grade level performance
- Engage students and families in goal-setting
- Help create and reinforce evidence-informed instructional practices
- Help evaluate programs and identify professional development needs
- Help compare and predict student achievement and growth over time via exclusive normative and growth information

Terms Defined

Count

The number of students with beginning and ending term RIT scores from starting term to ending term (ending minus starting RIT)

Mean RIT Scores

Student MAP testing results are reported in RIT scores (short for Rasch Unit). A RIT score is an estimation of a student's instructional level and overall scale score on the test. Mean scores are the average score of students in this class for this content area.

Mean % of Increase or Decrease

The mean percentage increase or decrease in mean RIT scores during the course of the school year, when comparing Fall scores with Spring.

Normed % Increase or Decrease

Norms provide percentile rank corresponding to a student's observed gain for a given instructional interval and allows schools grade level performance for one school to be compared to other schools based on a national representative sample of their peers

Percent Meeting Projection

Growth projections are made by NWEA to represent a best estimate of the average or typical performance for students in the same grade, in the same subject, and with the same starting RIT score.

Notes regarding Data

- The data in the graph below was pulled directly from Student Growth Summary Reports generated by NWEA
- The data is separated into individual charts for Reading and Math. Each chart spans over a two year period
- The data in each chart is organized by Cohort groups and horizontally tracks the progress as the cohort group progress up one grade level. For example, Cohort 1 gives the 2012- 2013 data for when the cohort started in Kindergarten and 2013-2014 data for when the same group in 1st Grade

**MAP NWEA: Analysis and Summary of RIT Growth in Reading
SCVi (2012-2014)**

Cohort	2012-2013							2013-2014						
	Grade in 2012-2013	Count	Fall 2012 Mean RIT	Spring 2013 Mean RIT	Mean % of Increase or Decrease	Normed % of Increase or Decrease	Percent Meeting Projection	Grade in 2013-2014	Count	Fall 2013 Mean RIT	Spring 2014 Mean RIT	Mean % of Increase or Decrease	Normed % of Increase or Decrease	Percent Meeting Projection
1	K	36	143.9	151.4	4.33%	10.60%	16.7%	1	36	159.4	170.5	7.98%	10.35%	30.6%
2	1	52	158.1	169.3	6.51%	10.35%	30.8%	2	54	161.6	175.1	9.21%	7.78%	38.9%
3	2	37	170.9	187.5	9.11%	7.78%	59.5%	3	46	178.5	190.7	6.58%	4.89%	58.7%
4	3	35	185.8	196.7	4.84%	4.89%	51.4%	4	51	196.2	201.2	1.56%	1.42%	45.1%
5	4	36	201.7	205.8	2.58%	1.42%	41.7%	5	49	207.4	210.8	2.46%	2.51%	44.9%
6	5	38	202.1	204.1	0.63%	2.51%	31.6%	6	66	203.9	210	2.10%	1.93%	59.1%
7	6	66	210.4	210.9	0.04%	1.93%	37.9%	7	71	211.3	216.7	2.94%	1.57%	63.4%
8	7	68	215.9	214.8	0.04%	1.57%	33.8%	8	67	217.8	223.7	2.48%	1.41%	68.7%
9	8	60	219	219	0.41%	1.41%	38.30%	9	53	223.5	222.7	7.98%	1.35%	43.40%

MAP NWEA: Analysis and Summary of RIT Growth in Math SCVi (2012-2014)

		2012-2013						2013-2014						
Cohort	Grade in 2012-2013	Count	Fall 2012 Mean RIT	Spring 2013 Mean RIT	% of Increase or Decrease	Normed % of Increase or Decrease	Percent Meeting Projection	Grade in 2013-2014	Count	Fall 2013 Mean RIT	Spring 2014 Mean RIT	% of Increase or Decrease	Normed % of Increase or Decrease	Percent Meeting Projection
1	K	32	146.3	157.6	6.53%	10.71%	46.9%	1	38	161.6	177.8	5.86%	10.71%	52.6%
2	1	51	158.4	176.1	11.07%	9.95%	66.7%	2	58	164.1	177.8	11.89%	9.95%	43.1%
3	2	32	178.9	197.3	10.84%	7.35%	75.0%	3	47	187.4	193.3	7.70%	7.35%	29.8%
4	3	38	190.3	201.2	6.45%	5.72%	47.4%	4	51	197.1	204.4	3.38%	5.72%	47.1%
5	4	47	205.9	213.8	4.33%	4.21%	46.8%	5	54	210.3	218	3.33%	4.21%	55.6%
6	5	47	204.1	209.4	3.29%	3.80%	48.9%	6	67	211.5	218.7	4.34%	3.80%	59.7%
7	6	71	212.8	220.3	3.18%	2.73%	46.4%	7	74	217.9	224.2	2.60%	2.73%	66.2%
8	7	69	219.7	222.8	1.55%	2.17%	56.3%	8	68	223.1	229.6	3.03%	2.17%	70.6%
9	8	63	225.2	229	2.14%	1.86%	46.4%	9	37	219.2	224.2	3.00%	1.86%	64.90%

Observations

- All RIT Scores move in a positive trend for all cohorts in both Reading and Math (with the exception of cohort 7 for reading in 2012-2013.)
- For Reading scores, 7 of the 9 cohorts showed increased percentages of students meeting Growth Projections from 2012-2013 to 2014-2015
- For Math scores, 6 of the 9 cohorts showed increased percentages of students meeting Growth Projections from 2012-2013 to 2014-2015
- Several cohorts exceed normed projections for yearly growth which indicates that in most cases our students are exceeding

the percentages of growth in normed samples

Social Emotional Growth Measurements

iLEAD Schools implements the IB (International Baccalaureate) Learner profile into its social-emotional learning component. Each year learners are assessed in their knowledge and implementation of 10 School Wide Learning Outcomes such as open-mindedness, caring, risk-taking, balanced, etc. We administer this assessment in the Fall and Spring and compare the data for analysis. Below you will find 2013-2014 yearly reports for student progress in these outcomes that measure social-emotional and college readiness growth in 10 areas.

Notes Regarding Data

- Assessments are adapted to each grade level and require students to rate the frequency (All of the time, Most of the time, Some of the Time, Never) that they use each trait. They are also required to give a specific example of how they put each trait into action.
- Frequency of usage is translated into a 4 point scale (0-3).
- Learners and Facilitators both analyze the student. Scores are an average of the learner's self-assessment and facilitators assessment of the student.
- This data helps facilitators, parents and learners to determine the target social-emotional goal for the ILP (Individualized Learning plan) each year.
- The data demonstrates positive trends for all 10 learner profiles.

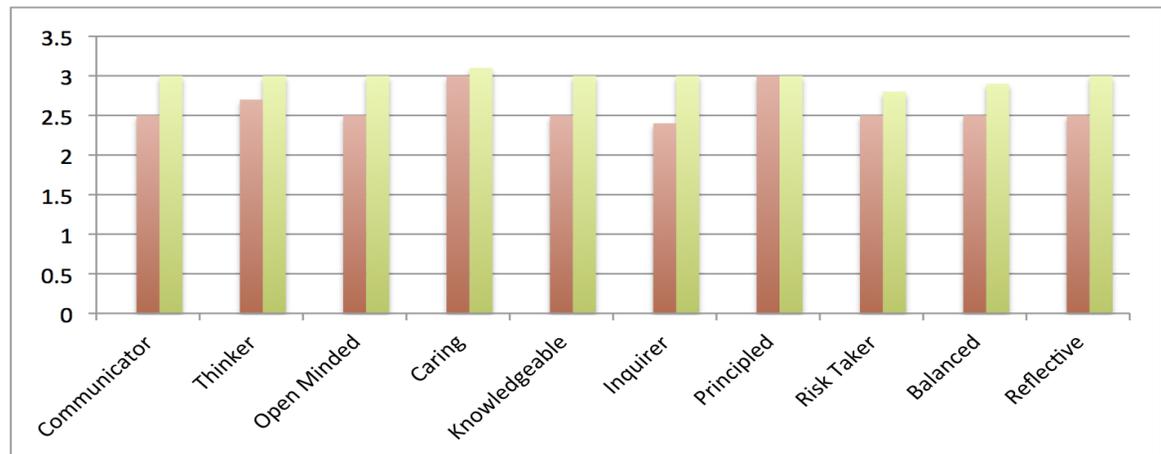
Additional Notes Regarding the IB program at iLEAD Schools

- The IB Model that iLEAD schools have adopted has put our schools on the "world radar". Using the IB DP (Diploma Program) PBL model we represented the U.S. (As a continent) the Ib headquarters The Hague, Netherlands for setting world standards for education and technology innovation.
- Based on our IB DP PLB model at iLEAD few international schools have requested guidance for restructuring their programs (Bombay International School- India; two schools in Australia, and one in London).
- At the IB Global conference in Chicago iLEAD shared: An authentic PBL approach to the IB program and assessment.

IB Learner Profile Summary 2013-2014

Grade	#	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
		Communicator		Thinker		Open Minded		Caring		Knowledgeable		Inquirer		Principled		Risk Taker		Balanced		Reflective	
Kindergarten	33	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	2.2	2.9	3	3.1	2	3	2	3	2.2	3
First Grade	38	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3.3	3	3.4	2.7	3.3	3	3.3	3	3	3	3	2.5	3
Second Grade	51	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3.2	2	3	2.4	3.1	3	3	2	3	3	3	2.3	3
Third Grade	45	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3.2	3	3.1	2.6	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	2.4	3
Fourth Grade	47	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3.1	3	3	2.8	3	3	3.1	3	3	3	3	2.7	3
Fifth Grade	45	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3.2	3	3.3	2.8	3.1	3	3.3	3	3	3	3	2.8	3
Sixth Grade	77	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3.3	3	3.1	2.4	2.9	3	3.3	2	3	2	3	2.8	3
Seventh Grade	81	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	2.7	2	2.8	2.2	2.6	2	2.6	2	2	2	2	2.2	3
Eighth Grade	73	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	2.8	2	2.7	2.4	2.5	3	2.7	2	2	2	3	2.3	3
Ninth Grade	52	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3.1	3	3.1	2.5	3	3	2.9	2	3	2	3	2.3	3
Tenth Grade	63	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3.3	3	3	2.5	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	2.3	3
Eleventh Grade	39	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3.2	3	2.9	2.6	3	3	3.1	2	3	2	3	2.4	3
Twelfth Grade	29	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3.3	3	3.1	2.6	3.1	3	3.3	3	3	3	3	2.8	3
TOTAL	673	2.538	3	2.692	3	2.5	3	3	3.131	2.5	3.038	2.4	2.962	3	3.054	2.5	2.846	2.5	2.923	2.5	3

Learner Profile	F	SP
Communicator	2.5	3
Thinker	2.7	3
Open Minded	2.5	3
Caring	3	3.1
Knowledgeable	2.5	3
Inquirer	2.4	3
Principled	3	3
Risk Taker	2.5	2.8
Balanced	2.5	2.9
Reflective	2.5	3



Additional Measures

iLEAD School offers the following additional data measures. These measures are aligned with the goals, targets, and measures implemented in the State of Hawaii Department of Education Strategic Plan for 2011-2018.

Accreditation

Santa Clarita Valley International School (SCVi) is accredited by Western Associations of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and has received the highest accreditation period of six-years.

College and Career Readiness Data

Graduation Rates

iLEAD Schools – Graduation Rates		
School	School Year	Graduation Rate
Santa Clarita Valley International School (SCVi)	2013-2014 (first graduating class)	100%
Santa Clarita Valley International School (SCVi)	2014-2015	97.5%
iLEAD Lancaster Charter School	2014-2015	Not Applicable (K-8)

College Acceptances

Santa Clarita Valley International School (SCVi) College Higher Learning Data		
Graduation Year	Acceptance to Four Year Universities	Percentage Currently Attending Institutes of Higher Learning (Including 2 year, 4 year and specialized training institutes)
2013-2014	70%	96%

Other Data

Attendance Rates

iLEAD Schools – Average Daily Attendance (ADA) Rates		
School	School Year	ADA Rate
Santa Clarita Valley International School (SCVi)	2013-2014	96.62%
Santa Clarita Valley International School (SCVi)	2014-2015	95.78%
iLEAD Lancaster Charter School	2014-2015	94.34%

Parent Survey Data

1. Learner engagement: My learner desires to attend school every day.		
Always- 80.00%	Sometimes- 18.95%	Never- 1.05%
2. School climate: I feel the school has a positive, nurturing environment.		
Always- 74.47%	Sometimes-24.47%	Never-1.06%
Parent involvement: I feel the school is welcoming and encourages family participation.		
Always-90.43%	Sometimes - 9.57%	Never- 0.00%

Technology Data



School	Year	Wifi Bandwidth	% of classroom spaces with access to wireless internet	% of teaching staff provided with staff laptop	Total Number of School-Owned Student Devices
SCVi	2012-13	10mbps : 10.5mbps	100%	100%	125
SCVi	2013-14	10mbps : 10.5mbps	100%	100%	200
SCVi	2014-15	100mbps : 12mbps	100%	100%	475
SCVi	2015-16	200mbps : 60mbps	100%	100%	475
Lancaster	2012-13	10.5mbps	50%	100%	25
Lancaster	2013-14	10.5mbps	80%	100%	100
Lancaster	2014-15	45mbps : 10.5 Mbps	100%	100%	120
Lancaster	2015-16	100mbps : 50mbps	100%	100%	220

iLEAD Schools Data Addendum

“Perhaps most telling, (is that) no one really wants to admit that we are leaving millions of children behind. Education is the key to better jobs, higher incomes, and greater growth in what has become an extremely competitive global economy. Nothing is more important than education. Absolutely nothing...”

Brock, Head of the 2008 New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce. At the Conference of the National Center of Education (2008)

iLEAD Schools has been a mecca for kids who have struggled in the traditional education system. As a result, our academic data demonstrates low baseline scores in Math and in Language Arts. However, as the students progress through our system, they show growth that exceeds normed growth averages over time. Please see the following chart below which is a further breakdown of iLEAD Schools data report submitted as written testimony for the August 4, 2015 Commission Meeting.

MAP NWEA: Analysis and Summary of RIT Growth in Reading						
Cohort	Grade in 2012-2013	Mean % of Increase or Decrease	Normed % of Increase or Decrease	Grade in 2013-2014	Mean % of Increase or Decrease	Normed % of Increase or Decrease
1	K	4.33%	10.60%	1	7.98%	10.35%
2	1	6.51%	10.35%	2	9.21%	7.78%
3	2	9.11%	7.78%	3	6.58%	4.89%
4	3	4.84%	4.89%	4	1.56%	1.42%
5	4	2.58%	1.42%	5	2.46%	2.51%
6	5	0.63%	2.51%	6	2.10%	1.93%
7	6	-0.04%	1.93%	7	2.94%	1.57%
8	7	0.04%	1.57%	8	2.48%	1.41%
9	8	0.41%	1.41%	9	7.98%	1.35%

In 2012-2013 School Year only cohorts 3 and 5 (22% of the population) exceeded normed growth rates. However in the 2013-2014 school year Cohorts 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 (77% of the population) exceeded the norms. Therefore, iLEAD succeeded to elevate 3/4 of its population above the average growth rate in a one-year period.

- It is important to keep in mind that of the population identified in this chart, 14% are Special Education students. This number is higher than all comparative schools.

The reasoning for this increase in scores could be explained in the following manner:

1. students increase performance over time as their needs are more specifically met in our specialized learning model.

2. In a study performed by Needham (2010) comparing standardized test scores of traditional students with PBL students findings showed that “students chose correct answers at higher levels of difficulty for the PBL classrooms while the control classroom chose more correct answers at the lower levels of difficulty.” With this in mind, our students perform better as content complexity increases over time.

The overall issue of academic achievement, however, cannot be answered by mere statistics. It also implies social and political perspectives. For example, the question is not only whether students test scores are lower, but also concern whether “every” student deserves or needs a “quality” education—and then defining what that means. Dewey (1944) through Ogbu (1994, 2003), Banks (1992), as well as Darling-Hammond and McCloskey (2008) points to the promise of a free education in America and suggest that “free” and “equal” or “quality” are synonymous. Needham (2010)

Also, Glenn (2010), in a interview quoting Dweck, suggests that in place of quantifying intelligence scores for students, it is more beneficial to praise students for their work and their persistence—things the student can control, such as personal effort—and minimize uncontrollable factors.

A few additional questions were raised at the August 3, 2015 meeting that we would like to take this opportunity to address.

1. Accreditation- Although SCVi has received the highest WASC accreditation, iLEAD Lancaster chose instead to be certified by the charter schools development center. This fulfilled the requirement for the Federal Public Charter School Grant Program.
2. Attendance Rates are reflective of Average Daily Attendance Rates (ADA) The state of California funds school districts based on student attendance, also known as Average Daily Attendance (ADA), at school. ADA is calculated by dividing the total number of days of *student attendance* by the number of *days of school taught* during the same period. Our schools use Rediker software to calculate these rates.
3. College Acceptance Rates - 19 out of 27 Seniors in 2013-2014 were accepted to 4 year colleges, which equals to 70%.
4. MAP Data in Hawaii- Please see Attachment A- Communication with NWEA MAP

Attachment A

From: **NWEA Technical Support** <techsupport@nwea.org>

Date: Mon, Aug 10, 2015 at 10:55 AM

Subject: NWEA Partner Support Case # 01662333

To: "linda.krystek@scvi-k12.org" <linda.krystek@scvi-k12.org>

Hello Linda,

Thank you for contacting NWEA Partner Support. Regarding a linking study for HI, I have received confirmation there has been insufficient test data to create a linking study for Hawaii.

<https://support.nwea.org/our-research/state-information?state=HI>

If you have additional questions related to this issue, please contact Partner Support at [\(877\) 469-3287](tel:877-469-3287) and reference case number 01662333.

Thank you,

Partner Support [\(877\) 469-3287](tel:877-469-3287) | [Contact Us](#) | [Chat With Us](#)
HOURS Monday through Friday, 4am to 5pm PST
NWEA.ORG | Partner to Help All Kids Learn®

Subject: iLEAD Kauai - Proposed Charter School

Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 11:30:21 AM Hawaii-Aleutian Standard Time

From: Mike Pooley

To: Commission Mail

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to share my testimony to show my support for iLead Kauai. As a Kauai parent who has a child who will be going into Kindergarten for the 2016 school year, my choices are limited. I also have a 2 year old son who will be going into Kindergarten in the 2018 school year. I live in the Kapaa area, and have Kapaa Elementary, but would like to be able to give my children options that fit their learning style best. From what we have learned about iLead, their format works perfect for our daughter. With the preschools and pre-K schools she has attended, they follow a similar style and she is flourishing, confident and passionate about learning. Also, Kapaa Elementary does not have the best reputation for education and is testing low. We cannot afford private school, and having a charter school with a national reputation like iLead is VERY exciting and needed for Kauai. We need a choice, and as someone who cannot afford to be in a better district like Kilauea and Hanalei, iLead seems like a perfect fit for our community and parents like us.

Kauai is small, our choices are limited, this gives our children options and allows us to set our children up for success in their education. That being said, I am hoping this can become a reality for us on our little island where education resources are scarce.

Mahalo,

Michael Pooley II
Kapaa, Kauai

Subject: testimony

Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 11:02:17 AM Hawaii-Aleutian Standard Time

From: Willow Lindberg

To: Commission Mail

Aloha !!!

I am personally so excited to have the option of another Charter School on the island... I have four children who have been attending Kanuikapono in Anahola..

My oldest is 15 and youngest is 8. My kids have been at kanuikapono for 7 years and we love it but there are many many issues... We personally see a huge need for another Charter school because Kanuikapono is full. Many of the grades they have in elementary are full. Also they are lacking in upper grades education..

I am really hoping that this Charter School gets going because i will definitely want my children to come..

Thanks so much,
Stacey Willow Lindberg
8086319843

Subject: iLEAD Kauai - Proposed Charter School

Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 10:49:34 AM Hawaii-Aleutian Standard Time

From: Leilani Smith

To: Commission Mail

Aloha,

As a mother of 2 young children, I feel Kauai has very limited options for their education.

Please make iLEAD Kauai - Proposed Charter School a reality for the families of Kauai!

Leilani Smith

Leilanitempleman@gmail.com

(808) 635-7194

Subject: iLEAD Kauai - Proposed Charter School

Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 1:20:20 PM Hawaii-Aleutian Standard Time

From: Scott Silverston

To: Commission Mail

Aloha and thank you for your consideration of the following!

I have been a full time Kauai resident since 1999 and have a 6 year old daughter. I am extremely discouraged by the lack of diversity in affordable education choices available on Kauai. I am a graduate of Duke University (BA Economics, Class of 1989) and have been fortunate to have had the opportunity in my life to be exposed to many different cultures and ways of doing things. I have traveled to over 60 countries and all 50 States, I held a top level executive position in International Trade Finance, and completed post graduate studies in both Holistic Health Care and Leadership. The diversity of experiences to which I have been exposed so far in my life has allowed me the opportunity to grow and learn in many different ways; to understand perspectives that were initially very foreign to the ones with which I was raised; and the ability to envision economic opportunities in places where many others do not perceive them. The understanding and acceptance of different places and cultures is essential in order to comprehend and function effectively within the dynamic nature of the interconnected, global community of the 21st Century.

When I look around at the education options available to my daughter and to the children of Kauai, I am saddened by the lack of growth potential available, the lack of leadership training and by the overall lack of opportunities that will be available to them after finishing their schooling on Kauai. After graduation, most students will be extremely limited in the economic opportunities available to them

because the current education system will have failed to invest them with the tools necessary to take advantage of the myraid entrepreneurial opportunities available in our society just as it has failed to instill the sense of growth and opportunity in so many of today's graduates.

iLead promotes a progressive vision of project based learning which inspires the creativity of imagination coupled with the pragmatism of real world boundary conditions. It is a vision that will create innovative business and employment opportunities for the next generation of Kauai youth entering their working years and give them a chance to keep their talent and ideas

here on Kauai

while helping our community grow in a positive way. This type of inspiration is contagious and can serve to further inspire others as well as provide opportunities and mentoring into the future. With the lack of options currently available and a new, creative alternative on the table being sponsored by people with a strong commitment and ethical standard; why not give Kauai's children another alternative?

I request that you please support the iLead charter school and give Kauai's children another alternative to prepare them for the future.

Mahalo for your consideration

Have a Great Day!

-Scott Silverston
DreamMakers LLC
[\(808\) 634-1018](tel:8086341018)

Subject: iLead Kauai

Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 2:06:29 PM Hawaii-Aleutian Standard Time

From: Lina O Skinner

To: Commission Mail

My family is supportive of having iLead in Kauai because our children need and deserve more schools, specially school that have so much to offer as iLead has. Kauai is a great place to live and raise our children. We have a 9 yrs. old and our child has been going to a private school. He attend public school for a year and we found that the public school wasn't a good fit for him. Since we have one child we make a big effort and he is able to attend a private school but I think about people who has more than one child or just can't pay the high prices of tuition. It would be nice that our child and all children of Kauai had another option of a great school without the high cost.

Sincerely,

Lina Skinner

Subject: iLEAD Kauai - Proposed Charter School

Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 12:27:19 PM Hawaii-Aleutian Standard Time

From: Corissa

To: Commission Mail

An innovative approach to education is important for the continued improvement of the Education system. iLead Kauai charter school is one such innovator. Kauai has one of the most diverse populations of anywhere in the United States, it is for this very reason that a diverse approach to education is instrumental for not only the growth but more importantly the uniting of the people on this small but diverse little Island. Kauai being isolated cuts off many students from this type of learning that is offered everywhere else. Why should our kids be without these options.

I am in full support of the proposed iLead charter school on Kauai and feel that schools like this are necessary to expand and improve the education system as a whole.

Corissa Kopmann

August 11, 2015

Testimonial for iLEAD Kauai – Proposed Charter School

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Ann Williamson and my husband and I have lived on Kauai for over eight years. Our youngest son was born on island and is currently in 1st grade. His education is of utmost priority for us.

There are perhaps as many definitions of what a good education is and what it means to learn, as there are people giving the definition. The American school system has been very successful and productive over the years. Yet I believe there is room for improvement. It's a far different world we live in today compared to when elementary schooling became compulsory in 1918.

The education and skills needed to navigate the changing world and obtain fulfillment in our personal and professional lives are not the focus at most public and private schools. That is why I feel it is so important to have iLEAD on Kauai, to give our Keiki an opportunity to learn in a project-based environment, which fosters the development of life skills.

I want my son to retain his joy of learning, to know how to learn about a topic he is interested in, to learn how to work and lead effectively in a group setting, and to use his creativity to come up with plans and solutions.

Although my primary interest in iLEAD is for my own family, I firmly believe that project-based learning is beneficial for students everywhere, and I want this opportunity for Kauai families.

Aloha,

Ann Williamson

Aloha, in support of Ilead Schools

Joanna Wheeler [joannaction@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 4:37 PM

To: Commission Mail

Aloha:

I respectfully ask you to please support Ilead Schools so Kauai children can get the education they deserve. Making meet ends is not easy in Kauai and to have the peace of mind of knowing that our children have amazing education taken care of is a gift that Kauai can certainly appreciate. The East Side would highly benefit of having a quality education provider.

Thank you very much.

Sncerely,

Joanna Wheeler
(808)6511756
Kapaa, Kauai

Support for Ilead Kauai

Frieda Gayle [coachfrieda@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 6:22 PM

To: Commission Mail

Hello,

My name is Frieda Gayle and I live on Omao Road, very close to Kahili Mountain Park. Both of my boys (now grown) attended the former Kahili Mountain School (and had private tutoring).

At one point during their education, one of my sons actually flew to school every day on Oahu to Assets School for gifted dyslexics. I eventually had to move to Oahu for both boys to attend that school for a few years.... but we missed our home and Kauai and we came back and they finished in Kauai at Kahili School.

Having children who are "out of the box" education wise, I have studied and practiced all types of educational styles and tools to give my kids the best chance of success as "rote learning" was not the best way for them to learn. I am familiar with project based learning and always thought it was a brilliant idea. In fact, I think that Assets uses many project based learning styles.

As an entrepreneur myself, I think this is the best way to learn. I would greatly support this school at Kahili and have already sent the information to my son, who has a 2 year old daughter and they are wanting a solid based school to send her to in a few years when she is kindergarten age.

As a side note, because of the efforts we all made, my son, who really struggled in school due to his dyslexia, now successfully owns his own business. He is scientific minded and forward thinking.

Please approve this school for Kauai!

Thank you,

Frieda Gayle

Testimony: iLEAD Kauai Proposed Charter School

Barbara Fontana Natland [barb.intheflow@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 9:39 AM

To: Commission Mail

State Public Charter School Commission
1111 Bishop Street
Suite 516
Honolulu, HI 96813

To Whom It May Concern:

This testimony is being submitted on behalf of the iLEAD Kauai- Proposed Charter School.

The community has continued to gain enthusiastic support on behalf of iLEAD Charter School since it's first meeting in January 2013. Petitions now include hundreds of signatures of supportive citizens who are looking forward to embracing the iLEAD model of education for the children of our island. Our local school leaders as well as our community leaders have now aligned themselves in support of the wonderful alternative in public education that iLead Kauai will provide.

As a retired Hawaii classroom teacher, I will stand at the head of the line with many of my colleagues to attest to the fact that "One Size Education" does not fit all. iLEAD Kauai proposes an alternative approach to education that will not only keep high caliber learning as the center focus, but will allow students who have a hard time sitting still in the classroom to embrace the excitement of alternative expressions of mastery learning.

I was able to visit the campus of iLEAD Charter School in Lancaster, California. Students were engaged with excitement and personal commitment to the learning activities on hand. Teachers were wearing genuine smiles as they facilitated the learning that encouraged students to think, speak and present their findings. What a refreshing sight!

If I had the opportunity to teach in an iLEAD facility and send my children to such a school, I would not have hesitated. Now I look forward to my grandchildren attending iLEAD Kauai Charter School. If provided the opportunity, I will actively support the learning process, including becoming an active volunteer.

I appreciate your attention to this important decision and implore you to support the opportunity for our Kauai children to benefit educationally with your affirming votes for iLEAD Kauai Charter School.

Sincerely,
Barbara Natland,
Retired DOE classroom educator

Please help us have options on Kauai...iLEAD Kaua'i School

Maegan Sakai [mrs.sakaifontana@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 5:58 PM

To: Commission Mail

Dear Agents of Change,

My name is Maegan Sakai and I am writing to you in hopes of receiving a new kind of school on Kauai. I love Kauai, I think that it is a wonderful place with a refreshing pace. If you have been here I'm sure you know what I mean, and if you haven't gotten the chance to visit I hope you have the chance to come one day soon. Kauai has many strengths, most of all its people. It is on their behalf that I beseech you for the proposed charter school iLEAD Kaua'i.

It pains me to see local peoples dispossessed or "out bought" of the land they love so much. I work in the public school system and I love it, the kids are great and there are many dedicated professionals. However, I do see that not all my students are successful or reach their true potential in the framework that we work within in the public school system. America prizes itself on economic mobility and I believe public education is the wheel that propels people upwards in this system. Having said that, I hope you can help Kaua'i's children retain their cultural identities and remain connected to our treasured island, by giving them another option in public education that can keep them competitive in a global marketplace like Hawaii.

iLEAD Kaua'i extends learning opportunities that seem to meet a powerful population of learners on the islands; some of which may have yet to experience success in the classroom.

I appreciate what you do, and do not take your responsibilities lightly. Please think of the people of Kaua'i as you make your final decision.

Thank you,

Maegan Sakai

KAUAI NEEDS iLEAD! Kaplan Bunce's Testimony

Kaplan Bunce [kbkauai@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 8:50 AM

To: Commission Mail

To whom it may concern,

My name is Kaplan Bunce, I am the father of two daughters ages 8 and 10. I also serve as the President of the Kauai Powwow Council. Our group is responsible for hosting a traditional Native American Powwow on the Island of Kauai each year. Our groups other main focus is providing educational outreach to students to teach Native studies.

As a parent, coach and community advocate it is my opinion that slowly our schools have been eroding. We are in time where the arts and humanities are being defunded. There are no music classes, physical education, art classes and project based learning that is so critical to a child's development. As a child I had a tough time fitting into the mold of what good student looks like. My grades were often poor and my self-esteem suffered for it. The natural talent I had were not nurtured in any kind go way until I tried out for the school band. It was in the band room where I found out that I had a natural ability of drumming and that talent is one that I hold dear and nurture to this day. If it were not for that project based environment, I would have suffered even more.

Today, in our home I am very involved with the daily home work that my children bring home. I am seeing them work hard on the stacks of paper work every night. I can say that no one likes to do homework. That is until they bring home a project. Throughout the year we get assignments that bring joy to our home. Wether it be a project to make something out of a recycled water bottle which we turned into a bird feeder. Or science projects that demonstrate the relationship between colored water and oil. These are actually fun projects that bring joy to all of us.

Now imagine a school where all of the bulk of the learning is project based. Where children are learning to collaborate on tasks and work together to achieve a goal. This is a model that I believe is setting the child up for success in the real world where collaboration is of the utmost importance. As we all know there is greater action and results when we put our minds together and work toward a common goal. This is the opportunity for an environment as such. iLEAD schools will provide our students with the opportunity to grow and learn in a way that is more condusive to what is needed in todays rapidly changing world. iLEAD schools will have greater impact on our community at large by nurturing creativity and learning in an environment that nurtures talents that are often times over looked in conventional schools across America.

This island community can benefit from iLEAD schools in many ways and is a much needed place for our children to learn. There are other places where a child can get an education like this on Kauai but the tuition costs often means that our most elite population get to attend. What iLEAD schools is doing is opening the door for ALL student, disregarding their individual socio-economic status. I grew up in poverty most of my life and can only wonder what my life may look like if I had the opportunity to attend a school like iLEAD. Who is the next Steve Jobs, the next Oprah Winfery? What if that person is sitting just waiting for an opportunity like ILead? What if this opportunity is missed?

A vote for iLEAD schools is a vote for enriching a child's life longterm. A vote for iLEAD school means a vote for our future. A vote for iLead school is a vote to ensure that our children of all economic status get the

opportunity for greatness. I urge this board to vote yes for iLEAD schools and vote yes for Kauai's keiki!

Kaplan Bunce

In support of iLead Kaua'i

galaxseagirl [galaxseagirl@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 4:08 PM

To: Commission Mail

Aloha,

Please vote in favor of granting iLead Kaua'i charter school status. I have been in support of them for the past year. In that time my reasons for it have grown. My 2 sons attend Kapa'a Elementary School. At first I was happy with them there because the teachers are good and they were growing academically. But the well rounded education that I believe is crucial to developing maturity and real world skills is lacking. At this point they are both excellent students and the downside of the academics now is that they are beyond grade level and feeling bored and unchallenged.

iLead Kaua'i has individual learning plans for every student and this is where not only other children like mine will bloom but children who struggle in a restrictive public school environment can also shine.

Encorporating language and arts alongside an academic curriculum develops both sides of the brain which fosters higher intelligence.

Our schools are overcrowded. This alone should be reason enough to allow other school options.

With the support we already have from our community and it's political leaders, the school will be successful.

We also have the support of the original iLead school founders who are still leading after many years.

I have seen that applicants to charter status come in against the odds. It is a grueling process that we have gotten through to the end. We have shown a strong leadership team, strong well rounded academic plan, and strong community support. How you could vote against this opportunity for the island of Kaua'i is beyond my comprehension, beyond compassionate reason. You must vote for our keiki, vote for Kaua'i education, vote for more jobs, vote for iLead Kaua'i Charter approval!

Thank you,

Elizabeth Reeves

In support of iLEAD Kauai

James Natland [jnatland@msn.com]

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 9:08 AM

To: Commission Mail

August 12, 2015

To whom it may concern,

I write in support of the proposed iLEAD school for Kauai. I am Professor Emeritus in Marine Geology and Geophysics at the University of Miami, Miami, FL, now living on Kauai. My wife, Barbara, is a retired school teacher who taught for many years in public schools on Kauai. She is the mother of Deena Fontana Moraes, who has taken the lead in preparing the iLEAD proposal and is herself an experienced teacher, business woman, and school administrator.

As an educator myself, I am well acquainted with the advantages of project-based learning, which I consider to be one of the main strengths of iLEAD. I typically had my own college students do projects in the classes I taught in geological sciences. When dovetailed with instruction that imparted basic and essential skills, projects stimulate students to find their own way in a subject. Their assumption of responsibilities in projects within a group plus both comment and criticism from peers is an extremely effective way to learn. Years later, students are more likely to remember the projects they undertook than any lecture I might have given. Projects lead to development of skills in organization, planning, presentation and leadership.

In a multi-cultural and multi-lingual society like that of Hawaii, both learning and training in basic skills are greatly enhanced by participation in projects. Both speaking and writing in English, which may not be the first language in many Hawaiian homes, is especially facilitated by peer interaction, both by means of discussions and preparation of reports.

Finally, diversity in education is a good thing for any community. Curriculum development works best when there are teachers committed to innovation – to finding ways to make education work in the immediacy of their own teaching environment. That is a hallmark of the iLEAD system. One criticism of current tendencies in public-school teaching is that it does not allow much flexibility for teachers. iLEAD is a way of introducing flexibility into the educational environment, in ways that may well eventually be adopted by public schools throughout the state. It would be kind of a pilot project that would ultimately carry over into the broader educational mainstream. Giving parents and students options in schooling will provide the diversity of training and development of leadership skills that any society needs. For reasons such as these, iLEAD has very strong - I repeat, VERY strong - support among parents and community leaders on the island.

I strongly urge that this opportunity not be missed and that an iLEAD school be established on Kauai.

Yours sincerely,

James H. Natland

Ms. Catherine Payne, Chairperson
State Public Charter Schools Commission
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: 2015 iLead Kauai Charter School Application

Chairperson Payne and Members of the State Public Charter Schools Commission:

I am writing today to support the application to establish an iLead Charter School on the island of Kaua'i. As a kama'aina whose family has been involved in public and private education in Hawai'i for generations, I have long appreciated the synergy that public-private-alternative partnerships in education have provided for our keiki. I have been observing the successes attained from applying creativity and combining constructivism with high performance standards, compassion and caring since I was a toddler following my father, George Wellington Sr. around on evenings and weekends when he taught band and orchestra at Kalakaua Intermediate School in the late 1950's, later moving on to teach at Kailua Intermediate School. For 40 years I watched the impact that my father's constructivist practices had on his students. Many of those students went on to become teachers, attorneys, doctors, famous musicians, and yes, even members of Hawaii's government. I followed in my father's footsteps when I returned with my teaching credential to teach at Hana High and Elementary School on Maui, and later taught in the College of Education at University of Hawai'i-Manoa.

You may be wondering what this story has to do with the application of Alaka'i Charter School on Kaua'i. Well, the connection is very simple: My father (and my mother in her role as a teacher at the Kamehameha Schools for over 30 years) inspired generations of students to become active, compassionate, committed leaders in our local community through their own creative, constructivist, compassionate, and challenging educational practices. At the time, some folks wondered about some of their methods. However, people continue to speak of their lasting positive impact on the lives of themselves, their children, and grandchildren in almost every community around the island of Oahu. Wouldn't we wish the same for our communities on the neighbor islands?

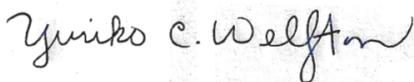
As a child, I had the privilege of attending Kailua Elementary School, in my own neighborhood. Again, I experienced the benefits of constructivist teaching through teachers such as Claire Ganiko, Michie Takemoto, Harumi Char, and Wilbur Evans. They may not have called it constructivism back then, but that's what it was: allowing keiki to discover new knowledge through exploration, hands-on activities, and the attention to challenging academic standards. My public school elementary education allowed me to continue to excel when I later enrolled in Punahou School for middle and high school.

Jim Scott, alumna and President of my high school alma mater Punahou School, has often referred to Punahou as a "private school with a public purpose." One of the hallmarks of Punahou's recent practices in collaboration has been their willingness to reach out and try new things in education, always grounded in research, with an eye on the long-range goals for superior student achievement.

Through the establishment of an iLead Charter School on Kauai, we could provide this same opportunity to our vastly overcrowded Kapaa schools, while at the same time offering increased opportunities for success for all children on Kauai, regardless of their learning style, abilities, or backgrounds.

I view the establishment of an iLead Charter School on Kauai as an opportunity to capitalize on the strong community connections that iLead has established with the Kauai community to provide high quality public education in an environment that will enhance the lives of Kauai keiki while at the same time helping to alleviate the burden of severe overcrowding in Kapaa schools. Still public, still offered to every member of the community (as all socially responsible education should be), Alaka'i Charter School would truly benefit the keiki of Kaua'i. I strongly give my support and ask you to approve this application.

Mahalo nui loa,



Yuriko Carol Wellington, PhD
P.O. Box 1157
Kaneohe, Hawaii, 96744

Ilead kauai

Kim Acierto [kbenny23@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 5:02 PM

To: Commission Mail

I am just sending in testimony in support if ilead on Kauai for 2016. I have my daughter on a tentative enrollment for first grade. I feel that we are in serious need of an alternative to the current public schools. Please give our keiki and families more choices are more opportunities.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Acierto

Sent from my iPhone

To: State Public Charter School Commission

1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516

Honolulu, HI. 96813

info@spcsc.hawaii.gov

commission.mail@spcsc.hawaii.gov

Tel: 808-586-3775

Fax: 808-586-3776



August 8th, 2015

Dear Hawaii State Charter School,

I am writing this letter on behalf of ilead Kauai to inform the Hawaii State Charter School Commission that my family is in support with their efforts to start a much needed school here on Kauai.

This is a photo of my son Henri. He loves surfing, chocolate ice cream, devising entrepreneurial plans (yes you read that correct), & LOVES to go to school.

Read that last part again (he loves school). This was not always true. His first 2 years of school. He came home with holes in his clothing (holes from chewing on his shirts). He cried when it was time for school. He did not want to go. His first grade teacher asked me if he had a learning problem, and said he worried her and kept her up at night. I assured her he had no learning problem & that possibly it was the school environment (and he felt her pressure).

I sought out what Kauai had to offer for alternative education.

There were costly private schools, and a charter school that only taught in Hawaiian until the 3rd grade. I visited them and did not see a fit for Henri. Instead I chose a homeschool program for him taught by 2 teachers with 18 kids in total. HE LOVES it!

They are at their max limit & cannot take any other children. I ask myself what if they did not have room for Henri, what about the other children like Henri who do not fit in the normal mold? What about those who cannot afford an alternative route? What if his little school stops. What then?

ilead Kauai is the solution.

Mahalo for your consideration of ilead Kauai.

Sincerely,

Mindy Murray

PO BOX 453

Kalaheo, HI

96741

Mindy.murray@inbox.com

808.652.1954

iLead Kauai Testimony from my daughter

Minna Freeman [minnafreeman@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 4:36 PM

To: Commission Mail

Dear Commision,

I want iLead school because it will be about the outdoors and environment. I also think we will be doing a lot of planting and art projects and we won't be always sitting at our desks and doing boring math sheets. We will be doing outdoor planting and painting the plants and learning about the plants. Taking care of the plants. We will learn more because when we are in the classroom our brains are all cramped up doing a worksheet and outside we get to think, discover, and learn new things about the environment. Please vote for iLead school for me and my brother Ipo.

Thank you. Anneli Freeman age 7

--

Minna Freeman MAed.

Environmental Educator

"All things are connected like the blood that unites us. We did not weave the web of life, we are merely a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves."

-Chief Sealath

iLEAD Kauai Support

Maureen Hiramoto [maureenkauai@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 12:14 AM

To: Commission Mail

Dear Commission Members,

I am writing to express my sincere support for the proposed charter school called iLEAD. I have listened to the presentations of Deena Moraes and other iLEAD organizers. I was very impressed with their approach to education and their determination to make a positive difference in the future of Kauai's youth.

My, husband, Charles M. Hiramoto was born and raised on Kauai and went through the public school system. He went on to attend college on the Mainland. He did well by having to work extra hard to "catch-up" with his fellow classmates. I was educated on the Mainland and attended college in Hawaii. I also experience the difference in the educational standards and the motivational levels of students to perform to their potential. It is frustrating to know that there are other teaching options available, that could be better suited for how students learn and retain their knowledge, yet our youth have not be given the option to choose their approach to education. Paying for private school education was never an option, due to finances. We pay our state taxes for education and we should be given the freedom to choose what method of teaching will be in our youth's best interest.

We have raised three wonderful children, who were all born and raised on Kauai. Like their father, they also went through the public school system. They do express, they would like to have had a different educational experience. Unfortunately, that was not an option, never the less they all went off the island and obtained college degrees. They do not have memories of how they were taught, as they know now that they could have learned in a more creative and hands- on -method, if only it was offered to them.

Our eldest daughter lives in Rhode Island with her husband and two young children. They would love to move to Kauai, her birthplace, and be close to grandparents, siblings, cousins. The only thing stopping them from moving back to Kauai, is the current school options. Having experienced, first hand, and seeing the public school national rankings, they are not willing to make the return home. She did say, that if the iLEAD Charter School does get approved and that is an viable option for their children to attend, then they will consider making the move back. (I pray we can be with our daughter and her family, here on Kauai).

Our second daughter, will be giving birth in October. She lives on Kauai with her husband and plans to stay here. (We can only hope, it stays that way). She mentioned that if the iLEAD Charter School gets approved, they will be putting their new child on the waiting list, as soon as it is delivered! They have complete confidence in Deena and her team, that they will make a difference in our children's future on Kauai.

Please give the iLEAD Charter School, the chance it deserves to prove that it does have a purpose and a place on Kauai. There is a need for alternatives to the public school and this Charter School fills that need.

I know it will not only do well, it will do great.

Thank you for your time and consideration in approving the iLEAD Kauai Charter School.

Sincerely,

Maureen Hiramoto

4306 Maka Road
Kalaheo, HI 96741

808-652-2098

iLEAD Kauai - Proposed Charter School

Robert Sherrill [rob@firegarden.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 10:46 PM

To: Commission Mail

Dear Commission,

I am a husband and father of 2 children on Kauai. I am writing with very strong conviction to ask that you please approve the proposed iLEAD Kauai Charter school. Kauai deserves this school and I intend to send both my children with your approval.

The reason I feel Kauai deserves this school is because I have personally researched the iLEAD Kauai teaching methodologies and approach to presenting curriculum. It is my opinion that iLEAD Kauai is offering one of the best and most modern approaches to teaching in the world today.

My wife and I are parent volunteers for iLEAD because we recognize this opportunity to have a world class public school on the island of Kauai. We believe this school will transform the island for the highest and best good of all.

Please strongly consider the approval to open iLEAD Kauai in the fall of 2016. For me and my wife personally iLEAD Kauai is absolutely the difference between us choosing between home school and a public school. There are a lot of parents on this island that feel the same way.

iLEAD Kauai has given us a new appreciation for what a public school can be. Please allow this.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Robert Sherrill

--

[FIREGARDEN](#)

1877.222.7818

iLead Kauai -- Proposed Charter School Testimony

hbfongkalaheo@gmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 3:24 PM

To: Commission Mail

Dear Commission Members,

As a resident of Kaua'i, I wish to provide the following testimony in support of establishing the charter school iLead Kauai on the island of Kaua'i:

Although many children do thrive under the traditional pedagogy of the public school system, there are those who do not. These children (and also those who are thriving!) deserve an alternative, and one that their parents do not have to fork out extra thousands of dollars every year to pay for. Project-based learning is not a new or untried pedagogical tool, and it is being implemented in many schools in other states—New York and California are two examples that I am familiar with. Cooperative learning, real-world problem-solving, and individual responsibility are of vital importance to this generation's future careers and endeavors. Early schooling based on these principles can only help them to have successful and fulfilling lives.

Sincerely

Heatherbell Fong

hbfongkalaheo@gmail.com

4hb61@earthlink.net

Ilead kauai**Kim Acierto [kbenny23@yahoo.com]****Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 8:13 AM**To:** Commission Mail

I just dropped off my daughter at kindergarten at kapaa school. She cries every morning. Undoubtedly, the school is huge and she feels lost in the shuffle. I am HOPING and praying that next year she can attend ILEAD as a first grader. Our family really does not feel comfortable with our local public school, but we lack the financial ability to pay for private school. We are really hoping our daughter can have another option! Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

ILEAD charter-Kauai

Jamie [jmebydc@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 9:55 PM

To: Commission Mail

Aloha,

I am writing this email in regards to the proposed iLEAD charter for Kauai. I strongly believe that Kauai needs, and would greatly benefit in having this particular charter to better serve our keiki. There are absolutely no schooling options that can affordably offer an interactive, hands-on, project based, in class-room experience! The proposed location is fit for a school, and incredibly conducive to an ideal learning environment. Considering that the school has been successful in other areas, It has an amazing potential location, and it would serve an island need, I hope that I can look forward to sending my daughter for fall 2016 school year. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Jamie Baldwin

Sent from my iPhone

iLead Charter approval

Alohacoffeetruck [alohacoffeetruck@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 4:25 PM

To: Commission Mail

Aloha,

As a mother of a kindergarten student, I am 100% in favor and support this type of school for our island. Charter schools are necessary for the development of our community. And most of us cannot afford private tuition...

Mahalo for understanding that every keike is unique and they are the future!

Tara Robiteau

Mother, wife, small business owner

EDITED (sorry) support for ilead

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 7:45 AM

To: Commission Mail

Hello!

I am writing this letter in support of opening the new Kauai Charter School, ilead. This new school is much needed on Kauai where parents have narrow choices for schools. I feel that having a school like this could have kept my child engaged and excited about learning and I wish they could have tried something like this before we made the tough decision to let them take their G.E.D. My teenage child has always been in accelerated classes and tested at above average levels since elementary school, but bit by bit, lost interest and drive in school. While some classes were interesting, the styles of learning for him were monotonous and boring. Days dragged in high school with up to 7 periods of desk work followed by more deskwork homework.

We finally decided after their grades had suffered long enough, to let them take their G.E.D. which was passed with high scores. The question for us wasn't whether they were smart enough, but it clearly wasn't a fit for productive learning. We are glad we made this decision but wonder if a more flexible and creative way of teaching and learning could have helped to keep them engaged in school.

Having basically one school model (on our area of the island) for kids to fit the mold, isn't enough for Kauai's youth. Some kids will thrive with a different more hands on approach in the classroom. They will draw from one another's abilities given that they are allowed to lead in how they learn and present their projects. It will empower the children and build their confidence. It will support a life long love for learning.

From the information I've seen of this school model, the style of teaching and learning looks adaptive to kids and their unique talents, broad interests, facilitates creativity, while also being challenging and supporting their full potential. I truly hope this school opens on Kauai. I think that kids will benefit greatly from having this option for education.

Thank you!

Anonymous Parent

Subject: SUPPORT for iLEAD Kauai- Proposed Charter School

Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 6:15:24 AM Hawaii-Aleutian Standard Time

From: Felicia Alongi Cowden

To: Commission Mail

Aloha State Public Charter School Commission,

As the school director for Akamai Learning Kauai, I strongly support the application of iLEAD Kauai as a Charter School.

A significant number of Kauai families choose to home school their children or bounce them around from one school to the next seeking a program that will be a better match for their learning style than the environment of high-structured curriculum that is offered in public school. Akamai Learning centered our teaching theme around learning framed around the student's passions and life-based education where there was a direct relevance for the inclusion of core skills building. iLead themes somewhat in that direction. My program has been an alternative option for middle school students on the North Shore of Kauai, though it has serviced students as far away as Lihue. My own children are now grown, and it becomes increasingly harder to spend the personal money that is necessary to run the unfunded program I have offered. My experience has been the majority of families whose children are either too spirited or active do not have the money to be able to place their children in a private program. In the five years I have offered Akamai Learning, there has been demand for grades outside of middle school. Akamai Learning was originally designed (though not implemented) as a Smaller Learning Community for Kapaa High when I was the chair of the School Community Council for Kapaa High and the Chair of the Youth Council for the County of Kauai with the enthusiastic support of then superintendent Pat Hamamoto. The need for alternative programs has long been recognized by the public schools as their flexibility and funding are being continually limited.

It is valuable that iLEAD intends to grow their program up through the grades as the students' mature. The probability of success of their plans is high with the board they are putting in place and the template of successful schools in California where i-lead Kauai's program director has been an active participant as a teacher and parent. Most of the existing charter schools on Kauai are based in Hawaiian culture and have been gracious to receive students for whom that is not a perfect match. Expanding the charter school options will actually help the existing Hawaiian Charter Schools to hold a tighter focus to serving families whose core goal is an enrichment and strengthening of their cultural identity. Hawaii Technology Academy has served students whose families are willing to primarily educate through a computer-based curriculum which can help the student who needs flexibility in their schedule and state supported costs. Most students thrive with a mentor and peers in their learning. Optimum learning is fostered through healthy relationships with other people and a genuine connection to the land and community around them. iLEAD presents a niche in the charter school offerings on Kauai that is not presently addressed that is a large category. Yes, that category could be defined as what public school is supposed to address, but national standards have largely crushed the flexibility and creative ability out of the curriculum. A number of students feel trapped in school and their poor performance is not a reflection of their capacity. These students who demand a more active and physical approach to learning then become a liability to the public school whose achievements are measured according to an ever-narrowing methodology of being able to deliver education.

Including iLEAD in the Charter School options for Kauai is a win-win-win. Please support them. I am happy to help their development with my experience if it is needed.

Felicia Cowden

www.akamailearning.org

Kilauea, HI

808-652-4363



Corporate North: 254 East Avenue K-4, Lancaster CA 93535
Corporate South: 28060 Hasley Canyon Road, Castaic, CA 91384

leadschools.org

Tuesday, August 11, 15

AGREEMENT BETWEEN iLEAD SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT AND iLEAD KAUAI

This agreement is between “iLEAD SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT” and “iLEAD KAUAI” for the 2016-2017 school year. The Educational Service Provider fee (“ESP fee”) is estimated to be \$100,000 for the 2016-2017 school year and represents a fee provided by the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission. The ESP fee is based on an enrollment of at least 125 students and assumes a minimum base fee of \$50,000.

If enrollment falls short of 125 students, ILEAD SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT agrees to reduce the ESP fee for 2016-2017 by the “per pupil amount” (i.e., \$400 per student). If there are no students enrolled, no ESP FEE will be owed by iLEAD KAUAI to ILEAD SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT.

Amber Golden Raskin
Executive Director
iLEAD Schools Development

August, 10, 2015

To: People who can't decide,
Regarding iLEAD Kauai

I think Kauai needs a charter school because there might be kids who cry because there are kids who are smarter than them, and they just need a charter school to get a better education.

There might be kids who don't like their school and think a charter school would be better for them.

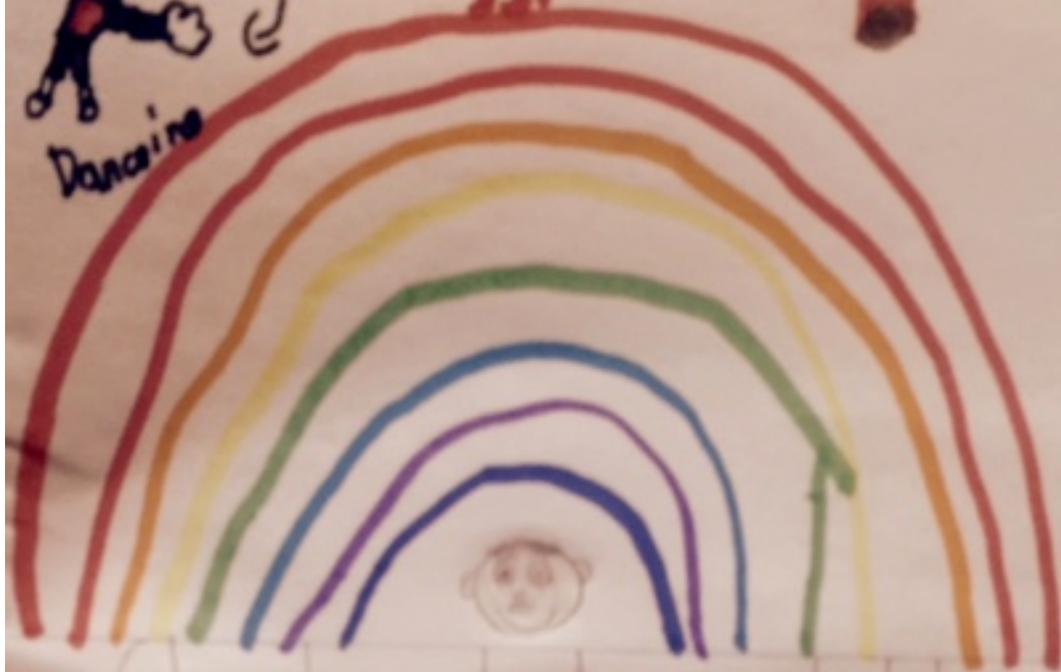
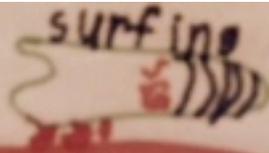
Also there might be kids who just think it would be FUN!!!

From: David Braman

7 years old
2nd grade

Sincerely,
David
Braman





Charter schools sound like fun
bring one to Kauai
it'll be fun for everyone.

David Braman

7 years old

2nd grade

Subject: iLead Kauai testimony

Date: Monday, August 10, 2015 at 8:20:11 PM Hawaii-Aleutian Standard Time

From: Minna Freeman

To: Commission Mail

Aloha Charter Commission,

I implore you to vote to approve our proposed iLead Kauai Charter School. As a parent and teacher in the public schools here on Kauai, I see the deep need for iLead. Our keiki need an education that inspires them to collaborate, create, innovate, problem solve, and lead. iLead Kauai offers an education that will do all of that and more. Our children will have a school in which to think outside of the box in order to solve real world problems. 21st century career and college ready skills require risk taking, freedom of choice, inquiry based learning environments, authentic assessment in learning portfolios and demonstrations of learning, and teaching to the whole child. iLead Kauai will do all that and more. With support of hundreds of local families, Mayor Carvalho, Superintendent Bill Arakaki, and a strong iLead hui of parents, professionals, and educators, we have what it takes to make this school a success. You have the power to allow us make it happen. Make iLead happen. For the future of Kauai.

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[Minna Freeman MAEd.](#)

Environmental Educator

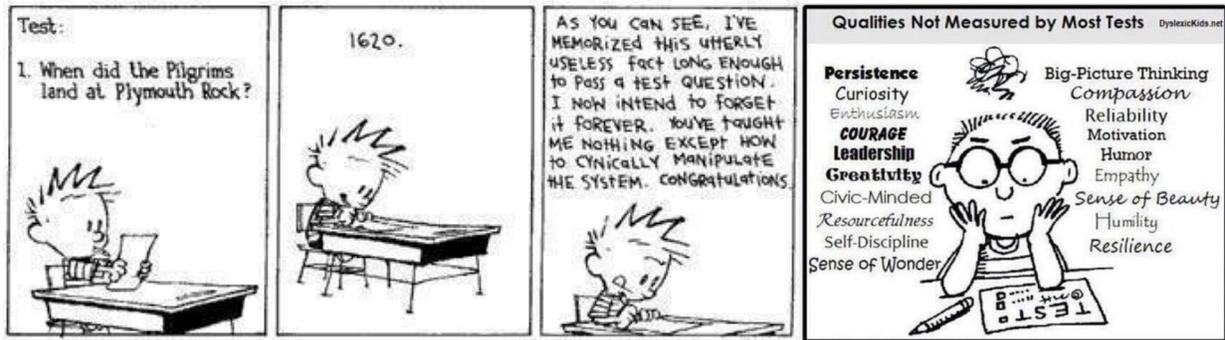
"All things are connected like the blood that unites us. We did not weave the web of life, we are merely a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves."

-Chief Sealth

Testimonial Support for iLEAD Kauai – July 30, 2015

Ted Fujimoto

We must do better than “lecture-memorize-test and forget!”



Dear Hawaii State Public Charter School Commissioners,

I applaud the work you are doing to bring powerful education options to the children of Hawaii. The success of Hawaii’s children is dear to my heart as my father is a child of Hilo and I have family with children in many parts of Hawaii. It is imperative that we give the children of Hawaii the best chance they have despite the current situation where fewer than 25% of students are getting the education they need to even obtain a middle-class paying job (Right To Succeed). Charter schools **MUST** fulfill the promise of using flexibility to be innovative and to deliver learning experiences - a bar higher than being able to score high on standardized tests.

One of the most effective ways for this to be accomplished is through Project-Based Learning (“PBL”). There are lots of poor PBL implementations. Strong PBL is authentic and passion based - meaning that projects are built around a student’s passion and interest. Strong PBL has protocols that teaches important social-emotional and workforce skills such as persistence, creativity, courage, self-discipline, team work, critical thinking, work ethic, communication and leadership. Strong PBL embeds and augments all the critical academic standards (e.g. Common Core).

Over 20 years ago, I founded one of the most successful school designs in the country, the New Tech Network, that today has over 180 schools across 29 states and growing between 20-40 schools per year. In the very first school (a public district school), an 11th and 12th grade high school, students that walked through the door that first day were failing students by any measure. We exclusively used project-based learning anchored in a culture of trust, respect and responsibility with lectures being nearly absent. Nine months later through project-based learning and without teaching to the test, these failing students outscored

every high school in the county in every subject on the standardized test by double digit percentages. This is the power of what happens when you have the ability to innovate. Since then, I've helped a half-dozen project-based learning school designs replicate their designs to over 500 district schools nationally. Later I became involved with the charter school movement and co-founded the California Charter Schools Association. Together, we eventually provided assistance and guidance to over 16 state associations in how they provided support to improve the quality of charters. I was deeply disappointed by the majority of charters that may have operated more efficiently and effectively but failed to use the autonomy to innovate in the classroom.

The good news is that over the past 7 years, there have been a small growing group of charter school operators that are unified by the belief that the educational experience had to dramatically change for kids and it was not enough just to operate more efficiently. iLEAD is one of these charter school operators.

I have witnessed first hand how iLEAD schools implement their academic program and how they operate. They deliver a world class high performing deeper learning environment. They are employing a gold standard level of PBL that many traditional educators, and especially those in the charter community, are not used to seeing and do not have a deep enough understanding to diagnose.

Multiple research studies are showing that PBL is more effective than traditional methods in closing the achievement gap as well as helping kids outperform on the new Common Core assessments. ***SRI conducted a controlled study with over 100 teachers and 3,000 students. The results? “On average, kids in the project-based physical science classes performed roughly 8 percent better on an end-of-unit learning assessment than the kids in traditional classes.”¹***

“PBL increases long-term retention of content, helps students perform as well as or better than traditional learners in high-stakes tests, improves problem-solving and collaboration skills and improves students' attitudes towards learning ([Strobel & van Barneveld, 2009](#); [Walker & Leary, 2009](#)).”²

Students in schools that practice deeper learning pedagogy not only had higher scores on OECD PISA test that assesses internationally core knowledge and complex problem-solving skills but they had higher graduation rates, college acceptance and college persistence rates (American Institutes for Research

¹ <http://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2014/09/26/can-project-based-learning-close-gaps-in-science-education/>

²<http://www.edutopia.org/pbl-research-learning-outcomes>

http://www.air.org/sites/default/files/downloads/report/Report_3_Evidence_of_Deeper_Learning_Outcomes.pdf.)

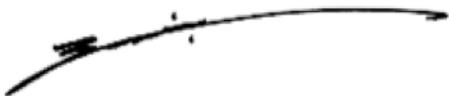
Despite the strength of iLEAD's actual practice and implementation of PBL, the recommendation from the Charter Commissioner's Evaluation Staff made the following statement in the recommendation to you:

"The Final Application Recommendation Report states that the applicant failed to describe how project-based learning ("PBL") would be used to achieve its proposed academic goals. In the response, the applicant reiterated how the school's academic goals connect to its instructional design, which is focused around PBL. The applicant lists six steps that will be used to implement the integration of PBL and Common Core State Standards and also describes how PBL will be used. The steps provide vague actions (such as using rubrics, empowering students through a blend of assessments and tools, and working shoulder to shoulder with students) that fail to describe a comprehensive framework driven by Common Core State Standards."

This is not surprising because most educators have not been exposed to well implemented PBL. I have visited hundreds of schools around the country who claim they are deeper learning schools that implement PBL and most are not doing it well. In visiting iLEAD's schools and comparing with many charter schools out there, I would be compelled to come to the opposite conclusion from the Hawaii Charter Commission's Evaluation Staff. **iLEAD's understanding of executing a gold-standard of project-based learning combined with their strong operating history and powerful culture will position them to implement a solid academic program that more than meets the Common Core State Standards –enabling their students to achieve the highest performing levels academically as well as with college, career and citizenship skills.**

With all due respect, please approve iLEAD Kauai in support of the children of Hawaii, for they deserve a high-quality education that iLEAD Kauai will provide. The leaders, teachers, community, and parents of Kauai have made it absolutely clear that they want iLEAD Kauai and they trust that iLEAD Kauai will bring a high quality education option for their children. Who are we to stand in their way?

Respectfully,



Ted Fujimoto

E. Ted Fujimoto
President - Landmark Consulting Group, Inc.
Chairman/Founder - Right to Succeed Foundation
Board of Directors, Co-Founder - Muzart World Foundation

Subject: iLead Kauai - Proposed Charter School

Date: Monday, August 10, 2015 at 2:37:18 PM Hawaii-Aleutian Standard Time

From: jade@themossgrupppublishing.com

To: Commission Mail

iLead Kauai - Proposed Charter School

8/10/15

Aloha State Public Charter School Commission,
Thank you for carefully reviewing iLead Kauai for our community.

Firstly, I would like all of you to know that my son and daughter will definitely attend iLead Kauai when it is available on the island. At almost 3 years old, I can see that my son would excel in a project-based learning environment, and go on to provide for our community and the world with the knowledge and skill sets he'll learn there.

To be very honest, I would not be confident in any other schooling options here. That is why iLead Kauai is a big ray of hope for my children's education. We are not a family of huge means (yet) and the fact that it is a free public school is a blessing for us and many families on Kauai who have very high standards for their kids but can't afford tuition at a private school. Even if we could afford it, they would absolutely still be attending iLead Kauai.

I am the owner of a start-up business and I've come to learn that my education, beginning with elementary school, did not properly prepare me for the realities of being successful in the "real world", particularly in terms of well-rounded thinking. Now knowing what it takes, I understand the importance of project-based learning.

I will keep this letter short and sweet, I hope you've received many more like this asking you to please approve iLead Kauai. You can count on our family to help support the school in any way we can.

With gratitude and a warm mahalo,
Jade Moss
P.O. Box 1214
Kalaheo, HI 96741

Subject: Support

Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 11:57:01 AM Hawaii-Aleutian Standard Time

From: Elizabeth Scamahorn

To: Commission Mail

Category: Testimony

I support the Ilead school on Kauai. We need this charter school.

Mahalo,
Elizabeth

Subject: iLead Proposed Charter School for Kauai

Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 12:09:51 PM Hawaii-Aleutian Standard Time

From: Lidi White

To: Commission Mail

Category: Testimony

Honorable Commissioners:

Please approve the iLead Charter School for Kauai. Kauai's students would benefit so much from this program.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aloha,

Alida White

Subject: I lead charter school proposal

Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 at 11:40:37 AM Hawaii-Aleutian Standard Time

From: Don Braman

To: Commission Mail

Please give positive consideration to the I lead charter school proposal for Kauai.

As one who has worked in an administrative capacity in public schools, the charter school gives a forward look and choices not provided by public school systems.

Martha Braman

Donald Braman

Subject: Support for iLEAD Kauai - Charter School

Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 at 3:20:18 PM Hawaii-Aleutian Standard Time

From: Kathleen Bates

To: Commission Mail

To Whom It Might Concern:

There is a great need to have iLEAD Kauai - a Charter School on Kauai. To have a choice for our children on Kauai is of utmost importance.

Mahalo for please granting them an opportunity to serve our community and to teach our children in a positive constructive way to lead production lives in our community.

Kathleen Bates
4391 Ihu Road
Kalaheo, HI