

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

Started: Friday, November 04, 2016 9:35:25 AM Last Modified: Friday, November 04, 2016 10:40:43 AM

Time Spent: 01:05:18 IP Address: 76.173.119.155

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Q1: First Name	Kuuipo
Q2: Last Name	Laumatia
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

Please allow Kamalani Academy to open grades 7&8 so my daughter and son will be able to step back into the public school system in an environment that's safe - free from drugs and bullying, nurturing - with teachers and administrators who really care about the individual child, the whole child, and inspiring - an atmosphere based on innovation and allowing children to learn the way it most benefits them (through arts integration). My three youngest children all stepped out of the public school system two years ago because each of them were not getting what they needed. The whole reason I started this school was primarily for the middle school aged children and parents to have a better alternative than Wahiawa Middle. Speaking from experience, mother of 10, with four previous children having gone there and gotten lost, gone astray, and were not protected. Please allow Kamalani to open with all middle school grades 6-8. Mahalo!

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 07, 2016 10:08:41 AM

Last Modified: Monday, November 07, 2016 10:36:57 AM Time Spent: 00:28:16

Ime Spent: 00:28:16 IP Address: 76.173.115.181

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Q1: First Name	Maile
Q2: Last Name	Domingo
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

I am a resident of Wahiawa. Ive been living here for 14 years now, I have 4 children- 3 of my children attended Wahiawa Middle school and next school year my 4th child will be in 6th grade. I never understood WHY the D.O.E changed 6th grade to middle school and wasn't happy, but what can we parents do once it's done. My 1st child who attended Wahiawa Middle school did ok there, when my 2nd child attended there-it was a nightmare. It seemed as if I was battling the Admin,teachers, staff on a weekly basis. My child wasn't a bad student but was often referred to as one as they put it "quilty by association" It was a constant battle for me as a parent to fight for my child knowing he had done "no wrong" My 3rd child attended middle school from 2013-2015. That's where I drew my last straw with Wahiawa Middle school. Child #3 was a quiet A student who was very well liked, yet in the 1st month of school a smaller girl would slap my child in the face daily. If it wasn't for my friend's daughter who told her mom what was going on with my child-I think my child would've either tolerated it or did something back. After bringing it up to the school and counselorthey informed me that the girl didn't think it was wrong and that she came from a bad home setting. They school Admin would constantly get on my child for wearing a sweatshirt, jacket because they were not able to see the school uniform shirt visible, yet it was ok for the staff but not the students. It gets cold in Wahiawa and they told me she would have to wear the shirt over her jacket or sweatshirt-COME ON...REALLY! It got to the point where child #2 and 3 would "BEG" me to home school them, they would also tell me how they didn't want to use the bathrooms there because thats where the kids would hang out (cut class) and smoke weed therefore my kids would hold it all day-not good. Multiple times after school as Im picking up my kids there would be fights, I would call to inform the school so they could send their security to handle it and they would tell me I would have to call HPD-many times I would get out myself and break it up because I wouldn't want to see a child get hurt and nobody did anything about it. PLEASE consider opening up all the middle school grades as a better, safer alternative for Wahiawa. Since private school is very \$\$ my only other option is to apply for a GED to have my child #4 attend Wheeler Middle school (military base school) which I know personally many of my friends, neighbors have done so and were happy. I was VERY EXCITED when I heard of Kamalani Academy and have passed on the info to MANY of my friends and family. Wahiawa NEEDS an alternative to the public middle school, maybe then when their enrollment drops-the D.O.E. will realize "We the parents living in this community have had ENOUGH" maybe then-they will take action and fix or change all that us concerned parents have been telling them. Thank you.



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Q1: First Name	Genella
Q2: Last Name	Albino
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

Aloha mai,

I am about to give you my testimony on why I believe that it is a crucial need for Kamalani Academy to be granted approval for students in grades 6-8 in the Wahiawa and surrounding Wahiawa areas as an option for Junior High education.

My hiapo(eldest child), has just begun his 7th grade year and 2nd year at Wahiawa Middle School. We moved to the island of O'ahu in August of 2015, and have since then, resided in Wahiawa. When looking for schools for my then, 6th grader, the only option I had was Wahiawa Middle School. At this time, we were hoping for his acceptance into Kamehameha Kapalama, he had recently passed the exam, but still had to be "chosen". With all the competition, we were very saddened to find out that he was not chosen. With all this being said, I failed to mention that he has been in Hawaiian Immersion all his life, from Preschool thru 5th grade. I was never worried about his transition into English, educationally, he excelled in both languages. I enrolled him at Wahiawa Middle School after hearing about his non acceptance to Kamehameha School and there he began his journey in the English language and also as the new kid. Being the new kid was not easy for him, he was faced with many challenges from his peers both the same age and older, and it seemed never ending! I have made many visits to Wahiawa Middle School and made many phone calls, many of which were passed around from counselor to counselor to principal, very frustrating and I won't lie, it angered me immensely, I do not take my children's education lightly. One day when he returned from school, he broke down and told me all that he had been going through in school, besides the kids making out throughout the halls with faculty looking the other way, kids vaping behind the portables, the bullying, and how much he hated Wahiawa Middle School and did not want to continue attending, he also mentioned how he was punched in the face, had his chair pulled out from beneath him in front of the entire class, called numerous names that I won't mention, and was cussed at. This angered me even more that I was not made aware of another student putting his hands on my son and the school did not send him to the health nurse to be looked at or give him any proper care, they just sent him on his way. This took everything in me not to go to the school and wreak havoc! It also saddened me that this was taking a toll on my son and I had also noticed a decline in his grades. After I was made aware of my son being assaulted in school, I made calls as to why the other boy was not disciplined and also notified the Police and everything worked out on my part in the end after finding out that the incident was hushed under the rug and never went pass the Security Guard who intervened. On a recent account, he had told me how one of his teachers had made the letter L with her hand and placed it on her forehead and said, not Lancer's (school mascot), Loser's. This says a lot about that teacher, if she thinks that way of her student's, how will they think of themselves? How can they build their self confidence because of the lack of confidence their teacher has in them? How can they excel? Is my son learning? Is he being challenged the way I want him to be? Do they really teach the children? or do they just tolerate them and not care where they go after the school year is over? Do they really care about their future?

I know this is not the case with all teachers, and it is not my intention to down talk or bad talk Wahiawa Middle School, but over all, my experience with Wahiawa Middle School has not been a good one and I would be lying if I said it has been okay or it's alright. I would want future parents who will one day be in my shoes to at least have an option for Junior High education for their children. Please give our children another option, please give Kamalani Academy a chance. I thank you for this opportunity that you have given me to share my mana'o with all of you and hope you will give Kamalani Academy a chance to flourish.



Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

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Time Spent: 00:01:40 **IP Address:** 72.235.34.185

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Q1: First Name	Lori
Q2: Last Name	Hodosh
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

Aloha, I am a parent on two elementary school aged girls in Waialua. I feel that it is very important to have options for our keiki. Not all children thrive in a standard classroom environment and it is imperative we have options. This school will be an asset to the north shore and allow many more children the opportunity of a great education.



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Q1: First Name	Jan
Q2: Last Name	Conger
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

When Kamalani Academy was first brought to my attention I was excited as I was looking for an option besides our public middle school or private school. After attending the informational meeting, I was even more thrilled to have an education option for my daughter. The transition years from elementary school to middle school are tough years. The social aspect of most public schools are tough environments for girls to navigate while remaining focused on academics. The curriculum and learning environment that Kamalani Academy is planning to provide is an option I hope to still have for my daughter in 2018.

Aloha,

Jan Conger 808-551-5833 jan.conger@ferguson.com



Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

Started: Monday, November 07, 2016 7:30:20 PM Last Modified: Monday, November 07, 2016 7:48:02 PM

Time Spent: 00:17:42 IP Address: 66.91.174.255

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Q1: First Name	Amy
Q2: Last Name	Withrow
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

Dear Charter Commission,

My Husband and I have been looking for an alternative option for our son Jake Withrow education. He will be starting 7th grade next year and has been struggling in his current school environment. While he excels in project and art integrated learning, he has a hard time maintaining focus in a heavily test based program that is in place in an ordinary curriculum. We believe that in an art integrated school like what Kamalani Academy can provide, he will excel to his true potential.

We hope that you will approve Kamalani Academy and give them the opportunity to give Jake and kids like him the chance to flourish in a school environment that works or them.

Thank you,

Amy Withrow



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Started: Monday, November 07, 2016 11:28:46 PM Last Modified: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 12:00:58 AM

Time Spent: 00:32:12 IP Address: 72.234.51.36

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Q1: First Name	Gina
Q2: Last Name	Aguirre-Quek
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

Aloha.

We are very excited that a Charter school has finally opened near our home and that my daughter will be attending Kamalani Academy next fall as a fifth grader. We also have a one-year old who we also plan to send to Kamalani when he is ready for school.

After 6 years of long days commuting from Mililani to downtown Honolulu so that my daughter could attend a school that was best suited for her (day care - 4th grade), our family can finally have a better quality of life. Rather than eating breakfast and dinner in the car, or spending money to eat out, and coming home late because of unexpected accidents that clogged traffic, and the many headaches that come with Oahu traffic, we can finally spend more time as a family doing things together, in our own house and in our own neighborhood. Most importantly we will have more time being involved by reading with our children and helping them with their school work/activities without the stress of commuting.

Some employers offer employees to work from home nowadays and now that I finally earned that benefit, I won't need to drive to town and I am beyond ecstatic that my daughter and son can attend a school near home.

We love living in the charming Mililani Tech Park because of the greenery and the trees and we feel very safe raising our kids here, however our choices of schools are very limited. We hope and pray that Kamalani Academy will offer middle school grades so that eventually our children will be able to attend Leilehua High School.

Please consider this for the families and the Keikis who prefer to attend a smaller school so that they can build a strong foundation before they hit their high school years.

Mahalo!



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Q1: First Name	Andrea
Q2: Last Name	McCravey
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

November 8, 2016

Dear State Public Charter School Commission,

Regretfully I am unable to attend this very important meeting in person because of a previous commitment to the Wahiawa Elementary School PTA with which I volunteer on a daily basis. However, please do not mistake my inability to attend this crucial meeting as a sign that offering 7th and 8th grades at Kamalani Academy for the 2017-2018 school year is unimportant.

My 12-year-old-son was diagnosed with ADHD at the age of 6. Keeping him organized and caught up is a daily challenge. While ADHD is not recognized as a disability I have come to realize that my son learns differently than his typical classmate.

My son currently attends 7th grade at Wahiawa Middle School (WMS) because my husband and I have no other option. Ideally, we would have the means to send him to Assets School where he would be able to learn in a way that would hold his attention as well as be allowed to express himself in ways other than traditional instruction allows. Unfortunately we are unable to give him what may be best for him.

He is not flourishing at WMS. At his young age, he already hates going to school and is just getting by. I know he is smarter than the average 7th grader but as of yet I have not figured out how to harness his power and channel it in the right direction. Sadly he has to deal with several teachers that do not have his best interest at heart. They give the teaching profession a bad name.

When I first heard about Kamalani Academy in August 2015 I wanted to enroll my son just to get him out of WMS. My thought was that we had nothing to lose because it could not be any worse than where he was. However, after listening to Ku'uipo Laumatia, other members of the Governing Board and the Advisory Board at the August 2015 Parent Interest Meeting; then the Principal (please forgive me, I cannot recall his name at the moment) at the October 2016 Parent Interest Meeting; I knew Kamalani Academy was going to be more than just another school. It would be my son's only chance to finally realize his unique abilities.

Please help him by giving him a chance to experience a nurturing school setting that is more than, "Here is a book. Read it. Answer these questions." Thank you very much for your time.

Respectfully yours, Andrea McCravey



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Started: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 11:05:40 AM Last Modified: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 11:33:00 AM

Time Spent: 00:27:19 IP Address: 72.130.138.146

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Q1: First Name	Charmaine
Q2: Last Name	Kawakami-Feato
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

My husband and I would like to express our gratitude to Kamalani School when they decided to move into the Wahiawa district. Our daughter will be entering 6th grade and our son, 3rd grade in the school year 2017-2018. We felt that the community did not have a quality education program that we felt would benefit our children.

When researching Kamalani School, we came across their school mission. We were very elated to see morals, values and beliefs that we as a family believe in and try hard to practice.

We wanted a school that would not only challenge our children academically, but also allow them to think out side of the box to slove problems. We want them to be exposed to many creative ideas and become leaders and community supporters.

We want a school who's obligation is to create well-rounded children. We believe that Kamalani School will provide the means of teaching our children these skills. As parents we want a school that will allow our children to be themselves, teach them to listen and communicate effectively, be curious, be respectful, and be creative.

Because Kamalani's mission is to provide quality education, promote creative learning and develop leadership within their students, our children will have the opportunity to develop their skills to become better people.



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Time Spent: 15:37:52 **IP Address:** 72.130.9.169

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Q1: First Name	Jana
Q2: Last Name	Koerte
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

I am a parent of two children who are currently fifth-graders at Mililani 'lke Elementary School. I have been searching for education alternatives to Mililani Middle School (MMS) for several years now. I wanted our family to be ready with a plan to avoid being enrolled into the middle school's multi-track system.

I feel that Kamalani is a quality public education alternative.

The planned construction of additional classrooms and transition away from multi-track at MMS (Act 167) will not be complete until the year 2021 (per Senator Dela Cruz at a community meeting in January 2016). Mililani families who oppose multi-track, but cannot afford private school, have had no other real option than to send their children to the middle school.

The Mililani community needs a quality, tuition-free education choice. Kamalani's arts integration program is an exciting and welcomed opportunity.

Thank you for your time and kind consideration of this letter.

Regards, Jana Koerte jkfkoerte@outlook.com

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

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Time Spent: 00:12:30 IP Address: 64.75.214.120

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Q1: First Name	Manuele
Q2: Last Name	Laumatia
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

Aloha Kakou Commissioners!

I am writing to express my deep support and interest in allowing Kamalani Academy to start with grades 7&8 this opening year. It's hard not to make this personal, since this entire effort has been fueled with the passion of my wife, Ku'uipo, and has been not only her vision, but the vision of our family for the past 15 years. I will speak in terms of impact upon our children. We have 10 children - 8 boys and 2 girls. 6 of these 10 have attended Wahiawa Middle School in the past. As each child has attended this school, our awareness has been heightened as to the challenges and impacts upon the students from peers, teachers, counselors, vice principals, and principals. I haven't personally been in too many of the meetings with administration because I work. This task has fallen mostly to my wife, who is level headed, smart, loving, and caring in every way. The fact that she became so hopeless in how the administration treated her and our children, is what caused her and our children on their own, to withdraw from the DOE school system in middle school. Our 3 youngest have been home schooling for the past two years because of the terrible environment. Our children have been bullied, physically, mentally and emotionally. Our children have been abused in the same way. They have been introduced to sex by observing sexual behavior in the classrooms and hallways. They have been introduced to drugs and forced to participate in smoking, vaping, marijuana, etc. because of extreme peer pressure and threats of being beaten up if they don't participate. Their self-esteem has been crushed, academic grades have plummeted to extremes between elementary school (5th grade report cards) and 6th grade middle school report cards. The damage my children and wife have suffered because there have been no viable alternatives is beyond words. We have too many children to send to private school, even though 2 of our older sons did go to middle school at Kamehameha. Our oldest son went to King Intermediate. Our youngest, and the baby of our family is a girl. We have kept her out of school waiting for Kamalani to get approved. She will be in 7th grade this year. For my daughter's sake, and our sake as parents, please approve Kamalani's 7&8 grades from the start. There is no other option for middle schoolers and their parents in Wahiawa. Besides that, my wife would be extremely happy. This is the only child she has who will benefit directly from all her hard work, her dream, and vision for a better educational future for our children. Thank you. Manuele Laumatia

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

Started: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 2:06:12 PM Last Modified: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 2:16:13 PM

Time Spent: 00:10:01 IP Address: 172.56.44.118

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Q1: First Name	Diana
Q2: Last Name	Duvauchelle Gasper
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

I am very interested in sending my son to Kamalani Academy for his 6 grade of school. We are looking for a school that will catch and keep his attention towards learning and improving his skills. I also feel it's important to instill our Hawaiian culture and knowledge into our daily lives. And it's sad to say, many of the public schools lack enough of our Hawaiian culture being taught!

We feel as parents, grades 6,7, and 8 are the last year's to get our children really focused on their education before the real hard part, high school!

So we're looking forward to the new teaching methods that Kamalani Academy is offering! Hopefully as goes well, then I'll be sending my other 2 children when it's their turn for 6 grade!

Thank you!



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Q1: First Name	Ursula
Q2: Last Name	Keohokapu
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

Aloha

I'm very excited that Kamalani Academy chose Wahiawā for the 2017/2018 campus. I am born and raised Wahiawan and more importantly a Mother of two. This is exactly what Wahiawā needs for our future 'ōpio. A school that cares about the students growth. When I attended Wahiawā intermediate it was only for 7th & 8th grade and it was a struggle, but not as bad as its been there in the recent years. Now it's 6th through 8th grade and it's crazier then ever, I have family members that attend Wahiawā middle school that witness many inappropriate acts upon each other in restrooms, turf wars, and many immature bullying. As a mother of a soon to be 6th grader I DO NOT want my daughter to attend a school like this. To me it's not safe and doesn't offer the teaching skills that I have found in Kamalani Academy brochures. WAHIAWĀ NEEDS KAMALANI ACADEMY.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

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Q1: First Name	Rachel
Q2: Last Name	Henry
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

I have 2 children that attend public schools, both have an IEP. My eldest child will be graduating next year so I have the most experience with the schools in Wahiawa through him and I am not happy with the level of support he has received academically. My youngest is in fourth grade this year and she is artistically driven and has great difficulty within particular areas of academics such as math. What concerns me most is the lack of resources the public schools have to offer. Both of my children have been in special education settings yet the amount of children in each class goes beyond the capacity that the state has deemed appropriate, which hinders not only my children's ability to learn, but every other kid as well. One of my children has been mistreated and called names in front of the class by a teacher because their level of understanding was not where the teacher felt it should be. This is only one of the many unfortunate incidents that my children have been subjected to within the Hawaii public school system. I would like for my children to be afforded the option and opportunity to attend a school that will nurture and foster a love for learning and help their artistic abilities come to life.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

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Q1: First Name	Sweet
Q2: Last Name	POULI
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

To whom it may concern

I am writing this letter bout the need of my child to go to Kamalani academy. One of my main reason is I want my child to grow where their is less profanity I feel that there is too much profanity in the public school and I as a parent believe that it is horrendous seeing my child is being exposed to such inappropriate things. Another reason is that I want my child to have a higher education allowing my child to expand their learning and thrive even more. Also by putting my child in Kamalani academy my child will not be bullied as she has experienced in wahiawa middle. Overall I'm looking forward to put my child in Kamalani Academy.

Sincerely

Sweet Pouli



Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

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Q1: First Name	Christine
Q2: Last Name	Farias
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

I am humbly submitting my testimony in support of opening Kamalani Academy with grades K through 8. When I first found out about Kamalani, I was excited to have another option for our children that emphasized the arts without charging tuition. I believe it is important to have middle school grades available as many of our middle schools are maxed to capacity, especially those located on Central and west coast of Oahu. I hope that the committee will consider these factors when making their final decision.

Thank you. Christine Farias

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

Started: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 6:58:10 PM Last Modified: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 7:13:48 PM

Time Spent: 00:15:38 IP Address: 76.173.123.189

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Q1: First Name	SWEET
Q2: Last Name	POULI
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing about why I would want to put my child in Kamalani academy. One of my main reason is that I feel that there is too much profanity in public school and I believe that it is horrendous that my child is being exposed to such things that is not to be spoken on a daily basis. In addition I want my child to go to Kamalani academy because my child will be able to learn more, thrive in a good environment ,and expand on her learning to her ability even more in Kamalani academy. Last of my main reasons is that my child will not be bullied anymore going to kamalani my child will be more safe and secure. Overall I am looking forward for my child to attend kamalani academy.

Sincerely, Sweet Leilani Pouli

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

Started: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 6:38:25 PM Last Modified: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 7:15:13 PM

Time Spent: 00:36:47 IP Address: 108.171.135.187

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Q1: First Name	Ryan
Q2: Last Name	Araki
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

Aloha Charter Commission,

Personally speaking, I have a daughter that will be transitioning from her elementary school in 2017. Having Kamalani Academy available to her in 2017/2018 is necessary for her education to smoothly transition from elementary to middle school, and to provide our family with confidence and stability that she would be able to continue on through high school graduation.

We have applied to Kamalani Academy because in the past we have seen our daughter flourish when arts and expression are integrated in her academic career. She is excited to work hard when there have been opportunities for artistic learning in her current school: from being chosen as a Keiki Art Contest winner for Kapolei in 2015, to being offered a small scholarship with the Honolulu Museum of Art for her work with their Art to Go program from 2014/15 and 2015/16. She is also a regular with the Performing Arts Center of Kapolei.

We see our daughter chase and take advantage of these opportunities at every step. To even have an opportunity to attend the Kamalani Academy, requires that these grade levels are approved by the Charter Commission. My testimony is being submitted without guarantee of acceptance through the lottery, to give my child the best opportunities available, but only if they are made available by the school and the Charter Commission.

Mahalo nui,

Ryan Araki



Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

Started: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 7:32:05 PM **Last Modified:** Tuesday, November 08, 2016 7:34:28 PM

Time Spent: 00:02:23 IP Address: 66.8.191.66

PAGE 1

Q1: First Name	Jeff
Q2: Last Name	Vilardi
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

I have two middle school children who will greatly benefit from an arts integrated curriculum. Please reconsider and allow Kamalani to open up as a K-8 school. We support these grades being part of the first year.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

Started: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 7:10:29 PM Last Modified: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 7:41:18 PM

Time Spent: 00:30:49 IP Address: 204.210.113.94

PAGE 1

Q1: First Name	LOLINA
Q2: Last Name	HUFANGA
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

Aloha

Reason for this letter is for the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year. I am a mother of 9 and just want the best for my children. I am writing because I was very excited when I, as a parent has a second option for my 6, 7, & 8th grade children besides Wahiawa Middle. I read the brochure and did not hesitate to register my children for Kamalani. I had 5 children that had already attended Wahiawa Middle, currently have 3 attending and 1 next year for 6th grade and all did not like the middle school for many many reasons. They had great teachers there but children were uncontrollable. Yes they had and have friends there but a lot of things happen there that was and is not appropriate, not children friendly, many many fights, and etc.. My children are not perfect but we try hard to put them in a environment that will help them develop good qualities that will hopefully mold them into amazing adults in the future. I believe that Kamalani is and will be capable of keeping my children safe and providing them with high quality education that will help them become these amazing adults that we wish and pray that they will become. I am confident and believe in Kamalani Academy's vision and goals for the children. I am 100% behind them in this request because these children are our future. Thank you.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

Started: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 7:40:37 PM **Last Modified:** Tuesday, November 08, 2016 7:43:36 PM

Time Spent: 00:02:59 IP Address: 66.27.219.166

PAGE 1

Q1: First Name	Valerie
Q2: Last Name	Wong
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

As our population grows we always have to plan with the future in mind. This would mean having the proper infrastructure in place to support that future, such as schools. I believe we should be planning ahead and offer middle school at Kamalani Academy. There has been an overwhelming support base to show there would be a need for this.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

Started: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 8:26:13 PM Last Modified: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 8:29:09 PM

Time Spent: 00:02:56 IP Address: 66.27.194.156

PAGE 1

Q1: First Name	Clair L.
Q2: Last Name	Cummings
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

I would like to provide my support for the Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus in 2017-2018 school year.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

Started: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 8:54:43 PM Last Modified: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 9:16:05 PM

Time Spent: 00:21:21 IP Address: 72.234.191.118

PAGE 1

Q1: First Name	Nigel
Q2: Last Name	Sturge
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

Dear Charter Commission,

I am asking for Kamalani Academy to be granted the approval to be open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus beginning in the 2017/2018 school year. I am a retired Unite States Navy Veteran who married a beautiful native Hawai'ian woman. We started our family 13 years ago with the intention of raising our children in the beautiful town of Wahiawa. Our two children attended Iliahi Elementary and one is currently attending Wahiawa Middle School.

We were very excited to hear that a charter school would be opening in our area, as we were planning on sending our 2 children to schools outside of our neighborhood. Although Iliahi has provided a good beginning for our children, we were concerned with the current way our middle schooler's performance and limited help being offered by the teacher and counselor of Wahiawa Middle. It's not that Wahiawa Middle School isn't good or is bad, we just wanted our kids to experience another way of teaching and learning. Every person learns different.

When we go to our doctors office, they ask us "what's the best way you learn? Reading, video, demonstration, or audio?" Although the focus is on health, they ask us how best "do you learn". I believe having an alternative to the traditional methods of teaching will help our children learn better, strengthen their self confidence and gain a better education through different learning experiences. In turn, our children will perform better on the state education tests as well as meet or exceed their current performance levels. When children feel good about themselves and have a safe, engaging place to learn and explore they are wonderful learners who will graduate to be valuable members of society.

I ask that you allow Kamalani Academy to be open for grades K-8. Please give our children and our family an option to what we currently have.

Thank you,

Nigel Sturge

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

Started: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 9:43:29 PM Last Modified: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 10:00:35 PM

Time Spent: 00:17:05 IP Address: 72.234.191.93

PAGE 1

Q1: First Name	Shana
Q2: Last Name	Stalcup
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

Aloha! My name is Shana Stalcup. I applied my daughter Krysta Stalcup who is entering 6th grade in the year 2017-2018 to Kamalani Academy. She is a quiet sweet young girl who loves school. I'm afraid as she enters 6th grade to Wahiawa Middle School she will not be able to perform well as she does in the smaller school setting in elementary that Kamalani Academy can offer. The public school system has abandoned our most needy children, charters are our only hope for reforming public school education. As a rule of thumb, at public schools the more privileged kids—those in the upper socioeconomic brackets—get the highest scores. The most disadvantaged—those in the lower socioeconomic brackets—attend the lowest-performing schools and score worse. But with charter schools, there are more outliers: some schools are doing substantially worse than comparable public schools. But some charter schools—especially those serving kids from disadvantaged backgrounds—are doing substantially better. Overall funding Kamalani Academy would be in the best interest for our lower to middle income families that would've like to afford private education but cannot. This would be a great opportunity and advantage to give to our children of Wahiawa. I humbly ask for your support in going forward in approving the school, the ability to open Kindergarten thru 8th grade. If my daughter is selected I would like her to be able to finish her middle school years thru 8th grade. Please support and approve this wonderful school. Mahalo!



Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 9:52:34 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 10:12:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:19:28

IP Address: 98.155.76.119

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Q1: First Name	Raynesa
Q2: Last Name	Jonas
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

My name is Raynesa Jonas and my daughter Taylor has applied to attend Kamalani Academy for the inaugural year. I have three daughters and we are a military family who have served our country for the past 23 years. My oldest daughter graduated Leilehua HS last year and is a successful freshman at the University of North Texas. My other daughter is currently a Sophomore at Leilehua and previously attended Wahiawa Middle School. I know first hand the teaching styles and educational atmosphere at Wahiawa Middle school. I also know my daughters and how they best learn. I have struggled along side them to adapt to each of their different learning styles and try to help them beyond the classroom. My two oldest daughters are "visual and methodical learners". They can read a chapter in a text book and have no problem retaining the information. They enjoy facts, formulas and methods. They don't like surprises.

But my youngest daughter Taylor is not like her older sisters. She is a "kinetic and auditory" learner. She thinks outside of the box and has to physically work things out in order for problems to make sense to her. When our family learned of Kamalani's "Arts Integrated" curriculum, we were intrigued to research that type of instruction technique. I know the curriculum at Wahiawa Middle does not fit my daughters identified learning style. The decision to apply to the middle school at Kamalani Academy was not made on a whim or to simply to get her in a charter school. We have thoroughly researched the curriculum style and are confident that this program will be more than a great fit for our daughter.

You see, Taylor is very much into the arts - visual, performing, music. She uses visual arts when doing math. She illustrates the stories that she reads. She attempts to construct models of things she is learning about. She best understands by explaining topics with others, working in groups and putting the information into real-life practice. For the past few years, Taylor has struggled with retaining information while sitting through a lecture or taking notes. Something that is expected at Wahiawa Middle school (or any traditional middle school). Taylor is also a natural at acting and the dramatic arts. Her sense of humor and positive attitude are not only a pleasure for others to be around, but assist her when she is learning by recite facts of a story or steps to a problem. Taylor likes being actively engaged and moving while learning. She seems to be more innovative and dislikes repetition. She constantly works faster and does not enjoy lessons that involve a lot of memorization or calculations. Something that is also expected at traditional middle schools. Her elementary school teachers agree that she would thrive in an environment that can support her learning style. They are just as excited that Taylor may have this opportunity to attend Kamalani Academy. They see that she requires an enhanced style of teaching. A style that an arts integrated curriculum can provide. We are excited that Kamalani Academy can offer that here on Oahu and even more excited it is down the street from our home. If such a school was not an option for us, we would have no choice but to look for alternative charter or private schools to send her to. Ones with lower teacher/student ratios and one that can adapt to her best interest.

During middle school years, Students learn how to achieve successful study habits. How to be good test takers. How to get organized and be productive in several classes at once. It's a first step of independence away from being in elementary school. I firmly believe that learning how to navigate your personal study style in middle school will make you a successful high school student and able to manipulate that style and adapt to changes (like High School). Not being given the tools to actually learn how to work with your learning style is not fair. These kids need to learn in the best way possible and Kamalani Academy can provide that. I know for a fact that my daughter Taylor will be overwhelmed at Wahiawa Middle school and have a difficult time with teachers who not only do not understand her quirky learning style, but more importantly - do not have the resources or training to support her ability to learn and thrive. You must allow Kamalani Academy to support the middle school students who have finally figured out the learning style that fits their individual student needs. There is a large group of children who actually NEED this type of curriculum. These children NEED access to Kamalani Academy. Mahalo.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

Started: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 10:07:23 PM Last Modified: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 10:46:02 PM

Time Spent: 00:38:38 IP Address: 76.173.215.112

PAGE 1

Q1: First Name	Sonya
Q2: Last Name	Giron
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to implore you to allow Kamalani Academy to open it's 2017/2018 school year as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus. This consideration is near and dear to my heart as my daughter, whom I believe will benefit greatly from a school such as Kamalani Academy, is applying for acceptance into their 8th grade enrollment. My daughter is a gifted singer but a reluctant showman. I believe learning in a school that intergrates arts into its curriculum will help her to explore her talents and possibly expand them. My husband and I strongly believe that our children can reach their full potential through Kamalani Academy, teaching the whole child, not just the intellectual self but the creative, artistic self as well. I was ecstatic to hear that this Charter was going to open in Wahiawa and even more so, when I discovered their mission/vision which was to go beyond the status quo and prepare our children for a new and exciting future. Please allow Kamalani Academy to take my daughter much further in education, life and more than we could imagine.

Sincerely, Mrs. Sonya Giron

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

Started: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 10:27:39 PM Last Modified: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 10:50:57 PM

Time Spent: 00:23:18 IP Address: 72.234.132.205

PAGE 1

Q1: First Name	Shonie
Q2: Last Name	Toi
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

My family and I were extremely excited to learn about a new charter school that is coming to Wahiawa for next school year 2017-2018. I as a parent was extremely pleased to learn this is an arts integrated school were they will incorporate the arts. My daughter Tehani is eleven years old and currently in the 6th grade, throughout the years I have found that some of the schools she has attended has slowly moved away from the arts. I find this very sad because my daughter has a passion for art and I feel she can benefit from this type of school tremendously it offers her and other children an alternative to just the standard schools were a lot of the schools are worried about tests. I do believe it is important to provide the arts like music, art, and theater to all children. Some of the benefits they can gain from this type of school is creativity where children will be able to freely express themselves, it will also help children focus and learn preserverance were they can learn new skills and work through difficult problems which is an important life skill especially since our children is the future. An arts integrated school has so many benefits to offer our children, parents, & community as a whole. I hope you consider letting Kamalani Academy offer kindergarten through 8th grade for the next school year. I know as a parent, educator, & community member my family and I will benefit from this school. My daughter Tehani is very excited she might get a chance to attend this school next school year, please give her the opportunity to do so. Thank you for your time and consideration.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

Started: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 10:48:01 PM Last Modified: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 11:04:39 PM

Time Spent: 00:16:37 IP Address: 98.150.241.80

PAGE 1

Q1: First Name	Aaron
Q2: Last Name	Taylor
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

As proud parents of 6 children and North shore residents my wife and I have spent many nights in conversation as to what to do when our oldest daughters reach middle school. In Waialua and Kahuku 7th and 8th graders are thrust into a high school setting with older teenage children who are at a completely different maturity level and mind set than 11-13 year olds. This makes my wife and I very uncomfortable for our daughters who we believe are not yet mature enough to handle high school pressures. The Kamalei school option has brought hope and comfort to these concerns. We humbly ask that you would allow Kamalani school to accommodate k-8th grade. The need is great for the betterment and education of our keiki. Mahalo for your time.

Sincerely with Aloha,

Aaron and Pualani Taylor



Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

Started: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 11:52:38 PM Last Modified: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 11:57:34 PM

Time Spent: 00:04:56 IP Address: 98.150.247.76

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Q1: First Name	Starla
Q2: Last Name	Gonzalez
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

I currently have a middle achool.son who is starting to go astray. I have an older som who was a straight a student prior to entering Wahiawa Middle. Now he has failed a grade. This started at 6th grade. 7th grade got worse and 8th was horrible. Frequent issues. I dont know why but it seems this is a trend at that school. I have many neighbors, friends and peers who has children attending wahiawa middle and has problems with their children now. From what the youth says is that so much goes on there and it is not controlled. There is bullying and the victim gets the blame, i know this first hand from the situations my nephew and a friends daughter. The school is over populated and another outlet for children to get the education without having to worry about the way things are at school is needed. Wahiawa keeds an alternative to wahiawa middle.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

Started: Wednesday, November 09, 2016 7:01:51 AM Last Modified: Wednesday, November 09, 2016 7:05:13 AM

Time Spent: 00:03:22 **IP Address:** 76.173.201.9

PAGE 1

Q1: First Name	Sheila
Q2: Last Name	Buyukacar
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

My request is to allow the School Board of Kamalani Academy to respond to the needs of their families and students. As it is the only public charter school in the central leeward area that offers an arts integration focus for our public school students, the number of middle schoolers ready to enroll into these grades is the evidence to support the change to their first year enrollment plan.

Their decision to open admission to their middle school grades will fill a much needed void. As a parent of two prospective Kamalani Academy middle schoolers, waiting a year to open up these grades due to their initial estimation of their enrollment will limit our school options during one of the most important times in an adolescent's life.

Please let our community's needs drive your approval to let Kamalani Academy's open enrollment to all grades during their first year—it will make a difference to those students and families ready to experience such an exciting academic and family environment.

(Also sent to Public Charter School Commission)

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

Started: Wednesday, November 09, 2016 8:04:03 AM Last Modified: Wednesday, November 09, 2016 8:07:49 AM

Time Spent: 00:03:45 IP Address: 174.75.32.74

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Q1: First Name	Bernice
Q2: Last Name	Bautista
Q3: Telephone Number	

Q4: Please provide your testimony regarding the request to the Charter Commission to allow Kamalani Academy to open as a Kindergarten through 8th grade campus for the 2017/2018 school year.

It's hard for me to write this testimony describing how desperately the children of Wahiawa need an alternative middle school to attend because in doing so I have to relive in memory all the heart wrenching traumas my child experienced at Wahiawa Middle School. She was a straight A student (4.0) when she transferred from Sunset Beach Christian School in the second semester of seventh grade. Her grades began to drop immediately, to near failing in the first semester of eighth grade, due to the extreme racism she experienced in the classroom. She was called "dumb Portagee" and "f*#%king hauoli" by her TEACHER! The same teacher allowed other students to mistreat, harass, and even physically abuse her during class. When I called Dr. Price, the principal, about the problem and asked only that the teacher apologize and the abuse cease, she protected the teacher instead of my child, flat out called my daughter a liar even after we showed physical evidence of bruising where she had been kicked. After being labeled a whistle blower among the school faculty, several other teachers jumped on the band wagon of harassment and literally ganged up on my daughter to emotionally and mentally torture her for the rest of the school year. All was documented in formal complaint to the super but none of the offending adults running Wahiawa Middle School were ever reprimanded. My youngest daughter, whom I've enrolled at Kamalani Academy for the sixth grade is terrified of attending school at the place she remembers her big sister having so many unjust and uncivilized problems at. If Kamalani Academy can save just one child from having to experience what my daughter did, it's worth it's weight in gold.

Bernice Bautista baptista.aplaca.family@gmail.com



8 October 2016

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

Subject: Kamalani Academy – Community Needs Middle School Grades Now!

My request is to allow the School Board of Kamalani Academy to respond to the needs of their families and students. As it is the only public charter school in the central leeward area that offers an arts integration focus for our public school students, the number of middle schoolers ready to enroll into these grades is the evidence to support the change to their first year enrollment plan.

Their decision to open admission to their middle school grades will fill a much needed void. As a parent of two prospective Kamalani Academy middle schoolers, waiting a year to open up these grades due to their initial estimation of their enrollment will limit our school options during one of the most important times in an adolescent's life.

Please let our community's needs drive your approval to let Kamalani Academy's open enrollment to all grades during their first year—it will make a difference to those students and families ready to experience such an exciting academic and family environment.

Respectfully,

Sheila Buyukacar Prospective Parent

Berynhaun