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CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII  
**STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION**  
**(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)**

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FOR: HB 1228 HD1 Relating to Teacher Leaders  
DATE: Friday, February 12, 2016  
TIME: 2:00 PM  
COMMITTEE(S): House Committee on Education  
ROOM: Conference Room 309  
FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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**Testimony in support of HB 1228 HD1:**

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the Committee:

The Commission deeply appreciates the support in this bill for our public school teachers and schools in supporting and funding teacher leaders. We respectfully request that the bill be amended to make educational assistants who are serving in public charter schools eligible for this important benefit as well. This would provide our public school teachers who teach in charter schools and become designated teacher leaders through the requirements of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board with the same recognition and financial support as their colleagues serving in Department of Education schools. This is an issue of fundamental fairness to children attending charter schools and to charter schools that must remain competitive as to recruiting and retaining employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.