

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE  
CHAIRPERSON

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

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>  
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

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FOR: SB 2586 Relating to Education  
DATE: Wednesday, February 10, 2016  
TIME: 1:15 PM  
COMMITTEE(S): Senate Committee on Education  
ROOM: Conference Room 229  
FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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**Testimony providing comments on SB 2586**

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter Commission appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments on Senate Bill 2586, "Relating to Education," an omnibus bill proposing a variety of appropriations and statutory changes regarding public education in Hawaii. We have comments on certain provisions only:

- Section 3: We believe that requirements for whole child education are intended to apply only to Department of Education (DOE) schools, as dictating how a public charter school allocates instructional time would be contrary to chartering principles. We therefore would request that references to "public" schools be changes in this section to specify "department" schools.
- Section 8: If an appropriation is made for instructional materials and equipment for teachers certified and licensed to teach in a vocational, technical, or career pathway program, we request that the amount appropriated factor in any charter school teachers that would qualify.
- Section 10-14: The appropriation for air conditioning states that it is for "all public elementary school classrooms," which would include public charter elementary schools, start-up schools as well as conversion schools. This could be a step toward addressing

the longstanding problem of inadequate state support or charter school facilities, although the need at many start-up charter schools are more basic than air conditioning.

- Section 15: We are grateful for the proposed appropriation specifically for charter school facilities needs. We do note that under state charter school law, the Legislature is to consider a general fund appropriation and general obligation bond authority to the Commission for this purpose starting this Session. We would urge that the restriction on the use of such funds to state-owned property be eliminated.
- Section 25-26: We request that this provision be amended to state specifically that students who will become public school teachers serving in charter schools also qualify for the program. This presumably would be the case even without the clarifying language, but the reminder would be helpful.
- Section 38: We appreciate the specific exclusion of charter schools from this provision.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.