



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education

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By

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SB 603, SD 2: Relating to Education

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Berg, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 603, SD2 which expands the duties of the charter school review panel; clarifies the manner in which the executive director of the charter school administrative office is appointed and evaluated; updates the charter school funding formula; creates a category for agency-sponsored charter schools; requires the charter school administrative office to provide staff and resources for the charter school review panel; and increases the membership of the charter school review panel.

The University already has established collaborations with several charter schools. In particular, we are in favor of shifting authority for approving charter school amendments to detailed implementation plans, providing oversight of charter schools, and appointing the Executive Director of the Charter School Administrative Office to the charter school review panel. It also seems prudent to add a few other perspectives to the review panel, specifically, persons with business and real estate expertise. Charter schools are constantly faced with these challenges and it will be helpful to have such expertise on the review panel.

The funding formula for charter schools remains controversial, especially the base on which the formula applies. SB 603, SD 2 ensures that charter school allocations are based on the most recently approved Department of Education budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.