Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education

March 16, 2007

By

Donald B. Young, Interim Dean
College of Education
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

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, SD 2 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.