



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Date: November 20, 2017
To: State Public Charter School Commission
When: 2:00 p.m.
Testifier: Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona

Aloha! My name is Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona and I serve as the Managing Director of the Kūamahi Community Education Division of Kamehameha Schools. Kamehameha Schools advocates for and supports the achievement of Hawai‘i’s Native Hawaiian public school students. As such, we have been a collaborator with the Hawai‘i public charter schools for over a decade. Through our work with Hawaiian-focused public charter schools, we hope to significantly impact more children and their families through education. We believe that Hawaiian-focused charter schools provide quality educational choices for our families and ultimately enhance both academic achievement and engagement for students.

We thank the Commission for its efforts to promote transparency, accountability and clarity in the rules applicable to the public charter schools it authorizes. The intent of the Commission’s proposed new regulations in Title 8, Hawai‘i Administrative Rules (HAR), appears consistent with those goals and note that they will:

- Amend Chapter 8-501 State Public Charter School Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure to add the definition of “Executive director,” and
- Create new Chapter 8-502 State Public Charter School Commission proceedings before the Commission to provide for the process and procedures for proceedings before the Commission, and
- Establish new Chapter 8-503 State Public Charter School Commission rules applicable for rulemaking proceedings.

We look forward to continuing to collaborate with the State, the Board of Education, the Department of Education, the Commission, schools, school leaders, students and members of the community to advance policies that support public schools.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.