

## Dayna Pa

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**From:** Walter Kahumoku  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 7:51 AM  
**To:** BOT Meetings  
**Subject:** Testimony for Grants

Aloha mai kakou,

This testimony is in support of increased grant funds to be distributed to Native Hawaiians who are becoming teachers through Native Hawaiian culture, language, and other Kanaka identity means. First, Kanaka are still not equally represented among public school teachers (14% as of 2018 DOE Employment records) in comparison to the number of Native Hawaiian children attending HIDOE schools throughout the Pae 'Āina. Second, research indicates the importance of having role models that ethnically reflect those they teach. Unfortunately, in many of our public schools that serve Hawaiian communities, the youngest and least experienced teachers find employment. In addition, instead of sending our new Kanaka teachers into those schools, especially those who are from these communities, the DOE has to hire from elsewhere including a large crop from the continent. We need to support young Native Hawaiians from Hawaiian communities who commit to education and want to return to their home communities as teachers. Education pathways that are grounded in Hawaiian ways of knowing, communicating, and behaving have proven to increase the number of Kanaka who desire to become teachers and return to teach in their community. Scholarships to reduce the cost of getting the bachelor's degree and licensure will be critical to ensuring that more Native Hawaiians can afford a university education, especially during this critical downturn in Hawai'i's economy due to COVID.

This testimony also supports the need for further professional development support for existing Native Hawaiian educators, especially given the additional stresses associated with the move from traditional classroom (in-person) environments to on-line avenues. Another critical need resides in helping teachers who desire to utilize/are already utilizing Hawaiian culture based approaches like the integration of 'ike Hawai'i into teaching the core subject areas-- English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Although there are folks delivering this type of professional development, their capacity to support large numbers of teachers is not equal to the number of requests. Such grants from OHA will help sustain and possibly expand these programs that have already shown significant increases in student performance in the areas of Math and English.

Sincerely,

Dr. Walter Kahumoku III  
Pili 'Oahu Educators

**Dayna Pa**

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**From:** Taffi Wise  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 12:25 PM  
**To:** BOT Meetings  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY - JUNE 10, 2020  
**Attachments:** 2020June10 Testimony OHA.pdf

Aloha,

Please find attached testimony in strong support of administrations recommendations for the OHA's Board of Trustees Meeting Scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2020. Please contact me if you have questions.

Mahalo piha,  
Taffi Wise

Via: [BOTmeetings@oha.org](mailto:BOTmeetings@oha.org)

## OHA TESTIMONY

OHA's Board of Trustees Meeting Scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2020,

Date: June 8, 2020

To: Trustee Colette Machado, Chairperson  
Trustee Brendon Lee, Vice-Chairperson  
Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Staff

From: Kanu o ka 'Āina Learning Ohana on behalf of Na Lei Na'auao Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools

Re: **STRONGLY SUPPORT** Administration Recommended Actions

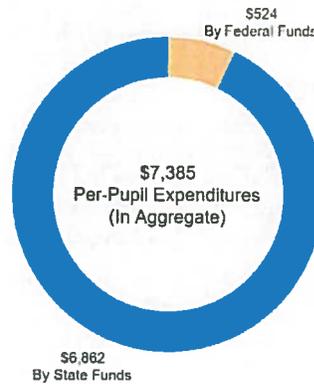
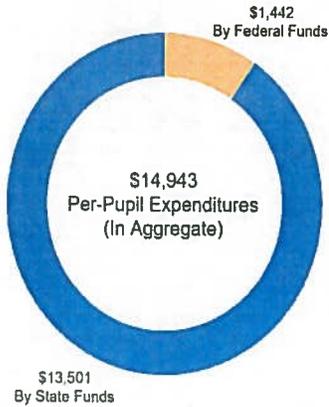
Kanu o ka 'Āina Learning 'Ohana is a Native Hawaiian Organization that serves Native Hawaiians throughout the State of Hawai'i. The piko of the communities we serve is the Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools (HFCS). They have created community-designed and controlled models of education that embrace Hawaiian cultural values, philosophies, and ideologies. Collectively, we believe in the indigenous right of self-determination and community control over education to promote educational interests grounded in traditional practices that advocate cultural vitality, environmental stewardship, and community sustainability. United, we are committed to sustaining lifelong learning through education thus preparing the children of Hawai'i to thrive in the modern world, free from oppression and with pride in their heritage.

The public charter school movement serves as the venue for HFCS to pursue its quest for relevant learning experiences for haumāna. Despite a perpetual struggle to prove their worth to the State, HFCS students have risen above these challenges proving their resilience by demonstrating impressive results. Consequently, public education is being redefined because Na Lei Na'auao visionaries refuse to give up. We are accountable, transparent, we are still here, and our students deserve equitable and adequate resources for their education.

OHA has continued to be one of our strongest advocates in self-determination and empowerment. OHA has believed in NLN Education with Aloha, validating our educational epistemology by investing 1.5 million annually for years, directly impacting over 4000 students each school year. Without the support of the Ali'i Trusts OHA and Kamehameha, we would not be in existence.

Unfortunately, even with Covid-19 mandates, there has been no additional funding for charter schools received to date. They have been told by the Charter School Commission that Federal Impact Aid funds will be cut because of the pandemic which amounts to approximately \$2.5 million, to expect per-pupil budget cuts and SPED allocation cuts. There has been no allocation of supplies, personal protection equipment, or funding with consistently vague responses about how charter school students and staff will receive support.

The federal law requires the following reporting information be shared with the public, in response the DOE has set up an [ESSA DASHBOARD](#).



**2017-2018 Statewide Public Schools Expenditure Per Pupil \$14,943 vs. Kanu o ka Aina NCPCS \$7,385. A charter school student receives 49% of DOE funding and that excludes facilities CIP and Debt Service.**

KALO fully supports the Administration Recommended Actions for Charter School financial support, major repairs and maintenance, and to increase Native Hawaiian teacher recruitment and retention.

Education is the social injustice issue of this generation. Mahalo piha for everything you do for our students and charter schools. I hope in the future we can work together to start a native charter school authorizer and systemically begin addressing the institutional racism that has plagued our keiki for years, making it easier for our HFCS to thrive.

## Dayna Pa

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**From:** Mapuana Waipa  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 9, 2020 9:28 AM  
**To:** BOT Meetings  
**Subject:** testimony  
**Attachments:** OHA Ieka 6.9.20.docx

Please find attached my testimony for tomorrow's meeting:

W. Mapuana Waipa

**I hole 'ia no ka i'e i ke kau o ka la.**

*The time to cut designs in a tapa beater is when the sun is high.*

Do your work when you can do your best. (Pukui 1164)

Ke Ana La'ahana PCS

PCS Director

Website: [kalpcs.com](http://kalpcs.com)



STATE OF HAWAII  
**Ke Ana La'ahana**  
Public Charter School

June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Aloha mai e Na Alaka'i,

It is hoped that all of you and your 'ohana remain safe and healthy in this time of change and renewal. Your continued support of Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools is greatly appreciated. The paradigm has shifted to us, our lahui and how the 'ike of our kupuna continues today in how we teach, share, learn, and innovate to excite our children, 'ohana, and kaialu.

I am writing to thank you for allowing us at Ke Ana La'ahana Public Charter School the needed funds to kako'o our cultural practitioners in providing our haumana, kumu, and 'ohana a unique approach to learning. It is through these integrated approaches to learning that affords us the opportunity to recognize, nurture, and foster our cultural identity. We are also very appreciative of KALO and how they honor each of our uniqueness as Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools. Their support of the Na Lei Na'auao Alliance has been unwavering.

I ask that you continue this needed kako'o in your decision making. This is not the time for educational cutbacks as others have perceived, but a time of investing in the future of our lahui and raising the level of ALOHA.

"Ku I Ka Mana"

Me ka oia'i'o,

W. Mapuana Waipa

Ke Ana La'ahana PCS – Po'okula/Director

Cc: Governing Board