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P5 Bill 14

April 18, 2016

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TO: Honolulu City Council

FROM: Kapi'olani Nee, Asst. Kumu

RE: Testimony in Favor of City Council supporting the Mālama Honua Public Charter School Relocation

Dear Council members:

Aloha, my name is Kapi'olani Nee and I am a 1st and 2nd grade assistant kumu at Mālama Honua Public Charter School (MHPCS). I was born and raised in Waimānalo and have a strong sense of kuleana for my community and the haumāna I teach. Watching the growth of our kula over the last 2 years has inspired me. Our haumāna have grown and continue to grow into confident and compassionate learners. Our enrollment has grown from 40 to 65 with plans to continue onto additional grade levels. Our staff has grown from 5 founding kumu to 8 kumu with the ability to mesh individual skills/strengths collectively and successfully.

I am invested in a school that is committed to perpetuating our Hawaiian values and a rigorous academic curriculum. As a charter school, we work hard to support our students and provide an environment that is grounded in Native Hawaiian values in which our keiki can grow and thrive. We have an opportunity to obtain a permanent site for the school to grow in size for years and years to come. Your support will ensure that Mālama Honua Public Charter School will continue to provide a quality education for our haumāna and community.

Mahalo again for your time and support. We testify in support of the Honolulu City Council's ability to financial commit to relocating the school to a permanent site.

Sincerely,

Kapi'olani Nee

MISC. COM. 1093

PH