

**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 6:44 PM

**Subject:** Council Speaker Registration/Testimony

## Speaker Registration/Testimony

All fields marked "(\*)" are required and must be completed in order for this form to be valid.

Note: Registrations are not accepted prior to the agendas being posted.

**Name(\*)** Denise Espania

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**Meeting Date (\*)** 2016-04-20

**Council/PH Committee (\*)** Council

**Agenda Item (\*)** Bill 14CD1

**Your position on the matter (\*)** Support

**Representing (\*)** Organization

**Organization** Malama Honua PCS

**Do you wish to speak at the hearing? (\*)** No

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### Written Testimony

Mahalo for the opportunity to write in support of funding the necessary relocation costs allowing Mālama Honua Public Charter School (MHPCS) to thoughtfully expand our educational program and community outreach in Waimānalo. We are in our second year of operation serving our community whose demographic is close to 80% native Hawaiian and close to 60% who qualify for Free and Reduced lunch. We are bursting at the seams and are at full capacity. For a second year we are not able to serve all who apply and have a waitlist in all grades. This expansion will allow us to continue to grow to serve more of the community. Furthermore, these funds will allow our staff to focus solely on improving our curriculum and instruction practices instead of being stretched thin by doing teaching as well as

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facilities planning. Our teaching staff works hard to provide a rigorous learning program where our Kindergarten through 3rd graders work to master not only literacy, math, and science skills at grade level, but also work to connect their culture and appreciation of 'aina (land) into their research and daily practices. An investment in MHPCS will not only be an investment in the keiki of the school, but in the community of Waimānalo. MHPCS is committed to not only perpetuate the rich stories and history of our community, but also for caring for the land and waters around us so that the community and our keiki can repeat the benefits of living wisely and in harmony with the land. Furthermore, we are an organization who is committed to working hard to overcome challenges. Our small, but dedicated group of parents, within the first year alone, raised close to \$20,000 and participated in hundreds of hours of volunteer labor allowing us to grow and flourish. The GIA funding in collaboration with our supportive families will exponentially impact our community.

**Testimony  
Attachment**

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and Conditions  
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