



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Date: November 21, 2017
To: Board of Education, Finance and Infrastructure Committee Meeting
When: 11:00 a.m.
Testifier: Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona
Agenda Item: B. Update on Department of Education fiscal reports as of September 30, 2017
(Comparison to Budget, School Food Service, Student Transportation, Utilities, Impact Aid receipts, and CIP)

Aloha! My name is Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona and I serve as the Managing Director of the Kūamahi Community Education Division of Kamehameha Schools. Our Strategic plan guides us to contribute to the communities’ collective efforts to improve Hawai‘i’s education systems for Native Hawaiian learners.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. We ask that the committee consider this proposal as an opportunity to also open a dialogue around the transportation needs of Kula Kaiapuni students and families. Kula Kaiapuni is available in very limited areas across the state. Many families who desire Kula Kaiapuni must travel outside their community. Until such time that Kula Kaiapuni expands through equitable resourcing and support, we foresee transportation as a continual burden to many Kula Kaiapuni students and families.

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.