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(Date)

RE: Nā Wai Ola Public Charter School Grade-Level Expansion

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is a testimony in support of Nā Wai Ola Public Charter School's Grade-Level Change Amendment to increase grade levels served.

As you know Nā Wai Ola Public Charter School provides a Hawaiian culture-based education in the rural demographics of Puna on the island of Hawai'i. Our keiki are fortunate to be taught through a Hawaiian-focused Project-Based Learning approach that teaches sustainability by immersing them in 'Ike Hawai'i (Hawaiian knowledge), Mahi 'Ai (Hawaiian agriculture), and Aloha 'Āina (Stewardship).

Our keiki are provided with invaluable learning opportunities and experiences that they would otherwise not be exposed to if they attended traditional Department of Education schools. Our 'ohana chose Nā Wai Ola Public Charter School as our children's place of learning because through our partnership with the school we know and are confident that our keiki are safe, cared for, and learning in a unique 'ohana environment.

The reality for us in this demographics is that our district is so widespread and the options for schools are limited to two (2) Elementary Schools (Mountain View & Kea'au), one (1) Middle School (Kea'au), and one (1) High School (Kea'au). These schools, as you can imagine, have huge populations of students enrolled, and are not necessarily providing the unique education that Nā Wai Ola Public Charter School offers.

Nā Wai Ola Public Charter School has been providing amazing Hawaiian culture-based education through Project-Based Learning by partnering with community members, organizations, and educational facilitators that ensure our keiki will thrive globally. We invite you to see and follow our school community's work via nawaiolapcs.org, facebook.com/nawaiolapcs808, or instagram.com/nawaiolapcs/.

In closing, we ask that the Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commissioners approve Nā Wai Ola Public Charter School's Grade-Level Change Amendment to allow our keiki to continue their unique Hawaiian culture-based education as they progress in their schooling. Our makua and community are willing and able to continue to work collaboratively with Nā Wai Ola Public Charter School in ensuring our keiki receive the education they choose and deserve.

Na'u me ka 'oia'i'o,

(Name)

(Title if any)