COMMITTEE: Senate Education
DATE: January 28, 2013
TIME: 1:15 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 411

RE: SB 237 RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL LANDS

POSITION: HEPC supports this bill in concept

COMMENTS:

HEPC supports the wise and productive use of unused land that is not currently of use for departmental public education.

HEPC respectfully suggests that your committee consider that the leasing of such land to a charter school’s affiliated nonprofit organization could be designated as a high priority.

Forging a partnership with nonprofits that support charter school facility needs would be a very cost effective strategy to supplement public school capacity and provide facility support for charters. HEPC notes that the estimated cost of a new HIDOE school on Maui is $130 million. This is in contrast to a number of nonprofits assisting charters who estimate their costs of a new campus at approximately $10-13 million.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. HEPC stands ready to provide analysis and research for bills and issues before the Legislature.