

Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb 6, 2007

RE: H.B. No. 19

H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2007
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred H.B. No. 19 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to revitalize school facilities statewide and to more effectively and efficiently use our taxpayers' investment in public education. Specifically, this bill provides for the timely construction, expansion, consolidation, or closure of public schools in Hawaii through an objective and transparent process that:

- (1) Includes the establishment of a Facilities Alignment Commission (Commission) that shall:
 - (A) Establish criteria for the selection of public schools to be constructed, expanded, consolidated, or closed; and
 - (B) Recommend, based upon these criteria, a list of areas for new school construction, and of schools for expansion, consolidation, or closure, that is subject to the review of the Legislature;
- (2) Directs the Board of Education to proceed with the process of constructing, expanding, consolidating, or closing schools according to the recommendations of the



Commission, if the Legislature does not disapprove of the recommendations in their entirety;

and

- (3) Appropriates funds for the expenses of the Commission.

A concerned individual testified in support of this bill. The Department of Education supported the intent of this measure. The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii offered comments.

Your Committee has amended this bill by:

- (1) Providing the Commission with more flexibility by allowing the criteria it establishes for school alignment to allow the consideration of issues other than those specified in this bill; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 19, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 19, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Education,



ROY TAKUMI, Chair



