

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2972, H.D. 1

February 26, 2008

RELATING TO EDUCATION

House Bill No. 2972, H.D. 1, creates a Facilities Alignment Commission to determine whether new schools should be built, or existing schools expanded, consolidated, or closed. The Commission is assigned to the Department of Education for administrative purposes only.

We support this bill.

The Department of Budget and Finance believes that an ongoing and realistic review of school facility needs is necessary and that it is very difficult to close a school. The Facilities Alignment Commission will provide a mechanism to determine where schools should be built, combined, or closed. This will allow the State to make more efficient use of our resources.