

Date: 03/24/2008

Committee: House Transportation

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HCR 195(HR 164) REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT AND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PLAN AND IMPLEMENT NOISE AND VIBRATION MITIGATION MEASURES, INCLUDING THE INSTALLATION OF AIR CONDITIONING, IN ADVANCE OF THE ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM ADJACENT TO WAIPAHU HIGH SCHOOL AND WAIPAHU INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.

Purpose of Resolution: Requesting the department and the board of education to plan and implement noise and vibration mitigation measures, including the installation of air conditioning, in advance of the actual construction and operation of the mass transit system adjacent to Waipahu High School and Waipahu Intermediate School.

Department's Position: The Department of Education does not support this resolution. The planned rail transit project will go through a comprehensive environmental review process which may trigger a change in the type of system used and/or the alignment of the routes. The process will also identify impacts of the rail system, including noise impacts, and planned mitigation measures. It would be premature to spend funds on air conditioning or other mitigating measures prior to the completion of the public review process.

Furthermore, we do not support this resolution due to Hawaii's impending fiscal austerity and priority for the current Board of Education budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.