

Date of Hearing: March 12, 2008

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. 2254, SSCR2655, Relating to Education

Purpose: Directs the Department of Education (DOE) to conduct a study of converting hard cover textbooks to e-books and report to the Legislature on the study prior to the Regular Session of 2009.

Department's Position: The DOE supports this study to convert hard cover textbooks to e-books. The report will include a cost comparison of electronic versus print resources and computer accessibility issues for both teachers and students. The DOE will provide a report to the 2009 Legislature. Initial concerns include quality of content available in this format, the quality of instructional activities and strategies, the impact on the DOE's network, and equal access for all students to equipment, software, and content.