

L A T E

Date: 01/28/2008

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2685 RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds to the department of education to develop a plan to provide temperature reduction measures which incorporates energy conservation initiatives, in public school facilities.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (DOE) supports SB 2685 which requires the DOE to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for temperature reduction and energy efficiency statewide and provides funds for this effort. The DOE agrees that it is important to develop a comprehensive plan for both temperature reduction and energy efficiency statewide. As the bill states, there are many 'passive cooling' and energy efficiency options that may be used in creating a comprehensive plan to make Hawaii's schools more comfortable and energy efficient. This bill, and the funds it provides will enable the DOE to develop such a plan.

Thank for the opportunity to testify.



KALO

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January 28, 2008

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For the Senate Committee on Education
January 28, 2008 hearing, 1:15 p.m., room 225

Testimony in strong support of SB 2685 "Relating to Public School Facilities" with proposed amendments

We strongly support any and all efforts to enhance the learning environment and environmental sustainability of all public school facilities, both department of education-operated schools and charter schools. This also aligns with the highly positive goals of Hawaii 2050.

Kanu o ka Aina Learning Ohana has long been committed to sustainability. In its current initiative to support charter school facility finance for the charter school system as a whole, green building will be a priority.

We would request that the measure be amended to include charter schools, as they are public school facilities too.

We would also recommend that this committee consider integrating the industry standard benchmarks in this field that can be found in LEEDS certification and the California High Performing Schools criteria. Washington State also has model legislation on this topic. We would be happy to work with the committee to develop language from these sources.

Sincerely,

Taffi Wise
Executive Director

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