

Date: 02/01/2008

Committee: Senate Education

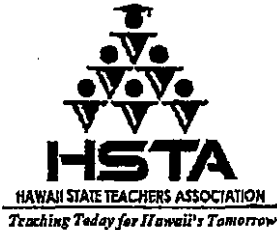
Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2699 RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL REPAIR AND
MAINTENANCE.

Purpose of Bill: Makes a \$200,000 appropriation for fiscal year 2008-2009 as a grant to Hawaii 3R's to create a centralized system to match up volunteer business resources with the needs of schools

Department's Position: The Department of Education supports this bill to match volunteer business resources with the needs of the schools. Hawaii 3R's currently does a great job to pair business community resources with our schools to tackle our backlog of repair and maintenance projects. A system to create even more partnerships would certainly be welcomed. However, funding priority must be given to the Board of Education's supplemental operating budget requests before this measure.



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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION**

**RE: SB 2699 – RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL REPAIR AND
MAINTENANCE**

February 1, 2008

**ROGER TAKABAYASHI, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports SB 2699. We appreciate the Legislature's recognition of the continuing concern of the backlog of repair and maintenance projects in public schools.

This bill will provide the appropriations needed to continue reducing this backlog. A clean, safe environment in school leads to a better quality of education for students and increases their chances for success.

We urge the committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE
Regarding
S.B. 2699 "Relating To School Repair And Maintenance"**

**February 1, 2008
1:30p.m.
Senate Conference Room 225**

**CHAIRPERSON SAKAMOTO, VICE CHAIR TOKUDA AND MEMBERS OF THE
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE:**

The Hawaii Business Roundtable supports S.B. 2699 because we believe that the Hawaii 3R's program has made an important contribution to the reduction in the backlog of repair and maintenance projects in the public schools and should be supported.

Over the past years, the Hawaii 3R's program has proven itself to be a significant and cost-effective way to help to address the backlog in repair and maintenance of our public schools. Through a unique combination of federal, state, and private funds, and the "sweat equity" of hundreds of volunteers, Hawaii 3R's has completed millions of dollars of repair and maintenance projects. More importantly, this innovative program has brought together diverse members of school communities, and has helped to engender a stronger sense of ownership and responsibility within school communities for the appearance and condition of their respective schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this matter.

LATE TESTIMONY



TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Friday, February 1, 2008

1:30 p.m.

State Capitol Conf. Rm. 225

S.B. 2699 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda, and members of the committee:

I am Ryan Shigetani, Executive Director of Hawaii 3R's. I am testifying **in support** of Senate Bill 2699, which appropriates funds for the Hawaii 3R's school repair and maintenance program to support a new initiative in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii.

In 2001, through the inspiration and support of U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Hawaii 3R's began its mission to assist the State with the enormous backlog of repair and maintenance projects in Hawaii's public schools. Since then, the success of Hawaii 3R's can be easily illustrated by the following statistics:

- 360 grants awarded to 161 different schools on six islands (Oahu, Hawaii, Maui, Kauai, Lanai, and Molokai) totaling \$10.9 million
- The estimated value of the projects completed or in progress is \$25.5 million
- The State has appropriated (or invested) just over \$2.5 million in grant-in-aid funds
- Hawaii 3R's has saved the State over \$23 million since 2001
- Therefore, for every State dollar that has been appropriated, nine dollars of work has been completed

In the 2007 Legislative session, Hawaii 3R's was appropriated \$400,000 in State grant-in-aid funds for both FY2008 and FY 2009. We are very grateful and will continue our efforts on school R&M. However, I am here today to discuss a new initiative that had arisen out of our upcoming partnership with the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii.

In our preliminary discussions regarding the goals and objectives of the partnership, we focused on how we would be able to tap into the over 1100 business members of the Chamber to provide additional resources for school R&M projects. More specifically, we were interested in finding skilled and unskilled volunteers, as well as cash and supplies. However, as the discussion progressed, we realized that these businesses have much more to offer schools.

Thus, we decided to explore creating an online database by which these businesses would be able to make their products and services available to schools that could be accessed by interested administrators, teachers, parents, and students. We envision that this database would allow businesses to anonymously post the products and services that they would be willing to donate for official school business or functions. Hawaii 3R's would act as the gatekeeper to protect these businesses from receiving too many calls by screening requests from schools and indicating when these offers were no longer available.

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Senate Bill 2699
February 1, 2008
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We also believe that since this database would be generating a large amount of traffic from the schools and related parties, that these businesses and others would be interested in advertising in a commercial section that would appeal to these types of visitors to the database. Thus, if visitors to the site could not find what they are looking for in the free section, they still may be willing to pay for the products or services in the commercial section. The revenue generated from this commercial portion would then be used to fund the continuing operations of the database.

Finally, we also see the possibility of creating a section that would highlight fundraising opportunities that businesses would offer, as well as the fundraising needs of various school functions that businesses would be able to support. This section could also be a revenue generator for the database.

In order to not overreach, we would initially focus the database on products and services related to R&M from Chamber businesses. However, during the creation of the database, we would be building into the system the necessary capacity to handle the entire range of possible products and services. Thus, when the database is running smoothly, we would be able to quickly expand to more than R&M, and to include businesses that are not part of the Chamber.

The funds we are requesting in this measure are to be used for the costs of contacting and surveying the Chamber businesses, categorizing and quantifying the potential donations, developing the software, purchasing hardware and supplies, and hiring staff to provide the gatekeeper function. We would also be partnering with the DOE to market this new database to its schools statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. With your continued support, Hawaii 3R's (and the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii!) will be able to further "Repair, Remodel and Restore" Hawaii's public schools.



**The Chamber of
Commerce of Hawaii**
Since 1850

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2008 AT 1:30 P.M.
ROOM 325, STATE CAPITOL

RE: S.B. 2699 Relating to Public School Repair and Maintenance

Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jim Tollefson and I am the President and CEO of The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports SB 2699.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing 1100 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. The organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

This measure appropriates funds for the Hawaii 3R's to expedite repair and maintenance in the public schools.

Workforce education is a high priority for the Chamber. To remain competitive, businesses need employees who are prepared to address the quickly altering demands of the 21st century workplace. Community economic development relies on business' capability to compete. Therefore, a quality education is vital to the success of our students, communities and the economy.

Hawaii businesses have a crucial interest in improving education in our community and must be a part of the resolution. With this in mind, The Chamber recently approved a partnership with Hawaii 3Rs. Through this partnership, we plan to have our member businesses actively engaged with Hawaii 3Rs in repair and maintenance projects at Hawaii public schools statewide. This bill's funding request will allow the Chamber and the business community to carry out this initiative.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.