

**Date:** 04/03/2008

**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Resolution:** SCR 088 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO INCLUDE SHADED PLAY AREAS IN PLANS FOR ALL NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND TO ESTABLISH AND PHASE IN A PLAN TO PROVIDE SHADED PLAY AREAS ON THE GROUNDS OF ALL EXISTING ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BY 2011.

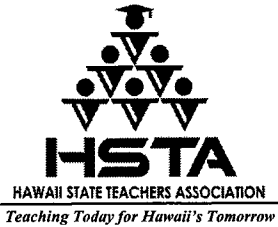
**Purpose of Resolution:** Urging the department of education to include shaded play areas in plans for all new elementary schools and to establish and phase in a plan to provide shaded play areas on the grounds of all existing elementary schools by 2011.

**Department's Position:** The Department of Education does not support this resolution. While we agree with the need to protect against sun exposure, we feel there are more appropriate means for doing so than via shaded play areas in schools, including educational campaigns encouraging the use of sunscreen for students and the community at-large.

Shaded areas are currently given consideration during the design phase in the form of covered playcourts and landscaping. However, cost is an issue on some projects, and we feel that the participants in the design phase should retain the flexibility to consider cost reduction alternatives that include the deletion of a shade structure if other design components have a higher utility.

For existing schools, funding for classrooms and compliance projects is always short of what is needed. We feel it would be more appropriate to direct our limited funds toward those types of projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION**

**RE: SCR 88 – URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO INCLUDE SHADED PLAY AREAS IN PLANS FOR ALL NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND TO ESTABLISH AND PHASE IN A PLAN TO PROVIDE SHADED PLAY AREAS ON THE GROUNDS OF ALL EXISTING ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BY 2011.**

April 3, 2008

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

Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports SCR 88.

Because Hawaii is located in the tropics and receives primarily sunny weather the people of Hawaii are exposed to a greater level of ultraviolet (UV) light and, therefore, a higher risk of skin cancer. The Association believes there is a need to reduce the unnecessary exposure of our children to UV light at an earlier age. Accordingly, this concurrent resolution urges the Department of Education to provide shaded play areas in new elementary schools and all existing elementary schools by 2011. Likewise, the measures provide those schools located in extremely wet locations the benefit of shelter from rain.

We urge that the committee pass this concurrent resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.