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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH**

RE: SCR 88, SD1 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A PROTOTYPE MODEL OR GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY GROUPS, OR VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS TO FOLLOW WHEN INSTALLING OR CREATING SHADED PLAY AREAS AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

April 18, 2008

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

Chair Green and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports SCR 88 SD 1.

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, are at 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 requests the Department of Education to develop a prototype or guidelines for shaded play areas. This will assist those schools, community groups or volunteer organizations that feel they could provide the materials and labor to build shaded play areas for the purpose of protecting our students from the risk of skin cancer. Likewise, the measure provides 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.

Date: 04/18/2008

Committee: House Health

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 088,SD1,SSCR3522 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A PROTOTYPE MODEL OR GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY GROUPS, OR VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS TO FOLLOW WHEN INSTALLING OR CREATING SHADED PLAY AREAS AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Purpose of Resolution: Requesting the department of education to develop a prototype model or guidelines for schools, community groups, or volunteer organizations to follow when installing or creating shaded play areas at public schools.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (DOE) does not support this resolution. We do not believe it is necessary to develop a prototype model or guidelines for installing or creating shaded play areas at schools. All structures and facilities, including shaded play areas, need to be designed and installed according to current building code and industry specifications. DOE-developed guidelines would be redundant and therefore unnecessary. Should an organization wish to install a shaded play area, they should be guided by the latest requirements in effect at the time they are installing the structure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



April 17, 2008

Committee on Human Services and Housing

The Honorable Maile S. Shimabukuro, Chair
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Committee on Health

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair
The Honorable John Mizuno, Vice Chair

4:00 PM, Friday, April 18, 2008
State Capitol, Room 229

RE: SCR 88, SD 1

Dear Chairs Shimabukuro, Green and members of the Committees:

My name is Leinaala Ley and I am the Director of Government Relations for the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc. Thank you for the opportunity to present comments on SCR 88, SD 1.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy, and service. In Hawaii, the American Cancer Society serves the local community through our corporate headquarters in Honolulu and seven field offices across the state: two on Big Island, three on Oahu, one on Kauai and one on Maui to serve Maui County. Each year the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc. interacts with tens of thousands of individuals touched by cancer and thousands more who are active volunteers.

Melanomas of the skin comprise the tenth most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in the state of Hawaii, with 63 women diagnosed with melanoma skin cancer each year. Melanoma is the most deadly form of skin cancer and accounts for about 8, 110 of the 10,850 skin cancer deaths that occur in the United States every year. Melanoma poses a clear and present public health problem in our state.

Fortunately skin cancer is one of the most preventable forms of cancer. The most effective way to prevent skin cancer is to limit exposure to UV rays during midday hours (10:00 AM to 4:00 PM). Making shaded

American Cancer Society Hawai'i Pacific, Inc.

2370 Nu'uuanu Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817-1714

●Phone: (808) 595-7500 ●Fax: (808) 595-7502 ●24-Hour Cancer Info: (800) 227-2345 ●<http://www.cancer.org>

outdoor areas available to children in public schools would be an important step towards improving the health environment for children in Hawaii where exposure to sun is more intense and of a longer duration throughout the course of the year.

A number of schools on Oahu such as Mid Pacific Institute and Star of the Sea have already taken steps to provide shaded areas and may serve as an important resource for the state in developing a model prototype. The American Cancer Society is also available as a community resource to support this effort. We commend the legislature for taking this important first step and we look forward to further action to make shaded areas available on public school campuses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leinaala Ley".

Leinaala Ley

432-9149