

Date: 03/02/2009

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0179 (HSCR116) RELATING TO SCHOOL FACILITIES.

Purpose of Bill: Transfers responsibility for school facilities repair and maintenance for air conditioning equipment and donated equipment and fixtures from the Department of Accounting and General Services to the Department of Education, consistent with Act 51, SLH 2004.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (DOE) supports H.B. 179 (HSCR116) with amendments.

The responsibility for construction and the repair and maintenance of facilities was transferred from the Department of Accounting and General Services to the DOE effective July 1, 2005 pursuant to the requirements of Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004. This bill amends two sections, Section 302A-1501 and Section 302A-1503, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which should have been amended by Act 51 but were overlooked.

However, in Section 2 of the bill, we recommend that 302A-1501(b) be repealed rather than amended. If repealed, it will not affect our current practice or prevent DOE from charging schools for electricity and maintenance of school-installed air conditioning.

Likewise, in Section 3, we recommend that 302A-1503(b) be repealed. A repeal will not affect our current practice or prevent DOE from requiring schools to maintain donated equipment and fixtures, if DOE deems them superfluous.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.