

Date: 02/11/2009

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0986,HD1 RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES.

Purpose of Bill: Requires construction and renovation of public school facilities to meet the Collaborative for High Performance Schools standards. Requires replacement of old portable buildings with high performance classrooms. Also requires prioritization of public school facilities projects in accordance with certain criteria.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (DOE) does not support this bill, which has three major elements.

First, Section 3 amends HRS Section 196-9 by adding subsection (c)(1) requiring the design and construction of all public school facilities, including renovations and projects under 5,000 square feet, to meet the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) rating system. This amendment is redundant given that CHPS is a nationally recognized rating system that is already covered under the existing subsection (b) of 196-9. The DOE is currently incorporating CHPS criteria and referencing its Best Practices Guidelines for both new construction and renovation projects.

Second, proposed subsection (c)(2), requires the replacement of portable classrooms older than 20 years. Given the high cost of constructing new portable classrooms, and the very limited funds available, we feel it is more appropriate to replace portables when their condition warrants replacement, rather than on a preset schedule. In addition, the DOE currently has pilot projects underway to retrofit and reduce energy use in existing portables and to develop an energy neutral prototype high

performance classroom.

Third, proposed subsection (c)(3) sets forth criteria for prioritizing public school facility projects. We are unclear whether items A through F are being proposed as the only criteria to be used in the prioritization of public school facilities projects or whether these are in addition to other criteria already being used. We feel implementation would be difficult in practice and there is no need to mandate these criteria by law.

In sum, while we appreciate the intent of the bill, we do not feel the bill is necessary given the DOE's current direction and emphasis on high performance schools and energy conservation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony In **Support** of
HB986 HD1 Relating To Public School Facilities

By
Al Lardizabal, Director of Government Relations
Laborers' International Union of North America Local 368

To the
House Committee on Education
And
House Committee on Labor and Public employment

Wednesday, February 11, 2009
Conference Room 309, 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol

Honorable Roy Takumi, Chair, Committee on Education; Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair, Committee on Labor and Public Employment and Members of the Committees:

The Laborers' Union is in **support** of the intent HB986 HD1 which requires the construction and renovation of Hawaii public school facilities to meet the Collaborative for High Performance Schools standards (CHPS). "The mission of CHPS is to facilitate the design, construction and operation of high performance schools; environments that are not only energy and resource efficient, but also healthy, comfortable, well lit and containing the amenities for quality education."

The Laborers' International Union of North America General President is a Director and the Union is an endorser of the Apollo Alliance, a coalition of labor, business, environmental and community leaders dedicated to a clean energy revolution in America. Its mission is to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, cut the carbon emissions that are destabilizing our climate and expand opportunities for American business and workers. CHPS is related to this mission.

CHPS provides a Best Practice Manual that provides for sound environmental design that enhances the educational environment for school children. We recommend that the State of Hawaii, if it has not already done so, be a member of the organization to take advantage of the available

information and school design data utilized successfully in other states and that could possibly be modified for Hawaii.

We understand that some of the goals of CHPS include: 1) a healthy environment and good indoor air quality, 2) thermal comfort, 3) visual comfort, 4) acoustic comfort, 5) energy efficiency, 6) water efficiency, 7) material efficiency and 8) having a building that is also a teaching tool.

According to CHPS publication, the U.S. House of Representatives recently approved \$20 billion for Green schools and that CHPS was named as one of three building standards for qualifying projects. (The 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act) By the year 2013, 90% of the funding will have to be used for green schools. This is a possible funding opportunity.

We **support** the intent of HB986 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



The Soap and Detergent Association

Testimony on House Bill 986 (Rep. Morita)

to be heard before the

House Committee on Education State of Hawaii

Submitted February 10, 2009

The Soap and Detergent Association (SDA) is pleased to provide the following comment concerning the referenced measure. SDA is a one-hundred plus member trade association representing the \$30 billion U.S. cleaning products market. SDA members include the formulators of soaps, detergents, and general cleaning products used in household, commercial, industrial and institutional settings; companies that supply ingredients and finished packaging for these products; and oleochemical producers.

SDA and its members are dedicated to improving health and the quality of life through sustainable cleaning products and practices. SDA's mission is to support the sustainability of the cleaning product and oleochemical industries through research, education, outreach and science-based advocacy. Founded in 1926, a major component of the SDA mission has been the promotion of improved health through personal hygiene and effective cleaning.

The health benefits of cleaning products are undisputed. The historical correlation between improved personal hygiene and reduced infant mortality rates and disease reduction are well established. SDA works closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and many other public and private entities in promoting public health.

As a working example of SDA's commitment to healthy people and their environments, the association works in cooperation with the CDC on the "*Healthy Schools, Healthy People It's a SNAP*" program. The program features an annual national contest where middle schools compete to develop the most effective program to communicate that handwashing is essential to breaking the chain of disease transmission. The SDA and CDC work together to bring the winning school to Washington, DC for an award presentation.

SDA has also teamed up with the National Education Association (NEA) Health Information Network and the CDC to create the National C.L.E.A.N.TM Award. SDA announced its participation in the award program at the ISSA/INTERCLEAN® North America show in Las Vegas: *C.L.E.A.N. - Custodial Leaders for Environmental Advocacy Nationwide*, will recognize the contributions that custodians make to public health in their schools, communities, and their profession. More information on both of these collaborative programs are at the SDA website noted below.

SDA recognizes that, among other goals, the intent of House Bill 986 is to promote energy efficient schools. Section 3 of both the House and Senate measures would require the procurement of "*environmentally preferable products, including recycled and recycled-content, bio-based, and other resource-efficient products and materials.*" As a matter of general concern and interest, SDA encourages a flexible approach taking into consideration market-based

approaches and solutions that address environmental and consumer issues, among others. SDA strongly urges a reasonable course in the development of any potential purchasing guidelines that may be considered or provided for under this legislation or future regulatory activity. SDA would be happy to serve as a resource to you and your staff in this regard.

SDA has commented to GreenSeal, Inc. on several standards proposals and has urged the organization to consider criteria beyond simply hazard-based approaches. In fact, SDA is not aware of any data that shows that GreenSeal™ standards have led to real and measurable environmental improvements. SDA would also note that such standards can provide a set of stagnant criteria that do not change with time and ignore progress in technology and innovation. SDA would instead point to the efforts of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Design for the Environment" program for consideration.

It is the aim of SDA to achieve the application of sound science (*e.g.* a risk-based approach to making purchasing decisions), and to maintain clarity in the possible development of any environmentally preferable requirements or criteria, and the flexibility to recognize innovation. SDA stands ready to serve as a resource to the State of Hawaii on cleaning product information. Ensuring human health and environmental safety are significant priorities for SDA members, and throughout its history, the association's sound, technical, risk-based research has demonstrated the safe, beneficial and proper use of cleaning products and their ingredients. In cases where the impacts were of concern, SDA members adapted and innovated, introducing new and better technologies and ingredients to mitigate environmental effects.

SDA appreciates the opportunity to comment, and for future reference, please contact Douglas Troutman, Director of Government Affairs, at (202) 662-2508 or via electronic mail at dtroutman@sdahq.org.