

**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
THEODORE E. LIU
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of

HB986

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES.

Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent but has concerns regarding the cost impacts of HB986, which requires construction of public school facilities to meet the Collaborative for High Performance School standards and requires replacement of old portable classroom buildings with high performance classrooms. This bill also requires the prioritization of public school facilities projects in accordance with certain criteria.

More specifically, this bill requires agencies to design and construct all public school facilities under 5,000 square feet to meet the Collaborative for High Performance Schools rating system. It also requires the development and implementation of a program to replace portable classrooms over 20 years old with high performance classrooms that have 40% lower life-cycle costs than traditional buildings. In prioritizing a school's repair and maintenance needs, the bill

also requires that the Department of Education (DOE) and the school's principals to consider energy efficiency and environmental standards under section 196-9(c).

DBEDT has been working with the DOE and other State of Hawaii agencies to Lead by Example in the implementation of energy efficiency and high performance buildings in the State of Hawaii. DBEDT developed the Hawaii High Performance School Guidelines for energy efficiency improvements to new and major renovations of schools in Hawaii. The DOE uses those guidelines as well as the Collaborative for High Performance School guidelines and designs all new school facilities to meet the requirements of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver. DBEDT has been educating State of Hawaii and private sector entities on LEED and conducting training for professionals in preparation for the LEED Accredited Professionals Exam. This bill would extend and expand the State of Hawaii's commitment to high performance buildings by requiring buildings that are undergoing repair and maintenance to meet the Collaborative for High Performance Schools rating system.

The Collaborative for High Performance Schools' (CHPS) mission 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 a quality education. CHPS helps facilitate and inspire change in our educational system. The goals of CHPS are to:

- Increase student performance with better-designed and healthier facilities;
- Raise awareness of the impact and advantages of high performance schools;
- Provide professionals with better tools to facilitate effective design, construction and maintenance of high performance schools;
- Increase school energy and resource efficiency; and

- Reduce peak electric loads.

The CHPS Criteria and LEED for Schools credit and point structures differ in some areas as well as the minimum requirements for participation. In trying to make comparisons for meeting CHPS minimum threshold and LEED for Schools, it is clear that at the minimum level for participation the CHPS Criteria is more stringent. For one, the CHPS Criteria has more prerequisites than LEED for Schools. Thus, a school that earns minimum point requirements for CHPS would most likely earn a LEED for Schools certification.

However, modifying the CHPS criteria for Hawaii would be necessary as other states such as New York, Massachusetts, Colorado, Washington, Texas, and the New England States have done so. The cost for State membership is \$4999 versus \$1000 for USGBC membership. Registration and verification fees for CHPS projects are approximately \$350 and between \$1500-\$3000, respectively. Schools and districts are exempt from these CHPS costs.

We defer to the Department of Education on the implementation measures and related costs called for in this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Date: 02/03/2009

Committee: House Energy &
Environmental Protection

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0986 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) supports the intent of H.B. No. 986, but not its implementation.

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.

Proposed subsection (c)(2), regarding the development and implementation of a portable classroom replacement program, would place the burden of an unfunded mandate on the DOE. 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 modular classroom.

In proposed subsection (c)(3), 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.

In sum, the DOE does not feel the bill is needed given the DOE's current direction and emphasis on high performance schools and energy conservation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.