

Testimony In Support of  
HB986 Relating To Public School Facilities

By  
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To the  
House Energy & Environmental Protection Committee  
Tuesday, February 3, 2009  
Conference Room 325, 9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol

Honorable Hermina M. Morita, Chair; Honorable Denny Coffman, Vice  
Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Laborers' Union is in support of the intent HB986 which requires the construction and renovation of Hawaii public school facilities to meet the Collaborative for High Performance Schools standards (CHPS). According to 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

Thank you or the opportunity to present this testimony.