

Date: 02/01/2011

Committee: House Energy &
Environmental Protection

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1639 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires that at least ten per cent of funds appropriated for school repair and maintenance be set aside and used to fund the repair, maintenance, and upgrading of school facilities to meet green building standards.

Department's Position: DOE appreciates the intent of this bill. Our concern is that the 10% set-aside requirement is not clear. Does it mean that the set-aside funds will be spent on projects that are not otherwise on our R&M priority list? Or, might it mean spending funds on lower-priority projects that would qualify toward meeting the green building certification requirements, at the expense of deferring higher priority projects that do not have a green component? Our preference is not to mandate a specific set-aside, but instead to support and reinforce the sustainable concepts already in statute.

We would be concerned if the effect of this bill would be to cause higher priority projects to be deferred so that DOE could meet the requirements of this bill.

DOE is committed to green strategies where they are feasible. Act 96 of the 2006 Legislature mandates green strategies and actions. Five years later, the green mind set is far more prominent in the thoughts and actions

of DOE personnel responsible for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of schools facilities.



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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 1, 2011, 8:00 A.M.

(Testimony is 2 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1639

Aloha Chair Morita and Members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i supports HB 1639, which requires money to be spent on upgrading facilities to meet green building standards.

In order to meet Hawai'i's aggressive greenhouse gas reduction and energy security goals, it is necessary to transform the building sector. Buildings account for 72% of electricity use and over 36% of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. Improving their energy efficiency lowers energy bills, eliminates the need for new power plants, increases our energy independence, reduces air and water pollution, and cuts the carbon emissions that cause global warming. It also directly improves the future comfort and affordability of these homes.

Buildings have a many-decade lifetime, and today's buildings will continue to be a majority of all buildings in 2050. Without a focused effort to reduce energy demand in existing buildings, it will be virtually impossible to meet even the most modest greenhouse gas reduction targets. Reducing energy demand in buildings includes converting to solar hot water heaters; upgrading lighting; installing more efficient heating and cooling systems; and other improvements.

This fact isn't lost on the Department of Education. In a recent presentation to this Legislature, the DOE reported air conditioning cost between \$3 to \$10 million per school.¹ To provide air conditioning for schools without, the cost to the state would be around \$1.5 billion.

Plainly, a healthy, green, and *cool* school building has the capacity to save the state incredible amounts of money. As well as ensure students are better able to learn.

Energy efficient buildings, as is required by this measure, is the proverbial "low hanging-fruit" in the range of options necessary to reduce our energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions. Even

¹ See Civil Beat article, "A/C In All Hawaii Schools: When Hell Freezes Over," available at: <http://www.civilbeat.com/posts/2011/01/11/8059-ac-in-all-hawaii-schools-when-hell-freezes-over/>

relatively small improvements required by this measure would collectively add up. For example, if every household in the United States switched to Energy Star light fixtures, we could prevent 50 million tons of global warming pollution per year, the equivalent of taking 10 million cars off the road. In every home, office, and factory we can use energy more efficiently by putting to work currently available products like advanced lighting, better windows, more efficient heating and cooling systems, and new appliances that use far less energy than their older counterparts.

In short, this measure would save future taxpayers money through energy efficiency over the life of the school building, stimulate the green building industry in Hawai'i, and create models for the building industry to experience and learn from.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2011 9:58 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: reachbrianbell@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1639 on 2/1/2011 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 2/1/2011 8:00:00 AM HB1639

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brian Bell
Organization: Individual
Address: 4626 Sierra Dr Honolulu, HI
Phone: 808-227-7087
E-mail: reachbrianbell@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Morita and Members of the Committee:

I would like to submit my testimony in support of HB 1639, which would require schools to set aside funds to upgrade their buildings to green standards such as LEED.

With buildings accounting for over 70% of our electricity use in Hawaii these upgrades are essential to meeting our clean energy goals for the state and reducing our dependence on foreign oil. Our decisions today will affect the state's budget for decades because of the inherent long life of buildings.

When the payback is calculated, we will find that this will end up saving the state millions, if not billions of dollars over the lifetime of these green improvements.

Mahalo,

Brian Bell
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808-227-7087

February 1, 2011, 8:00AM, Room 325, HB1639

To: The Honorable Representative Hermina Morita

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

From: Cherilyn Inouye

Re: SUPPORT for HB1639

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and Members of the Committee:

As a teacher for the Department of Education, I **STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL**. Schools are the best places to set an example in the community for more sustainable and energy efficient technology and construction.

Unfortunately, older schools like Ilima Intermediate School have been slow to adopt energy and environmental conservation efforts, so legislation is necessary to push them in that direction. For example, while teaching at Ilima, a colleague and I had to create a school wide recycling effort because paper, cans, and bottles were being thrown away or only recycled on an individual basis. However, less than 20% of the teachers participated in the program, as it was not mandatory.

While we were urged to turn off our lights and use less electricity, many teachers and staff ignored memos from the superintendent and continued to use energy excessively by leaving their lights and other appliances on, and even running individual classroom air conditioning units. If students are to learn from the example we set in schools, they have been learning that energy conservation is only important in theory, but not in practice. This bill will not only save the state money by making our classrooms and school buildings more energy efficient, but it will create an environment that serves as a model for students and parents in how we can live AND learn in a more sustainable and energy conservative way.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB1639.

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coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 1:15 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: shaglund@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1639 on 2/1/2011 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 2/1/2011 8:00:00 AM HB1639

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Sue Haglund
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: shaglund@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

By setting aside 10% of funds for schools and facilities maintenances is an investment and contribution to Hawaii's public schools. It also paves the way for energy self-sufficiency in the State of Hawaii. It is also an additional improvement for the quality of education for a place where students are able to have an improved conducive educational environment.

I highly recommend that EEP committee passes HB1639.

Thank You

Tuesday, February 1, 2011

Aloha Kakou,
The Honorable Hermina M. Morita
Energy and Environmental Protection Committee

Support for H.B. No. 1639, School Repair and Maintenance; Environment; Green building

Thank you for reviewing my testimony. As an advocate for the rapidly growing sustainability sector in Hawaii, as well as an alumnus of the Hawaii public school system and a co-founder of the University of Hawaii Sustainable Saunders and Sustainable UH initiatives, I would like to offer my support of H.B. 1639.

Whereas previous legislation of similar merit—specifically Act 96—focused on the sustainability of new construction to the standards of the USGBC LEED Building Rating system (or similar), I believe this bill will prioritize the DOE funding to support the much needed focus on the operations and maintenance of existing buildings and facilities to Green standards. To parallel Act 96, this would draw upon LEED for Existing Buildings Operations and Maintenance.

I view Act 96 as a historic and progressive legislation in Hawaii history. Hawaii is now a world leader in sustainability. Act 96 not only encouraged state agencies to improve the quality of their new facilities—it also created numerous jobs and planted the seed for a robust local sustainability sector in Hawaii. There are now sustainability consulting firms emerging around Honolulu, providing jobs for recent graduates interested in making Hawaii a better place through sustainability. I believe H.B. 1639 will have a similar positive effect on Hawaii's sustainability sector—especially since the majority of Hawaii educational facilities are existing buildings in need of upgrades to the same quality as the new green buildings.

Furthermore, while some members of the DOE may already feel they are performing such upgrades, the 10 percent of monies set aside could be used to fund a comprehensive and holistic sustainability program for the DOE, such that all upgrades among facilities can be evaluated, updated, benchmarked, and tracked through common performance metrics. Such a united effort could be made possible with the monies set aside so that the actual implementation of this initiative occurs in a fashion that is cohesive, effective, and easily communicated to the public and through the school system. Such programs are growing rapidly throughout the marketplace, and supported internationally with programs such as the Global Reporting Initiative.

I feel confident that a bill of this nature will help to improve the quality of Hawaii schools, focusing the funding for operations and maintenance in a way that will provide a high return on investment—the monies of which could potentially go back into the schools to pay better teachers and provide better equipment. I know first hand that such savings are possible; as a co-founder of Sustainable Saunders we were able to save hundreds of thousands of dollars just through simple upgrades, many of which followed the same recommendations outlined in the LEED for existing buildings.

More than saving money and more than being "green," buildings that are maintained to sustainable building standards, best practices, and performance metrics provide a more positive and enjoyable experience for building users. I believe this is important because students need to be in comfortable learning environments and deserve just as beautiful a place to learn as students who are privileged enough to go to schools like Punahou and Iolani.

Thank you again for your time. I believe H.B. 1639 is the right thing to do for Hawaii's children.

Aloha
Sean W. Connelly

