



**TESTIMONY TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**
Monday, January 31, 2011
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol Conf. Rm. 309

H.B. 951 – RELATING TO SCHOOL REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Belatti, and members of the committee:

I am Ryan Shigetani, Executive Director of Hawaii 3R's, and I am testifying in support of House Bill 951, which appropriates a \$400,000 grant-in-aid to Hawaii 3R's.

For the past ten years, Hawaii 3R's has successfully put a dent in the public school repair and maintenance backlog by providing proactive schools with a way to complete needed repair and maintenance projects outside of the normal DOE process. Additionally, Hawaii 3R's provides community-minded businesses and organizations with a means to give back to the public schools through donations and volunteerism.

However, Hawaii 3R's faces an uncertain future due to the political climate in Washington, D.C. and may no longer be able to receive federal funds. This reality, coupled with the difficulties of raising private funds during this tough economic period, makes this a key point in determining the future viability of Hawaii 3R's.

If Hawaii 3R's were unable to continue, not only would public school facilities and the students suffer, but the community would lose a valuable partner. These community partners, including American Savings Bank, Central Pacific Bank, Hawaiian Electric Company, Prudential Locations, Grainger, Aloha Air Cargo, New Hope Christian Fellowship Church, and all branches of the military, utilize Hawaii 3R's to plan and coordinate projects with schools and to navigate the DOE bureaucracy.

Due to the State budget situation, it is not surprising that Hawaii 3R's has not received any State funds in the past two years to assist us in carrying out its mission. However, as time goes on, our reserves continue to diminish. Therefore, in spite of the continuing State budget woes, we hope that the Legislature believes that Hawaii 3R's is worth the investment for both the public schools and the community.

# of grants awarded	503 grants
\$ of grants awarded	\$17.2 million
# of different schools	186 schools
Est. \$ value of projects completed	\$39.6 million
\$ State funds received	\$2.9 million
\$ savings to the State	\$36.7 million
\$ completed to State \$ invested	\$12 to \$1
# of volunteers	Over 3,300
# of volunteer hours	Over 13,000
% of admin costs (2005-2010)	7.42%