

REVISED

Date: 03/30/2011

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HCR 282/HR249

Purpose of Resolution: Urging the Department of Education to Expand its Pilot Projects to Cool Hawaii's Classrooms.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (DOE) supports these resolutions and appreciates the Legislature's support of its efforts. The DOE believes that there are more energy efficient and less costly options than air conditioning that can be implemented in most schools while still being able to provide a comfortable and positive learning environment for students.

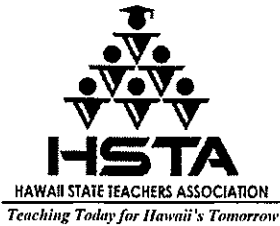
As a part of these efforts, the DOE completed a pilot project at Kahuku High and Intermediate School to explore alternative ways to cool classrooms other than by air conditioning. Methods such as roof insulation, heat reflective paint, additional windows, and wall insulation were installed on existing portable buildings. No cooling improvements were done on one portable building to be used as a control. Data collection to determine effectiveness is underway and should be completed in April.

Depending on the results of the data collection of the pilot project at Kahuku High and Intermediate, the DOE intends to expand and implement these types of alternative cooling methods throughout its schools, including other types of buildings in addition to portable buildings. Other

efforts include installation of ceiling fans in classrooms that are not air conditioned.

The DOE is committed to green strategies and to finding feasible solutions in a sustainable manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**RE: HCR 282/HR 249 – URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
EXPAND ITS PILOT PROJECTS TO COOL HAWAII'S CLASSROOMS.**

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

**WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports HCR 282/HR 249 which encourages creative solutions for cooler classrooms.

For students to have a quality learning experience, it is critical that schools create a learning environment conducive to student achievement. This resolution would enhance the learning environment for the students who cope with the difficulties of staying focused in unbearably hot classrooms.

We appreciate the Committee's interest in considering how the Department can resourcefully resolve issues that hamper optimal student learning. We urge this committee to pass this resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.