

Date: 04/06/2011

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 1383,SD2,HD1 RELATING TO SCHOOL REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE.

Purpose of Bill: Re-directs moneys generated by the \$2 income tax check-off into the Hawaii 3R's school repair and maintenance fund. Appropriates moneys to the Hawaii 3R's as a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Effective July 1, 2050. (SB1383 HD1) (\$)

Department's Position: The Department of Education supports HD 1 of this bill.



**TESTIMONY TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

2:00 p.m.

State Capitol Conf. Rm. 308

S.B. 1383 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO SCHOOL REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the committee:

I am Ryan Shigetani, Executive Director of Hawaii 3R's, and I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 1383, House Draft 1, which transfers the funds collected through the State income tax check off box for the school-level minor repairs and maintenance special fund to the Hawaii 3R's repair and maintenance fund, and makes an unspecified grant-in-aid appropriation to Hawaii 3R's.

We are hopeful that you will support the State income tax check off box provision because it is outside of the State's general funds. While the funds collected through this source historically does not reach the level of our GIA request, we are grateful for any revenue during these tough economic times. If the Legislature were to approve this part of the measure, we would encourage the general public to use the State income tax check off box to support Hawaii's public school facilities by illustrating the improvements that have been made through Hawaii 3R's and the community. We would use our history of success to assure them that the funds will be used effectively and efficiently.

For the past ten years, Hawaii 3R's has successfully put a dent in the public school R&M 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 the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation, the Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation, American Savings Bank, Central Pacific Bank, Hawaiian Electric Company, Aloha Air Cargo Prudential Locations, Grainger, 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.

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	\$ savings to the State	\$36.7 million
\$ of grants awarded	\$17.2 million	\$ compl. to State \$ invested	\$12 to \$1
# of different schools	186 schools	# of volunteers	Over 3,300
Est. \$ value of proj. compl.	\$39.6 million	# of volunteer hours	Over 13,000
\$ State funds received	\$2.9 million	% of admin costs (2005-10)	7.42%

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for all of your support.

- Ryan T. Shigetani, Executive Director, Hawaii 3R's