

SB1383

Date: 01/31/2011

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

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

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates moneys to the Hawaii 3R's as a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes. (\$)

Department's Position: The Department of Education has long been a partner of Hawaii 3R's in the repair of public schools. We are supportive of their continuing legislative support.



**TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

Monday, January 31, 2011

1:15 p.m.

State Capitol Conf. Rm. 225

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

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, 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, 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%

Erin Conner

From: Roy Amemiya [ramemiya@olelo.org]
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2011 1:26 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: SB 1383 Relating to School Repair and Maintenance

Dear Chair Tokuda and members of the Education Committee,

My name is Roy Amemiya, testifying in **strong support** of the grants in aid to Hawaii 3Rs.

As a member of the Hawaii 3Rs Board and a volunteer on various school repair projects, I have witnessed the amazing pride shared by volunteers after completing a school repair project. I have also seen the appreciation of students and faculty when they return after a vacation recess to see their school freshly painted by volunteer community members.

Hawaii 3Rs is a win/win for all parties involved, including the DOE because it not only leverages its money, but encourages community engagement and school pride. Students are less inclined to engage in graffiti and teachers are encouraged by these acts of kindness.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha,
Roy Amemiya

Erin Conner

From: Fay_Toyama/LEHUA/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2011 8:24 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Hawaii 3Rs project

Dear Senator Tokuda and Members of the Education Committee:

Please support the Hawaii 3Rs program so that backlogged projects may be completed in the public schools where funds are sorely lacking to maintain and upgrade facilities.

When I first became the principal at Lehua Elementary School 8 years ago, the playground behind D building was mostly rocks and dirt with little grass. Students were hurt quite often. The kindergarten playground behind C building was often muddy due to an uneven ground and poor drainage. We were fortunate to receive a Hawaii 3Rs project and partner with Takano Nakamura Landscaping. Volunteers from the Navy and the community helped to clear the playgrounds, level the ground, plant grass and install a sprinkler system with a timer that goes on at night to also discourage the homeless in the area. The children have enjoyed both playgrounds for many years and we have had less accidents. The project was completed at a third of the cost because of the Hawaii 3Rs guidelines to engage partners and volunteers.

Other Hawaii 3Rs projects that have also benefitted the school are: painting of the cafeteria dining room and installing new stage curtains, installation of a bicycle rack and school marquee. The projects have brought businesses to the school to assist, and the volunteers are proud to contribute and be part of a school community. All of the projects are great examples of win-win situations to benefit the students and schools.

Please support such projects that help the schools when the DOE funds are being decreased every year.

Sincerely,

Fay Toyama
Principal
Lehua Elementary School
791 Lehua Avenue
Pearl City, HI 96782

ph. 454-5700

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1383

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chairperson, Education Committee
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chairperson, Education Committee
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland
Senator Clarence Nishihara
Senator Brian Taniguchi
Senator Sam Slom
From: Jan Iwase, Principal of Hale Kula Elementary School
Re: Senate Bill 1383

My name is Jan Iwase, and I am the principal of Hale Kula Elementary School.

I am submitting testimony in support of SB1383 which appropriates funding for Hawaii 3Rs.

Our school has benefited from Hawaii 3Rs. For example, when we experienced a major increase in enrollment and were facing a shortage of classroom space, we applied for a Hawaii 3Rs grant. The funding allowed us to purchase the materials and to use volunteers to divide five portable classrooms. The benefit to our school was that the project was completed in a timely manner and provided us with additional classroom space at no cost to the Department of Education.

I strongly support SB1383.

If you have any questions, please call me at 622-6380 x224 or email me at jan_iwase@notes.k12.hi.us.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB1383.

Erin Conner

From: Kim_Sanders/KAPOLEIH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 10:32 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Maintenance and Repair Projects Funded by JVEF

To whom it may concern:

The cutting of budgets with the down fall of the economy is taking a toll on our schools. Running the operations of a large school like Kapolei High School takes time and money. Keeping equipment, and buildings repaired is important for the safety of our students and teachers. We appreciate all the support and help that the JVEF gives to our school. Their support enables us to keep up on repair and maintenance projects that keeps the campus environment safe. We are always thankful for the help and manpower from our military partners.

Mahalo,
Kim Sanders
Assistant Principal
Kapolei High School
91-5007 Kapolei Parkway
(808) 692-8200 ext. 3227