

**SB1487**

REVISION #2  
Date: 02/04/2011

Committee: Senate Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 1487 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the department of education to close and consolidate certain schools within two years of notification; provided that a school may remain open if it meets certain requirements.

**Department's Position:** The Department of Education (Department) provides the following comments. The procedures for the consolidation of public schools are already set forth in Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 8 (Department of Education), Chapter 38 (Consolidation of Public Schools). Chapter 8-38 states the conditions which indicate the need to consider the consolidation of schools, provides procedures and guidelines to determine whether a school should be consolidated, and ensures that parents and other parties are informed and given the opportunity to express their views at a public hearing.

This bill provides for a threshold number of students with a two-year opportunity for schools and school communities to work together to increase student enrollment. While the criterion for the threshold is cost, the Department would also want to consider the range and quality of educational opportunities that a school can or should offer.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony.