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LATE TESTIMONY

Before The

House Committee on Education
Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair

SB2534, SD 2 Relating to Public School Facilities

Testimony of
Jeanne Schultz Afuvai
Executive Vice President
Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs

Monday, March 21, 2012, 2:15 pm
Conference Room 309

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Belatti and members of the Education Committee:

Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs (HIPA) is submitting testimony on Senate Bill 2534, SD 2 Relating to Public School Facilities. During that past two years, HIPA has been actively involved in the development of 21st century schools for Hawaii's students.

HIPA supports SB 2534, SD 2 to create a fund to support development of 21st Century schools & repair and maintain those schools.

We have been asked to develop a working definition of a 21st century school. We would like to share our thoughts with this committee.

21st Century schools should include the following characteristics which support individual, project- and technology-based learning, including:

- New schools should be modular in design and construction so spaces are flexible for all types of 21st century learning;
- Design concepts should incorporate concepts that respect and inspire students, teacher and staff to maximize student achievement;
- Facilities should be designed to accommodate community uses before and after school hours to maximize benefits for students, parents, teachers and communities;
- Natural lighting and good air quality throughout the school is essential;
- Conduits for electricity and broadband need to be abundant and available throughout the school;
- Air conditioning and LEEDS Certification should be required;

- Arrangements for immediate and safe lock-down procedures should be built into the design;
- Consideration should be given to schools that have a smaller footprint in order to provide more efficient use of land and other financial resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter and HIPA respectfully asks for your support of SB2534, SD 2.