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Before The

Senate Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

Senate Committee on Water, Land & Housing
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

SB2534 Relating to Public School Facilities

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

Monday, February 6, 2012, 1:30 pm
Conference Room 225

Dear Chair Tokuda, Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Joint-Committee:

At the request of the Chair of the Senate Education Committee, Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs (HIPA) is submitting testimony on Senate Bill 2534 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 would like to address three points for consideration by the Joint Committee:

1) We were asked to assist in providing a working definition of a 21st century school. Those 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 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.

2) AMENDMENT #1: HIPA recommends that the special fund be under the control of the Board of Education, rather than the Public Lands Development Corporation. This will enable the BOE to have control over and direct funds for the development of 21st century schools, rather than having to request it from the PLDC.

2) AMENDEMNT #2: HIPA recommends that the Committee replace the phrase "repair and maintenance of existing schools facilities" to "retrofit and upgrade existing schools facilities to meet 21st century school standards." This amendment will ensure that any proceeds from the Public Land Development Corporation be used to advance the building and upgrade of 21st century schools, rather than the ordinary repair and maintenance of existing schools that are provided for by the general fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 2:13 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2534 on 2/6/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for EDU/WLH 2/6/2012 1:30:00 PM SB2534

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Arakawa
Organization: Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii
E-mail: darakawa@lurf.org
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments: