

Date: 03/16/2012

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 033 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND BOARD OF EDUCATION TO INSTITUTE A GREEN HAWAII PROGRAM WITHIN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Purpose of Resolution: Requests the Department of Education and Board of Education to institute a green Hawaii program within the public school system.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) wishes to comment on SCR 033 that requires the Department to institute a "Green Hawaii" program within the public school system. Many of our schools are already implementing "Green" projects such as recycling plastic and aluminum cans, gardening, and engaging in other environmentally friendly activities.

We believe it is unnecessary to require that all public and charter schools perform at least five "Green Hawaii" projects each school year. The number of "Green" projects performed should be determined by the duration, magnitude, and complexity of the environmental experience. A single project may have the beneficial impact of several smaller projects. The Department will continue to encourage schools to participate in conservation efforts that support the Board of Education Policy 6710, Sustainability, to have students become environmental stewards who will make sound decisions, behave responsibly, act constructively to maintain and improve the environment that supports and sustains all life on this island and the world.