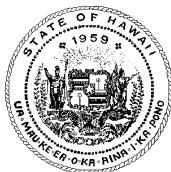


SB1096

Relating to Public School
Redevelopment
EDU/EGH, WAM



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

Monday, February 4, 2013, 1:30 PM
State Capitol Room 309

Testimony of
NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawaii

To the Senate Committees on Education
and Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair, Education Committee
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair, Education Committee

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, Economic Development, Government
Operations and Housing Committee
Senator Sam Slom, Vice Chair, Economic Development, Government Operations
and Housing Committee

SB 1096 – Relating to Public School Redevelopment

Chair Tokuda, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Slom, and members of
the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 1096 (SB
1096). SB 1096 provides the opportunity to establish public-private partnerships to
develop or redevelop public school lands in order to improve public school facilities so
that our children can learn in twenty-first century schools.

As I shared with you in my State of the State address public schools are on average 65
years old, and many facilities have been ignored due to limited budgets. With the
Legislature's support, the Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) has made significant
progress on reducing the repair and maintenance backlog in our schools. However, the
DOE reported prioritized capital improvement needs of \$620,975,000 for the biennium,
and identified the need for 11 new schools in growing communities. These needs
outpace historical legislative appropriations.

That means that many students are learning in structures that do not reflect our modern information and technology age. A twenty-first century school would provide learning space that is flexible and support innovative learning approaches, such as project-based learning.

The Twenty-First Century Schools initiative, enabled by SB 1096, is a public-private partnership that would allow DOE to lease underutilized lands for the purpose of generating income to be used to upgrade existing schools or construct new schools. The concept, based on successful models elsewhere, builds long-term value for local school communities, which benefit from better school facilities, multi-purpose community centers, workforce housing, or other needs as determined by a cross-section of the community.

Under SB 1096, the DOE, BOE and Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) would collaborate in this innovative approach to complement traditional general fund appropriations to bring Hawaii's public schools into the twenty-first century. The public school lands of the state's 254 school campuses, some of which are considered underutilized, are an untapped resource. Public-private partnerships to use these lands differently would provide opportunities for the State to use available lands to enable twenty-first century facilities for public education. Leasing the underutilized lands can generate income to upgrade existing schools or construct new schools to twenty-first century standards and opportunities. By engaging in public-private partnerships, refocusing uses of these properties will support community-driven redevelopment and help communities to make better use of land while increasing educational and economic opportunities for the benefit of Hawaii's public school children.

Success will require a community-based policy and planning approach. Any use of public lands must be compatible with and provide benefits to the surrounding community. Teachers, administrators, students, parents, community residents and other stakeholders must play a meaningful role in the planning, design and partnership between the school and surrounding community. The HCDA has committed to this engagement in the process of development.

HCDA is a good partner in this initiative because of its experience with community-based development. Based on HCDA's further review of this bill, HCDA is recommending amendments in their testimony, and I support these amendments.

I urge you to support this bill. Thank you for your consideration.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/04/2013

Committee: Senate Economic Development,
Government Operations and Housing
Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 1096 RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL REDEVELOPMENT.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes framework for the development of twenty-first century schools through the redevelopment of public school lands by the Hawaii Community Development Authority.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (DOE) supports the intent of this bill in addressing the significant financial challenges in addressing the inadequacies of the department's facilities inventory. Additionally, the DOE supports the intent of this bill in establishing a framework in which the system's inventory of schools can derive maximum benefit from the creative use of its assets. However, due to the complexities and scope of this undertaking, the DOE recommends a more measured approach such as contained in SB 0237. This bill would address the same issues, but would first explore signature projects demonstrating proof of concept. The DOE sees great value however in a parallel effort as delineated by SB1096 from a systemic perspective and looks forward to fostering a partnership with the Hawaii Community Development Authority that will exploit the intellectual capital and best practices of both agency and department in developing new schools.

The DOE finds portions of SB1096 unnecessary however. There is no clear reason to create another board or layer of authority where that functionality already exists. Additionally, proscriptive or descriptive statutory language limits flexibility in defining 21st century schools and should be left to the planning and development mechanisms in order to foster future developmental requirements. The DOE believes this construct will most benefit the DOE and the public at large.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important bill.



HAWAII COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



KAKA'IKO
KALAELOA

Neil Abercrombie
Governor

Brian Lee
Chairperson

Anthony J. H. Ching
Executive Director

STATEMENT OF

ANTHONY J. H. CHING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

BEFORE THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

AND

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS AND HOUSING

ON

Monday, February 4, 2013

1:30 P.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 414

in consideration of

S. B. 1096 – RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL REDEVELOPMENT.

Purpose: Grant the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) the responsibility to facilitate the redevelopment of public school lands in order to generate income to improve public school facilities and infrastructure to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Position: As it is my belief that the HCDA possesses both the capacity and operational fabric to establish public private partnerships (P3) that can facilitate the modernization of public school facilities, I support those parts of the proposal giving the HCDA the responsibility to deliver the means to the Department of Education (DOE), stakeholders and affected communities to realize signature 21st century public school facilities. In line with the specifications of the

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Testimony reflects the view and position of the Executive Director and not that of the Authority.

Governor's initiative, I defer to the Department/Board of Education and the State Legislature with respect to all matters relating to:

- The selection and designation of specific public school facilities redevelopment sites;
- Establishing the minimum criteria and standards for twenty-first century school projects;
- The development of a long range and strategic plan for transforming public schools into twenty-first century facilities; and
- The disposition and use of proceeds generated from the P3 partnerships that are established.

I am obliged to note that as the Authority has not yet had an opportunity to review and act upon this proposal that this position represents my own viewpoint and not that of the Authority.

Capacity and Mission of the HCDA. The HCDA is a corporate instrumentality of the State of Hawaii that is charged with building community and place in community development districts designated by the State Legislature. The HCDA employs planners, architects, engineers, project managers, asset management specialists and administrative staff with experience in:

- Promulgating and administering land use/zoning regulations;
- Developing and implementing community development plans (i.e., ~~compiling community master, infrastructure and public facilities plans;~~ managing redevelopment projects carried out in conjunction with those plans; managing infrastructure improvement projects; soliciting and managing community redevelopment projects); and
- Managing and stewarding assets held by the agency in its corporate capacity.

Existing Mechanism for Public Accountability and Engagement. Given its charge as a community redevelopment agency and existing staff, it is my belief

that the HCDA possesses the capacity and operational resources to achieve the purposes outlined in this measure. It is also important to note that the Authority has embedded into the fabric of its operations standard protocols to ensure that notice, means (e.g., telephone hotline, email, web public consultation portal) and opportunity [e.g., monthly community briefings, establishing new stakeholder advisory groups, participating in existing community forums (neighborhood board, stakeholder groups) night time and weekend open houses, accessible community hearings/meetings] are provided whereby stakeholders and community are invited to actively participate in the deliberations of the Authority.

Articulation of Community Development Plan and Rule. Once a public school redevelopment district is established, the HCDA is obliged to compile a community development/master plan. That plan will identify public facilities, infrastructure and utility requirements for the district. Aside from articulating the vision and strategy objectives and for achieving the redevelopment of the district, the necessary and appropriate environmental review (Chapter 343, HRS environmental assessment/impact statements) will be conducted to establish the baseline information about the redevelopment district and solicit public feedback and recommendations.

Governance Structure. While I defer to the Legislature to establish the means by which the individual public school redevelopment districts might be governed, I note that the 2012 State Legislature reorganized the HCDA as the combination of three separate authorities and separate authorities for each of the existing three community development districts (Kakaako, Kalaeloa and Heeiea). I also note that the Board of Education currently has a statewide scope and membership, will issue all educational facility, redevelopment and policy directives and as the HCDA has well established operational bylaws, protocols and rules, it therefore may not be necessary to create yet another governing body.

Reimbursement to HCDA for Costs Incurred. Given its existing capacities, it is my belief that the HCDA will not require that additional staff

resources be allocated for a finite number of the signature or initial development districts that might be established. We can revisit the subject should the workload over time merit a reexamination of that matter. However, as we will (without fail) conduct necessary and appropriate environment review, we will seek to establish a system by which reimbursement for those costs can be secured from the Department of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in strong support of this initiative to provide the public school students of the State of Hawaii with facilities that are of the 21st century and to be a “part of the solution”.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN
44 MERCHANT STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

**Senate Committee on Education
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations & Housing
Monday, February 4, 2013
State Capitol, Room 414**

SB 1096 – Relating to Public School Redevelopment

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) agrees with the intent of SB 1096 that Hawaii's public school facilities may not maximize twenty-first century learning opportunities and to grant the Hawaii Community Development Authority the responsibility to facilitate the redevelopment of public school lands in order to generate income to improve school facilities to meet these opportunities and challenges.

However, we have very serious concerns about our public libraries being included in the definition of these public school lands to be redeveloped. This bill allows for the redevelopment of certain public school lands as identified by the Department of Education and approved by the Board of Education. There is nothing in this bill specifically addressing whether public libraries may be included in these targeted public school lands and there is no consideration being provided for this potential loss of public library services for a particular community and its patrons.

While we support the main intent of this bill regarding public school lands redevelopment, we have reservations and concerns about the public libraries that could

possibly be displaced and how HSPLS will be able to meet demand for critical public library services for affected communities.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education and
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and
Housing
Monday, February 4, 2013
1:30 pm
State Capitol - Conference Room 414**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 1096 RELATING TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL
REDEVELOPMENT**

Chairs Tokuda and Dela Cruz and Vice Chairs Kidani and Slom, and members of the committees:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii provides the following **comments on S.B. 1096**. The bill proposes to establish a framework for the development of twenty-first century schools through the redevelopment of public school lands by the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA). The bill proposes to provide HCDA with the authority and responsibility to facilitate the redevelopment of public school lands to generate income to improve public school facilities and infrastructure.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the “Voice of Business” in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state’s economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

It appears that as proposed the identified or designated school sites would be redeveloped under the authority of the HCDA which essentially functions outside of the jurisdiction of the City and County of Honolulu for zoning, land uses and infrastructure. The bill is silent on exactly how the agency would redevelop the identified school sites either using the existing HCDA rules or in accordance with the existing county zoning. Master planning and developing parcels within the boundaries of an identified redevelopment area is different from assessing and developing individual sites which must comply with existing statutes, ordinances, rules and codes. The bill should discuss and address HCDA’s authority the specific process envisioned for the redevelopment of school sites. This may avoid some of the problems encountered by PLDC when Act 55 was enacted.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.



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Senate Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sam Slom, Vice-Chair

SB1096: Relating to Public School Redevelopment

Testimony of
Jeanne Schultz Afuvai
Executive Vice President

Monday, February 4, 2013 at 1:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

Dear Chair Tokuda, Chair Dela Cruz and EDU and EGH committee members:

The Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs **supports** Senate Bill 1096, the administration bill that establishes a framework for the construction of 21st century schools through the redevelopment of public school lands by the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA).

By way of background, in 2009, HIPA initiated the 21st Century Schools Initiative, a research and community-based effort to develop an innovative, systemic, and practicable approach to upgrade and construct 21st century schools on a statewide basis. Recognizing that public funds are severely limited, HIPA is currently engaged in a public-private partnership with the Department of Education and various stakeholders centered on the following outcomes:

- Developing a new revenue source for new school construction and modernization of 21st century schools;
- Initiating a statewide rebuilding and modernization of Hawai'i's aging public schools that foster 21st century teaching and learning;
- Engaging and empowering more than 181,000 students, nearly 14,000 teachers, all communities statewide, and thousands of key stakeholders to support and improve school facilities in Hawai'i;
- Creating approximately 200,000 construction, maintenance, and similar jobs with urban redevelopment and public-private partnerships using vacant and underused public school lands (estimate courtesy of Rebuilding America's Schools Coalition);
- Facilitating statewide urban renewal and provide sources for economic development and security in all communities, while promoting sustainable economic development;
- Ensuring a fair and equal distribution of new revenue sources through a system-wide long-range plan for rebuilding Hawai'i's public school facilities; and
- Lifting student achievement, including among disadvantaged populations in underserved communities.

We agree that HCDA is the appropriate entity to partner with the Department of Education to redevelop public school lands. Having been around for over three decades, HCDA has the technical and development expertise to engage in public-private partnerships, as evidenced by its proven track record in the community development districts of Kaka'ako and Kalaeloa. We respectfully defer to the committee and HCDA to determine the appropriation needed to carry out the additional responsibilities required by this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

841 Bishop St., Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

Senate Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sam Slom, Vice Chair

February 4, 2013

Dear Chairs Tokuda and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Kidani and Slom, and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support of SB1096 with suggested amendments.

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

The Coalition has been following the issue of our aging facilities and the need to find creative solutions to finance and rebuild our schools. The Coalition has hosted several speakers discussing 21st Century School design, mainland efforts to address school facilities, and local organizations working to find creative options. We are very pleased to see the legislature support the concept of using underutilized school lands to fund new school construction statewide.

We would ask that the Committee consider the following amendments in moving the bill along:

1. Specify that the program include the development of design specifications for 21st Century Schools.
2. Specify that school and community engagement (specifically, parents/guardians or parent groups or ohana groups, teachers, principals, business and community members of impacted area) be a required component of all projects both in the

- design and development of new schools and in the proposed uses on the leased lands
3. Specify that uses on the underutilized school lands be compatible with surrounding land use and zoning (some school property may need zone changes to be redeveloped and the proposed zoning should be compatible with the surrounding existing zoning designations)
 4. Specify that early learning centers along with K-12 facilities could be included in the projects.
 5. Recommend that one of the four at-large members among the seven voting members to vote on issues relating to public schools facilities redevelopment be a member of a parent group or a community organization that is focused on education or family support services.

We would be glad to work with the legislature, Department of Education, Board of Education, and any other appropriate agencies to make this effort successful.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our membership. While the majority of the Coalition members supported this bill, Parents for Public Schools could not come to a consensus to support this position.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

HE'E Member List

Academy 21

After-School All-Stars Hawaii

Alliance for Place Based Learning

*Castle Complex Community Council

Center for Civic Education

Coalition for Children with Special Needs

*DOE Windward District

*Faith Action for Community Equity

Fresh Leadership LLC

Girl Scouts Hawaii

*Good Beginnings Alliance

Harold K.L. Castle Foundation

*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and
Economic Justice

Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars

*Hawai'i Charter School Network

*Hawai'i Education Matters

*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition

*Hawaii State PTSA

Hawai'i State Student Council

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

Hawai'i P-20

Hawai'i 3Rs

Head Start Collaboration Office

It's All About Kids

*INPEACE

Joint Venture Education Forum

Kamehameha Schools

*Kanu Hawai'i

Kupu A'e

*Leaders for the Next Generation

McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds

*Our Public School

*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning

*Parents and Children Together

*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i

Punahou School PUEO Program

Teach for America

The Learning Coalition

US PACOM

University of Hawai'i College of Education

YMCA of Honolulu

Voting Members (*)

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Email: info@gcahawaii.org
Website: www.gcahawaii.org



GCA of Hawaii

GENERAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

Quality People. Quality Projects.

Uploaded via Capitol Website

February 4, 2013

TO: HONORABLE JILL TOKUDA, CHAIR, HONORABLE MICHELLE KIDANI, VICE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

HONORABLE DONOVAN DELA CRUZ, CHAIR, HONORABLE SAM SLOM, VICE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND HOUSING

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF SB 1096, RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL REDEVELOPMENT.**
Establishes framework for the development of twenty-first century schools through the redevelopment of public school lands by the Hawaii Community Development Authority.

HEARING

DATE: Monday, February 4, 2013
TIME: 1:30 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 414

Dear Chairs Tokuda and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Kidani and Slom and Members of the Committees:

The General Contractors Association (GCA) is an organization comprised of over six hundred general contractors, subcontractors, and construction related firms. The GCA was established in 1932 and is the largest construction association in the State of Hawaii. The GCA's mission is to represent its members in all matters related to the construction industry, while improving the quality of construction and protecting the public interest.

GCA **supports** S.B. 1096, Relating to Public School Redevelopment, which proposes to establish a framework for the development of twenty-first century schools through the redevelopment of public school lands by the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA). The HCDA will work jointly with the Department of Accounting and General Services and the Department of Education to identify sites and plan the design and building specifications. Furthermore, S.B. 1096 proposes to add seven additional board members who will vote only on issues related to public schools redevelopment.

S.B. 1096 proposes to grant the Hawaii Community Development Authority the responsibility to facilitate the redevelopment of public school lands in order to generate income to improve public school facilities and infrastructure for Hawaii's children. Twenty-first century schools utilize new and innovative tools that will assist and improve the learning environments for Hawaii's children as we enter into the twenty-first century. This bill takes an affirmative step toward the development of twenty-first century schools for the benefit of students attending public schools in Hawaii.

There are a number of characteristics that describe a twenty-first century school which support individual project and technology-based learning, including, among other characteristics, special school designs that incorporate flexible spaces; facilities that accommodate community uses during non-school hours and maximize benefits; and natural lighting and good air quality. These are all qualities that would improve the learning environment for Hawaii's children.

GCA is in support of this measure's concept and its commitment to improving public school facilities of Hawaii's children. Accordingly, GCA requests that this Committee pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to offer support of this measure.



*In the spirit of 'ohana,
we are all parents
of the children of Hawai'i*

Parents for Public Schools of Hawai'i
2850 Kahawai Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

Phone: 375-3917

Email: ppshi.org@gmail.com

Senate Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sam Slom, Vice Chair

January 30, 2013

Dear Chairs Tokuda and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Kidani, and Slom, and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted to express concern with SB1096.

Parents for Public Schools of Hawai'i (PPSHI) is the Hawai'i chapter of the national organization Parents for Public Schools. We are a non-profit organization that strives to engage parents, students, and community members across the State in supporting enriched and quality public education through (1) effective communication between families, community, and schools, (2) greater awareness of educational policies and practices, (3) community involvement in education and decision making that promotes school support, improvement, and student achievement, and (4) accurate media representation of public education.

PPSHI has three primary concerns about SB1096. First, we are concerned that the SB1096 does not include a requirement that parents, community members, and school personnel provide input on the design and development of proposed leased land use. We feel that it is important that the needs and concerns of the stakeholders who will be most affected most by the land development are considered. We urge your amendment of the bill to include parent and community engagement as a part of the design and development process.

Second, we urge you to put teachers and principals on the board that will make decisions about the land use. Again, this will assure a focus on educational interests from those who are working in the field and will add to the credibility of the board.

Finally, PPSHI would like to see language in the bill that emphasizes that the leased land use will prioritize community and educational purposes. We feel that it is important that community interests are kept at the forefront.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,

Lois A. Yamauchi
President, Parents for Public Schools of Hawai'i

Testimony for 1096

As a parent of a public school child, I am very concerned about SB 1096 relating to public school redevelopment.

While of course I want the children of Hawaii to have 21st century schools, this amendment has been very worrying. I am very worried that no educators are involved at the highest levels of planning and decision making, that the plan is very vague, that it gives complete power of school redevelopment to the HCDA (and permanently), that the state has a very poor track record for improving education with top-down plans, and that any redevelopment that does occur will likely be around for a very long time so that if it is done poorly, the students and teachers will suffer for a very long time.

I am shocked and dismayed that there are no practicing educators included on the governing board. Where is the input and guidance from people who are on the ground, working with our kids every day? We have highly-effective principals. Just look at some of our public schools serving underprivileged populations who are exceeding AYP -- exciting things are happening and they clearly know how to create a wonderful learning environment. We have now hundreds of national board-certified teachers. Why not tap their expertise? They know what the needs are of our student population, and what just plain works well.

You would never hire an architect to build a house without talking to the owners. Heck, you wouldn't even go to a hairdresser and say "do whatever you think best". Why in the world would you want to give such broad authority to reinvent schools without the input and guidance of the most critical stakeholders? Without effective planning and a forward-thinking governance structure for this redevelopment authority, I fear that the whole endeavor will be crippled from the start.

Is this really a plan that is for the benefit of the students first and foremost, with fundraising secondary? Or is it a means for someone to profit on real estate development? I am very concerned as I heard one of the examples was to consolidate Waikiki School with neighboring Jefferson and Ala Wai schools? Waikiki Elementary is one of the biggest success stories in the state, with a unique child-centered culture focusing on "habits of the mind" and "philosophy for children", a beautiful and bountiful organic food farm, innovative afterschool activities, and exceeding AYP despite years as a Title-I school. Destroying this incredibly successful culture just to capitalize on real-estate would simply be a crime. We need to ensure that our successes continue and that the redevelopment doesn't do more harm than good.

Please, as a concerned parent, I urge you to make the following modifications to the bill:

- 1) Include effective principals and teachers on the governing board and at the highest levels of planning and oversight. There should be two or more active educators (teachers and principals) and at least as many active educators as there are representatives of the business community

on the board. While the esteemed superintendent and other administrators within the DOE have important expertise, it is equally important to include expertise from within the classrooms and schools.

2) For each project, include the input of teachers and principals at the schools affected. I cannot see how you will get community buy-in without such input.

3) Include community input on the governing board, especially of the parents and families affected, and require public hearings and other venues for community input through the planning process.

4) Require a pilot project as "proof of concept" before considering a permanent law. As a parent, I find an immediate and permanent authority to be a crazy idea.

5) Do not destroy highly-effective schools. Remember that improving education is the goal. Therefore, require community approval for sites to be redeveloped. If the redevelopment plan has community value, they should be able to convince the community of its benefits.

6) Commit resources toward ensuring that displaced students are well-served in the interim while their schools are being rebuilt, whether it be funds for busses or additional teachers to accommodate the students at other schools.

7) Balance the benefits of consolidation with the wonderful benefit of community-based schools. There is great value in children being able to walk to their neighborhood schools.

8) Do not use this authority as a means to construct more tract-based schools. That is, children should not have to stagger their school days to pack more children into limited facilities.

9) *Do everything possible to ensure that the planning, oversight, and execution of redevelopment is student-centered.*

Sincerely,
Marguerite Butler Higa
Parent of a public school student
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2814 Lowrey Ave.
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