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House Committee on Water and Land
Representative Cindy Evans, Chair
Representative Nicole Lowen, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education
Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Johanson, Vice Chair

March 27, 2013

Dear Chairs Evans, Takumi and Luke, Vice Chairs Lowen, Ohno, Nishimoto, Johanson and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support of SB237 SD2 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 through a Pilot Program.

We would ask that the Committees consider our recommendation as the bill moves forward. The Coalition prefers the language in HB865 HD1, which designates the Board

of Education and the Department of Education as the governance agencies, and also specifies that a community engagement process will be included.

On page 11, line 19 of HB865 HD1, it states:

§302A- Rules; community engagement. The department shall adopt rules for the public school redevelopment district, pursuant to chapter 91, and shall integrate a community engagement process in its redevelopment activities under this subpart.

We support this language as it is consistent with our previous testimony, recommending that school and community engagement (parent/ohana groups, teachers, principals, business and community members of impacted area) be a required component of the project.

We would be glad to work with the legislature, department, 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 and Faith Action for Community Equity 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 (*)