



# KANU O KA 'ĀINA LEARNING 'ŌHANA

Grows womb-to-tomb models of education that advance Hawaiian culture for a sustainable Hawai'i

Testimony as of February 1, 2013  
SB362  
EDU

LATE TESTIMONY

February 5, 2013

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani and Education Committee Members,

My name is Taffi Wise, testifying on behalf of Kanu o ka 'Āina - a member of Nā Lei Na'auao & HPCSN. It was an honor to speak to you on February 1, 2013 at the joint committee hearing.

Re: **SB362**: STRONGLY SUPPORT

Thank you for taking the lead to support our students glaring need for facilities support. We have done our best to strategize public-private partnerships on behalf of our communities. By honoring the States obligation to provide facilities you will allow us to strategize those partnerships further bringing more resources to our State.

The research clearly shows that student outcomes are directly linked to the physical environment they are educated in. In addition to creating jobs that directly impact the hardest economically hit industry in Hawai'i, construction - this action will support another critical deficit that has been plaguing Hawai'i for years, by directly supporting education and innovative learning styles. The following are a few excerpts of the numerous studies done assessing the relationship between educational performance, teacher moral and the students learning environment.

- *The Users in Mind: Utilizing Henry Sanoff's Methods in Investigating the Learning Environment.* (Salama, Ashraf), suggests the need to sensitize users about the value of the school environment in reaching the desired academic performance while increasing teachers productivity, directly supporting the assumption that school environment has a direct impact on the way in which teaching and learning takes place.
- *School Building Condition, School Attendance, and Academic Achievement in New York City Public Schools: A Mediation Model.* (Journal of Environmental Psychology) examines the role of school attendance as a mediator in the relationship between facilities in disrepair and student grades in city and state tests. Data on building condition and results from English, Language Arts and Mathematics standardized tests were analyzed. This study provides empirical evidence of the effects of building quality on academic outcomes and considers the social justice issues related to this phenomenon.
- *Building Green for Better Education.* (Hoffman, Paul) Concludes the positive impact of sustainable school building features on learning, attitudes, staff morale, and attendance.



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- *Association between Physical Environment of Secondary Schools and Student Problem Behavior: A National Study (Kumar, Revathy.)* This study asserts that an attractive physical environment is associated with less truancy, cigarette, alcohol, and marijuana use, whereas a negative physical environment is associated with higher levels of these behaviors.

Passage of this bill will provide a base for Hawai'i's charter schools and send a clear message to the students that they are of equal worth.

Mahalo nui for all you do to support our children`s educational opportunities.

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Executive Director  
Taffi Wise