

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

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

**Date:** 04/18/2013

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Resolution:** SCR 190(sscr1456) REQUESTING THE HAWAII BOARD OF EDUCATION TO REVIEW POLICY NO. 6701 IN LIGHT OF THE STATE'S EFFORT TO RENOVATE AND BUILD TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY SCHOOLS AND TO REPORT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE.

**Purpose of Resolution:** 21ST Century Schools

**Department's Position:**

The DOE appreciates and supports the intent of SCR 190 (sscr1456) to review both BOE Policy No. 6701 and Section 302A-1602, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The DOE agrees that a review of both would constitute an important step forward as it develops standards for 21st Century educational facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this resolution.



Testimony of Cindy McMillan  
The Pacific Resource Partnership

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

House Committee on Higher Education  
Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair  
Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

SCR 190 - REQUESTING THE HAWAII BOARD OF EDUCATION TO REVIEW POLICY  
NO. 6701 IN LIGHT OF THE STATE'S EFFORT TO RENOVATE AND BUILD TWENTY-  
FIRST CENTURY SCHOOLS AND TO REPORT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE  
LEGISLATURE.

Thursday, April 18, 2013  
1:00 pm  
Conference Room 329

Aloha Chairs Takumi and Choy, Vice Chairs Ohno and Ichiyama, and members of the  
Committees:

The Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) is a labor-management consortium representing over  
240 signatory contractors and the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters.

PRP **strongly supports** SCR 190, requesting the Hawaii Board of Education to review Board  
Policy No. 6701 in light of the State's effort to renovate and build twenty-first century schools  
and to report its recommendations to the Legislature.

PRP is a strong supporter of Hawaii's public school education system and believes that more  
needs be done to better prepare our young people for a career, college and lifelong learning.  
Advancements in technology have increased the skill levels required to obtain and retain jobs  
that pay well and help to support a family.

Hawaii's public school facilities, with an average age of sixty-five years, are inadequate to maximize twenty-first century learning opportunities. The Department of Education (DOE) continues to have outstanding repair and maintenance needs, and many facilities have been neglected due to limited budgets. This year, the DOE reported that it has \$266,000,000 in repair and maintenance backlog as of this year and for the upcoming biennium, \$620,975,000 in prioritized capital improvement needs. In addition, the department projects a need to construct 11 new schools in growing communities over the next six years.

PRP supports the review of the Board of Education Policy 6701 and section 302A-1602, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and a report to the Legislature as important steps in fulfilling the State's Twenty-First Century Schools initiative to upgrade existing schools and building of new schools.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask for your support on SCR 190. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views with you.

**Jenna Takenouchi**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2013 3:52 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SCR190 on Apr 18, 2013 13:00PM\*

**SCR190**

Submitted on: 4/15/2013

Testimony for EDN on Apr 18, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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TESTIMONY to the House Committee on Education and  
House Committee on Higher Education

S.C.R. 190 (SSCR 1456)

Requesting the Hawaii Board of Education to Review Policy No. 6701 in light of the State's Effort to Renovate and Build Twenty-First Century Schools and to Report its Recommendations to the Legislature

Thursday, April 18, 2013  
1:00 PM -- Conference Room 329

Submitted in **Support** by Mary Smart, Mililani, HI

Chairman Takumi, Vice-Chair Ohno, Chairman Choy, Vice-Chair Ichiyama and Committee Members

1. With the plans of the State of Hawaii to develop State lands, especially school properties, it is a good time to assess school requirements in the 21st century. State of Hawaii Board of Education Policy 6701 encourages smaller communities of learners. I couldn't agree more. Homeschooling has proven this concept.
2. In light of technological advances and the tragedies of Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, Columbine in Colorado, and Virginia Tech University in Virginia (all levels of education), we must change the way we provide educational services. Many of the students perpetrating these devastating events were educated in large school environments, medicated, and/or felt they didn't fit in with the larger school populace. The old model is broken. It is time to move to a more "sustainable" concept of education. Many updates in Department of Education Policies and Hawaii Revised Statutes are required to accommodate remote access to educational resources. It is time to take advantage of our ability to stream lessons on the internet on demand. It is a win-win solution for everyone.
3. According various sources [here](#) and [here](#): homeschooling costs families around \$600 per year compared to \$6,000 - \$10,000 average spent per pupil by public school system while still paying the public school expense. Studies showed the average homeschooled student outperformed the average public school student by around 30 percentile points and tests one or more grades ahead of their public school contemporaries and are equally socialized. These exceptional results at lower costs are too good to ignore. More parents could homeschool their children if they weren't paying excessive taxes to support a failing public school system. It is time for large tax credits for homeschooling families.
4. Centralized school campuses are concepts from the past. With the possibility of construction at school locations, the noise and congestion will disrupt learning at the sites. On-line education is highly desirable. Schools must still be available for those who can't locate an alternate location for their education program, but there shouldn't be many

needed and they can be much smaller than currently configured. Education can be provided in a student's own home or a neighborhood setting with no requirement for buses or additional security. This will be safer for the children and less costly for the State and allow more time for the teaching of academic courses to the children instead of wasting time in traveling to and from school. Parents can exercise their "shared responsibility" for training their children. There is no rational reason for the home school "teacher" to be a relative.

5. In this day and age, an exceptional teacher can provide a video of essential elements of the training and anyone can review the training at a time when it is most beneficial to the student. If a student is ill and cannot travel to class, they can still learn the material at their own bedside without the fear of infecting another student. The issue of vaccination won't be a problem since children won't have to congregate in large numbers. Neighbors can congregate at convenient times for classes and many students can go over the material together.

6. The benefits to the State would be tremendous if we evolve to on-line programs. Brick and mortar schools that need maintenance and use tremendous energy resources can be eliminated. More State land will be available for development. Children will no longer be assembled together as targets for unstable individuals.

7. Children will be able to advance at their own pace without degrading another student's progress. This will minimize the number of bored students who might become discipline problems or classified as having an attention disorder. The number of children placed on medication would be expected to decrease. This reduction in prescriptions is especially important as we move to government provided healthcare.

8. Children will be safe from ill or undisciplined students. Schools will have less worry about weapons or drugs being brought to school since fewer students attend on campus. The possibility of a child being molested by a staff member/bus driver/contracted service provider will be diminished. According to a study by Dr. Charles J. Hobson, of the Indiana University Northwest, in a study [titled](#): Protecting Your Child from K-12 Sexual Predators Masquerading as Teachers/Educators: Action Steps for Parents, "The problem of sexual abuse/harassment of K-12 students by educators is pandemic in size and devastating in its consequences." From a GAO study quoted in the paper, the finding was: "We identified hundreds of potential cases of registered sex offenders working in schools", in 19 states and the District of Columbia from 2007-2009." The lawsuits that result from these crimes are costly to the government/taxpayer.

9. Classes can be geared to the individual child. Some children learn better in the morning, some learn better in the afternoon. On-line learning will give them the flexibility they need. The outcome of better educated children is what we all desire.

10. School staffs can be reduced. Energy and many other expenses will be reduced and take up less land.

11. New businesses of creating on-line lessons can emerge in our State. More optional courses that appeal to the individual child can be offered by the best teachers.
12. Students can participate in religious activities with little or no disruption to others.
13. The need for bus transportation will be minimized. There will be less congestion and less opportunity for a collision on Hawaii's crowded highways.
14. The need for food programs will be minimized and food waste will be greatly reduced. Children can eat their lunch into [any shapes](#) they like and not be concerned about being suspended because someone perceived their food to resemble a weapon.
15. Any effort to continue building and maintaining schools in the manner of our ancestors would show a lack of innovation and ability to adapt to the times by our legislators and educators. It would also show contempt for the taxpayer by continuing to waste our limited income that is confiscated in the form of taxes. Homeschooling has been in place for sufficient years to show us that it requires less than \$1000 per year per student to educate a child. If monolithic education centers (public school) can't achieve similar results at the same cost competing in the marketplace, it is time to fold the business model and let the family and community assume the responsibility. Throwing more money into education and starting children at an earlier age are not the answers -- and that is well known.