



TESTIMONY FOR THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
H.B. 2598, H.D.1, S.D.1, RELATING TO HAWAII 3RS  
TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2014  
9:00A.M., CONFERENCE ROOM 211  
By Ka'iulani de Silva  
Director of Education and Consumer Affairs  
Hawaiian Electric Company

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Ka'iulani de Silva and I am the Director of Education and Consumer Affairs for Hawaiian Electric Company ("Hawaiian Electric"). Hawaiian Electric supports the intent of House Bill 2598, H.D.1, S.D.1.

For more than a decade, Hawaii 3 R's, a Hawaii nonprofit organization, has provided the valuable service of bringing much needed improvements to the public schools by bringing private financing and human resources together to address the existing repair and maintenance backlog in those institutions. Hawaiian Electric has been an active supporter, providing volunteers and resources to partner with Hawaii 3R's in the repair and maintenance of schools on O'ahu.

We support the proposal to change the name of the fund to the Hawaii 3R's school improvement fund and proposal to transfer moneys to this fund as expressed in H.B. 2598, H.D.1, S.D.1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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



**Date:** 03/25/2014

**Committee:** Senate Ways and Means

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 2598,HD1,SD1(sscr2845) RELATING TO HAWAII 3R'S.

**Purpose of Bill:** Renames the Hawaii 3R's School Repair and Maintenance Fund the Hawaii 3R's School Improvement Fund. Requires the transfer of moneys collected pursuant to section 235-102.5(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes, and any other moneys received in the form of grants and donations for school-level improvements and minor repairs and maintenance to the Hawaii 3R's School Improvement Fund. (SD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of this bill and offers the following comments to facilitate implementation.

The Department foresees some unintended consequences with this bill and therefore we request an amendment to retain some flexibility in the use of the school-level minor repairs and maintenance special fund. As written, HB 2598, HD1, SD1, may present problems for schools, as well as Hawaii 3R's, as virtually all schools statewide work with their Parent Teacher Organizations, community groups, or private donors to improve their school facilities and grounds. These projects range from raising funds to repaint a school's hopscotch lines to donating funds to install field turf on a football field. If the language as written remains, it would require the Department of Education (DOE) to turn over ALL grants or donations given to the department or schools for school-level improvements and minor repair and maintenance projects to Hawaii 3R's. This could create a bottle neck for school or community organizations wanting to assist schools in their own campus improvement projects and would be very difficult for the DOE to administer as well as enforce. It may also present problems for Hawaii 3R's who may not have the capacity to handle many small projects, especially on the neighbor islands. Changing the language of the bill to give the option to transfer select grants and donations to Hawaii 3R's would enable the schools to work together with Hawaii 3R's for those projects which would benefit from Hawaii 3R's involvement.

The Department offers the following proposed language (**bold text** is the suggested amendment):

*SECTION 3. Section 302A-1504.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:*

*"(a) There is established within the state treasury a special fund to be known as the school-level minor repairs and maintenance special fund, into which shall be deposited all moneys collected pursuant to section 235-102.5(b), and any other moneys received by the*

*department in the form of grants and donations for school-level improvements and minor repairs and maintenance. The special fund shall be administered by the department and used to fund school-level minor repairs and maintenance. The department shall transfer moneys collected pursuant to section 235-102.5(b), and **may transfer** any other moneys received in the form of grants and donations for school-level improvements and minor repairs and maintenance to the Hawaii 3R's school improvement fund established pursuant to section 302A-1502.4."*

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.