



Repair, Remodel, Restore Our Schools



March 24, 2014

The Honorable David Ige, Chairman
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Chairman Ige & Committee Members:

HB 2598, HD 1, SD 1 – Relating to Hawaii 3R's

We support this measure to facilitate the administrative transfer of taxpayer contributions from the state DOE to Hawaii 3R's. Those taxpayer contributions will be put to work on behalf of the state DOE in addressing its repair and maintenance backlog at Hawaii's public schools. We also concur with the suggested amendments submitted by the state Department of Education on this measure to include language under Section 3:

“... 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.”

Because Hawaii 3R's works closely with the state DOE, all of our projects meet the standards of the DOE and at completion, are accepted by the DOE. You will find few, if any, state projects where volunteers work alongside of professional contractors to complete R&M projects in Hawaii's public schools and leverage resources that ultimately benefit the state.

Over the past 13 years, Hawaii 3R's has proven its effectiveness in helping the state DOE to address its R&M backlog. Since 2001, Hawaii 3R's has helped the state to realize a savings of over \$43.0 million. With every state dollar invested in Hawaii 3R's, \$12.00 of work has been completed. The estimated value of completed projects (by Hawaii 3R's) over the past decade is over \$46.5 million.

Background on Hawaii 3R's

The late U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye began Hawaii 3R's in 2001 to address the state's R&M backlog. Since then, Hawaii 3R's has:

- Awarded over 530 grants (totaling more than \$20 million) to 190 different schools on six islands: Oahu, Hawaii, Maui, Kauai, Lanai and Molokai.
- Been instrumental in helping to “link” different schools with community partnerships;
- Been involved in every kind of R&M project imaginable, from painting buildings to re-striping parking lots, planting grass sods and other plants to helping to build science labs.

Hawaii 3R's is grateful to be the beneficiary of the \$2 tax check off on state tax returns, however, a seamless transfer of the funds is needed so we can continue to maintain the program's momentum. Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Kalowena Komeiji
Interim Executive Director