

SB2424

Relating to Air Conditioning
in Public School Facilities

EDU, WAM

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 01/27/2014

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2424 RELATING TO AIR CONDITIONING IN PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES.

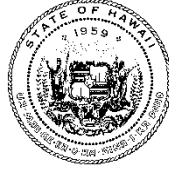
Purpose of Bill: Requires DOE and DAGS to develop a cooling master strategy and comprehensive study for the public schools and to report its findings to the 2015 regular session of the legislature. Appropriates funds.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education supports this bill. This bill provides the DOE greater flexibility in developing a strategy for the cooling of classrooms. The DOE understands the very strong desire to have a comfortable learning environment, as well as the importance of addressing all facility needs. To achieve a balance, the DOE is looking into a variety of energy efficient cooling alternatives. One initiative is the Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Master Plan which will develop sustainability guidelines to address issues as this one.

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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



Dean H. Seki
Comptroller

Maria E. Zielinski
Deputy Comptroller

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING
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P.O. BOX 119
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TESTIMONY
OF
DEAN H. SEKI, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
EDUCATION
ON
JANUARY 27, 2014

S.B. 2424

RELATING TO AIR CONDITIONING IN PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

Chair Tokuda and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 2424.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports the intent of S.B. 2424 and will assist the Department of Education (DOE) in developing a master strategy for cooling all public school facilities and conducting a comprehensive study if requested to do so.

However, we would like the Committee to note that:

1. DAGS is not involved in the operations of any DOE school facilities; and
2. Pursuant to Act 51, Sessions Laws of Hawaii 2004, DAGS is not involved in the management of any design or construction projects for any DOE school facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION

DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2014

RE: S.B. 2424-RELATING TO AIR CONDITIONING IN PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

PERSON TESTIFYING: WIL OKABE
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Wil Okabe
President
Joan Kamila Lewis
Vice President
Colleen Pasco
Secretary-Treasurer
Alvin Nagasako
Executive Director

The Honorable Chair Jill Tokuda, The Honorable Vice-Chair Michelle Kidani and the Members of the Committee:

HSTA is the exclusive representative of more than 13,500 public and charter school teachers statewide. As the state affiliate, of the 3.2 million members of the National Education Association, HSTA believes that schools need air conditioning and that the condition of the schools physical plant impacts the health, safety, and welfare of students and staff members.

Our public schools classroom temperatures are hot. At times, the heat index inches close to 100 degrees during the summer, fall, and spring. Students and teachers who work in these schools try to keep cool without the benefit of air conditioning in their classrooms. At times, when a classroom becomes unbearable, teachers resort to turning the lights off, purchasing their own fans, and frequent water breaks, if there is a water fountain available at the school. Other schools are rotating students into air-conditioned libraries or computer labs to cool off, and some change the day's lessons to avoid the heat and fatigue related to the environment. These are a few of the strategies to keep students comfortable as temperatures soar.

It is well known that many of our educational facilities are in a state of decay, neglect, and/or deterioration. The association supports funding to modernize, expand, replace, and/or maintain these facilities with air conditioning in order to provide a safe, healthy, and effective teaching and appropriate climate control in every classroom that enhances improved learning for both students and employees.

The HSTA further believes that the community, parent/guardians, students and education employees must be effectively involved in the development of the plans to modernize, expand and/or replace air-conditioning units.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB 2424.**



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Legislative Director

**TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 2424, RELATING TO AIR CONDITIONING IN
PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES**

**Senate Committee on Education
Hon. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

**Monday, January 27, 2014, 1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 414**

Honorable Chair Tokuda and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMU Alliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 175 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of, with proposed amendments for Senate Bill 2424, relating to air conditioning in public school facilities.

Earlier this year, the Hawaii State Department of Education requested \$25 million in funds to keep local classrooms cool. Previous estimates of the cost to provide air conditioning at all schools currently lacking such systems have soared past \$1 billion, according to the department, reaching as high as \$1.75 billion in conversations with teacher advocates earlier this year. Given that air conditioning has been demonstrated to have a significant impact on student learning growth both in the short-term and over time (see, for example, “Effects of the Physical Environment on Student Learning” by Glen I. Earthman of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University), it is important that the DOE take action to improve cooling instrumentation throughout our state's schools. Policymakers and education advocates alike have taken numerous steps intended to boost learning growth in recent years—implementation of teacher evaluations, upgrading student computing access, lengthening the number of instructional hours in a school year, instituting Common Core State Standards Initiative protocols, and building a comprehensive early learning system, to name the most prominent. While logistically and politically controversial among stakeholders, the success of these reforms is certain to be undermined by the continuation of inadequate facilities, in which student achievement and teacher productivity are compromised by extreme thermal environments, with temperatures in some classrooms regularly and persistently exceeding 100 degrees. Studies show that the percentile gap between conditioned and non-conditioned environments is approximately 10 to 15 points on achievement tests, clearly evincing the impact of a comfortable environment on student success. In the sunny, subtropical islands, it is time to take action.

That said, **we encourage the committee to amend the list of factors enumerated for consideration contained Section 1 of the bill to include an additional point, stating: “Potential cost savings generated by renewable energy technology.”** In conversations with photovoltaic companies, like RevoluSun (Hawaii's leading solar installer and clean energy integrator), advocates have learned that employing off-grid DC-powered air conditioners, operated entirely (100 percent) from photovoltaic modules that store energy in power-saving batteries, could cost between \$15,000 to \$30,000 per classroom, a savings of approximately 70 percent from DOE projections (discounting a monthly lease per-classroom payment that could be offset by the department's ongoing and all-encompassing renewable energy savings). We recognize that such a plan would need to be thoroughly vetted by state financial advisors, department officials, and policymakers, but believe that the possible revenue savings brought about by renewable energy technology are significant enough to warrant strong consideration by the department, to be explicitly called for by the proposal.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Todd Hairgrove	Individual	Support	Yes