
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. This Act is recommended by the governor for
2 immediate passage in accordance with section 9 of article VII of
3 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

4 SECTION 2. There is a need to install air conditioning and
5 other heat abatement equipment in public school classrooms to
6 preserve and promote the health and safety of students and
7 teachers, and to foster a better and more comfortable and
8 productive learning environment. With the current El Nino
9 conditions, high temperatures in classrooms during the summer
10 months will be a continuing problem that must be addressed. In
11 order to keep the costs of operating air conditioning and heat
12 abatement equipment in the classrooms affordable and to reduce
13 dependence on imported fossil fuels, energy efficient lighting
14 and other energy efficiency measures will also be necessary in
15 conjunction with the air conditioning and other heat abatement
16 measures.

17 In order to upgrade one thousand classrooms by the end of
18 calendar year 2016 and to cool as many classrooms as possible



1 during the hottest months, this project must proceed as quickly
2 as possible. Additionally, work done during the summer break
3 will minimize classroom disruption and constraints on contractor
4 work conditions. To facilitate this schedule, funding needs to
5 be authorized immediately to allow the permitting and
6 contracting to proceed.

7 The legislature finds that the funding is immediately
8 available to provide air conditioning and other heat abatement
9 measures for the public schools. On January 7, 2016, the
10 department of budget and finance reported to the council on
11 revenues that the State will receive approximately \$170,000,000
12 of increased reimbursements from the federal government,
13 primarily for medicaid. The \$170,000,000 increased
14 reimbursement was not anticipated by the administration when it
15 prepared the executive supplemental budget request for fiscal
16 year 2016-2017. The reimbursement is the realization of the
17 general fund.

18 The legislature further finds that the use of general funds
19 for providing air conditioning and heat abatement for public
20 schools is preferable to using green infrastructure loan funds.
21 First, the department of education will have more flexibility in



1 using general funds for air conditioning and heat abatement
2 measures. The types of projects that the department of
3 education would have been able to fund with green infrastructure
4 loan funds were unclear and apparently limited to energy
5 efficiency and conservation projects. Second, using general
6 funds instead of green infrastructure loan funds precludes the
7 need for annual debt service payments. Taxpayers who already
8 are paying a monthly green infrastructure fee on their
9 electricity bills will benefit by not having to pay back the
10 green infrastructure fund for principal as well as interest.
11 Third, the green infrastructure loan funds will remain available
12 for projects that truly promote renewable energy and energy
13 efficiency and conservation. Using the green infrastructure
14 loan funds for utility-scale projects, as recommended by the
15 consumer advocate before the public utilities commission, may be
16 a possibility in the future.

17 The purpose of this Act is to:

18 (1) Appropriate general funds for the installation of and
19 equipment for air conditioning, heat abatement, energy
20 efficient lighting, and other energy efficiency



1 measures for schools of the department of education;
2 and

3 (2) Authorize general obligation bond funds to the
4 department of education and appropriate the revenue
5 derived therefrom for the installation of and
6 equipment for air conditioning, heat abatement, energy
7 efficient lighting, and other energy efficiency
8 measures.

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000,000 or so
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 for
12 the purpose of funding capital improvement program equipment and
13 installation costs for air conditioning, other heat abatement
14 measures, energy efficient lighting, and other energy efficiency
15 measures at public schools.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
17 education for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 4. The director of finance is authorized to issue
19 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$30,000,000 or so much
20 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof
21 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2015-2016



1 for the purpose of funding capital improvement program equipment
2 and installation costs for air conditioning, other heat
3 abatement measures, energy efficient lighting, and other energy
4 efficiency measures at public schools.

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
6 education for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 5. The appropriations made under sections 3 and 4
8 shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year for which the
9 appropriations are made; provided that all moneys from the
10 appropriations unencumbered as of June 30, 2018, shall lapse as
11 of that date.

12 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Public Schools; Emergency Appropriation; GO Bonds; General Funds

Description:

Provides for air conditioning, heat abatement, and related energy efficiency measures at public schools by appropriating general funds and general obligation bond funds to the DOE for these projects. (SD2)

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