



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
DOUGLAS MURDOCK, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
FINANCE
ON
MARCH 3, 2015

H.B. 759, H.D. 1

RELATING TO COOLING SYSTEMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

Chair Luke and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on H.B. 759, H.D. 1.

Pursuant to Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) has a limited role in the repair and alterations for the Department of Education's (DOE) public school facilities. However, we recognize the value of including DAGS in the measure. As such, DAGS recommends that our participation in the comprehensive study be consultative, similar to that of the State Energy Office of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute of the University of Hawaii. This will afford DOE the full administrative oversight of their program initiatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this matter.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Tuesday, March 3, 2015
1:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
HB759, HD1

RELATING TO COOLING SYSTEMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) offers comments on this measure which directs that DBEDT consult with the Department of Education (DOE) and other state agencies to conduct a comprehensive study and develop a master strategy for the cooling of all public schools.

DBEDT has worked with the DOE on a number of efforts, such as their High Performance Schools, and will continue to do so. At present the DOE has entered into a contract with an energy company to implement the *Ka Hei* sustainable energy program. This multiyear effort will address a number of concerns before the DOE. DBEDT is ready to provide analysis on deployment options for high impact solutions consistent with our clean energy agenda and statutory responsibilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



**Conservation Council
for Hawai'i**

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i / leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



Testimony Submitted to the
House Committee on Finance

Hearing: Tuesday, March 3, 2015 11:00 am, Room 308

In Opposition to HB 1469 Relating to Disposition of Tax Revenues

Aloha, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i opposes HB 1469, which establishes maximum dollar amounts that shall be distributed among certain non-general funds from the conveyance tax, and retains a provision that the general fund receive the remainder after distribution.

HB 1469 is unnecessary. The legislature already has the authority and flexibility to revise the percentage of the conveyance tax that goes into each dedicated fund up or down in any given year. We urge you to allocate 25-50% of the conveyance tax for the Natural Area Reserve Fund, which helps protect our essential watersheds, native species habitats, forests, and recreation areas. The legislature does not give the Department of Land and Natural Resources enough money as it is to protect forest, native species habitats, and watersheds (including controlling invasive species) on ceded land. Please resist reducing this amount even further.

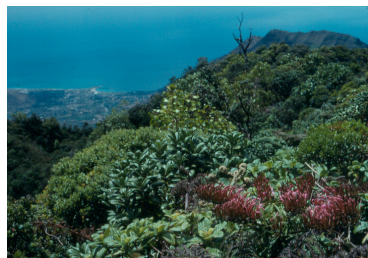
Here are photos of three Natural Area Reserves and key watersheds on ceded land – the best of the best – and all supported by the Natural Area Reserve Fund. Please kokua.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler

Marjorie Ziegler



Conservation Council for Hawai'i is a nonprofit, environmental membership organization dedicated to protecting native Hawaiian plants, animals, and ecosystems for future generations.

Established in 1950 and based in Honolulu, CCH is one of the largest and most effective wildlife organizations in Hawai'i with more than 5,000 members and supporters, including concerned citizens, educators, scientists, government agencies, and elected officials.

Through research, education, service, organizing, and legal advocacy, CCH works to stop the destruction of native wildlife and wild places in Hawai'i.

Since 1973, CCH has served as the Hawai'i state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.

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P.O. Box 2923 | Honolulu, HI 96802 | Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 220 | Honolulu, HI 96814

President: Hannah Kihalani Springer | Vice-President: Julie Leialoha | Treasurer: Bianca Isaki | Secretary: Wayne Tanaka
Directors: Rick Barboza | Ryan Belcher | Maka'ala Ka'auamoana | Koalani Kaulukukui
Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters



841 Bishop St., Suite 301
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Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

March 3, 2015

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for HB759 HD1, requiring the department of education in consultation with the Hawaii state energy office of the department of business, economic development, and tourism and the Hawaii natural energy institute of the University of Hawaii, to conduct a comprehensive study and develop a master strategy for the cooling of all public schools.

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

Our members agree that students learn best in environments that are comfortable. We have heard that at some schools, the heat is so distracting that students and teachers are not able to concentrate. We have also heard from DOE personnel that air-conditioning a school is a complex and expensive task, particularly because our school facilities are aging and were not originally designed to have air-conditioning. Therefore, we support the coordinated effort of DOE, DBEDT and the University of Hawaii working collaboratively to identify the costs and recommend a financial plan for implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

Academy 21
After-School All-Stars Hawaii
Alliance for Place Based Learning
*Castle Complex Community Council
*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS
Center for Civic Education
Coalition for Children with Special Needs
*Faith Action for Community Equity
Fresh Leadership LLC
Girl Scouts Hawaii
*Good Beginnings Alliance
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars
*Hawai'i Charter School Network
*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition
*Hawaii State PTSA
Hawai'i State Student Council
Hawai'i State Teachers Association
Hawai'i P-20
Hawai'i 3Rs
Head Start Collaboration Office
It's All About Kids
*INPEACE
Joint Venture Education Forum
Junior Achievement of Hawaii
*Kaho'omiki
Kamehameha Schools
Kanu Hawai'i
*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council
Keiki to Career Kaua'i
Kupu A'e
*Leaders for the Next Generation
Learning First
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds
Our Public School
*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning
*Parents and Children Together
*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i

Punahou School PUEO Program

Teach for America

The Learning Coalition

US PACOM

University of Hawai'i College of Education

YMCA of Honolulu

Voting Members () Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 1:30 p.m.

From: Faith Action for Community Equity (FACE)

Subject: Support for H.B. 759 HD1, Relating to Cooling Systems in Public School Facilities

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

I am Mary Weir, Co-Chair of the FACE Education Task Force. Faith Action for Community Equity (FACE) is a diverse, grassroots, interfaith, non-profit organization working on issues important to our members and all the people of Hawaii. The education of our children is of great concern to us.

FACE strongly supports H.B. 759 HD1 and the funding of a comprehensive study and the development of a master strategy to air condition our public schools.

During the warmest times of year our public school classrooms turn into ovens. We must address this issue that is affecting the education and well-being of thousands of Hawaii's children by bringing air conditioning to our public schools.

Many teachers and students have already testified about the steamy, intolerable conditions in their classrooms when noisy fans and open windows offer little or no relief. We ask that you listen to our educators and students. It is unacceptable that their pleas for relief have been ignored for so long.

It is remarkable that teachers continue to work under these stifling conditions, and that students continue to come to school at all when the temperature soars. But they come prepared to endure another sweat-filled day so they can have the opportunity to learn. We know that it is extremely difficult for students to concentrate and learn under these hot conditions. If we value our teachers and the 180,000+ students in public schools and we want them to succeed, then credit them for their perseverance and support them by improving the conditions in their classrooms.

It is time to air condition our public schools. There are ways to do it without overwhelming our energy grid or state budget. Consider alternative energy solutions, solar panels, and batteries to control our energy costs. Determine an accurate estimate of the needs and costs by surveying our schools and classrooms and find out how many classrooms actually need air conditioning, and how many schools actually need electrical upgrades before air conditioning can be installed.

Our state has the responsibility to provide a safe, healthy learning environment for our children. We urge you to take this important first step towards improving the learning environment in our public schools by supporting H.B. 759 HD1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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

LATE

KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

Date: 03/03/2015
Time: 01:30 PM
Location: 308
Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0759, HD1 RELATING TO COOLING SYSTEMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES.

Purpose of Bill: Requires DOE and DAGS, in consultation with the State Energy Office of DBEDT and Hawaii Natural Energy Institute of UH, to develop a cooling master strategy and comprehensive retrofitting study for public schools and to report findings to the Legislature. Authorizes general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for efficient classroom-cooling demonstration projects. (HB759 HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (DOE) would like to provide comments on HB759, HD1.

The DOE has begun a number of initiatives to address the issue of cooling in our classrooms, including a heat abatement study of Campbell High School. This effort is a result of a collaboration with the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute (HNEI) in which the consultant team looked at a variety of different situations to determine how best to achieve comfortable temperatures inside the classrooms. The data gathering and analysis phases of this study have been completed and final results are expected in the next thirty days. Once these results are analyzed, an implementation plan and strategy can be developed for all schools statewide and priorities can be determined.

As this study is already in development, the Department respectfully suggests that this measure would be duplicative of the work already occurring by the Department and its partners, and therefore is unnecessary.

LATE



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

**TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 759, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO COOLING
SYSTEMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES**

**House Committee on Finance
Hon. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Hon. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair**

**Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

Honorable Chairs Luke and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMU Alliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 300 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of, with proposed amendments for House Bill 759, House Draft 1, relating to cooling systems in public school facilities.

Studies show that the percentile gap between conditioned and non-conditioned environments can exceed 10 points on achievement tests, clearly evincing the impact of a comfortable environment on student success. In a longitudinal analysis contained in “Effects of the Physical Environment on Student Learning,” Glen I. Earthman of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University found that students between 4th and 9th grade at demographically similar schools showed increased gains in reading vocabulary, total math, problem solving, math procedures, pre-writing, and editing at schools with air conditioning, when compared with peers from non-conditioned schools. Moreover, Earthman demonstrated that the longer and more consistently students are exposed to thermal conditioning, the better and more stable their performance gains tend to be. Conversely, students exposed to thermal conditioning for only short or intermittent periods of time demonstrated lower achievement levels compared to their peers. These findings are supported by U.S. Department of Education sponsored research and facilities maintenance positions, which state that proper thermal conditioning systems lead to better attitudes toward learning, fewer disciplinary problems, and sustained achievement (McGuffey 1982, Cash 1993). While we applaud the Hawaii State Department of Education for requesting \$25 million in supplemental funds to cool local classrooms over the next year, previous DOE estimates of the cost to provide air conditioning at all schools currently lacking such systems have soared past \$1.5 billion. Thus, if policymakers' goal is to improve air conditioning facilities systemwide—in which temperatures at some classrooms regularly and persistently surpass 100 degrees—a long-term fiscal plan of action is imperative.

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
Executive Director
IMUAlliance



LATE

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON FINANCE

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

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015

RE: H.B. 759, H.D. 1 - RELATING TO COOLING SYSTEMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

PERSON TESTIFYING: WIL OKABE
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Sylvia Luke, Honorable Vice-Chair Scott Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports H.B. 759, H.D. 1**, relating to air-conditioning in public school facilities.

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 are hot. At times, the heat index inches closer 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 the classroom. At times, when a classroom becomes unbearable, teachers resort to turning the lights off, purchasing their own fans, and water breaks are frequent (if there is a water fountain available at the school) to name of few of the strategies to keep students comfortable as temperatures soar. Other schools are rotating students into air-conditioned libraries or computer labs to cool off, and some are even changing the day's lesson to avoid the heat and fatigue related to the environment.

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 learning environment for students and employees. The association 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 H.B. 759, H.D. 1**.