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TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 3126, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hon. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Hon. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair**

**Monday, February 29, 2016, 9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

Honorable Chair Tokuda and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that boasts over 350 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony **in strong support of** Senate Bill 3126, SD1, proposed SD2, relating to public schools.

If schools is cool, our classrooms should be, too. Yet, last year, classroom temperatures regularly exceeded 90 degrees, reaching as high as 108 degrees in one Kalaheo High School classroom. Studies show that the achievement gap between cooled and non-cooled classroom environments can reach 17 percent on standardized tests. While local schools' outdated electrical infrastructure often cannot support traditional air conditioning technology, experiments in renewable energy cooling systems have lowered departmental projections for comprehensive cooling. Using available energy efficient technology—including on-grid, off-grid, microgrid, and photovoltaic technology—could reduce the cost of classroom cooling to \$20,000, or a total of \$140 million for the 7,000 classrooms currently in need. Therefore, we strongly support passage of the proposed SD2 version of this measure, which funds classroom cooling for this fiscal year in the amount of \$130 million, financed through \$100 million in general revenue (from federal government's Medicaid reimbursements) and \$30 million in general obligation bonds. We additionally request that you note in your committee report a desire to see the bill fast-tracked by your House colleagues, so that it can be approved and funds released as soon as possible.

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

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: engcabo@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3126 on Feb 29, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Sunday, February 28, 2016 10:46:02 PM

SB3126

Submitted on: 2/28/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 29, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kahealani Engcabo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To Whom It May Concern: I am writing in regards to SB 3126 with hopes that I can make a difference in the passing of the bill. My child is a second grader within our public school system I am concerned as to what El Nino might have for us in the upcoming Summer of 2016. Last Summer into Fall may have been the worse heat I've ever felt here and it was quite unbearable even at night. My son suffered several nose bleeds throughout the weeks from the heat when he was at school. I feared one day that I was going to get a call from the health aid or even worse the hospital informing me that my child passed out from exhaustion. I thank god that day never ever came. However, with El Nino being unpredictable and approaching again soon, I fear that this summer might be another scorching hot one for all of us. My main concern though is the kids and how this heat will affect their daily learning abilities. I know my son will not be able to concentrate if it is hot again in his classroom, as the heat really affects his cognitive functions and he is usually a great learner and excellent student. Passing this bill will mean so much to me as the safety and concern of our children should be the communities main concern. I feel we need to do what we can to protect them from any type of harm even when the harm is coming from mother nature herself.

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February 28, 2016

To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani
And members of the Committee on Education

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye
And members of the Committee on Transportation and Energy

Testimony In Support of SB3126 SD1 Relating To Public Schools

Hearing Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 at 9:00am Hearing Place: Conference Room 211

My name is Megan Kinoshita and I am currently obtaining a Bachelors Degree in Social Work through the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am submitting independent testimony in support of SB3126 SD1, which seeks to provide air conditioning, heat abatement, and related energy efficiency measures at public schools by authorizing a loan from the green infrastructure loan program to the departments of education and budget and finance, and makes appropriations for expenditure of borrowed funds, additional capital improvements and the initial loan repayment.

Studies show that high classroom temperatures as well as low classroom temps, can affect a student's ability to learn and function. A study done by an undergrad at Loyola University found that air temperature has an impact on memory ability. Using a computer generated memory test, 52 students randomly participated in memory tests in rooms with varying temperatures. Room temperatures were set at 72, 80, and 64 degrees F. The outcome showed that in the environment with temperatures of 80 or 64 degrees, memory was impacted negatively. Test scores were significantly higher in the classroom where the temperatures were 72 degrees.

According to research, when temperatures are too hot or too cold, the brain is constantly reminding the body to do something about that condition. This constant interruption, makes it harder for students to stay focused. Therefore, I hope that this bill is passed immediately, so these funds will allow the department to install air conditioners, heat abatement and related efficiency measures at public school classrooms utilizing Green Energy Market Securitizations (GEMS) financing, to create a comfortable and productive learning environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 3126.

Megan Kinoshita
megankin@hawaii.edu

All public schools should have the right amount of funds provided to install air conditioning and all other related energy efficient measures. It is almost unethical to believe that the state of Hawaii has schools that do not have air conditioning systems in their public schools. The weather conditions as we all have experienced have been rising and continue to rise each year. Along with all everything else that should be provided to receive a fair and appropriate education, being comfortable and providing air conditioning should be a main priority. In the heat people are more susceptible to infection, discomfort and to become tired, so why would we want to provide such an uncomfortable environment for our future generations. Anything related to providing a better education in the state of Hawaii should be introduced and as soon as possible.

Not only for the students that are learning and trying to receive an education, but also for the instructors that would have to bare a classroom of students that already may not have interest to learn. By having these type of conditions it makes students want to be anywhere but studying. Being surrounded by water and once being that age, if I felt uncomfortable and was sweating all day I would prefer to ditch class and be surfing. We should do everything and anything to make education a priority and by not having air conditioning in class rooms makes me feel like Hawaii is a third world country. We live in the United States, so this should not be a question to provide something such as an appropriate environment where our future wants to stay in class and learn.