

THE HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2018

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Representative Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Friday, February 2, 2018  
TIME OF HEARING: 2:10 p.m.  
PLACE OF HEARING: State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Conference Room 309

**TESTIMONY ON HB2510 RELATING TO SCHOOLS**

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,  
State Director of the United Public Workers (UPW),  
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO. The UPW is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 12,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and four counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

HB2510 appropriates funds to the Department of Education for the installation of air conditioning in public schools that prioritize the project. The UPW fully supports this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

**HB-2510**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:15:29 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/2/2018 2:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaulana Dameg		Support	No

Comments:

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO  
SUPERINTENDENT

**LATE**

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

**Date:** 02/02/2018  
**Time:** 02:10 PM  
**Location:** 309  
**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 2510 RELATING TO SCHOOLS.

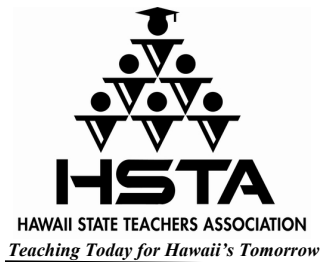
**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to install air conditioning in public schools that prioritize the project.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education supports HB 2510 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Education approved budget. HB 2510 would provide funding expressly intended for air conditioning. This source of funding would allow the DOE to continue to move forward with cooling more classrooms using the existing project delivery systems which has, to date, installed over 6,000 classrooms with A/C's in Hawaii's public school statewide system.

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

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION

RE: HB 2510 - RELATING TO SCHOOLS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports HB 2510**, relating to schools.

With the \$100 million appropriated by the State Legislature in 2016, Hawai'i State Department of Education officials cooled approximately 1,300 classrooms, exceeding Gov. David Ige's goal of providing air condition to 1,000 classrooms. Yet, we should be clear: 1,000 classrooms is a good start, but thousands more remain, with teachers and their students still sweating through the day in conditions that, according to National Weather Service heat safety guidelines, are unsafe and unsuitable for learning. We must not let them continue to suffer. We must maximize revenue to expand the DOE's heat abatement program to other sweltering schools.

As you know, initial contractor bids for the \$100 million appropriation were exorbitant, running into the hundreds of thousands of dollars per classroom. DOE officials rejected those bids and expanded their pool of pre-qualified applicants. Unfortunately, the DOE was only able to bring the average cost of classroom cooling down to \$80,000 to \$90,000. This is unacceptable. Last April, NextEra Energy Hawai'i donated 33 hybrid solar air-conditioning units to Kaunakakai Elementary and Kilohana Elementary schools on Moloka'i. Greenpath Technologies Inc., a Honolulu-based renewable energy company, performed the installations at a cost of \$20,000 per classroom, verifying that classroom cooling could be accomplished at significant cost savings. Moreover, 4,000 classrooms were cooled prior to the \$100

million appropriation when teacher and schools took it upon themselves to resolve overheating problems by purchasing and installing air conditioning units.

There is no reason, then, that the state should find \$100,000 per classroom to be an agreeable amount for classroom cooling. Accordingly, we are asking your committee to approve this measure to approve additional funding for the thousands of classrooms that remain in need of heat abatement. Coupled with HB 2484, which requires at least 50 percent of the department's heat abatement funding to be made available to schools for energy-efficient classroom cooling projects, this measure would provide comfort to thousands of children at risk of heat exhaustion—including, potentially, by allowing schools to enter into public-private partnerships to implement future cooling upgrades—without jeopardizing DOE's goal of becoming net-zero with regard to energy use by 2035.

Heat abatement is needed now. To ensure that our students have safe and comfortable classrooms in which to learn, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



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

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**TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 2510, RELATING TO SCHOOLS**

**House Committee on Education  
Hon. Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Hon. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair**

**Friday, February 2, 2018, 2:10 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309**

Honorable Chair Woodson and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 400 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of House Bill 2510, relating to schools.

If school is cool, then our classrooms should be, too. Yet, classroom temperatures regularly exceeded 90 degrees, reaching as high as 108 degrees in one Kalaheo High School classroom in 2016. 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. We continue to believe that using available energy efficient technology—including on-grid, off-grid, microgrid, and photovoltaic technology—*should* reduce the cost of classroom cooling to \$20,000, or a total of \$140 million for the approximately 7,000 classrooms currently in need.

Therefore, we strongly support passage of this measure, which provides additional funds to the Hawai'i State Department of Education for heat abatement. During the 2016 legislative session, lawmakers appropriated \$100 million for heat abatement, heeding Gov. David Ige's call to cool 1,000 classrooms by the end of the 2016-2017 school year. Available estimates of \$20,000 per classroom indicated, at the time, that \$100 million would cover heat abatement for thousands of classrooms beyond the governor's call. Unfortunately, contractor bids have been higher than expected. During the initial round of bidding, the "highest low bid," meaning the highest bid on a project that was also lower than all bids on the same project, was \$135,000. Other bids were even higher. Contech Engineering submitted a bid of \$360,770, for example, to install solar-powered air conditioning in one portable at Ewa Beach Elementary, a project for which the lowest initial bid was \$102,000.

DOE officials subsequently rejected all exorbitant bids and expanded their pool of pre-qualified applicants. Since that time, the average cost of heat abatement projects has declined, with projects now running \$60,000 to \$70,000 per classroom. Contractors cite labor shortages and the cost of upgrading energy efficiency infrastructure as reasons for the extra expense, noting that policymakers also required the DOE, last year, to set a goal of becoming net-zero with regard to energy use by 2035. Today, the department officials plan to cool roughly 1,300 classrooms with the \$100 million appropriated in 2016 (actually, \$125 million, with carryover funds also used to fund heat abatement projects), an average cost of \$70,000-\$80,000+ per classroom. In April of 2016, however, after NextEra Energy Hawai'i donated 33 hybrid solar air-conditioning units to Kaunakakai Elementary and Kilohana Elementary schools on Moloka'i, Greenpath Technologies Inc., a Honolulu-based renewable energy company, performed air conditioner installations at a cost of \$20,000 per classroom, showing that classroom cooling can be accomplished sustainably and at a reasonable cost.

Thus, we believe that while DOE's current heat abatement project costs are unnecessarily excessive, the process of awarding contracts for heat abatement work during a booming construction market, along with the need to maximize renewable energy reliance throughout the state, clearly demonstrates the need for an additional, dedicated, and recurrent funding for the DOE's heat abatement program. We ask that as you move this measure forward, you consider additional proposals to ensure that the department's heat abatement program remains sustainable for the long-term.

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

Sincerely,  
Kris Coffield  
*Executive Director*  
IMUAlliance

**HB-2510**

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 2:02:43 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/2/2018 2:10:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments: