



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

**Date:** 02/14/2019

**Time:** 02:35 PM

**Location:** 309

**Committee:** House Lower & Higher  
Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education919

**Title of Bill:** HB 1465 RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds to be used by the Department of Education for the repair and maintenance of public school buildings, grounds, and facilities in the State.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education supports HB 1465. The Hawaii Three R's program is an effective way to provide needed maintenance at our schools and foster community engagement with our families and business partners. Furthermore, the program reduces the draw on fiscal and human resources of the Office of School Facilities and Support Services.

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

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).



**Repair, Remodel, Restore Our Schools**

To: The Honorable Justin Woodson, Chair  
and Members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education

Date: Thursday, February 14, 2019

Time: 2:35 P.M.

Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

From: Linda Chu Takayama  
Secretary/Treasurer, Hawaii 3Rs

Re: H.B. 1465, Relating to Public Schools

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, my name is Linda Chu Takayama, and I am the Secretary/Treasurer of Hawaii 3Rs. Hawaii 3Rs is a private nonprofit started by the late U.S. Senator Dan Inouye in 2001. It stands for Repair, Remodel and Restore our Schools. In the last 18 years at least one project has been completed in almost every school in the State...and every project was one taken off the DoE backlog list. Over the years, we estimate about 500 projects were completed at a savings of about \$40 million to the state.

Work completed has spanned the gamut of the backlog list; from major overhaul of termite-ridden classrooms into science labs to replacement of dangerous electrical outlets near classroom sinks. Other projects have included campus beautification – planting grass sods, installing irrigation systems, re-stripping parking lots and painting non-skid walkways between classes.

The underlying concept behind Hawaii 3Rs was the belief that schools would benefit and the backlog would be reduced if we could marry community volunteerism (“sweat equity”) with professional expertise paid for with grant dollars from Hawaii 3Rs.

Most of the funding for 3Rs comes from private donations and a \$2 check off from tax refunds (line 43a, Hawaii Schools Repairs and Maintenance fund).

Although the lack of Federal funding in more recent years has caused the program to scale back on the number, size and complexity of projects undertaken annually, Hawaii 3R’s has, over the years, perfected the review and approval process to address repair and maintenance projects at DOE schools in collaboration with the DOE itself.. We would like to use our experience to scale up the program again, especially in light of recent news reports that the DOE’s backlog is now estimated to be in excess of \$800 million.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



## HAWAII REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

House Committee on Lower & Higher Education  
The Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 14, 2019  
2:35 PM, State Capitol Room 309

HB1465 – Relating to Public Schools

Statement of the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters – Support for HB1465

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters supports HB1465, which appropriates \$5,000,000 for the next two fiscal years for the Hawaii 3R's school improvement fund for the repair and maintenance of public school buildings, grounds, and facilities in the State.

The Hawaii 3R's program has been very effective in helping the Department of Education to address its extensive repair & maintenance backlog since it was started in 2001. Through this program, the 3R's fund provides small grants to schools throughout the State, and volunteers from business, community, military, student, and other organizations provide manpower to complete minor projects such as repainting classrooms, refurbishing playgrounds, replanting fields and gardens, and installing computer equipment. The 3R's Board reviews all project requests to ensure that they comply with applicable departmental standards.

We appreciate the work of the 3R's board and organization, its numerous volunteers and donors, and the Department of Education for their efforts to improve our public schools.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide these comments.

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**HB-1465**

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 3:31:40 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/14/2019 2:35:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
alan oshima	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Good Afternoon Chair Woodson, Vice-Chairs Hashem and Perruso, and members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education. I am testifying in support of HB1465 in my role as President of Hawaii 3Rs and as a long-time supporter of public education in Hawaii. We are proud that the combination of "sweat equity" in the form of school community volunteers paired with business, contractors, unions, government and community financial support has worked on the backlog of school repairs and maintenance for over 10 years, saving the state more than \$40 million to date. More importantly, it has involved students, teachers, faculty and community members working together for the good of public schools. HB1465 will support the continuation of the community based improvement of our aging public school facilities. Please vote in favor of this bill. Mahalo, Alan Oshima

**HB-1465**

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 9:33:57 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/14/2019 2:35:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Norman Sakamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Woodson and Members,

This testimony is in Stong Support of HB1465.

Hawaii Three R's has been extremely effective in stretching funds to repair schools by partnering with schools, community groups, businesses, individuals and other organizations to have one dollar in cash produce results far more than the one dollar-two, three or more times in estimated vallue to the school and students.

Please fully support the funds to Hawaii Three R's.

Blessings,

Norman Sakamoto

1248 Ala Mahamoe St

Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

**HB-1465**

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 12:10:59 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/14/2019 2:35:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony of  
Christopher Delaunay, Government Relations Manager  
Pacific Resource Partnership

**LATE**

House Committee on Lower & Higher Education  
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair  
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

HB 1465 Relating to Public Schools

Thursday, February 14, 2019  
2:35 P.M.  
State Capitol – Room 309

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Perruso, and members of the Committee:

Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) **strongly supports** HB 1465, which appropriates \$5 million for the next two fiscal years to be deposited into the Hawaii 3R's School Improvement Fund (Fund) for the repair and maintenance of public school buildings, grounds, and facilities in Hawaii.

Hawaii 3R's, a Hawaii nonprofit, has established meaningful partnerships with volunteers from business, neighborhoods, military and student organizations who provide "sweat equity" matched with dollars from Hawaii 3R's to complete projects which improve the quality of Hawaii's public schools for our children and youth.

The \$5 million appropriation for the next two fiscal years is a worthwhile investment for the State for the following reasons:

- Hawaii 3R's has a track record of success—it has completed hundreds of projects and saved the State millions of dollars
- Hawaii 3R's could assist with the repair and maintenance of DOE's aging facilities—The DOE is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest school district in the nation (292 schools) consisting of facilities with an average school age of 65+ years
- Hawaii 3R's could help with the DOE's current repair and maintenance backlog which is approximately \$868 million (as of December 2018)

As such, we respectfully ask for your favorable passage of HB 1465. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

