



LATE

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

Date: 02/11/2019
Time: 03:30 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 1303 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS.

Purpose of Bill: Part I: Allows the department of education to lease public school lands for a term of not more than ninety-nine years per lease. Part II: Amends Act 210, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, by adding an additional parcel to the list of transferred lands from the city and county of Honolulu to the department of education. Part III: Amends Act 206, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, to allow the city and county of Honolulu to transfer lands under existing department of education facilities directly to the department of education, rather than to the department of land and natural resources.

Department's Position:
The Department of Education (DOE) supports SB 1303. The DOE was provided the authority to develop its assets, to create twenty-first century schools, through Act 155, Sessions Law of Hawaii 2013. In the DOE's efforts to move projects forward for development, the DOE regularly faced the issue of land ownership. With the passing of Act 206, SLH 2017 and Act 210, SLH 2018 the DOE now has greater authority over public school land and has begun to draw together a process for development of select properties.
This bill seeks to amend each of these Acts to better accommodate both the development of public school lands and the transfer of these properties to the DOE. These changes will ensure more timely results and greater potential for development.

Thank you for this opportunity to present 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.



**TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
415 South Beretania Street
3:30 PM**

February 11, 2019

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 1303, RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and members of the committee:

My name is Gladys Quinto-Marrone, CEO of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. Our members build the communities we all call home.

BIA-Hawaii is in **strong support** of S.B. 1303, which proposes to amend prior legislation. The bill proposes the following:

- Part I: Allows the Department of Education (DOE) to lease public school lands for a term of not more than ninety-nine years per lease.
- Part II: Amends Act 210, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, by adding an additional parcel to the list of transferred lands from the city and county of Honolulu to the DOE.
- Part III: Amends Act 206, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, to allow the City and County of Honolulu to transfer lands under existing DOE facilities directly to the DOE, rather than to the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

We understand that the purpose of Act 155 was to optimize the use of public school lands to generate opportunities to improve public school facilities and infrastructure to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century, and to improve the overall quality of education in Hawaii. In particular, Act 155 established a pilot program to generate revenue from uses for public purposes, such as workforce housing, to build and retrofit twenty-first century schools, and create more school-centered communities. The pilot program laid important groundwork for a statewide approach and plan to optimize public school lands and modernize public school facilities.

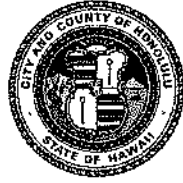
This bill addresses some of the challenges the DOE faces in attempting to redevelop its school facilities. One of the major challenges was the ownership of the land under the DOE facilities. Act 206 addressed this by allowing DOE to own lands in-fee. As a landowner, we understand that DOE has been working with the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) to assist in the redevelopment of the DOE facilities. DOE's success in the implementation of Act 155 will provide opportunities increase the supply of housing on existing urban lands throughout the state.

We are in strong support of S.B. 1303, and appreciate the opportunity provide comments.

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

636 South Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5007
Phone: 808-723-7139 Fax: 808-723-7111 Internet: www.honolulu.gov/hfd

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



MANUEL P. NEVES
FIRE CHIEF
LIONEL CAMARA JR.
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

February 11, 2019

The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair
Committee on Education
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kidani:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 1303 Relating to Public Lands

I am Manuel P. Neves, Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD opposes a section of SB 1303, which proposes to optimize the use of public school lands to generate opportunities to improve public school facilities and infrastructure to meet the challenges of the 21st Century and improve the overall quality of education in Hawaii.

Our concerns are with Part II, amending Act 210, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018 that adds a parcel to the list of transferred lands from the City and County of Honolulu to the Department of Education (DOE).

The DOE seeks to gain fee simple interest, including the existing improvements, to a parcel identified by tax map key 2-4-002-019 (student transportation service office - Young Street). The HFD identified the parcel as a future location for a public safety facility serving the growing Kakaako-Ala Moana areas.

The HFD determined that increased residential and transient populations, proposed high-rise residential structures, and additional commercial development necessitate the need for a new facility. The Kakaako Fire Station is over 40 years old and was not designed to accommodate the proposed growth.

The HFD is committed to meeting national standards for the delivery of first responder services. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is the industry leader in determining acceptable fire service standards throughout the United States. The HFD

The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair
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strives to achieve this objective by meeting the criteria set forth in NFPA 1710: Standard for Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments.

NFPA 1710 mandates that the travel time for the first-arriving unit responding to emergencies in urban communities, such as the Kakaako-Ala Moana area, be within four minutes. Every minute of increased travel time exacerbates the seriousness of an emergency placing first responders and the community at greater risk.

Life, safety, and property protection is the top priority for the HFD. The Young Street parcel is an ideal site for a new fire station that will optimize the delivery of emergency services to the growing Kakaako-Ala Moana community.

The HFD urges your committee to amend Part II to exclude the identified parcel in SB 1303, as introduced.

Should you have questions, please contact Assistant Chief Nathan Ramos, Jr. of our Planning and Development division at 723-7106 or nramos@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,



MANUEL P. NEVES
Fire Chief

MPN/NR:ms