



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

**Date:** 01/31/2019  
**Time:** 02:00 PM  
**Location:** 309  
**Committee:** House Lower & Higher  
Education  
House Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 0917 RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL LANDS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the City and County of Honolulu to transfer to the Department of Education fee simple title to the property on which the Department's Student Transportation Service Office - Young Street is located. Appropriates funds.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 917. The Department was provided the authority to develop its assets to create twenty-first century schools through Act 155, Sessions Law of Hawaii, 2013. In the Department's efforts to move projects forward for development, the Department regularly faces the the issue of land ownership.

Thank you for the 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](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).



**LATE**

**TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEES ON LOWER AND HIGHER EDUCATION,  
AND WATER, LAND AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309  
415 South Beretania Street  
2:00 and 2:05 PM**

January 31, 2019

RE: HB 917 AND HB 918, RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL LANDS

Chairs Yamane and Woodson, Vice Chairs Todd, Hashem, and Perruso, and members of the committees:

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.

BIA-HAWAII is in **strong support** of H.B. 917 which requires the City and County of Honolulu to transfer to the Department of Education fee simple title to the property on which the Department's Student Transportation Service Office - Young Street is located, and H.B. 918 which extends the lease term for public-school lands from 55 to 99 years.

We understand that both bills are required to implement Act 155, SLH 2013 which allowed the Department of Education to redevelop the lands on which its various school facilities were located for new 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools, to generate revenue for the Department, and/or a combination of both.

The number of students enrolled at the public schools in Hawaii ranges from between 170,000 to 180,000 each year. However, the distribution of students has changed over the years with more students coming from newly developed areas and less coming from older communities.

Act 155 and the two bills being proposed will allow the Department to reposition its assets, and provided much needed land for redevelopment in the urban core. We believe the two bills are necessary to allow the Department to fully realize the redevelopment opportunities to the State.

We are in strong support of both H.B. 917 and H.B. 918, and appreciate the opportunity to express our views on this matter.



# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the House Committees on Lower & Higher Education  
And Water, Land & Hawaiian  
Thursday, January 31, 2018 at 2:30 P.M. & 2:05 P.M.  
Conference Room 309, State Capitol**

**LATE**

**RE: HOUSE BILL 917 & HB 918 RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL LANDS**

Chairs Yamane & Woodson, Vice Chairs Todd & Hashem and Members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 917 which requires the City & County of Honolulu to transfer the Department of Education fee simple title to the property on which the Department's Student Transportation Service Office – Young Street is located. HB 918 extends the lease term for public-school lands from 55 to 99 years.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

We understand that both bills are required to implement Act 155, SLH 2013 which allowed the Department of Education to redevelop the lands on which its various school facilities were located for new 21st Century Schools, to generate revenue for the Department, and/or a combination of both.

The number of students enrolled at the public schools in Hawaii ranges from between 170,000 to 180,000 each year. However, the distribution of where the students are coming from has changed over the years with more students coming from newly developed areas and less coming from older communities.

Act 155 and the two bills being proposed will allow the Department to reposition its assets and provided much needed land for redevelopment in the urban core. We believe the two bills are necessary to allow the Department to fully realize the redevelopment opportunities to the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.