



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

**Date:** 01/31/2019

**Time:** 02:05 PM

**Location:** 309

**Committee:** House Water, Land, & Hawaiian  
Affairs

House Lower & Higher Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 0918 RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL LANDS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Extends the lease term for public-school lands from 55 to 99 years.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 918. Through Act 155, SLH 2013, the Department was provided the authority to develop its assets to provide revenue for twenty-first century school improvements. The 55 year lease term, established by the original legislation, effectively limits development financing. The extended term, set forth in HB 918, would allow for the development of a leasehold "for sale" product, which would increase potential revenue and housing for the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit 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).



# 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.