

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/27/2023

Time: 11:30 AM

Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0896, HD1 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the Department of Education to assess its facilities and provide the legislature with a list of priority facilities in each county at which the installation of renewable energy systems on school facilities would provide the most benefit, provide a list of priority play areas on school campuses in each county that are most in need of covered play areas to protect children from over-exposure to heat and ultraviolet rays, and assess and report on the feasibility of including renewable energy systems on play area covers on school campuses. Requires a report to the legislature. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 896 HD 1.

The Department agrees that the rising cost of energy across the state and the nation have created greater incentives to moving towards alternative energy sources. Renewable energy systems can help to offset utility bills and reduce our state's reliance on fossil fuels.

The Department has a prioritized list of schools for the installation of photovoltaic systems based upon their load profiles and looks forward to sharing this information with the legislature.

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

HB-896-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2023 7:02:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Kaua'i Climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Another way to low are greenhouse gase emissions by getting PV panels at our schools. Added benefit is shade they can provide over the playgrounds and a cost savings for DOE. This is a student supported bill.



To: The Honorable Chair Kyle Yamashita, the Honorable Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: **Hearing HB896 HD1 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Hearing: Monday February 27, 2023, 11:30 a.m., room 308

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Climate Protectors Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORT HB896 HD1.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i seek to educate and engage the local community in climate change action, to help Hawai'i show the world the way back to a safe and stable climate.

HB896 HD1 appropriates funds to the Department of Education to assess its facilities and report to the Legislature on priorities in each county for covering play areas and including renewable energy systems on the covers. High costs for electricity are a problem across the State, including at schools. Installing solar photovoltaics will lower the energy costs.

This will also provide shading over playgrounds to protect keiki from mid-day sun. Taking advantage of solar photovoltaics at schools will be an important part of meeting Hawaii's one hundred per cent renewable energy target in 2045 and our target to be carbon negative as soon as practicable, but not later than 2045 .

Please pass HB896 HD!!

Mahalo for providing the opportunity to testify!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



To: The House Committee on Finance (FIN)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Monday, February 27, 2023, 11:30am

In support of HB896 HD1

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the FIN Committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org is in **support of HB896 HD1** which requires the Department of Education to assess its facilities and provide the legislature with a list of priority facilities in each county at which the installation of renewable energy systems on school facilities would provide the most benefit, provide a list of priority play areas on school campuses in each county that are most in need of covered play areas to protect children from over-exposure to heat and ultraviolet rays, and assess and report on the feasibility of including renewable energy systems on play area covers on school campuses.

Rising energy costs across the State have led to increased spending for utilities. Installing solar photovoltaics will provide shading over playgrounds while it lowers energy costs. Further, taking advantage of solar photovoltaics will be an important part of meeting Hawaii's one hundred per cent renewable energy target. Efforts towards achieving this outcome such as those outlined in this measure are a win:win!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this bill.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

HB-896-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 6:59:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of. Thank you.

HB-896-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 7:04:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB896 for **PV Panels at Schools**

- Decrease energy costs at DOE schools
- Importance of shading on playgrounds
- Aid the state in its transition to clean energy

HB-896-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 2:02:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Morin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee members,

I SUPPORT HB896 HD1.

Sincerely,
Noel Morin
Climate, Sustainability, and Resilience Advocate
Hilo

HB-896-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 5:47:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virginia Tincher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Members of the FIN Committee,

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of HB896 HD1.

For Hawaii public schools photovoltaic panels on playgrounds is an opportunity to provide shade and decrease energy costs. I experienced the benefits myself when visiting a public park at Mono Lake in California with a solar panel covered picnic area.

It's important to approach this opportunity in an equitable way. An assessment of schools based on need for shade is a fair approach.

I urge you to pass HB896 HD1.

Virginia Tincher

Aina Haina, Oahu

HB-896-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 8:36:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Bernstein	HECA Decarbonization of Buildings Task Force	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitigawa, and Members of the Finance Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **strong support** of HB896 HD1. This Act will do the following:

- Decrease energy costs at DOE schools
- Provide more protection for students from the higher temperatures we are experiencing by providing shading on playgrounds
- Aid the state in its transition to clean energy

Please pass this bill out of your committee.

Respectfully,

Paul Bernstein

Chair of HECA's Decarbonization of Buildings Task Force

HB-896-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 8:37:39 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Geyer	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Support of HB 896

When places like schools have solar plus battery installed, they can serve as power centers in emergency situations, which can be life saving.

On top of that, these installations will pay for themselves in reduced energy bills over time.

Furthermore, pollution reduction results in cleaner air for all of us to breathe, and doing our part to reduce climate changing emissions is beneficial to everyone.