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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
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EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2862

February 4, 2022
3:00 p.m.
Room 229 and Videoconference

RELATING TO EDUCATION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2862 appropriates \$40,000,000 in general funds in FY 23 for the installation of air conditioning in those Hawai'i public school classrooms that have not received air conditioning units.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



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

Date: 02/04/2022

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2862 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds to DOE to install air conditioning units for public school classrooms that have not received air conditioning units.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2862 to appropriate funds for the air conditioning installation in public school classrooms.

Schools Directed Air Conditioning (SDAC) is the Department's program for cooling classrooms.

Approximately 6,000 of 11,000 classrooms have window air conditioning. Of the 5,000 classrooms without air conditioning, approximately 60%, or 3,000 classrooms, have sufficient electrical capacity to install window units. The estimated cost for 3,000 classrooms is \$24 million in one-time costs and \$5.3 million in recurring annual electricity costs. The remaining 2,000 classrooms may require electrical upgrades using additional general or CIP funds. This will also incur approximately \$3.5 million in recurring annual electricity costs.

The SDAC initiative was started in August 2018 based upon the following process:

1. Reduce the electrical load at classrooms with the installation of 700,000 light emitting diode (LED) bulbs statewide. LEDs represent a 62.5% energy savings at the classrooms;
2. Determine the electrical capacity for window air conditioning by building. To date, 690 electrical assessments of buildings have been completed with 257 in process.

3. Install basic classroom window units by schools. To date, 3,342 air conditioning units have been installed with 778 in progress; and
4. Update information at <https://www.hidoefacilities.org/portalSDAC.php>.

The Department appreciates this proposal and the inclusion of funding but asks that any additional funding does not affect the Department's top budget priorities to restore funds that were reduced as a result of the fiscal fallout from COVID-19 and funding of existing budget shortfalls that were included in the Department's supplemental budget request. Without those funds, the Department will face severe constraints on its ability to continue to promote equity and access to needed resources and support for all schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



Osa Tui, Jr.
President
Logan Okita.
Vice President
Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 2862 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 2862**, relating to education. This bill appropriates funds to DOE to install air conditioning units for public school classrooms that have not received air conditioning units.

HSTA supports any and all complexes to have funds appropriated to install air conditioning in their schools. As part of ensuring air quality for our students, air conditioning is a part of that goal. However, we ask that you also consider more air purification measures too, during these pandemic times.

We thank you for your past support to cool our schools and ensure air quality, but more needs to be done to complete this task. It is not complete yet, and our students, teachers, and staff are still suffering. Some teachers in our schools continue to have seven fans in their classrooms and it is still like a convection oven, just blowing around hot air. It is not o.k. We need to protect our keiki and not allow them to suffer in their classrooms. They need to be comfortable so that they can focus on their learning, not their extreme discomfort. We also need to protect their health, thus the reason we are also asking for air filtration measures as well.

In a longitudinal analysis contained in “Effects of the Physical Environment on Student Learning,” moreover, Glen I. Earthman of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University found that students between 4th and 9th grade at demographically similar schools showed increased gains in reading vocabulary, total math, problem solving, math procedures, pre-writing, and editing at schools with air conditioning, as compared with peers from non-cooled schools. Earthman demonstrated that the longer and more consistently students are exposed to classroom cooling, the better and more stable their performance gains tend to be. Conversely, students exposed to thermal conditioning for only short or intermittent periods of time achieved less than their peers. These findings are supported by U.S. Department of Education sponsored research, which claims that proper cooling systems lead to better attitudes toward learning, fewer disciplinary problems, and sustained achievement.

School should be cool. To make our classrooms more suitable for student learning, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

RE: SB 2862- RELATING TO EDUCATION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021

TESTIMONY FROM: COREY ROSENLEE, TEACHER CAMPBELL HIGH

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

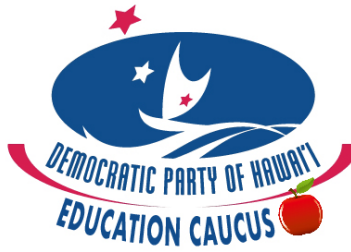
I strongly support SB2862

The legislature, Chair Kidani and members of this committee have taken great strides to make sure that Hawaii's keiki learn in a conducive learning environment.

- In 2016 the legislature passed and Gov. Ige signed ACT 47 funding \$100 million for air conditioning.
- In 2017 the legislature passed and the Governor signed ACT 57 allowing the DOE to borrow \$46.4 million of GEM funding for "energy-efficient lighting and other energy-efficiency measures."
- In 2019 the DOE changed their policy to allow the use of energy efficient wall units in classrooms, which dramatically lowered the cost per classroom.
- In 2021 the legislature passed HB613, which would have appropriated financing for finishing air conditioning in our schools, which unfortunately was vetoed by Gov. Ige.

There are approximately 5000 classrooms in Hawaii that lack air conditioning, but because of the work of this legislature approximately 80% now have the capacity to put in energy efficient wall ac units. The DOE estimates that the cost for those units would be about \$8000 per unit installed. While not all classrooms have the capacity we could finish the long project of installing ac in most of our classrooms with an appropriation of \$40 million.

With the unique situation of the state surplus and the requirements of ESSER funding, the state has the opportunity to finally finish the goal of making sure our students never have to learn in a hot classroom again.



SENATE BILL 2862, RELATING TO EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 4, 2022 · SENATE EDUCATION
COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. MICHELLE N. KIDANI

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports SB 2862, relating to education, which appropriates funds to DOE to install air conditioning units for public school classrooms that have not received air conditioning units.

If school is cool, then our classrooms should be, too. Yet, last year, classroom temperatures regularly exceeded 100 degrees and have reached as high as 108 degrees in one Kalaheo High School classroom in recent years. **Studies show that the achievement gap between cooled and non-cooled classroom environments can reach 17 percent on standardized tests.**

While local schools' outdated electrical infrastructure often cannot support traditional air conditioning technology, experiments in renewable energy cooling systems have lowered departmental projections for comprehensive cooling. We continue to believe that using available energy efficient technology—including on-grid, off-grid, microgrid, and photovoltaic technology—**should reduce the cost of air conditioning installation to approximately \$6,000 to \$8,000 per classroom or a total of \$40 million for the roughly 5,000 classrooms currently in need.**

During the 2016 legislative session, lawmakers appropriated \$100 million for heat abatement, heeding Gov. David Ige's call to cool 1,000 classrooms by the end of the 2016-2017 school year.

Available estimates of \$20,000 per classroom indicated that \$100 million would cover heat abatement for thousands of classrooms beyond the governor's call. Unfortunately, contractor bids were higher than expected. During the initial round of bidding, the "highest low bid," meaning the highest bid on a project that was also lower than all bids on the same project, was \$135,000. Other bids were even higher. Contech Engineering submitted a bid of \$360,770, for example, to install solar-powered air conditioning in one portable at Ewa Beach Elementary, a project for which the lowest initial bid was \$102,000. At the time, however, NextEra Energy Hawai'i donated 33 hybrid solar air-conditioning units to Kaunakakai Elementary and Kilohana Elementary schools on Moloka'i, Greenpath Technologies Inc., a Honolulu-based renewable energy company, installed the units at a cost of \$20,000 per classroom, verifying that classroom cooling could be accomplished sustainably and at significant cost savings. Since then, the cost of air conditioner installation and maintenance that employs renewable technology has declined even more.

Three years ago, HIDOE officials announced an ambitious plan to lower air conditioning installation costs even further. Under a new, streamlined process, HIDOE is now giving school leaders the power to request an electrical assessment from the department to determine if their classrooms have the electrical capacity for additional air conditioning units. If they do, then schools can budget for installation, partner with community groups for equipment donations and installation services, and install split AC and hybrid units that dramatically undercut previous heat abatement costs. Quite frankly, this is what HIDOE leaders should have been doing all along.

Kris Coffield · Chairperson, DPH Education Caucus · (808) 679-7454 · kriscoffield@gmail.com

SB-2862

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:37:26 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ann Mahi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As the former Complex Area Superintendent of the Nanakuli-Waianae Complex Area, the issue of heat abatement and successful classroom learning go hand in hand. I have witnessed the students in hot classrooms trying to concentrate with great difficulty and teachers who are doing their very best to engage students in such conditions. The first round of air conditioners was a great help and also the donations from businesses, private citizens and community organizations. I am in strong support of this bill to continue to remedy the current situation for classrooms without air conditioners as well as to request the inclusion of the removal and replacement of the donated air conditioners that currently are not working. Mahalo for your continued concern for our schools and classroom learning environments.

SB-2862

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 2:53:03 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Salena Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support bill SB2862 to appropriate funds to DOE to install air conditioning units for public school classrooms that have not received air conditioning units.

Please include schools that have maxed out their power grid like the issue Wheeler Elementary and Wheeler Middle are having. All rooms on a school campus should be air-conditioned.

Thank you,

Salena Lee

February 3, 2022

Testimony supporting on SB 2862, Relating to Education

Honorable Chair Kidani and members of the Committee on Education:

I am writing in support of SB 2862, which proposes to appropriate funds for the installation of air conditioning in Hawaii's public school classrooms.

I ask, however, that the bill be amended so that the work includes upgrades for proper ventilation and air filtration to mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other airborne diseases. We have seen that proper ventilation is an important step to creating a safer indoor environment during this COVID-19 pandemic. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/ventilation.html> As long as work is being done on air conditioning our classrooms, it makes sense to include ventilation upgrades to improve the safety of these classrooms and to take steps toward the overall improvement in the health and safety of our school infrastructure.

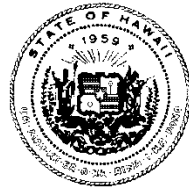
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Lynn Otaguro
Oahu, Hawaii

LATE

DAVID IGE
GOVERNOR

DAVID GIBSON
HO'OKAKO'O CORPORATION
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



YVONNE LAU
CHARTER SCHOOLS
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PAUL KEPKA
PRINCIPAL

STATE OF HAWAII
Kamaile Academy PCS
85-180 Ala Akau Street
Waianae, Hawaii 96792

February 4, 2021,

To The Honorable Members of the Education Committee

From Paul Kepka, Principal Kamaile Academy PCS 

Re: Testimony: AC in classrooms SB2862

Kamaile Academy supports air conditioning of all public school classrooms. In recent years, Kamaile Academy has been very fortunate to have benefitted from past heat abatement initiatives and as a result, all of our traditional classrooms have high-quality air conditioning. Having cooler classrooms positively impacts student learning and teaching conditions. No longer are students sweating, overheating, and being distracted from outside noises. **All students and staff in Hawai'i should have the opportunity to learn in the comfortable environments that set the foundation for success.**

I would also empower decision-makers to consider appropriating resources to ensure **all learning spaces in schools are air-conditioned, not only traditional classrooms.** At our school, we do not yet have air conditioning in our cafeteria, where students eat and attend afterschool activities, nor do we have air conditioning in our administrative building where we have our student support services such as counseling and positive behavior supports. Often students are observed swatting flies off their food, sweating while in after-school programs, or trying to control emotions in the counseling office while overheating. These learning spaces are essential to supporting the whole child and should also be considered for air conditioning.

Mahalo for your continued support of our public schools.