

MAR 08 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT AN AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION'S STATEWIDE BACKLOG OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REPAIR
AND MAINTENANCE PROJECTS.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Education is responsible for the
2 repair and maintenance of 4,425 buildings statewide, which is
3 more than twenty million square feet of space; and

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5 WHEREAS, this is a time-consuming and financially-draining
6 task as approximately twenty percent of Hawaii's two hundred
7 fifty-seven public schools are more than one hundred years old,
8 and the average age of school buildings in the State is seventy-
9 two years; and

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11 WHEREAS, properly repairing and maintaining public school
12 buildings is necessary for the safety of Hawaii's students and
13 teachers; and

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15 WHEREAS, in January 2018, the Department of Education
16 reported to the Legislature that the school repair and
17 maintenance backlog was \$293,000,000; and

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19 WHEREAS, however, the Department of Education later
20 redacted that statement, reporting that the true backlog was
21 \$868,000,000; and

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23 WHEREAS, this backlog has sharply increased in the few past
24 years and is now estimated to be more than \$1,400,000,000, with
25 more than four thousand six hundred repair and maintenance
26 projects needed to be undertaken or finished by the Department
27 of Education; and

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29 WHEREAS, because many public school facilities in the State
30 are in need of repair or renovation, this body finds that it is
31 necessary to increase transparency and fiscal discipline by the
32 Department of Education; and



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WHEREAS, an audit of the Department of Education could help identify any shortcomings in the current distribution of funds and determine any necessary changes to increase the efficiency of the Department of Education's capital improvement repair and maintenance projects; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, that the Auditor is requested to conduct an audit of the Department of Education's statewide backlog of capital improvement repair and maintenance projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to include projects relating to the renovation of central, district, and program offices in the audit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and Auditor.

OFFERED BY:

