
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO UTILIZE OBLIGATED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FUNDS AND OTHER FUNDS FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES AND PRIORITIZE EXPENDITURES BASED ON GREATEST NEED.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Education is the only statewide
2 school district in the United States, operating two hundred
3 forty-eight public schools; and
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5 WHEREAS, the average age of public school buildings in the
6 State is seventy-two years; and
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8 WHEREAS, in November 2023, the Department of Education
9 proposed to lapse over \$465 million in capital improvement funds
10 originally appropriated for various school facilities projects;
11 and
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13 WHEREAS, as of December 2023, the Department of Education
14 had over \$2 billion in unspent capital improvement project
15 funds, with approximately \$880 million in obligated capital
16 improvement project funds and an additional \$1.2 billion that
17 will lapse by 2026; and
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19 WHEREAS, many projects at risk of funding lapses are
20 critical infrastructure upgrades to ensure the safety and
21 integrity of school facilities; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Department of Education is presently
24 prioritizing projects relating to compliance with the Americans
25 with Disabilities Act or Title IX requirements; and
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27 WHEREAS, however, with approximately twenty percent of the
28 State's schools over one hundred years old, the Department of
29 Education needs to better prioritize facility projects,
30 especially when some campuses are in need of immediate plumbing
31 and roof repairs; and
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33 WHEREAS, the Department of Education has approximately one
34 hundred eighty projects under construction and an unspent \$130



1 million in planned projects that have been unable to commence
2 within the past three years; and

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4 WHEREAS, streamlining procedures regarding the expenditure
5 of capital improvement project funds, including accurate project
6 management, will promote transparency with the utilization of
7 funds appropriated for various school projects; and

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9 WHEREAS, the timely completion of school facilities capital
10 improvement projects will provide safer learning environments to
11 offer Hawaii's keiki high-quality educational experiences; now,
12 therefore,

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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,
16 that the Department of Education is urged to utilize obligated
17 capital improvement project funds and other funds for school
18 facilities and prioritize expenditures based on greatest need;
19 and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
22 urged to fill key positions relating to planning and design
23 within capital improvement project management; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
26 urged to expend funding for critical needs that are part of
27 obligated capital improvement projects; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
30 urged to improve processes and efficiency with the backlog and
31 timeline of planning, design, and construction of capital
32 improvement projects; and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
35 encouraged to develop a master strategic plan and road map for
36 funding critical projects; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of



1 Education, Superintendent of Education, and Executive Director
2 of the School Facilities Authority.

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OFFERED BY:



A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and flourishes, is written over a horizontal line.

