

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

RIKI FUJITANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



STATE OF HAWAII
SCHOOL FACILITIES AUTHORITY
2759 S. KING STREET, ROOM H201
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Thursday, March 27, 2025
2:00 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 325

Senate Bill 1393, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 2, Relating to the Use of Public Lands

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

The School Facilities Authority (SFA) offers **comments** on Senate Bill 1393, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 2, which would require the SFA to consult with the Department of Education (DOE) and other impacted departments or agencies prior to the conveyance of ownership rights or lease of lands to the SFA.

The SFA is committed to consulting with any department or agency prior to requesting land from it. The SFA has not yet requested land from the DOE or any other department or agency, but when the SFA identifies land for a project, it will work collaboratively with the impacted department or agency.

Sincerely,

Riki Fujitani
Executive Director



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

Date: 03/27/2025

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 325 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: SB 1393, SD1, HD2 RELATING TO THE USE OF PUBLIC LANDS.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the School Facilities Authority to consult with the Department of Education and other impacted departments or agencies before the conveyance of ownership rights or lease of lands to the School Facilities Authority. Repeals the requirement that the Department of Education transfer title to lands it holds upon request of the School Facilities Authority. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB 1393, SD 1, HD 2.

Under Hawaii Revised Statute (HRS) §302A-1703 Powers; generally, the Hawaii School Facilities Authority (SFA) is charged with the responsibility for the development, planning, and construction of public school facilities that are assigned by the Legislature, Governor, or the Hawaii State Board of Education. Although expedient execution of the Department's capital improvements projects was the motivation for its creation, the SFA is intended to assist and support the Department's goals and objectives.

As described in our 2023-2029 Strategic Plan, the Department envisions a K-12 public education system that prepares all graduates to be globally competitive, locally committed, which means that students have the academic knowledge and skills to thrive and be successful balanced with the sense of responsibility to give back to our communities. School facilities and buildings play a key role in meeting this vision as echoed in Goal 3.1 that requires "all school facilities are safe, well-maintained, compliant with all laws and regulations, clean, and attractive to provide a positive and inviting learning environment for students and staff."

If the Department is going to be successful in providing an optimal learning and teaching environment

for our students and teachers, it is imperative that the SFA partner with and consult with the Department in all aspects of its development, planning, and construction of public school facilities, including the proposed conveyance of ownership rights or lease of lands.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB 1393, SD 1, HD 2.