



1003 Bishop Street • Suite 765 • Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 585-7931 • Fax: 585-7932 • www.hipaonline.com

LATE

Committee on Education

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice-Chair

SB 1075: Repeal Act 155 SLH 2013

Testimony of
Jeanne Schultz Afuvai
President and CEO

Monday, February 13, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 229

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice-Chair Kahele and members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs has been working with the Legislature since 2011 and with the Department of Education since 2010 to find a way and a funding stream to build aspirational schools for Hawaii's public school children. That work culminated in Act 155 which became law in June 2013. To suggest that Act 155 should be repealed without any justification is bewildering.

We have all seen small toddlers mastering an electronic tablet or helping Tutu with a computer task. How do we think these children will successfully learn in our current antiquated horizontal, 19th century facilities, the average of which is 65 years old, with some even built more than a century ago? The traditional "assembly line" approach of classrooms lining a hallway with students sitting in rows listening to a teacher in the front of the room does not nurture the inquisitive and technologically-savvy 21st century learner.

The DOE has already been in discussions to use excess land at appropriate school sites to be used for non-education purposes that can generate a new funding stream. Property would be used for community needs such as health care centers, small-scale retail and other services, such as workforce housing for teachers, police and fire staff. Lease rents derived from these uses would then be used to remodel, renovate and build new, innovative campuses throughout the state.

The option of doing nothing means that we continue to ask our *keiki* to reach for the stars in surroundings that are anything but aspirational. We need the political and public will to do more to serve our youngsters in the rapidly-changing world in which they will live. Repealing Act 155 is on the wrong side of history.

We respectfully ask this committee to hold SB 1075 and to support the DOE in fully implementing Act 155.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LATE

KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 02/13/2017
Time: 04:00 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education
Senate Water and Land

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 1075 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Repeals the pilot program for lease of public school land.

Department's Position:
The Department of Education (DOE) does not support this bill.

Act 155, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2013, established a pilot program under Section 302A-1151.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to allow the DOE to explore the possibility of managing public school properties that could generate revenue for modern improvements to its educational facilities. Since the enactment of Act 155, SLH 2013, the DOE has worked to establish a process to bring value to underutilized properties. The DOE currently has three pilot project sites under consideration and expects to have one or more of these projects initiated before the end of the pilot program term.

Each year since the enactment of Act 155, SLH 2013, the DOE has provided progress reports to the Legislature. These reports show the evolution of the process and the work done to date. The reports also reveal to policy makers any obstacles that could require further legislation.

Upon the sunset of Section 302A – 1151.1, HRS, in 2018, the DOE will provide the Legislature with adequate information to determine the future of this program.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB1075.