
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that top-down bureaucracy
2 negatively impacts the State's public school system. While
3 Hawaii's public school system has always been more centralized
4 than most states, the department of education must recognize the
5 need for providing discretion to the principals to determine
6 their individual schools' needs and priorities. Currently, the
7 top-down system has been disproportionately removing controls
8 from the school level, reducing public school principals to mere
9 compliance officers. Public school principals are the front
10 lines for their schools, but are without enough institutional
11 support or discretion to expend funds.

12 The legislature further finds that while the department of
13 education's current system is well-intentioned, it fails to
14 support school autonomy or site-based decision making. Thus,
15 organizational structure in the public school system must be
16 improved. Public school principals have enormous amounts of
17 responsibility, but very limited authority. Funds for capital



1 improvement projects, for instance, are set by the State as part
2 of a comprehensive program to manage state facilities. While
3 the State's facilities staff work directly with public school
4 principals, capital improvement appropriations can only be
5 expended centrally.

6 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 7 (1) Allow principals more flexibility to make improvements
8 to individual schools by providing them with authority
9 to oversee and maintain capital improvement and repair
10 and maintenance programs at their schools, including
11 installation of solar energy infrastructure; and
- 12 (2) Clarify the department of education's responsibility
13 for oversight and fiscal accountability of such
14 programs.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
17 and to read as follows:

18 "302A- Principal; authority over capital improvements.

19 School principals shall have the authority to oversee and
20 maintain capital improvement and repair and maintenance programs



1 at their schools, including installation of solar energy
2 infrastructure."

3 SECTION 3. Section 302A-1128, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 "**§302A-1128 Department powers and duties.** The department
6 shall have entire charge and control and be responsible for the
7 conduct of all affairs pertaining to public instruction in the
8 public schools the department establishes and operates,
9 including [~~operating and maintaining~~] oversight and fiscal
10 accountability of the capital improvement and repair and
11 maintenance programs for department and school facilities. The
12 department may establish and maintain schools for secular
13 instruction at such places and for such terms as in its
14 discretion it may deem advisable and the funds at its disposal
15 may permit. The schools may include high schools, kindergarten
16 schools, schools or classes for early childhood education,
17 boarding schools, Hawaiian language medium education schools,
18 and evening and day schools. The department may also maintain
19 classes for technical and other instruction in any school where
20 there may not be pupils sufficient in number to justify the
21 establishment of separate schools for these purposes."



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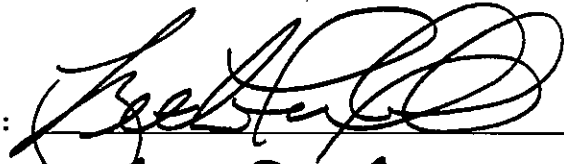
1 SECTION 4. The department of education shall adopt rules,
2 pursuant to chapter 91, to effectuate the purpose of this Act.

3 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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INTRODUCED BY:



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JAN 22 2016



H.B. NO. 1926

Report Title:

Department of Education; Public School Principals; Capital Improvement Projects; Repair and Maintenance.

Description:

Provides authority to school principals to oversee and maintain capital improvement and repair and maintenance programs at their schools, including installation of solar energy infrastructure. Clarifies the department of education's responsibility for oversight and fiscal accountability of such programs.

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