

841 Bishop St., Suite 301  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530  
Contact@HEECoalition.org

House Committee on Finance  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

March 3, 2015

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for HB759 HD1, requiring the department of education in consultation with the Hawaii state energy office of the department of business, economic development, and tourism and the Hawaii natural energy institute of the University of Hawaii, to conduct a comprehensive study and develop a master strategy for the cooling of all public schools.

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

Our members agree that students learn best in environments that are comfortable. We have heard that at some schools, the heat is so distracting that students and teachers are not able to concentrate. We have also heard from DOE personnel that air-conditioning a school is a complex and expensive task, particularly because our school facilities are aging and were not originally designed to have air-conditioning. Therefore, we support the coordinated effort of DOE, DBEDT and the University of Hawaii working collaboratively to identify the costs and recommend a financial plan for implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura  
HE'E Coalition Director

Academy 21  
 After-School All-Stars Hawaii  
 Alliance for Place Based Learning  
 \*Castle Complex Community Council  
 \*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS  
 Center for Civic Education  
 Coalition for Children with Special Needs  
 \*Faith Action for Community Equity  
 Fresh Leadership LLC  
 Girl Scouts Hawaii  
 \*Good Beginnings Alliance  
 Harold K.L. Castle Foundation  
 \*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
 Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars  
 \*Hawai'i Charter School Network  
 \*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition  
 \*Hawaii State PTSA  
 Hawai'i State Student Council  
 Hawai'i State Teachers Association  
 Hawai'i P-20  
 Hawai'i 3Rs  
 Head Start Collaboration Office  
 It's All About Kids  
 \*INPEACE  
 Joint Venture Education Forum  
 Junior Achievement of Hawaii  
 \*Kaho'omiki  
 Kamehameha Schools  
 Kanu Hawai'i  
 \*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council  
 Keiki to Career Kaua'i  
 Kupu A'e  
 \*Leaders for the Next Generation  
 Learning First  
 McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds  
 Our Public School  
 \*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning  
 \*Parents and Children Together  
 \*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i

Punahou School PUEO Program  
 Teach for America  
 The Learning Coalition  
 US PACOM  
 University of Hawai'i College of Education  
 YMCA of Honolulu  
*Voting Members (\*) Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*