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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT AN AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION'S STATEWIDE BACKLOG OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REPAIR  
AND MAINTENANCE PROJECTS.

1           WHEREAS, the Department of Education is responsible for the  
2 repair and maintenance of 4,425 buildings statewide, which is  
3 more than twenty million square feet of space; and

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5           WHEREAS, this is a time-consuming and financially-draining  
6 task as approximately twenty percent of Hawaii's two hundred  
7 fifty-seven public schools are more than one hundred years old,  
8 and the average age of school buildings in the State is seventy-  
9 two years; and

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11           WHEREAS, properly repairing and maintaining public school  
12 buildings is necessary for the safety of Hawaii's students and  
13 teachers; and

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15           WHEREAS, in January 2018, the Department of Education  
16 reported to the Legislature that the school repair and  
17 maintenance backlog was \$293,000,000; and

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19           WHEREAS, however, the Department of Education later  
20 redacted that statement, reporting that the true backlog was  
21 \$868,000,000; and

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23           WHEREAS, this backlog has sharply increased in the few past  
24 years and is now estimated to be more than \$1,400,000,000, with  
25 more than four thousand six hundred repair and maintenance  
26 projects needed to be undertaken or finished by the Department  
27 of Education; and

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29           WHEREAS, because many public school facilities in the State  
30 are in need of repair or renovation, this body finds that it is



1 necessary to increase transparency and fiscal discipline by the  
2 Department of Education; and

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4 WHEREAS, an audit of the Department of Education could help  
5 identify any shortcomings in the current distribution of funds  
6 and determine any necessary changes to increase the efficiency  
7 of the Department of Education's capital improvement repair and  
8 maintenance projects; now, therefore,

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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the  
12 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is  
13 requested to conduct an audit of the Department of Education's  
14 statewide backlog of capital improvement repair and maintenance  
15 projects; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
18 include projects relating to the renovation of central,  
19 district, and program offices in the audit; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
22 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
23 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
24 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
25 2025; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
29 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and Auditor.

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OFFERED BY: 

