



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

**Date:** 02/06/2025

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Bill Title:** HB 0636 RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes a school capital improvement project modernization initiative in the School Facilities Authority to create a planning database for school facilities. Appropriates funds.

**Department's Position:**

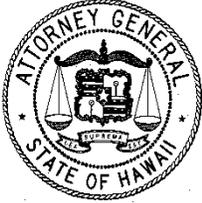
The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on HB 636.

This bill intends to establish a school capital improvement project (CIP) modernization initiative in the school facilities authority to create a planning database for school facilities.

Although the School Facilities Authority (SFA) is charged with the planning, development, and construction as assigned by the Legislature, Governor, or Board of Education, the Department continues to serve as the overall lead for its own CIP and deferred maintenance projects (DMP). Within the last several years, the Department has contracted with various consultants to assist with the modernization of its CIP and DMP planning, prioritization, design, and construction.

To meet its educational and operational objectives, the Department is best suited to oversee the overall planning, development and construction of its facilities and to develop systems to support this endeavor. The Department requests that the proposed funding for the continued development of a planning database be appropriated to the Department and not have this function duplicated under the SFA.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments to HB 636.



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 636, RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**DATE:** Thursday, February 6, 2025      **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 309

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Anne T. Horiuchi or Randall M. Wat, Deputy Attorneys General

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Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

This bill seeks to: (1) establish a school capital improvement project modernization initiative in the School Facilities Authority (SFA) to create a planning database for school facilities; and (2) appropriate funds.

We recommend clarifying that the term "board" in subsections (c) and (d) of the proposed new section refers to the Board of Education (BOE).

The bill places this section within chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), part VI, subpart C (sections 302A-1701 through -1707), which pertains to the SFA. Although section 302A-1701, HRS, defines terms for subpart C, it does not define "board." In the absence of a specific definition, the term "board" would typically default to the definition in section 302A-101, HRS, which refers to the BOE.

Additionally, subsection (d) of the proposed new section states that the SFA will "assist the board in decision making on: (1) Opening new schools or closing existing schools, pursuant to section 302A-1129; and (2) Repurposing schools or unused public school facilities, pursuant to section 302A-1151.5." (Page 5, lines 3-10.) Because both sections 302A-1129 and 302A-1151.5, HRS, outline powers vested in the BOE, it is reasonable to interpret the "board" in subsection (d) to mean the BOE.

However, section 302A-1704, HRS, refers to the SFA Board as "the board," which could cause confusion about whether "board" refers to the SFA Board or the BOE.

To resolve this ambiguity and clarify that "board" in subsections (c) and (d) refers to the BOE, we recommend adding "of education" after "board" on page 4, line 10, and page 5, lines 5-6, of the bill as follows:

(c) No later than August 15 of each year, the authority shall submit a report to the legislature, governor, board[;] **of education**, and superintendent to assist with statewide planning and decision-making on school facilities projects.

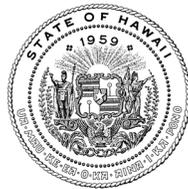
The report shall include:

. . . .

(d) The authority shall report information and analysis from the school capital improvement project modernization initiative to the board **of education** as necessary, but no less than once a year, to assist the board **of education** in decision making on:

. . . .

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
*Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā*  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 636

**February 6, 2025**  
**2:00 p.m.**  
**Room 309 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill (H.B.) No. 636 amends Chapter 302A, HRS, to establish a school capital improvement project (CIP) modernization initiative (MI) within the School Facilities Authority (SFA) to create a planning database for school facilities statewide; appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 26 and FY 27 to be deposited into the School Facilities Special Fund (SFSF); and appropriates an unspecified amount of special funds out of the SFSF for FY 26 and FY 27 to establish the school modernization initiative (SMI).

Due to the limited resources and funding within SFA, it appears the school CIP MI would be more appropriately established with the Department of Education (DOE). Additionally, since SFA is not responsible for administering and implementing all CIPs for DOE, it seems more practicable for DOE to implement the SMI.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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 Education

Thursday, February 6, 2025  
2:00 p.m.  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 309

### House Bill 636, Relating to Capital Improvement

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee:

The School Facilities Authority (SFA) **supports** House Bill 636, which would establish a school capital improvement project modernization initiative in the SFA to create a planning database for school facilities.

The school capital improvement project (CIP) modernization initiative contemplated by this measure would provide the Legislature, Governor, Board of Education, Department of Education, SFA, and the public with data and information to help answer fundamental school CIP questions:

- **Why Build?**
  - What do we have? (Asset inventory)
  - What is the condition? (Facilities Condition Index)
  - What is the utilization? (Enrollment to Capacity Ratio)
- **What to Build?**
  - Key Infrastructure
  - Capacity
  - Functional Adequacy
  - Legal Compliance
- **How and Where to Repurpose?**
  - Should underutilized classrooms, buildings, facilities, and land be used for other purposes?
    - Charter schools?
    - Early learning or child care programs?
    - Workforce housing projects?
    - State agency offices?

In addition, this information should be presented using a geographic interface based upon legislative districts (25 Senate districts and 52 House districts). With sufficient funding and access to existing information and data sources, SFA estimates a prototype version of a database application that meets the intent of this measure could be ready by the 2026 legislative session.

We offer one recommended change. On Page 3, Line 2, we recommend updating the condition rating of a school facility to no less than every five years instead of three. We believe an update every five years for any school facility still provides relatively accurate information for a facilities condition index while using fewer resources.

The Legislature established the SFA to “be responsible for the development, planning, and construction of public school capital improvement projects and help improve the efficiency of school construction while more directly addressing the education needs of students” (Conference Committee Rep. No. 148, 2021). The school CIP modernization initiative could be game changing in how SFA fulfills its role.

Sincerely,

Riki Fujitani  
Executive Director



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**Osa Tui, Jr.**  
President

**Logan Okita**  
Vice President

**Cheney Kaku**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Ann Mahi**  
Executive Director

## TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAI'I HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Item: **HB 636 - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

Position: **SUPPORT**

Hearing: **2/6/2025, Conference Room 309, 2:00pm**

Submitter: **Osa Tui, Jr. – President, Hawai'i State Teachers Association**

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association stands in strong support of HB 636 which establishes a school capital improvement project modernization initiative in the School Facilities Authority to create a planning database for school facilities.

Our members have shared stories of schools buildings that lack properly-working fire alarms, have mold or structural issues that make them unsafe, deal with flooding and water damage, lack air conditioning, and many more issues that aren't being promptly handled.

We support any efforts that would allow for schools to be modernized, and repaired in a more prompt manner than they are receiving presently.

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

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February 6, 2025

## Testimony in Support of HB636: Relating to Education

**To:** Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the House Committee on Education

**From:** Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick, Co-chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

**Date:** February 6, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

**Re:** HB636: Relating to Education

**Position:** Strong Support

**Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the House Committee on Education,**

We, Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick, Co-chairs of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, strongly support HB636, which establishes a school capital improvement project modernization initiative in the School Facilities Authority to create a planning database for school facilities.

### Key Points

**1. Comprehensive Asset Inventory:**

- The planning database will include a comprehensive asset inventory of school properties, buildings, facilities, and infrastructure.

**2. Facilities Condition Index:**

- The database will provide data and ratings on the condition of all school facilities, ensuring they are maintained and upgraded as needed.

**3. Enrollment to Capacity Ratio Data:**

- The database will include enrollment to capacity ratio data, updated annually, to help prioritize capital improvement projects.

**4. Transparency and Accountability:**

- By creating a centralized planning database, HB636 promotes transparency and accountability in the allocation of funds for school capital improvement projects.

## **5. Long-Term Planning:**

- The database will serve as a valuable tool for long-term planning and decision-making, ensuring schools are equipped to meet the needs of future generations.

## **Arguments in Favor**

### **1. Efficiency and Effectiveness:**

- HB636 ensures that resources are used efficiently and effectively, providing clear data to support decision-making.

### **2. Enhanced Learning Environment:**

- By maintaining and upgrading school facilities, this initiative will create a safe and conducive learning environment for students.

### **3. Community Trust:**

- Transparency in the allocation of funds fosters community trust and confidence in the management of school facilities.

### **4. Future Preparedness:**

- Long-term planning enabled by the database ensures that schools are prepared to meet the evolving needs of students and the community.

## **Conclusion**

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii urges the Committee to support HB636. This bill represents a significant advancement in our state's approach to school capital improvement, promoting transparency, accountability, and long-term planning.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

**Sincerely,**

Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick

Co-chairs Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

**HB-636**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:33:22 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lourdes Vergara Marcelo	Lou's Quality Home Health Care Services, LLC & the Philippine Nurses Association of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB 636 ; Introduced by Rep. Trish La Chica of District 37

Ensure Hawaii's School Construction Funding is spent wisely by creating a Planning Database , to track the progress , conditons , capaacity and project priorites for smarter investments .

I also believe that the funding used for the school's constructions will serve our students for many years to come . Good , solid, quality materisls be used that withstand Hawaii 's climate . Our studensts here in Hawaii deserve favorable classrooms to learn &,study. Construction Engineers , Architects should be mindfull of our weather , that buildings can be hot during summer .

Our legislature , Ways and Means Dept. should award the bid only to reputable company .

Thank you .

Lourdes Vergara Marcelo , Reg. Nurse . 808 754 3934