

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 02/09/2023
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Committee: House Energy &
Environmental Protection
House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0896 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to design and construct photovoltaic panel coverings over playgrounds at all Department of Education schools.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) provides comments and concerns relating to HB 896.

The Department agrees that the installation of photovoltaic (PV) panels is one avenue that can be used to decrease the energy costs for our schools. However, the cost to design and install panels for all playgrounds is expensive and would need to be viewed in the broader context of alternative energy options that are available. These options could include broader initiatives such as whether elementary and middle schools have the appropriate load profile to design and install canopy PV systems for the entire school.

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

HB-896

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 2:26:24 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/9/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let's decarbonize our schools and make them part of the Climate Action. Fund PV for DOE



To: The House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection (EEP)
and
The House Committee on Education (EDN)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2023, 2pm

In strong support of HB896

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Woodson, Vice Chairs Cochran and Marten, and members of the EEP and EDN committees,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org is in **strong support of HB896** which appropriates funds to the Department of Education to design and construct photovoltaic panel coverings over playgrounds at all Department of Education schools.

Rising energy costs across the State have led to increased spending for utilities. Installing solar photovoltaics will provide shading over playgrounds while it lowers energy costs. Further, taking advantage of solar photovoltaics will be an important part of meeting Hawaii's one hundred per cent renewable energy target. This is a win:win!

Please support and pass this important measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this bill.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

HB-896

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 10:31:11 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/9/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evan Anderson	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I write today to express my support for this bill aimed at protecting Hawaii's children from the harmful effects of UV rays by providing shading over playgrounds in public schools via UV panels. This is an important step towards ensuring the well-being of our children while working toward Hawaii's goal of energy self-sufficiency.

However, I would also like to caution that similar funding should be appropriated to Hawaii's public charter schools for the purpose of providing similar shade structures for students. All students, regardless of the type of school they attend, deserve equal access to state resources that protect their health and well-being. And charter schools, many of which receive NO facility funding, would benefit greatly from an appropriation for the purposes of site improvements in the form of PV panel shade structures.

Providing shade structures to both public schools and public charter schools would ensure that all children in Hawaii have access to safe and healthy outdoor spaces for play and recreation.

In conclusion, I support this bill and the important steps it takes to protect Hawaii's children, but I urge the legislature to consider providing equal funding for shade structures to public charter schools. All children deserve access to resources that protect their health and well-being.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

HB-896

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 10:45:07 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/9/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill.

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
and HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
RE: HB 896 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.
Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to design and
construct photovoltaic panel coverings over playgrounds at all
Department of Education schools.

FOR HEARING ON Thursday, February 9, 2023

FROM:

Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.
46-255 Kahuhipa St. Apt. 1205
Kane'ohe, HI, 96744
Tel. 808.247.7942

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

The bill's text provides two reasons why this bill should be enacted. Both of them are of of questionable validity.

1. Physical and mental health issue: The bill points out that exposure to sunlight can cause cancer and premature aging of skin. But how much time are kids going to be spending in the playground? Don't they have lessons to be delivered indoors for most of the school day? Nutritionists tell us we are not getting enough vitamin D, and they remind us that sunlight is a good source for it. Let's also remember one of the lessons we all learned during the pandemic: kids who stay cooped up all day long suffer psychological and emotional damage. How high above ground will those solar panel roofs be? High enough to avoid having a playground feel emotionally like being confined inside a tunnel? A playground permanently in dreary shadow would

not be a very happy place. And if the solar panel roof is high enough above ground to avoid the tunnel feeling, how will the panels be kept clean from windblown dust and dirt that would frequently accumulate sufficiently to reduce the number of kilowatt-hours of energy being generated? Laborers are likely to be unionized, and there are either laws or union contracts which prohibit people from working more than a certain height above ground without special training or government licensure.

2. Economic issue: The bill notes the high cost of electricity in Hawaii. There does not seem to be any cost/benefit analysis. How much would be the cost of construction plus ongoing costs of maintenance and repair; compared with the savings in reduced electric bills?

I live near Windward Community College in Kane'ohe, and before the pandemic I frequently attended cultural events and academic forums at a large building containing the cafeteria, bookstore, and numerous large and small meeting rooms. Next door was a large open-air parking lot that was often filled. A few years ago a roof composed of solar panels was installed at a height not much taller than one of those cubical box trucks, covering the entire parking lot. It felt quite depressing to pull in there on a cheerful sunny day. And perhaps you could check with them to get information for a cost/benefit analysis. The foot of the Ko'olau mountains is often cloudy and rainy, and the college's literary and art journal was initially named "The Rainbird". That might tell you something about the effectiveness of solar panels there.

HB-896

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 3:33:56 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/9/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB896 is a win/win/win for Hawaii's keiki. By providing low-cost carbon-free electricity to schools, it will reduce electric bills and free up funding for instruction, while giving the kids a better chance at a future without drastic climate calamities. At the same time it will reduce their exposure to harmful uv radiation on the playground.

HB-896

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 4:05:15 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/9/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kate Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need Solar panels everywhere in Hawaii: schools, playgrounds and parking lots.
We can make schools energy efficient, and teach children about solar energy at the same time.

-HB896 appropriates funds to the Department of Education to design and construct photovoltaic panel coverings over playgrounds at all Department of Education schools. This will not only provide shading over playgrounds, it will lower the energy costs and at the same time lower our carbon footprint. This is a win:win!

HB-896

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:58:26 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/9/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB896 appropriates funds to the Department of Education to design and construct photovoltaic panel coverings over playgrounds at all Department of Education schools. This will not only provide shading over playgrounds, it will lower the energy costs and at the same time lower our carbon footprint. This is a win:win!

Please support HB896

Thank you for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

HB-896

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 12:14:07 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/9/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sharon Levine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear All,

I would like to see photovoltaic panels all over this land, especially over cement.

I support this bill and all other bills like it.

sincerely,

sharon levine

Makkah

HB-896

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 2:06:03 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/9/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha.

HB896 will appropriate funds to the Department of Education to design and construct photovoltaic panel coverings over playgrounds at all Department of Education schools.

Rising energy costs across the State have led to increased spending for utilities. Installing solar photovoltaics will lower the energy costs. Further, taking advantage of solar photovoltaics will be an important part of meeting Hawaii's one hundred per cent renewable energy target.

HB896 appropriates funds to the Department of Education to design and construct photovoltaic panel coverings over playgrounds at all Department of Education schools. This will not only provide shading over playgrounds, it will lower the energy costs and at the same time lower our carbon footprint. This is a win:win!

Please pass HB896. It is such a no brainer idea that will provide an example of solar energy and so many benefits for our keiki and help the DOE .save money.

Thank you.

HB-896

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 2:27:01 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/9/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha EEP & EDN Chairs, Vice Chairs & Committees,

I support this in principle..I'm not sure that the DOE should be the agency to carry out the design of the panel coverings. i have seen them used for car ports and shade cover. Someone must have come up with the design already. Anyway it is a good idea to reduce skin cancer and reduce energy bills while reducing global warming.

Mahalo for your consideration,

tlaloc tokuda

Kailua Kona HI 96740

-HB896 appropriates funds to the Department of Education to design and construct photovoltaic panel coverings over playgrounds at all Department of Education schools. This will not only provide shading over playgrounds, it will lower the energy costs and at the same time lower our carbon footprint. This is a win:win!

HB-896

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 4:01:31 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/9/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Muftiah Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

This bill offers an excellent opportunity to make progress toward our state's 100% renewables goal. Sunshine is abundant here. Let's harness that power and do our part in combatting climate change.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-896

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:24:50 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/9/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniela Escontrela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Rising energy costs across the State have led to increased spending for utilities. Installing solar photovoltaics will lower the energy costs. Further, taking advantage of solar photovoltaics will be an important part of meeting Hawaii's one hundred per cent renewable energy target.

HB-896

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:37:11 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/9/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ben Robinson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I am writing in OPPOSITION to this bill.

While I am support of many pro-environmental and healthcare initiatives, this is overboard. Solar panels belong on the tops of buildings and parking garages; NOT playgrounds.

Let the Dept of Education use real trees instead for shade, oxygen, and aesthetics; the DoE can get power from other sources without degrading a playground experience.

HB-896

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:06:03 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/9/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

-HB896 appropriates funds to the Department of Education to design and construct photovoltaic panel coverings over playgrounds at all Department of Education schools. This will not only provide shading over playgrounds, it will lower the energy costs and at the same time lower our carbon footprint. This is a win:win!

HB-896

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:04:43 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/9/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Gannon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Joan Gannon from South Kona asking you to vote for HB896. I strongly support this bill directing the DOE to design and construct photovoltaic panel coverings over playgrounds at DOE schools. This will shade playgrounds as well as lower energy costs while lowering the carbon footprint. Thank you for your service

Joan

HB-896

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 2:05:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/9/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our Children Need the Sun this is what Makes them healthy!!!

I can not Believe You People are that Stupied!!!!