

# HCR180

Measure Title: REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO CREATE A PLAN TO ADDRESS OVERCROWDING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN KAPOLEI, EWA, AND WAIPAHU.

Report Title: Department of Education; Overcrowding; Public Schools; Kapolei, Ewa, and Waipahu

Description:

Companion: [HR130](#)

Package: None

Current Referral: EDU

Introducer(s): CULLEN



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 04/15/2016  
**Time:** 01:30 PM  
**Location:** 229  
**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Resolution:** HCR 180 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO CREATE A PLAN TO ADDRESS OVERCROWDING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN KAPOLEI, EWA, AND WAIPAHU.

**Purpose of  
Resolution:**

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (DOE) believes establishing a Task Force, to address growing student enrollments in Kapolei, Ewa, and Waipahu, is unnecessary. The DOE's Facilities Development Branch has established a plan for this area which includes: (in order of funding priority)

§ Construction of a new classroom building at Campbell H.S. (currently under design)

§ Completion of a 3<sup>rd</sup> wing at Ewa Makai M.S. (currently under design)

§ Construction of additional capacity and improvements at Ilima I.S.

§ Construction of a new classroom building at Kapolei H.S.

§ Construction of a new classroom building for Keoneula E.S.

§ Construction of a new middle school for East Kapolei (currently under design)

§ Construction of a new classroom building Kapolei M.S.

§ Construction of new area high school (site selection currently underway)

Beyond these immediate priorities there will be the future need to construction a new middle school and three elementary schools for the Hoopili residential development project, and the construction of an elementary school for UHWO residential

development project. As well, there was legislation passed last year requiring the DOE to develop a transition plan to remove Multi-Track schools from the Multi-Track schedule, this will require additional classroom capacity not listed here, but identified in the plan.

The biggest issue facing Kapolei, Ewa, and Waipahu is funding the construction of these facilities. The DOE is mindful of the escalating cost of construction in the state and, as seen with the recent completion of Hookele Elementary School, has demonstrated the ability to deliver cost effective and timely projects when funding is available. Further the DOE is currently working through prior legislation, i.e. Act155/13, to develop cost savings and revenue generation from existing DOE assets. The DOE is also currently studying the potential of Public Private Partnerships to offset near term cost of multiple new schools that will be required along the Transit Corridor.

Each year the DOE puts forward a budget based on the anticipated needs for schools across the State. Once the State's annual budget is established we then work to prioritize within the limits of available funding. This often requires that we shift the order of priorities to continue to advance plans for each area of the state. A lack of effective construction in any particular areas is not for lack of planning it is simply a lack of funding.

The DOE appreciates the continued interest and efforts put forth by State Legislators to ensure that Hawaii's students have quality learning environments, and we are happy to work in any way to help accomplish this mutual goal.



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Corey Rosenlee  
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Secretary-Treasurer  
Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HCR 180 - REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO  
ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO CREATE A PLAN TO ADDRESS  
OVERCROWDING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN KAPOLEI, EWA, AND  
WAIPAHU.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports HCR 180**, requesting the Department of Education to establish a task force to create a plan to address overcrowding in public schools in Kapolei, 'Ewa, and Waipahu, **with suggested amendments**.

Classrooms should be landmarks for learning. Inside their walls, we should hear an audible susurrus of scholarly enquiry, as students critically question the world around them and the received wisdom of generations gone by. Yet, too often, our overheated and overcrowded schools stifle creativity. Drenched in sweat from 100-plus degree temperatures, teachers and students together struggle to breathe life into school buildings that are, on average, 65-years-old, an age that in the fast-paced education profession is not just unmodern, but Paleolithic.

Nowhere is this clearer than at Campbell High School. Founded in 1961, the 55-year-old school was initially built to accommodate 1,700 students. At the beginning of this year, however, Campbell enrollment reached 3,049 keiki. It has since grown higher. Therefore, we are heartened that funds for a new Campbell High School building have been included in the state budget at the level of \$15 million. Under current plans, the proposed Campbell High School facility will include



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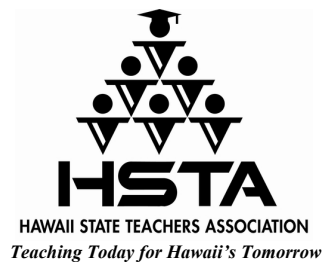
**Amy Perruso**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Wilbert Holck**  
Executive Director

approximately 30 classrooms, including so-called “specialty” rooms, like science labs. Money from the \$35 million appropriation will also be used to upgrade aging underground utilities and relocate equipment and infrastructure on the Campbell campus.

A recent study conducted by University of California at Los Angeles researchers showed that the percentile gap between students being educated in comfortable classrooms can reach as much as 17 percent on achievement tests, clearly evincing the impact of a modern learning environment on student success, an impact made all the more urgent by Campbell’s chronic overcrowding. Overstuffed classrooms, in turn, increase class size and teacher turnover, as educators seek more manageable workloads or leave the profession entirely. Additionally, the new building satisfies projected population growth in the Campbell complex area, ensuring that new families do not further overload the high school’s capacity. Installation of fifteen portables during winter break was, quite simply, not nearly enough to assuage Campbell’s congestion. According to executive estimates, a new high school for the ‘Ewa Plain and Kapolei region would cost \$150-\$200 million. While this is a high dollar project, a new school is needed to bring ‘Ewa children’s education into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Therefore, we support the creation of a task force to deal with overcongested schools in ‘Ewa, Kapolei, and Waipahu, as this resolution requests. Lowering overcrowding would, among other things, reduce class sizes. The Institute of Education Sciences, the research arm of the U.S. Department of Education, concludes that class size reduction is one of only four evidence-based reforms that have been proven to increase student achievement. Experiments in Tennessee, Wisconsin, and other states have demonstrated that students in smaller classes score better on standardized tests, receive better grades, and exhibit improved attendance. Moreover, poor and minority students benefit the most from smaller class sizes, experiencing twice the achievement gains of the average student. A study commissioned by the U.S. Department of Education analyzed the achievement of students in 2,561 schools across the nation by their performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress exams. After controlling for student background, the only objective factor that correlated with higher test scores was class size.



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That said, we **humbly request that a public school teacher be added to the task force to ensure that the classroom experience—which is directly impacted by school congestion—is adequately represented on the task force.** Teachers regularly oversee classes above these suggested Board of Education maximums, sometimes managing rosters with as many as 40 or 50 enrollees and total workloads of over 200 students. Though the DOE reports, each year, on teacher-student ratios, these numbers are often skewed by the number of teachers pulled out of the classroom to serve as *de facto* departmental employees or “resource teachers” and do not account for the total number of classes above the department’s reported or BOE’s suggested ratios. As the number of special needs students or English language learners increases in any class, so does the need for individualized instruction. Accordingly, we view reducing campus congestion and lowering class size as two related and instrumental methods of boosting learning growth and improving teachers’ work conditions.

Because decongested campuses and lower class sizes yield higher achievement, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this resolution.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mendezj@hawaii.edu](mailto:mendezj@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR180 on Apr 15, 2016 13:30PM\*  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 13, 2016 11:17:12 AM

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### **HCR180**

Submitted on: 4/13/2016

Testimony for EDU on Apr 15, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR180 on Apr 15, 2016 13:30PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 12, 2016 10:24:06 AM

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**HCR180**

Submitted on: 4/12/2016

Testimony for EDU on Apr 15, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruston Utu	Individual	Support	No

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