

# SB2349

Measure Title: RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Report Title: Department of Education; Air Conditioning; Solar Power Systems; Pilot Program; Appropriation; General Obligation Bonds (\$)

Description: Requires the department of education to implement a pilot program to provide ten public school classrooms with air conditioning using a solar power system at each school; provided that each solar power system is powered by solar or photovoltaic panels and not connected to the electrical grid. Authorizes general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for the pilot program.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: EDU/TRE, WAM

Introducer(s): L. THIELEN, GABBARD, Keith-Agaran, Slom

**LATE**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

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

**Date:** 02/02/2016

**Time:** 02:45 PM

**Location:** 229

**Committee:** Senate Transportation and  
Energy Senate Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 2349 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

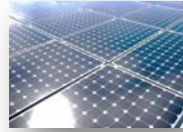
**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the department of education to implement a pilot program to provide ten public school classrooms with air conditioning using a solar power system at each school; provided that each solar power system is powered by solar or photovoltaic panels and not connected to the electrical grid. Authorizes general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for the pilot program.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (DOE) supports the intent of this bill, however, to better align this bill with the numerous heat abatement efforts already underway, the DOE recommends that the following changes be considered:

1. Allow the DOE to focus on providing these solar powered air conditioning units in the older portable classrooms since these are typically the hottest classrooms on numerous campuses.
2. Allow the DOE to assess and determine the hottest portable classrooms rather than requiring ten classrooms per campus as schools in cooler, higher elevations may not require cooling.

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



**LATE**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY**

February 2, 2016, 2:45 P.M.  
Room 229

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2349**

Aloha Chairs Kidani and Inouye, and members of the committees:

The Blue Planet Foundation supports SB 2349, requiring the Department of Education (DOE) to implement a pilot program to provide ten public school classrooms with an off-grid solar and air conditioning system. The measure also authorizes general obligation bonds to fund the effort.

Senate Bill 2349 provides an innovative solution to provide needed air conditioning for classrooms without adding to the DOE energy costs—or adding greenhouse gas pollution.

While Blue Planet strongly supports such a pilot program, we hope the legislature will also consider a broader plan to provide schools with air conditioning powered by 100% renewable sources that are coupled with energy storage that will enable the schools to operate as emergency shelters in case of a grid power outage. This would provide multiple public benefits—air conditioning, student education, resilience—without adding to schools' energy costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
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**Date:** Friday, January 29, 2016 1:12:11 PM

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**SB2349**

Submitted on: 1/29/2016

Testimony for EDU/TRE on Feb 2, 2016 14:45PM 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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**SB2349**

Submitted on: 1/30/2016

Testimony for EDU/TRE on Feb 2, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lawrence Bartley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support SB 2349 relating to solar-powered air conditioning systems for public schools. If the DOE is going to require students attend schools during Summertime that were designed for the cooler months, they must take steps to ensure that the classrooms are livable. Solar-powered air conditioning is now a proven technology with low connection and operating costs. A full-scale pilot program as provided in SB 2349 is now in order and should be funded immediately and started soon. Larry Bartley, PE

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**Date:** Monday, February 01, 2016 11:00:57 AM

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**SB2349**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for EDU/TRE on Feb 2, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Anything that can be done to help our keiki and the people who work with them to have better working conditions is a win/win for all. We have taken too long to get to this point of fixing and maintaining our public school buildings.

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