
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AIR CONDITIONING IN SCHOOLS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that vog, or volcanic
2 smog, is a form of air pollution that occurs when volcanic
3 emissions react with moisture, oxygen, and sunlight. When
4 volcanic eruptions occur on Hawaii island, prevailing wind
5 patterns typically push vog emissions westward, where they
6 accumulate over north and south Kona. Depending on the level of
7 volcanic activity, vog can affect air quality to the point where
8 it poses significant health risks. Vog can irritate the skin,
9 eyes, nose, and throat, and can penetrate airways and the lungs,
10 which can trigger respiratory distress and induce asthma
11 symptoms. Other common symptoms of vog exposure include
12 headaches, sore throat, flu-like symptoms, and lethargy.
13 Studies about the effects of vog on residents of Hawaii island
14 show correlations between vog exposure and increased rates of
15 high blood pressure, acute bronchitis, acute airway problems,
16 asthma exacerbations and respiratory illness. Children are
17 generally more sensitive to vog than adults because children



1 have higher respiratory rates than adults, meaning they take
2 more breaths per minute. When vog levels are high, the public
3 health recommendations to reduce exposure includes staying
4 indoors with windows closed, using an air filter, and avoiding
5 outdoor activities that cause heavy breathing. However, in
6 schools without air conditioning, it can be very difficult to
7 follow these recommendations and retain a healthy learning
8 environment at the same time. In addition, hot temperatures
9 negatively impact the ability of students to learn, and west
10 Hawaii island, and the Kona area in particular, consistently
11 report some of the hottest temperatures in the State. The
12 coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has added
13 additional challenges, where the recommendations to stay
14 outdoors or keep windows open directly conflict with the
15 recommendations regarding vog.

16 The legislature further finds that the installation of air
17 conditioning units in west Hawaii island classrooms would create
18 safer, more comfortable, and more effective learning
19 environments that would better protect students from vog and the
20 spread of COVID-19 and other pathogens. The addition of
21 filtration would help to mitigate both issues.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
2 funds for the installation of air conditioning and filtration
3 units in classrooms in west Hawaii island that have the
4 necessary electrical infrastructure to support it.

5 SECTION 2. The director of finance is authorized to issue
6 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$ or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary, and the same sum or so much thereof
8 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2022-2023
9 for the purpose of financing capital improvement projects to be
10 expended by the department of education as follows:

11 1. Kahakai elementary school, Hawaii

12 Plans, design, construction, and
13 equipment to install air
14 conditioning and filtration units
15 in two classrooms and the
16 cafeteria.

17 Total funding \$

18 2. Kealakehe elementary school, Hawaii

19 Plans, design, construction, and
20 equipment to install air



1 conditioning and filtration units
2 in fifty classrooms.

3 Total funding \$

4 3. Kealakehe intermediate school, Hawaii

5 Plans, design, construction, and
6 equipment to install air
7 conditioning and filtration units
8 in forty classrooms.

9 Total funding \$

10 4. Kealakehe high school, Hawaii

11 Plans, design, construction, and
12 equipment to install air
13 conditioning and filtration units
14 in ninety classrooms.

15 Total funding \$

16 SECTION 3. The appropriations made for the capital
17 improvement projects authorized by this Act shall not lapse at
18 the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriations are
19 made; provided that all moneys from the appropriations that are
20 unencumbered as of June 30, 2024, shall lapse as of that date.

21 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

DOE; Air Conditioning; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for air conditioning and filtration at Kahakai elementary school, Kealakehe elementary school, Kealakehe intermediate school, and Kealakehe high school. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

