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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT AN AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION'S STATEWIDE BACKLOG OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REPAIR  
AND MAINTENANCE PROJECTS.

1           WHEREAS, the Department of Education is responsible for the  
2 repair and maintenance of 4,425 buildings statewide, which is  
3 more than twenty million square feet of space; and  
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5           WHEREAS, this is a time-consuming and financially-draining  
6 task as approximately twenty percent of Hawaii's two hundred  
7 fifty-seven public schools are more than one hundred years old,  
8 and the average age of school buildings in the State is seventy-  
9 two years; and  
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11           WHEREAS, properly repairing and maintaining public school  
12 buildings is necessary for the safety of Hawaii's students and  
13 teachers; and  
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15           WHEREAS, in January 2018, the Department of Education  
16 reported to the Legislature that the school repair and  
17 maintenance backlog was \$293,000,000; and  
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19           WHEREAS, however, the Department of Education later  
20 redacted that statement, reporting that the true backlog was  
21 \$868,000,000; and  
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23           WHEREAS, this backlog has sharply increased in the few past  
24 years and is now estimated to be more than \$1,400,000,000, with  
25 more than four thousand six hundred repair and maintenance  
26 projects needed to be undertaken or finished by the Department  
27 of Education; and  
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29           WHEREAS, because many public school facilities in the State  
30 are in need of repair or renovation, this body finds that it is  
31 necessary to increase transparency and fiscal discipline by the  
32 Department of Education; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, an audit of the Department of Education could help  
3 identify any shortcomings in the current distribution of funds  
4 and determine any necessary changes to increase the efficiency  
5 of the Department of Education's capital improvement repair and  
6 maintenance projects; now, therefore,  
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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
9 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
10 Session of 2024, that the Auditor is requested to conduct an  
11 audit of the Department of Education's statewide backlog of  
12 capital improvement repair and maintenance projects; and  
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in its audit, the Auditor is  
15 requested to examine:  
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- 17 (1) The Department of Education's processes for  
18 identifying and prioritizing repair and maintenance  
19 issues;  
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- 21 (2) The Department's Facilities and Maintenance Branch's  
22 processes relating to repair and maintenance projects,  
23 including how the projects are initiated and managed;  
24 and  
25
- 26 (3) The Department's procurement of services and how the  
27 timely procurement of services may allow the  
28 Department to encumber appropriations to prevent those  
29 funds from lapsing; and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is also requested  
32 to examine the contracts for projects in which funding is  
33 proposed to be lapsed on June, 30, 2024, including factors that  
34 led to the proposals to lapse the capital improvement project  
35 funds for the projects; and  
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
38 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
39 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
40 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
41 2025; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
3 Education, Superintendent of Education, and Auditor.  
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