

MAR 08 2024

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO UTILIZE OBLIGATED CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FUNDS AND OTHER FUNDS FOR SCHOOL
FACILITIES AND PRIORITIZE EXPENDITURES BASED ON GREATEST
NEED.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Education is the only statewide
2 school district in the United States, operating two hundred
3 forty-eight public schools; and
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5 WHEREAS, the average age of public school buildings in the
6 State is seventy-two years; and
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8 WHEREAS, in November 2023, the Department of Education
9 proposed to lapse over \$465 million in capital improvement funds
10 originally appropriated for various school facilities projects;
11 and
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13 WHEREAS, as of December 2023, the Department of Education
14 had over \$2 billion in unspent capital improvement project
15 funds, with approximately \$880 million in obligated capital
16 improvement project funds and an additional \$1.2 billion that
17 will lapse by 2026; and
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19 WHEREAS, many projects at risk of funding lapses are
20 critical infrastructure upgrades to ensure the safety and
21 integrity of school facilities; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Department of Education is presently
24 prioritizing projects relating to compliance with the Americans
25 with Disabilities Act or Title IX requirements; and
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27 WHEREAS, however, with approximately twenty percent of the
28 State's schools over one hundred years old, the Department of
29 Education needs to better prioritize facility projects,
30 especially when some campuses are in need of immediate plumbing
31 and roof repairs; and



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2 WHEREAS, the Department of Education has approximately one
3 hundred eighty projects under construction and an unspent \$130
4 million in planned projects that have been unable to commence
5 within the past three years; and

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7 WHEREAS, streamlining procedures regarding the expenditure
8 of capital improvement project funds, including accurate project
9 management, will promote transparency with the utilization of
10 funds appropriated for various school projects; and

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12 WHEREAS, the timely completion of school facilities capital
13 improvement projects will provide safer learning environments to
14 offer Hawaii's keiki high-quality educational experiences; now,
15 therefore,

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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
18 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
19 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
20 Education is urged to utilize obligated capital improvement
21 project funds and other funds for school facilities and
22 prioritize expenditures based on greatest need; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
25 urged to fill key positions relating to planning and design
26 within capital improvement project management; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
29 urged to expend funding for critical needs that are part of
30 obligated capital improvement projects; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
33 urged to improve processes and efficiency with the backlog and
34 timeline of planning, design, and construction of capital
35 improvement projects; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
38 encouraged to develop a master strategic plan and road map for
39 funding critical projects; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
42 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the




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1 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and Executive
2 Director of the School Facilities Authority.

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OFFERED BY:



A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and curves, is written over a horizontal line.

