

MAR 04 2025

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT AN AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION'S CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FINANCES.

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 public schools
7 are more than one hundred years old, and the average age of
8 school buildings in the State is seventy-two years; and
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10 WHEREAS, properly repairing and maintaining public school
11 buildings is necessary for the safety of Hawaii's students and
12 teachers; and
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14 WHEREAS, as of January 2024, the Department of Education
15 had over \$2 billion in unspent capital improvement program funds
16 at school facilities; and
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18 WHEREAS, the Department of Education received nearly \$1
19 billion in the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium for capital improvement
20 project appropriations; and
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22 WHEREAS, fiscal accountability and oversight are critical
23 to ensure proper spending by the Department of Education while
24 providing Hawaii's students with safe learning environments; and
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26 WHEREAS, this body finds that it is necessary to increase
27 transparency and disciplined and timely spending of capital
28 improvement program funds by the Department of Education, as
29 many public school facilities in the State are in need of repair
30 or renovation; and
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32 WHEREAS, an audit of the Department of Education could help
33 identify any shortcomings in the current distribution of funds



1 and determine any necessary changes to increase the efficiency
2 of the Department of Education's capital improvement repair and
3 maintenance projects; now, therefore,

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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the
7 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is
8 requested to conduct an audit of the Department of Education's
9 capital improvement projects; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the audit is requested to
12 examine the Department of Education's finances relating to
13 capital improvement projects since 2021; and

14
15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the audit is requested to
16 include how the Department of Education expends moneys on
17 capital improvement projects, including the prioritization of
18 projects; and

19
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
21 submit a report of the findings and recommendations, including
22 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
23 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
24 2026; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and
28 Superintendent of Education.

29
30
31 OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. E. E.', written over a horizontal line.