

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAY 01

, 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2344
H.D. 1
S.D. 2
C.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madam and Sir:

Your Committee on Conference on the disagreeing vote of the House of Representatives to the amendments proposed by the Senate in H.B. No. 2344, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOL FACILITIES,"

having met, and after full and free discussion, has agreed to recommend and does recommend to the respective Houses the final passage of this bill in an amended form.

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish a temporary, independent Public School Realignment and Closure Commission to make recommendations for school consolidations, realignments, and closures based on the federal Base Realignment and Closure model;
- (2) Establish a process by which the Governor, then Legislature, may approve or disapprove of the recommendations in its entirety, without amendment; and



- (3) Appropriate funds for the operational costs of the Commission.

Your Committee on Conference has amended this measure by:

- (1) Amending the membership of the Public School Realignment and Closure Commission (Commission);
- (2) Including additional criteria to be used in evaluating public school facilities for potential consolidation, realignment, or closure;
- (3) Specifying that any data submitted to the Commission necessary to conduct its evaluation include any existing reports, data, and analyses from the Department of Education regarding ongoing school consolidation efforts;
- (4) Requiring the Commission to formally consult with the Board of Education during the development of the criteria and the evaluation of public school facilities to ensure educational priorities are considered;
- (5) Deleting language that would have:
 - (A) Required the Commission to prepare and submit to the Legislature and Governor a final report containing a single, comprehensive list of recommendations for the consolidation, realignment, or closure of specific public school; and
 - (B) Established a process by which the Governor and Legislature would approve the Commission's report for the consolidation, realignment, or closure of specific public schools;
- (6) Inserting language establishing a process for the Commission to:
 - (A) Prepare a preliminary report containing its proposed recommendations for the consolidation, realignment, or closure of specific public schools and conduct public hearings on the preliminary report; and



- (B) Issue a final report and comprehensive list of recommendations, which may include a timeline for phased consolidations, realignments, or closures, to be filed with the Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Board of Education no later than October 1, 2028, to become final and binding with no further approval required by the Governor, Legislature, or Board of Education;
- (7) Requiring the Board of Education and Department of Education to:
 - (A) Take all necessary actions to implement the Commission's binding recommendations no later than October 1, 2029; and
 - (B) Cooperate with the Commission and supply the Commission with any relevant information requested by the Commission;
 - (8) Specifying that the Commission shall cease to exist on June 30, 2029;
 - (9) Inserting an appropriation amount of \$150,000 for the operational costs of the Commission;
 - (10) Changing the effective date to July 31, 2026; and
 - (11) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the managers of your Committee on Conference that is attached to this report, your Committee on Conference is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2344, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Final Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2344, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1.



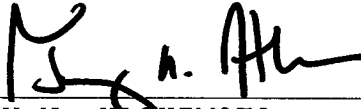
Respectfully submitted on behalf
of the managers:

ON THE PART OF THE SENATE


ON THE PART OF THE HOUSE




DONNA MERCADO KIM
Chair



TROY N. HASHIMOTO
Co-Chair



JUSTIN H. WOODSON
Co-Chair



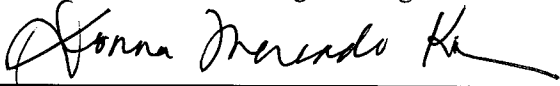
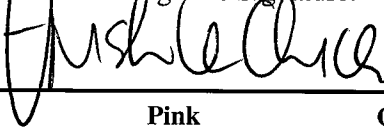
KYLE T. YAMASHITA
Co-Chair



Hawaii State Legislature

Record of Votes of a
Conference Committee

CCR 149-26

Bill / Concurrent Resolution No.: HB 2344, HD 1, SD 2					Date/Time: 05/01/26 4:09 PM						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The recommendation of the House and Senate managers is to pass with amendments (CD).											
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision.											
<input type="checkbox"/> The recommendation of the Senate Manager(s) is to AGREE to the House amendments made to the Senate Measure					<input type="checkbox"/> The recommendation of the House Manager(s) is to AGREE to the Senate amendments made to the House Measure.						
Senate Managers		A	WR	N	E	House Managers		A	WR	N	E
KIM, Donna Mercado, Chr.		/				WOODSON, Justin H., Co-Chr.		/			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N., Co-Chr.		/				YAMASHITA, Kyle T., Co-Chr.		/			
DECORTE, Samantha					/	LA CHICA, Trish		/			
						SOUZA, Kanani		/			
TOTAL		2			1	TOTAL		4			
A = Aye		WR = Aye with Reservations			N = Nay		E = Excused				
Senate Recommendation is:					House Recommendation is:						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted						
Senate Lead Chair's or Designee's Signature:					House Lead Chair's or Designee's Signature:						
											
Distribution:		Original			Yellow		Pink		Goldenrod		
		File with Conference Committee Report			House Clerk's Office		Senate Clerk's Office		Drafting Agency		