



Hawai'i School Facilities Authority

2759 S. KING STREET, ROOM H201
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 25, 2026

10:57 PM

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211

Senate Bill 2550, Senate Draft 1, Relating to School Modernization

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

The School Facilities Authority (SFA) **supports** Senate Bill 2550, Senate Draft 1, which would require the SFA to establish a school modernization initiative through a capital improvement project (CIP) planning database for school facilities statewide.

This measure would establish a structured, data-driven framework to guide long-term capital planning for public school facilities across Hawai'i. For the first time, policymakers and the public would have a consolidated planning tool to evaluate school infrastructure needs using consistent criteria statewide.

The Scope of the Challenge

Hawai'i's public school system faces significant capital pressures:

- 594 buildings have been identified as beyond their expected life, with an estimated replacement cost of approximately \$1.3 billion.
- 1,834 portable classrooms, originally intended as temporary facilities, represent an estimated replacement cost of approximately \$1.2 billion.
- 17 new schools (including eight military base replacement schools and nine additional public schools) have been identified, with estimated construction costs of approximately \$3.4 billion.

These needs span seven districts and 15 complex areas statewide.

Absent a comprehensive planning framework, decisions are often made project-by-project rather than within a transparent, statewide modernization strategy.

What the Modernization Initiative Would Provide

The CIP planning database contemplated in this measure would allow SFA to systematically evaluate:

- Asset inventory (what facilities exist and where)
- Facility condition (Facilities Condition Index)
- Capacity and utilization (enrollment-to-capacity ratios)
- Infrastructure adequacy and code compliance
- Opportunities for repurposing underutilized space

Importantly, the database would allow this information to be presented geographically by Senate and House legislative districts, improving transparency and supporting informed budgetary decision-making.

With sufficient funding and access to existing data sources, SFA estimates that a prototype version of a database application meeting the intent of this measure could be ready by the 2027 legislative session.

Planning for Modern Learning Environments

Beyond identifying deferred maintenance and replacement needs, modernization must also consider how schools are designed to serve students in the decades ahead.

Across the country, school systems are increasingly incorporating:

- Flexible, reconfigurable classroom layouts
- Shared collaborative learning spaces
- Adaptable infrastructure capable of accommodating evolving instructional models

Examples of forward-looking school design include:

- Santa Monica High School's Discovery Building (Moore Ruble Yudell):
<https://www.moorerubleyudell.com/ideasimpacts/santa-monica-high-school-discovery-building-honored-for-ingenious-structural-design/>

- Case studies of flexible educational space planning:
<https://www.re-thinkingthefuture.com/designing-for-typologies/a5932-10-example-s-of-flexible-spaces-in-education-architecture/>
- Open school design concepts: <https://codesigncollaborative.org/open-schools/>
- Adaptable education space construction strategies:
<https://www.dirtt.com/insights/constructing-flexible-and-adaptable-education-spaces/>

The proposed planning database would not prescribe specific design solutions, but it would provide the framework necessary to evaluate modernization strategies in a consistent, transparent manner statewide.

The Legislature established SFA to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public school capital improvement projects. SB2550 SD1 would provide the planning infrastructure necessary to fulfill that responsibility at scale.

By creating a transparent, data-driven modernization framework, this measure would support fiscally responsible decision-making and long-term stewardship of Hawai'i's public school facilities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Riki Fujitani
Executive Director



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/25/2026

Time: 10:57 AM

Location: CR 211 & Videoconference

Committee: WAM

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB2550, SD1, RELATING TO SCHOOL MODERNIZATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the School Facilities Authority to establish a school modernization initiative through a capital improvement project planning database for school facilities statewide. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) offers comments on this bill and shares the Legislature's commitment to improving transparency, accountability, and modernization of public school facilities. The Department currently maintains existing facilities and project data systems and has a project prioritization process, all of which could be strengthened through modernization funding provided under this bill. The Department recommends supporting current systems within the Department, rather than creating duplicative systems in a separate attached agency.

We agree that Hawaii's public school facilities represent a multibillion-dollar public asset and that many buildings are operating well beyond their intended service life. A consistent, transparent, data-based framework for prioritizing capital investments is essential to ensure appropriations are warranted and equitably distributed statewide.

The Department has a formal project identification and prioritization process. Project submission procedures include evaluation criteria, scoring considerations, and State of Hawaii Board of Education review that govern how projects advance through the budget cycle. Projects are evaluated in relation to health and safety, regulatory compliance, capacity needs, and educational program support before inclusion in the capital improvement request. In addition, the Department annually submits its *Six-Year Program and Financial Plan for School Repair and Maintenance* legislative report pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statute § 302A-1312. The fiscal year 2026 report details the statewide repair and maintenance backlog, funding allocations, project categories, and prioritization methodology. The report distinguishes among critical health and safety projects, infrastructure stabilization, lifecycle replacements, and other categories of need. This recurring report provides a transparent and structured framework for identifying, assessing, and prioritizing repair and maintenance investments.

The \$4 million appropriation contemplated in this bill could be used strategically to support modernization within the Department. The Department maintains foundational facilities and project data systems. Asset information is managed through Maximo; project tracking data is maintained within the Capital Project Tracking system; enrollment and capacity data are maintained by the Office of Strategy, Innovation, and Performance; and facilities condition data were collected through HI-FIT assessments from 2020 to 2023. These systems were developed over time to support operational and compliance needs. They provide important baseline information. The proposed funding would allow the Department to strengthen the systems already in place within the Department and evaluate options to modernize them, enabling more consistent, transparent, and analytically rigorous prioritization.

The Department supports the goals of improved transparency, risk-based prioritization, and a five-year facilities condition update cycle. We respectfully recommend that modernization efforts focus on strengthening and integrating existing Department systems, consistent with the structured prioritization processes reflected in the *Six-Year Repair and Maintenance Plan*.

A coordinated enterprise solution within the Department represents the most fiscally responsible and operationally sound approach to modernizing Hawaii's public school facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 2550, SD 1.



Wednesday, February 25, 2025

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2550 SD1

Relating to School Modernization

Submitted by:

The Ava Sofia Foundation dba Autism Moms of Kona

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB2550 SD1**, which establishes a statewide school modernization initiative and planning database to guide capital improvement decisions for Hawai'i's public school facilities.

SB2550 SD1

The Ava Sofia Foundation, known as Autism Moms of Kona, serves families across Hawai'i Island raising children with autism and developmental disabilities who rely heavily on safe, accessible, and functional school environments to support learning and regulation.

For students with disabilities, school facilities are not simply buildings — they directly impact access to education, therapy delivery, behavioral stability, and health outcomes. Aging infrastructure, inadequate ventilation, limited cooling systems, and outdated classroom environments disproportionately affect students with sensory sensitivities and complex medical or behavioral needs.

SB2550 SD1 introduces a transparent, data-driven framework to assess facility conditions, enrollment capacity, infrastructure safety, and modernization priorities statewide. Establishing an objective planning database ensures that capital improvement investments are guided by documented need rather than geographic or historical inequities.

We strongly support public access to facility data and prioritization processes, as transparency allows communities, educators, and families to better understand how modernization decisions are made and how resources are allocated.

Modern, safe, and well-designed learning environments are essential to inclusive education and long-term student success. This measure represents an important step toward equitable and accountable stewardship of Hawai'i's public school infrastructure.

On behalf of the families we serve statewide, we respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS SB2550 SD1**.

Mahalo for your continued commitment to Hawai'i's keiki.

Sincerely,

Jessica McCullum
Founder, the Ava Sofia Foundation
(DBA Autism Moms of Kona)

www.AutismMomsofKona.com



Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Re: SB 2550 SD1-Relating School Modernization
Hawai'i State Capitol Room 229 & Via Videoconference
February 25, 2026, 10:57 AM

Dear Chair Dela Crus, Vice Chair Morkiwaki, and Respected Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, we respectfully submit **STRONG SUPPORT for SB 2550 SD1**, which establishes a school modernization initiative and a comprehensive capital improvement project planning database.

Safe, modern, and well-maintained school facilities are foundational to student success. The physical condition of a school directly impacts student health, safety, attendance, educator retention, and academic outcomes. When facilities are outdated or in disrepair, it is our keiki, especially those in under-resourced communities, who are most affected.

SB 2550 SD1 represents a critical step toward addressing long-standing infrastructure challenges in a strategic and transparent manner. A centralized capital improvement planning database will support data-driven decision-making, improve coordination, and enhance accountability in how public funds are allocated. This systems-level approach helps ensure that modernization investments are prioritized equitably, particularly for schools serving vulnerable and historically underserved populations.

Modernization also presents an opportunity to align school facilities with best practices in child development. Learning environments should promote not only academic achievement, but also physical health, accessibility, safety, and social-emotional well-being. Upgrades such as improved ventilation, inclusive design for students with disabilities, and flexible learning spaces can have a lasting impact on student outcomes.

SB 2550 SD1 is an important investment in educational equity and in the long-term well-being of Hawai'i's children. Mahalo for your leadership and for the opportunity to testify in strong support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support. Please **PASS SB 2550 SD 1**.



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TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAI'I SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Item: SB 2550, SD1 – Relating to School Modernization

Position: Support

Hearing: Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 10:57 am, Room 211

Submitter: Osa Tui, Jr., President - Hawai'i State Teachers Association

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports** S.B. 2550, SD1, which establishes a framework for a school modernization initiative to address the aging infrastructure of our public schools. Currently, school buildings in Hawai'i average sixty years in age, with approximately 594 buildings operating well beyond their expected lifespan. Although the State has appropriated an annual average of \$454,000,000 for capital improvement projects over the last twelve years, there has been no data-based process to prioritize how and why projects are funded. This bill provides a solution by creating a centralized database to track asset inventories, facility conditions, and enrollment-to-capacity ratios.

This initiative ensures that taxpayer funds are spent efficiently through an industry-standard assessment framework. By prioritizing critical infrastructure such as fire alarms, structural integrity, and air conditioning, the State can better ensure the safe operation of buildings for students and educators alike. Furthermore, organizing this data by legislative district and making it available to the public through the authority's website fosters the transparency and community-specific assessment that our schools require. We urge the committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo.

SB-2550-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:53:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:57:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2550 SB RELATING TO SCHOOL MODERNIZATION



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 25, 2026

S.B. 2550, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO SCHOOL MODERNIZATION

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO wishes to provide comments on S.B. 2550, S.D. 1, which requires the School Facilities Authority (SFA) to establish a school modernization initiative through a capital improvement project planning database for school facilities statewide.

We recognize and respect the Legislature's desire to adopt an industry-standard facilities assessment framework and to compile a comprehensive, accurate inventory of school facilities. These goals—greater efficiency, transparency, and more effective use of capital improvement program funds—are ones we fully support. However, for the members we represent in the Department of Education's Office of Facilities and Operations, and for those we represent at the complex area and school levels, including principals, this measure does not clearly define the authority, decision-making power, or operating scope of the SFA in relation to the Department.

Without clear statutory delineation, this bill risks deepening the confusion and misalignment that already exist between the two entities. Our members continue to experience inconsistent communication, unclear roles, and overlapping responsibilities between the SFA and the Department. These gaps are adding to the operational challenges, slow project delivery, and are making it difficult for school leaders to plan for and support capital improvements on their campuses.

Our understanding is that the SFA has been tasked with major responsibilities, including building new preschool classrooms, developing a new school in Central Maui, and creating workforce housing for educators. While preschool classrooms have come online, we continue to hear of significant challenges related to the Central Maui school project, and the long-anticipated workforce housing development at Mililani High School has not yet materialized. These examples raise concerns about whether the SFA, as currently structured and coordinated, can take on additional responsibilities without more clearly defined roles and stronger alignment with the Department.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Legislature refine this measure to ensure clear, non-overlapping definitions of authority and responsibility between the SFA and the Department, formalized processes for communication, coordination, and shared decision-making; and transparent accountability structures that prevent duplication, enhance efficiency, and ensure that students, schools, and communities receive the timely facilities improvements they have been promised.

Our members are committed to supporting safe and modern learning environments. To do that effectively, we need legislation that strengthens—not complicates—the governance structure guiding Hawaii’s school facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on S.B. 2550, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Perreira". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Randy Perreira
Executive Director