

---

# SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA TO ADOPT ENERGY SAVINGS PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING AS A PRIMARY STRATEGY TO ADDRESS DEFERRED MAINTENANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION AND IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY STATEWIDE.

1 WHEREAS, the State continues to face significant challenges  
2 related to aging public infrastructure and escalating deferred  
3 maintenance costs; and

4  
5 WHEREAS, the Department of Education currently faces a  
6 deferred maintenance backlog exceeding \$2.4 billion, placing  
7 increasing strain on limited public resources and impacting the  
8 quality of learning environments for students and educators; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, despite substantial requests for major repair and  
11 maintenance funding for fiscal biennium 2025-2027, traditional  
12 capital improvement and repair approaches have proven  
13 insufficient, inefficient, and costly to taxpayers; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, sections 36-41 and 196-30, Hawaii Revised  
16 Statutes, authorize the use of energy performance contracting  
17 and energy savings performance contracting respectively, which  
18 are innovative financing models that enable government entities  
19 to implement energy efficiency and infrastructure improvements  
20 without upfront capital investment; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, under the energy savings performance contracting  
23 model, project costs are funded through guaranteed energy  
24 savings, thereby eliminating the need for significant  
25 legislative appropriations while ensuring fiscal accountability;  
26 and

27  
28 WHEREAS, energy savings performance contract projects  
29 typically include comprehensive upgrades, such as energy-  
30 efficient lighting, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning  
31 systems, water conservation measures, and renewable energy



1 integration, all of which contribute to long-term operational  
2 savings and environmental sustainability; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, the energy savings performance contracting model  
5 has been successfully implemented by the Department of  
6 Transportation and University of Hawaii Community Colleges, with  
7 projected savings approaching \$1 billion over the life of the  
8 implemented contracts and the effective elimination of their  
9 deferred maintenance backlogs; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, recommendations to adopt energy savings  
12 performance contracting methodologies were presented to the  
13 Department of Education as early as 2008, demonstrating that  
14 these approaches optimize building systems, reduce lifecycle  
15 costs, and enhance facility performance; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, transitioning to energy savings performance  
18 contracting in coordination with emerging oversight structures  
19 such as the School Facilities Authority presents a strategic  
20 opportunity to modernize school infrastructure and improve long-  
21 term fiscal sustainability; now, therefore,

22  
23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,  
25 that the Department of Education and University of Hawaii at  
26 Manoa are urged to adopt energy savings performance contracting  
27 as a primary strategy to address deferred maintenance and  
28 infrastructure modernization and improve energy efficiency  
29 statewide; and

30  
31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education and  
32 University of Hawaii at Manoa are encouraged to collaborate with  
33 relevant state agencies and qualified energy service companies  
34 to identify, develop, and implement energy savings performance  
35 contract projects that maximize cost savings, improve facility  
36 conditions, and enhance sustainability outcomes; and

37  
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education and  
39 University of Hawaii at Manoa are requested to submit a report  
40 to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
41 convening of the Regular Session of 2027 detailing planned or  
42 implemented energy savings performance contract projects,



1 projected savings, and timelines for reducing deferred  
2 maintenance backlogs; and

3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
6 Education, Superintendent of Education, Comptroller, and  
7 President of the University of Hawaii System.

