
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA TO ADOPT ENERGY SAVINGS PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING PURSUANT TO SECTION 36-41, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, 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

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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

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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

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15 WHEREAS, section 36-41, Hawaii Revised Statutes, authorizes
16 the use of energy savings performance contracting, an innovative
17 financing model that enables government entities to implement
18 energy efficiency and infrastructure improvements without
19 upfront capital investment; and

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

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



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

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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

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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

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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
21 long-term fiscal sustainability; now, therefore,

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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 authorized pursuant to section 36-41, Hawaii Revised
28 Statutes, as a primary strategy to address deferred maintenance
29 and infrastructure modernization and improve energy efficiency
30 statewide; and

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

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



1 implemented energy savings performance contract projects,
2 projected savings, and timelines for reducing deferred
3 maintenance backlogs; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
7 Education, Superintendent of Education, Comptroller, and
8 President of the University of Hawaii System.

