

MAR 1 6 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE
AND FINANCIAL AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT BACKLOG.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Education manages the largest
2 public infrastructure portfolio in the State, including hundreds
3 of public school campuses and facilities that require ongoing
4 maintenance, renovation, and construction; and

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6 WHEREAS, capital improvement projects are critical to
7 ensuring that public school facilities are safe, functional,
8 modern, and capable of supporting student learning and
9 educational outcomes; and

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11 WHEREAS, the State has appropriated significant funding
12 over time for school facility planning, design, construction,
13 and deferred maintenance projects; and

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15 WHEREAS, concerns have been raised regarding the size and
16 duration of the Department of Education's capital improvement
17 project backlog and the pace at which projects are implemented
18 and completed; and

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20 WHEREAS, policymakers and the public would benefit from a
21 comprehensive and transparent accounting of the Department of
22 Education's capital improvement project backlog, including the
23 status of projects and the amount of funding required to
24 complete the projects; and

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26 WHEREAS, the Office of the Auditor is authorized to conduct
27 performance and financial audits of state agencies and programs
28 to improve accountability, transparency, and effectiveness in
29 the use of public funds; now, therefore,

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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
33 that the Auditor is requested to conduct a comprehensive
34 performance and financial audit of the Department of Education's
35 capital improvement project backlog; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the audit is requested to include but not be limited to:

- (1) A complete inventory of the backlog of all Department of Education capital improvement projects;
- (2) The total funding that has been appropriated, allocated, encumbered, obligated, or expended for each project;
- (3) The current status of each project, including planning, design, procurement, construction, completion, or delay;
- (4) The original estimated project cost compared with the most current cost estimate;
- (5) Any identified delays, cost overruns, or administrative barriers affecting project delivery;
- (6) The projected funding necessary to complete each project and to eliminate the existing backlog; and
- (7) Recommendations to improve capital improvement project planning, budgeting, management, and execution within the Department of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of the Department of Education, and Auditor.

OFFERED BY: *Anna Mercedes K...*

