

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 19 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1778
H.D. 1

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

Madame:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred H.B. No. 1778 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require and appropriate funds for the School Facilities Authority to establish a school modernization initiative through a capital improvement project planning database for school facilities statewide.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the School Facilities Authority; Hawai'i State Teachers Association; Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO; Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!; and seven individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Education.

Your Committee finds that construction is historically expensive in Hawaii and the construction industry has faced challenges related to the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The amount of money the State spends on school-related construction and the reasons for such spending need to be informed and justified. Your Committee believes that the school modernization initiative proposed by this measure will help inform



spending and prioritization of capital improvement projects for school facilities in the State.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the appropriations to unspecified amounts;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider an appropriation amount of \$4,000,000 to be deposited into and appropriated out of the School Facilities Special Fund to establish the school modernization initiative.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1778, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1778, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Education,


JUSTIN H. WOODSON, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Education

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1778	Committee Referral: EDN, FIN	Date: 2/12/26		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
EDN Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. WOODSON, Justin H. (C)	/			
2. LA CHICA, Trish (VC)	/			
3. AMATO, Terez	/			
4. EVSLIN, Luke A.	/			
5. GARRETT, Andrew Takuya				X
6. KAPELA, Jeanne	/			
7. KILA, Darius K.	/			
8. OLDS, Ikaika	/			
9. MURAOKA, Christopher L.	/			
10. SOUZA, Kanani	/			
TOTAL (10)	9			1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <small style="margin-left: 100px;">committee acronym(s)</small>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <u>Trish La Chica</u>				
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