



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

Date: 02/19/2026

Time: 09:00 AM

Location: 411 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: WAL

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB2294, HD1, RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL LAND TRANSFER.

Purpose of Bill: Amends Act 307, SLH 2022, to revise tax map key numbers and the conveyance process by which identified properties are to be conveyed to the Department of Education. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2294, HD 1, which seeks to amend Act 307, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, by updating Tax Map Key (TMK) numbers and clarifying the conveyance process for the identified public school properties.

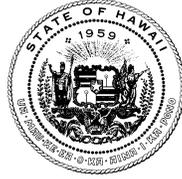
The primary goal of this measure is to ensure the orderly and legal transfer of fee simple title to certain lands owned by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, County of Kauai, and County of Maui to the Department. HB 2294, HD 1 provides necessary technical corrections or revisions to TMK numbers that have changed due to further verification of information, parcel consolidation or subdivision, or changes in circumstances since the passage of Act 307 in 2022.

The bill also eliminates ambiguity regarding the Department's authority over these parcels by specifying that these transfers are effective by operation of law as of July 1, 2022, the effective date of Act 307. Formalizing these transfers through the recording of quitclaim deeds ensures that the Department can effectively manage facilities, execute capital improvement projects, and maintain the safe, engaging learning environments Hawaii's students deserve.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



STACEY A. ALDRICH
STATE LIBRARIAN
Ke Po'o Hale Waihona Puke Moku'āina

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
'OIHANA HALE WAIHONA PUKE AUPUNI O KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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House Committee on Water & Land
February 19, 2026, 9:00 am
State Capitol, Room 309

HB 2294 HD1 – Relating to Public School Land Transfer

To: Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Water & Land

The Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS) provides **comments** on HB 2294 HD1 which amends Act 307, SLH 2022, to revise tax map key numbers and the conveyance process by which identified properties are to be conveyed to the Department of Education.

In 1981, or about 45 years ago, the State Legislature transferred oversight of the public library system to the Board of Education (BOE) and the State Librarian. Although operations of the public libraries were transferred in 1981, control over the properties which the public libraries were located was not completed or clarified.

Since the separation of the public library system from the DOE, the HSPLS has been solely responsible for the development, use, support, and improvements and maintenance of all public library buildings statewide, including public and school libraries which are located on or adjacent to school campuses. During this time, the HSPLS has also expended significant resources for continued maintenance, renovations and improvements at all public libraries.

HB2294 HD1 proposes to clarify the administration of the transfer of properties to the Department of Education (DOE); however, some of the properties identified in HB2294 HD1 also include public library facilities and improvements. The HSPLS respectfully requests that the Committee consider amending this measure to fulfill the legislative intent of 45 years ago to separate the public library system from the DOE, and ensure that the public library system can continue to effectively and efficiently manage, maintain, renovate and improve public

libraries. unincumbered. While this measure could address some of our public and school libraries, there are other public library parcels that still reflect the Department of Education on the Executive Order (EO) even though the purpose of the EO is for a public library.

Recently, we became aware that this inconsistency has created confusion about authorizations and control over the public library parcels by other governmental agencies. For example, the County of Maui real property tax records reflect that the “owner” of the Kahului Public Library parcel is the Department of Education, despite the 1981 law to separate the public library system from the DOE. As such, the County believes that someone from the DOE, not the HSPLS, should be the party authorizing installation of new County street lights in an easement area of the Kahului Public Library parcel.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 2294 HD1 and your continued support of our communities and the Hawai‘i State Public Library System.