



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

Date: 03/03/2026

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: FIN

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB2294, HD2, 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. (HD2)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to HB 2294, HD 2, 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. However, the Department strongly opposes the HD 2 amendment that excludes lands beneath the 12 Hawaii State Public Libraries (HSPLS) from transfer to the Department.

Act 307 was enacted to eliminate split ownership of school lands and consolidate fee simple title to the Department to support campus safety, coherent planning, and timely capital improvements. Retaining library parcels under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) recreates the same fragmented ownership and landlocked parcels that Act 307 was designed to resolve.

12 of the HSPLS facilities are embedded within active school campuses, sharing utilities, circulation, parking, and other areas. Carving out these parcels would directly impede school operations, complicate permitting, and undermine the Department's ability to execute future improvements.

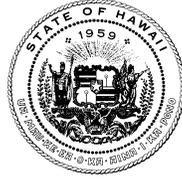
The Department further notes that co-located libraries do not require fee ownership to operate effectively. Under the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §302A-1148, the Department may issue revocable permits, licenses, and rights of entry for community uses. The HSPLS also has full operational authority under HRS Chapter 312 without requiring fee simple title.

Based on the information presented above, the Department requests deletion of the HD 2 carve out for state library parcels and restoration of the uniform transfer framework established by Act 307.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments for 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'
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**House Committee on Finance
March 3, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 308**

HB 2294 HD2 – Relating to Public School Land Transfer

To: Rep. Chris Todd, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

The Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS) provides **supports** on HB 2294 HD2 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. HD2

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.

The HSPLS supports the HD2 language to fulfill the legislative intent to separate the public library system from the DOE and ensure that the HSPLS can continue to effectively and efficiently manage, maintain, renovate and improve public libraries unincumbered.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 2294 HD2 and your continued support of our communities and the Hawai'i State Public Library System.