



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

Date: 02/12/2026
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Committee: EDN

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB2345, RELATING TO SCHOOL FACILITIES.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the School Facilities Authority to establish geographically based capital improvement project districts for the localized management of deferred maintenance. Transfers all deferred maintenance functions, funds, and vacant facilities development branch positions from the Department of Education to the School Facilities Authority as intended and contemplated in Act 72, SLH 2020. Appropriates funds.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the Legislature's continued attention to addressing deferred maintenance needs across public school facilities and shares the goal of reducing the deferred maintenance backlog to ensure safe, functional learning environments statewide. However, the Department must respectfully oppose HB 2345 as currently drafted.

The Department currently administers its deferred maintenance program through geographically based districts that are generally aligned with the Department's existing school district structure. This model provides effective, localized coordination with school leaders and ensures alignment with departmental priorities. Requiring the School Facilities Authority (SFA) to establish separate geographically based project districts would unnecessarily duplicate existing structures without demonstrating improved efficiency, accountability, or outcomes.

Transferring deferred maintenance functions to the SFA while major Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects remain under the Department would further fragment facilities governance and create confusion at the school level. The Department currently administers facilities work through two coordinated branches: the Facilities Maintenance Branch, which provides minor repairs and maintenance services to schools, and the Facilities Development Branch (FDB), which manages CIP and deferred maintenance projects. These branches work in tandem to ensure that small repairs, larger maintenance needs, and capital projects are sequenced and executed efficiently. Dividing these responsibilities across separate agencies would require school administrators and staff to interface with multiple entities for facilities-related

issues, complicating points of contact and obscuring accountability. Such fragmentation would heighten the risk of delays, miscommunication, and inefficiencies, particularly for projects that involve both deferred maintenance and CIP components.

The Department emphasizes that deferred maintenance challenges do not stem from where authority is housed, but from long-standing constraints, including staffing shortages, limited funding, procurement limitations, and the age and complexity of school facilities statewide. Without addressing these underlying constraints, restructuring governance alone will not improve project delivery or reduce maintenance backlogs.

Separating deferred maintenance from other facilities functions would also undermine coordination with instructional, safety, and compliance requirements. Even with CIP projects remaining with the Department, a split governance structure would fragment facilities planning and accountability, leaving the Department responsible for educational outcomes without direct control over the facility improvements necessary to achieve them.

Act 72, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020, which established the SFA, envisioned the Authority as a complementary partner focused on large-scale, high-priority facilities initiatives, while the Department continued to manage its established maintenance, repair, and capital improvement responsibilities. It did not direct the transfer of the Department's FDB or its positions, and the proposed action is inconsistent with the role Act 72 intended for the SFA. Transferring vacant FDB positions to the SFA would undermine this intended balance and weaken the Department's ability to deliver its core responsibilities. The Department is actively making progress in filling these vacancies and rebuilding internal capacity, supported by an existing district-based structure, established operational processes, and long-standing school-level relationships that enable timely and effective responses to campus needs.

For these reasons, the Department respectfully opposes this measure and looks forward to working with the Legislature on alternative approaches to improve deferred maintenance outcomes for Hawaii's public schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2345.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



RIKI FUJITANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Hawai'i School Facilities Authority

2759 S. KING STREET, ROOM H201
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

House Committee on Education

February 12, 2026
2:00 PM

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 309

House Bill 2345, Relating to School Facilities

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i School Facilities Authority (SFA) offers comments on House Bill 2345, which would require the SFA to establish geographically based capital improvement project districts for the localized management of deferred maintenance and would transfer all deferred maintenance functions, funds, and vacant Facilities Development Branch positions from the Department of Education (DOE) to the SFA, as intended and contemplated in Act 72, SLH 2020.

The SFA is committed to modernizing Hawai'i's public school environments to enhance educational outcomes, support student and staff well-being, and strengthen communities statewide. HB 2345 is of significant interest to the SFA because it proposes localizing the management of deferred maintenance, a critical challenge facing our school facilities.

By establishing geographically based capital improvement project districts, this bill enables a more localized and responsive approach to managing deferred maintenance. Under the current structure, deferred maintenance is largely managed from O'ahu, even when issues arise on neighbor islands. HB 2345 would allow deferred maintenance activities to be managed through district-based oversight and dedicated regional points of accountability closer to the schools they affect. SFA believes this localized model

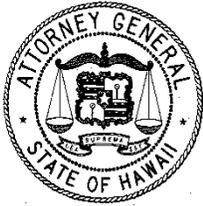
could improve responsiveness, coordination with school communities, and stewardship of public resources.

If the Legislature determines that the locally managed deferred maintenance program is best situated with SFA instead of the DOE, we request adequate resources for the transition and the exemption of at least seven of the transferred positions from civil service to quickly fill vacancies necessary for the administration of this program.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Riki Fujitani
Executive Director



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 2345, RELATING TO SCHOOL FACILITIES.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

DATE: Thursday, February 12, 2026 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 309

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Anne T. Horiuchi or Randall M. Wat, Deputy Attorneys General

Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) provides the following comments.

This bill: (1) requires the School Facilities Authority (SFA) to establish geographically based capital improvement project districts for the localized management of deferred maintenance; (2) transfers all deferred maintenance functions, funds, and vacant facilities development branch positions from the Department of Education to the SFA, as intended and contemplated in Act 72, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020; and (3) appropriates funds.

Section 3(c) of the bill (Page 4, lines 9-13) provides:

(c) All appropriations, items of appropriation, and unexpended balances of funds, including any federal funds, designated for deferred maintenance **or facilities development** within the department of education, are transferred to the school facilities authority.

By adding "or facilities development" to deferred maintenance, section 3(c) appears to extend beyond the stated purpose of the bill. Section 1 of the bill (page 2, lines 6–17) identifies for transfer only vacant Facilities Development Branch positions and functions, duties, and funds related to deferred maintenance.

If the Legislature intends to transfer all appropriations designated for facilities development from the Department of Education to the SFA, the Department recommends that section 1 be revised to reflect that intent. If that is not the

Legislature's intent, the Department recommends that the phrase "or facilities development" (page 4, line 11) be deleted from section 3(c).

Additionally, the Department notes that the term "deferred maintenance" is not defined in chapter 302A, HRS. Section 37-68, HRS, contains the following definition of "deferred maintenance costs," which may be advisable to use as the basis for a definition in the proposed new section:

"[D]eferred maintenance costs" means the costs to catch up on the repair and maintenance of the state-owned building, facility, or other improvement that has been delayed past the ordinarily scheduled repair and maintenance cycle. The department of budget and finance may further refine this definition in its instructions to the agencies furnishing the information.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

To: House Committee on Education
Re: HB 2345-Relating to School Facilities
Hawai'i State Capitol room 309 & Via Videoconference Friday,
February 12, 2026, 2:00 PM

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice La Chica, and Respected Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, we respectfully submit **STRONG SUPPORT for HB 2345.**

Every child in Hawai'i deserves to learn in a safe, healthy, and well-maintained school. Yet too many of our public school campuses continue to struggle with significant deferred maintenance needs; from leaking roofs and outdated electrical systems to inadequate ventilation and aging classrooms. These facility challenges directly impact student learning, educator retention, and overall school climate.

HB 2345 takes an important step toward addressing these longstanding issues by fully implementing the intent of Act 72 (2020). By transferring deferred maintenance functions, funding, and relevant positions from the Department of Education to the School Facilities Authority and by establishing geographically based capital improvement project districts this measure strengthens accountability, responsiveness, and project delivery.

Localizing project oversight under the SFA will allow decisions to be more closely aligned with community needs. Schools across different islands and regions face unique challenges. A geographically based structure ensures that maintenance priorities are identified and addressed more efficiently and equitably, rather than being delayed within a centralized system.

Importantly, this bill also supports transparency and fiscal responsibility. Consolidating deferred maintenance functions under a dedicated authority with focused expertise can streamline project management, reduce bottlenecks, and improve outcomes for taxpayers and students alike. When school repairs and improvements are completed on time and within budget, communities gain greater confidence in public systems.

For HCAN Speaks!, school facilities are not simply infrastructure, they are foundational to child well-being and educational equity. Students cannot fully thrive in environments that are unsafe, unhealthy, or in disrepair. Modern, well-maintained campuses contribute to consistent attendance, stronger teacher morale, and better learning outcomes. Ensuring that facilities are properly managed and maintained is a critical investment in Hawai'i's keiki.

For the sake our keiki, our taxpayers, and our kuleana to our communities we humbly request that this committee pass HB 2345

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2345.**



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 12, 2026

H.B. 2345 – RELATING TO SCHOOL FACILITIES

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO wishes to provide comments on H.B. 2345 which requires the School Facilities Authority (SFA) to establish geographically based capital improvement project districts for the localized management of deferred maintenance. The bill transfers all the deferred maintenance functions, funds, and vacant facilities development branch positions from the Department of Education to the SFA as intended and contemplated in Act 72, SLH 2020.

We recognize and respect the Legislature's desire to have a centralized system for managing school capital improvement projects. Greater efficiency, accountability, and responsiveness to deferred maintenance projects are ones we fully support. However, this measure does not clearly define the authority, decision-making power, or operating scope of the School Facilities Authority (SFA) in relation to the Department. Add to that the role of the Department of Accounting and General Services which is involved in the maintenance of neighbor island schools.

Without clear statutory delineation, this bill risks deepening the confusion and misalignment that already exist between these entities. Our members continue to experience inconsistent communication, unclear roles, and overlapping responsibilities between the SFA and the Department and creating geographically based capital improvement project districts will just add another layer of bureaucracy. We do not believe that transferring vacant positions and all functions, duties, and funds from the Department to SFA will resolve these problems and fear it will instead further entrench the very inefficiencies this bill seeks to solve.

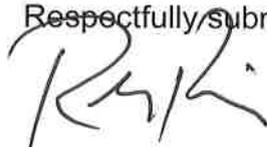
For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Legislature refine this measure to ensure clear, non-overlapping definitions of authority and responsibility between the SFA, DOE, and DAGS, formalized processes for communication, coordination, and shared decision-making; and transparent accountability structures that prevent duplication, enhance efficiency, and ensure that students, schools, and communities receive the timely facilities improvements they have been promised.

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Our members are committed to supporting safe and modern learning environments. To do that effectively, we need legislation that strengthens—not complicates—the governance structure guiding Hawaii’s school facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on H.B. 2345.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randy Perreira', written over the printed name below.

Randy Perreira
Executive Director



UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2026

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Rep. Justin Woodson, Chair
Rep. Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 12, 2026, 2:00 PM
Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony on HB2345 – RELATING TO SCHOOL FACILITIES

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”) is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which includes blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties.

UPW is **opposed** to HB2345, which requires the School Facilities Authority (“SFA”) to establish geographically based capital improvement project districts for the localized management of deferred maintenance. This measure also transfers all deferred maintenance functions, funds, and vacant facilities development branch positions from the Department of Education (“DOE”) to the SFA as intended and contemplated in Act 72, SLH 2020.

Pursuant to Section 76-16(b)(33), all current SFA employees are exempt from civil service. With this civil service exemption, we are concerned that any deferred maintenance projects will allow SFA to hire contractors to perform work that can be and have historically been done by public workers.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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HB-2345

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:18:21 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry Support

2345 HB RELATING TO SCHOOL FACILITIES.