

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT
KA 'OIHANA HO'OLĀLĀ KŪKULU HALE A ME KA HO'OKELE 'ĀINA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

650 SOUTH KING STREET, FLOOR 3 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-4277 • FAX: (808) 768-4296 • WEBSITE: www.honolulu.gov/dhlm

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



KEVIN D. AUGER
DIRECTOR
PO'O

CATHERINE A. TASCHNER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O

February 4, 2026

The Honorable Stanley Chang, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
and Members of the Committees

Hawai'i State Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**SUBJECT: Support for Senate Bill 2524
Relating to Appropriations**

Dear Chairs Chang and Wakai and Committee Members:

The Department of Housing and Land Management (DHLM) **strongly supports** Senate Bill 2524, which provides grant-in-aid funding to the City and County of Honolulu to carry out required transfers of City-owned lands on which State Department of Education public schools are sited.

Through Acts 206 (2017) and 210 (2018), the State directed the City to transfer ownership of 97 school sites to the State so that the Department of Education would have full control over those parcels. While the policy decision was made at the State level, the responsibility of completing these transfers was placed on the City without sufficient funding to carry them out.

These transfers are complex. Each parcel requires surveying, title research, mapping, easement analysis, and legal work to resolve decades-old issues before a transfer can occur. Completing this work across 97 separate properties represents a substantial, multi-year workload that exceeds the City's existing capacity without additional resources.

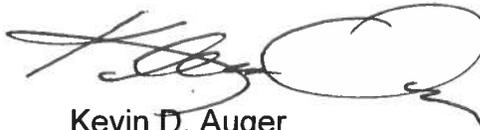
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Chair; The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair;
and Members of the Committees on Housing and Energy & Intergovernmental Affairs
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To date, the City has already incurred approximately \$355,000 to advance title research, survey field work, and mapping. Based on experience from work already completed, the remaining effort required to finalize transfers for all 97 school sites is estimated at \$3.25 million. Absent this funding, it will not be possible to complete the school land transfers.

For these reasons, the Department of Housing and Land Management respectfully urges the Committees to pass Senate Bill 2524.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Gavin Thornton, Director of Housing Policy, at (808) 768-4277.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin D. Auger", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin D. Auger
Director