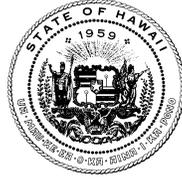


JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

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
44 MERCHANT STREET
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**Senate Committee on Education
and
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
February 13, 2026, 1:00p.m.
State Capitol, Room 229**

SB 2613 – Relating to Public School Land Transfer

To: Sen. Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

Sen. Chris Lee, Chair
Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

The Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS) respectfully provides comments on SB2613 which revises tax map key numbers and the conveyance process by which identified properties are conveyed to the Department of Education pursuant to Act 307, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022; and clarifies that land dispositions of school buildings, facilities, and grounds made by the DOE shall not require approval from the Board of Land and Natural Resources when these dispositions are for periods exceeding one year.

Prior to 1981, the Department of Education Superintendent was responsible for the Hawaii State Public Library System. In 1981, legislation was adopted to transfer responsibility for the public libraries to the Board of Education and the State Librarian. Since then, the HSPLS has been solely responsible for the management and operations of all public library buildings statewide. Significant resources have been expended by HSPLS for the continued maintenance, renovations and improvements to all public libraries.

The HSPLS respectfully requests the Committees' support to amend SB2613 to require the Department of Education to convey any land where a public library is located to the HSPLS. Attached is a list of the properties where the HSPLS operates or manages library facilities. We request the following:

- For 12 public and school libraries, subdivision and conveyance of a fee simple interest to the land upon which the public library and other existing improvements are situated on, as well as unencumbered access to the buildings.
- Quick claim deed to convey all other public library properties together with all existing improvements.

These actions would be the most efficient and cost-effective management of these public assets. The HSPLS proposes adding a new Part III to this measure to implement the transfer:

Part III

SECTION 1. (a) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the fee simple interest to the parcels of land set forth in this section, together with the existing improvements thereon, but not including submerged land, accreted land, or any land makai of the legal shoreline ("properties") shall be conveyed by the department of education, as is, where is, to the state public library system. The state public library system shall accept the properties in their existing condition. All claims and liabilities against the grantors, if any, that the state public library system has, may have had, or may have in the future, regarding any injury, loss, cost, damage, or liability, including reasonable attorney's fees, concerning the physical, environmental, soil, economic, and legal conditions of the properties, shall be released, waived, and extinguished.

(b) The department of education shall prepare, execute, and record, in the land court or bureau of conveyances, as appropriate, a quitclaim deed to convey each of the properties together with all existing improvements. Work to initiate the conveyance of the properties shall commence no later than December 31, 2026. As an alternative to conveyance instruments for each parcel, the transfer of such lands shall be completed by operation of law. Where applicable and in the discretion of the state public library system, the state public library system may elect to obtain all or a portion of each parcel identified. If the state public library system elects to obtain a portion or portions of any parcel identified, then the parties to the conveyance shall take all actions necessary to legally effect the same.

(c) As these are conveyances in which the department of education and the state public library system are the only parties, the tax imposed by section 247—1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall not apply.

(d) Effective on the date of transfer, every reference to the titleholder of the properties shall be construed as a reference to the state public library system.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 2613 and your continued support of our communities and the Hawai'i State Public Library System.



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

Date: 02/13/2026

Time: 01:00 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: EDU/WLA

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB2613, RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL LAND TRANSFER.

Purpose of Bill: Revises tax map key numbers and the conveyance process by which identified properties are conveyed to the Department of Education pursuant to Act 307, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022. Clarifies that land dispositions of school buildings, facilities, and grounds made by the DOE shall not require approval from the Board of Land and Natural Resources when these dispositions are for periods exceeding one year.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2613, which seeks to amend Act 307, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 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. SB 2613 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.

One specific amendment to this bill that the Department is requesting is deleting land identified by TMK No.: (4)3-6-002:010 (Wilcox Elementary School), on page 4, line 7, from the Department to the County of Kauai. Currently, the bill states the parcel is owned by the County of Kauai and would transfer the parcel to the Department. However, currently, the parcel is owned by the Department, and we would like to

transfer it to the County of Kauai. Therefore, in addition to deleting page 4, line 7, the Department requests a new subsection (h) in Section 2 of the bill to transfer TMK No: (4)3-6-002:010 (Wilcox Elementary School) from the Department of Education to the County of Kauai.

Since the enactment of Act 307, the County of Kauai and the Department have been in collaboration on this matter and request that this conveyance be transferred, as is, based on the following terms and conditions:

1. As this is a conveyance in which the county of Kauai and the State and its agencies are the only parties, the tax imposed by section 247-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall not apply. The county of Kauai shall accept the property in its existing condition.
2. All claims and liabilities against the department of education, if any, which the county of Kauai has, may have had, or may have in the future, regarding any injury, loss, cost, damage, or liability, including reasonable attorney's fees, concerning the physical, environmental, soil, economic, and legal conditions of the conveyed property, shall be released, waived, and extinguished.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2613.

SB-2613

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:15:14 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/13/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry Support

2613 SB RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL LAND TRANSFER.