

**SB-2814**

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Testimony for EDU on 2/18/2026 1:02:00 PM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2814 SB RELATING TO PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO  
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**LATE**

**Date:** 02/18/2026

**Time:** 01:02 PM

**Location:** CR 229 & Videoconference

**Committee:** EDU

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB2814, RELATING TO PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes the preventive maintenance special fund under the Department of Education to be used exclusively for preventive maintenance of public school facilities. Requires an annual report to the Legislature. Appropriates moneys.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) strongly supports SB 2814, which establishes a preventive maintenance special fund dedicated exclusively to the timely and proactive care of public school facilities. This measure represents a critical step toward preserving the State's substantial investment in school infrastructure and ensuring safe, healthy learning environments for all students.

The Department currently faces significant limitations. Finance Memorandum No. 19-03, issued by the State of Hawaii Department of Budget and Finance, prohibits the use of tax-exempt general obligation bond funds for routine maintenance, making these funds unsuitable for ongoing upkeep needs. As a result, capital improvement project funds cannot be used for preventive maintenance activities, leaving a major gap in the Department's ability to support the type of routine, planned maintenance that prevents deterioration and avoids costly emergency repairs. SB 2814 directly addresses this gap by creating a dedicated state treasury fund to be used exclusively for preventive maintenance across all public schools.

A sustained focus on preventive maintenance aligns with modern facility-management best practices and will help reduce the backlog of deferred maintenance that has accumulated over time.

Preventive maintenance is critical to preserving building systems and extending the useful life of school facilities. When these activities are deferred, deterioration accelerates, and corrective actions become significantly more expensive. SB 2814 allows the Department to perform essential preventive tasks, including but not limited to:

- Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) servicing, including filter changes, coil cleaning, and seasonal equipment inspections to prevent failures during peak heat periods;
- Roof maintenance, such as sealing penetrations, replacing failed flashings, and clearing drains to avoid leaks that lead to interior damage;
- Electrical system inspections and repairs/replacements to prevent system outages or safety hazards;
- Plumbing maintenance and repairs to prevent the acceleration of pipe corrosion, and clogs caused by root intrusions and debris;
- Water system maintenance and repairs; and
- Structural inspections and repairs.

These are the very types of activities contemplated under SB 2814 as allowable expenditures, including inspections, servicing, and maintenance necessary to comply with health, safety, and environmental standards.

The Department manages a diverse portfolio of more than 258 public school campuses across the islands, each containing multiple building systems that require ongoing care. A dedicated preventive maintenance fund allows the Department to establish consistent and cost-effective statewide service contracts, including but not limited to:

- Elevator inspection and servicing contracts to ensure statewide compliance with inspection schedules;
- Fire alarm and suppression system testing and maintenance contracts to maintain safety certifications;
- Water quality and backflow-preventer testing contracts to ensure compliance with health and environmental standards; and
- HVAC service agreements to provide scheduled maintenance for thousands of units statewide.

These statewide contracts create economies of scale, reduce per-school costs, improve compliance, and help ensure uniform levels of safety and reliability across all campuses. SB 2814 aligns with nationally recognized best practices in facility stewardship by prioritizing preventive actions over reactive repairs. A sustained preventive maintenance program reduces the State's deferred maintenance backlog, prevents minor issues from escalating into major system failures resulting in costly emergency repairs, and extends the service life of major assets such as roofs, HVAC systems, and electrical infrastructure. The fund established under this measure supports a proactive strategy that is more cost-effective for taxpayers and better for the long-term health of school facilities.

The Department appreciates the Legislature's continued support of public school facilities and is committed to providing transparency through the required annual reporting on the use of this funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 2814.