



LATE \*Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

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

**Date:** 04/16/2026

**Time:** 02:05 PM

**Location:** 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** EDN

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SCR199, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK IN THE OFFICE OF FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS THAT IMPROVES RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR MONITORING ALL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE PROJECTS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requesting The Department Of Education To Establish A Framework In The Office Of Facilities And Operations That Improves Responsibility And Accountability For Monitoring All Capital Improvement Projects And Repair And Maintenance Projects.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the intent of SCR 199, SD 1 and the Legislature's continued interest in strengthening accountability and communication related to school facility projects. The Department also acknowledges the recent amendments made in SD 1, which clarify that the requested framework is to be established within the Office of Facilities and Operations (OFO) and affirms OFO's role as the entity responsible for statewide project management and oversight.

Under the Hawaii State Board of Education's (BOE) governance structure, OFO is the Department's designated lead for capital improvement, repair, and maintenance projects. The OFO possesses the technical expertise and statutory responsibility necessary to ensure regulatory compliance with federal, state, and county requirements; manage funding; administer procurement and construction activities; align projects with Department, Legislature, and BOE priorities; and maintain consistent standards and equity across the statewide school facilities portfolio. Centralized oversight through OFO is essential for effective prioritization, fiscal integrity, statewide system equity, and risk management across the Department's facilities program.

Complex Area Superintendents and their teams play an important and valued role in this process and already work collaboratively with OFO to identify facility needs, provide

local operational context, and support project implementation at the school level. These collaborative relationships are essential and continue to improve through refinements to the Department's prioritization, reporting, and communication practices. However, assigning sole responsibility and accountability to complex-area leadership risks blurring established governance roles, introducing inconsistent monitoring practices across complex areas, and diverting educational leadership capacity away from core instructional and operational responsibilities.

The requirement for each Complex Area Superintendent to submit quarterly status reports to both the OFO and legislators representing their districts raises additional concerns regarding administrative burden and the diversion of limited technical resources. Capital improvement and repair, and maintenance projects are inherently dynamic and subject to schedule and cost adjustments due to procurement timelines, regulatory reviews, funding availability, site conditions, and contractor performance. The additional reporting and reconciliation requirements under this measure may require technical project management staff to redirect time and effort away from active project planning, design coordination, construction oversight, and issue resolution.

Consistent with the BOE direction and legislative support, the Department has made meaningful improvements to its capital planning and prioritization process, including a transition away from numerous line-item capital improvement projects toward lump-sum appropriations guided by a standardized prioritization methodology. This approach incorporates complex area input while allowing the Department to balance priorities statewide, improve transparency, enhance flexibility, and better align projects with funding authorized by the Legislature.

The Department recommends that the implementation of this measure maintain centralized monitoring and accountability within the OFO as the single point of responsibility for project monitoring and reporting and avoid duplicative or parallel reporting structures. Retaining OFO as the lead for project monitoring and accountability, while continuing to strengthen collaboration, communication, and information sharing with complex area leadership, remains the most effective and sustainable approach to managing school facility projects statewide.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on SCR 199, SD 1.

**SCR-199-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 1:57:33 PM

Testimony for EDN on 4/16/2026 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Representative Woodson and Committee members

Testimony: Susan Pcola-Davis SPEAKING ON MY OWN BEHALF

**SCR199 SD1**

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK IN THE OFFICE OF FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS THAT IMPROVES RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR MONITORING ALL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE PROJECTS.

**Strongly Oppose** wording with clearer suggested amendments

1. I haven't seen resolutions with definitions but I recommend two. One for OFO and the other for CAS.

**a. Office of Operations:**

Define: Framework (infrastructure, basic structure, plan, or system, as of concepts, values, customs, or rules:

**b. Complexes Area Superintendents and their staff:**

Define: Monitor (To keep track of systematically with a view to collecting information, to keep close watch)

Some recommended changes to wording:

**Delete** "is requested to". Change to "WILL".

**Delete** " SOLELY" because they cannot be solely responsible if the framework isn't established or doesn't work. Suggests unfairness

**Replace** this with suggestion #1 below as openly discussed in the Education Committee meeting for SD1

**DELETE AND REPLACE WITH #1**

The Department of Education is requested to will establish a framework in the Office of Facilities and Operations that improves responsibility and accountability for monitoring all capital improvement projects and repair and maintenance projects, including by making each Complex Area Superintendent, Business Management Officer, and Administrative Services Assistant solely responsible for monitoring the projects within their assigned complex area; and

**OR**

**Replace** with “AMENDMENT: Either add this or replace the another “Be it further resolved”

#1. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is requested to develop a Framework that implements procedures that clearly define the roles, responsibilities, reporting requirements, and accountability of the Office of Facilities and Operations and the MONITORING by the complex area leadership with respect to capital improvement projects and repair and maintenance projects; and

This is where the definition for **MONITOR** fits in.

The framework is requested to require the Complex Area Superintendent and designated staff to:

(1) **MONITOR** project progress within their respective complex areas, including the phases of planning, design, budgeting, construction, and project completion;

(2) Consistently communicate with school and department personnel to ensure all parties are well-informed of ongoing projects, needs, and any developments; and

(3) Coordinate with school leadership to ensure project needs are addressed in a timely manner; and

**AMENDMENT:** Sentence should match the one for CAS

**Changed** wording to match the one for CAS

**Changed to read:**

The framework is requested to require the Office of Facilities and Operations is requested to:

(1) Retain overall management authority and statewide oversight for all Department of Education capital improvement projects and repair and maintenance projects;

(2) Coordinate project assignments and responsibilities with each complex area;

(3) Educate Complex Area Superintendents and school leaders, including principals, on the capital improvement project process; and

**CLARIFY OR DEFINE “jobs tracker.”**

- (4) Update its capital improvement project **JOBS TRACKER** on its public website; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each Complex Area Superintendent is requested to submit a quarterly status report to the Office of Facilities and Operations and the LEGISLATORS REPRESENTING THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS, which are requested to include but not be limited to:

- (1) The current status of each capital improvement project and repair and maintenance project within their respective complex area;
- (2) Progress on project milestones, including planning, design, procurement, construction, and completion;
- (3) Budget status, including authorized amounts, expenditures to date, and any anticipated cost overruns or savings;
- (4) Identification of delays, barriers, or challenges affecting project timelines; and
- (5) Corrective actions or support needed from the Office of Facilities and Operations to maintain or improve project progress; and

**AMMENDMENT:** Change wording of (3).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027 including:

- (1) The framework developed pursuant to this measure;
- (2) The reporting system established for quarterly monitoring of projects;
- (3) The effects of **MONITORING** roles and responsibilities assigned to the new framework for the complex area leadership and departmental offices; and
- (4) Any recommendations for legislative action to improve the delivery and oversight of school facility projects; and

**SCR-199-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 2:29:10 PM

Testimony for EDN on 4/16/2026 2:05:00 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

199 SCR REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK IN THE OFFICE OF FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS THAT IMPROVES RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR MONITORING ALL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE PROJECTS.