



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

**Date:** 04/08/2026

**Time:** 01:03 PM

**Location:** CR 229 & Videoconference

**Committee:** EDU

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SCR199, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK THAT PLACES RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR MONITORING ALL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE PROJECTS WITHIN EACH COMPLEX AREA WITH THE COMPLEX AREA LEADERSHIP.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requesting The Department Of Education To Establish A Framework That Places Responsibility And Accountability For Monitoring All Capital Improvement Projects And Repair And Maintenance Projects Within Each Complex Area With The Complex Area Leadership.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the intent of SCR 199 and the Legislature's continued interest in strengthening accountability and communication related to school facility projects. While the Department shares these objectives, it does not support the framework proposed in this measure that would place primary responsibility and accountability for monitoring capital improvement and repair and maintenance projects with complex area leadership.

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

Complex Area Superintendents and their teams play an important and valued role in this process and already work collaboratively with OFO to identify needs, provide local context, and support project implementation. This collaboration is critical and continues to improve through refinements to the Department's prioritization and reporting practices. However, shifting principal monitoring responsibility and accountability to complex area leadership would blur governance roles, create the potential for inconsistent practices across complex areas, and

divert educational leadership capacity away from core instructional and operational responsibilities.

Consistent with the BOE direction and support from the Legislature, the Department has made meaningful improvements to its capital planning and prioritization process, including moving away from numerous capital improvement program line-item 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.

For these reasons, the Department believes that retaining OFO as the lead for monitoring and accountability, while continuing to strengthen collaboration and communication with complex area leadership, is the most effective and sustainable approach to managing school facility projects statewide.

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

**SCR-199**

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 11:19:56 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2026 1:03:00 PM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

187 SR REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK THAT PLACES RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR MONITORING ALL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE PROJECTS WITHIN EACH COMPLEX AREA WITH THE COMPLEX AREA LEADERSHIP.

**SCR-199**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:55:34 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2026 1:03:00 PM

| Submitted By      | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Susan Pcola_Davis | Individual   | Oppose             | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Kim and Committee members

Testimony: Susan Pcola-Davis

**Strongly Oppose.**

Recommend an amendment that states

The Department of Education is requested to establish a framework In the Office of Facilities Management that improves their responsibility and accountability for monitoring all capital improvement projects and repair and maintenance projects

~~DELETE: within each complex area with the Complex Area Superintendent, Business Management Officer, and Administrative Services Assistant assigned to that complex area;~~

Because

I must admit this resolution has stumped me. It makes me think that there is a lack of understanding between the two.

It is a misconception that a framework can be established that places responsibility and accountability for monitoring all capital improvement projects and repair and maintenance projects within each complex area with the Complex Area Superintendent, Business Management Officer, and Administrative Services Assistant assigned to that complex area; under the guise of EMPOWERMENT.

This is an insult. It is redundant and will not streamline the work by adding in the CAS.

The Office of Facilities Management owns this process. Comingling the two; CAS and OFO with blur responsibilities and accountability.

Currently it is a large task for OFO to compile information requested from the Legislature. A program is in development (Maximo) by OFO. Then another bill comes up asking the School Facilities Authority if they have the same capability. It can be developed but has not been given that task.

It appears that someone thinks that the CAS will be able to conquer this issue.

It is not a new issue. In the Departments Plan of Organization states The Office of Facilities Management has the responsibility and accountability for CIP and Repair and Maintenance.

- The Office of Facilities and Operations (OFO) exercises technical staff oversight of construction and maintenance of facilities, food services, transportation support, and safety and security for the public school system.
- The branches of the OFO directly provide schools district and state offices with centralized support services.
- Developing, managing, and maintaining a statewide school construction programs.