



Vera Toilolo <vtoilolo@barberspt.k12.hi.us>
10/30/2015 11:54 AM

To boe_hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us
cc
Subject Heat Abatement Program

1 attachment



ChangeName_BOE_testimony_Nov3.docx.docx

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. Have a great day!

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October 30, 2015

Hawaii State Board of Education
P.O. Box 2360
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GBM Agenda Item Update on the DOE Heat Abatement Program progress since October 20, 2015

Dear Chair Lance Mizumoto and Members of the Hawaii State Board of Education,

My name is Vera Toilolo and I am a parent and teacher at Barbers Point Elementary School (BPES). I am submitting written testimony to Chairperson Lance Mizumoto and Superintendent Matayoshi in regards to the agenda item, Update on Heat Abatement Program, for the Board of Education (BOE) meeting scheduled on November 3, 2015.

As a parent and teacher, I have experienced heat, bugs, insects, noise issues, and brush fires that have affected my teaching and my child's/students' learning/health. Just as an example we have seven fans, that were donated by parents, blowing in our classroom, however it still remains hot for our children. The children feel sluggish, uncomfortable, and unfocused to be efficiently learning. The children took daily temperature readings and graphed the temperatures in our classroom. The temperature readings were about 90 degrees and some days even higher. We discussed what would be a good solution to this matter, and the children agreed that having air condition in our classroom would help to feel comfortable working and staying focused.

I ask the BOE and the DOE to reexamine the Heat Abatement Priority list and place BPES high on the list. I believe that air-conditioning will make my classroom a quality-learning environment. Thank you.

With Sincere Aloha,
Vera Toilolo



Lisa Kanayama
<lkanayama@barberspt.k12.hi.us>
10/30/2015 12:58 PM

To boe_hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us
cc Claudia_Nakachi/BARBERS/HIDOE
<Claudia_Nakachi/BARBERS/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us>, B Ebisuya
Subject Testimony: GBM Agenda Item V.B
Heat Abatement Update (Nov 3, 2015)

1 attachment



L. Kanayama heat abatement testimony.docx

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October 30, 2015

Hawaii State Board of Education
P.O. Box 2360
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GBM Agenda Item Update on the DOE Heat Abatement Program progress since October 20, 2015

Dear Chair Lance Mizumoto and Members of the Hawaii State Board of Education,

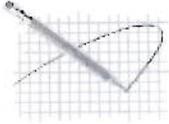
My name is Lisa Kanayama and I am a preschool teacher at Barbers Point Elementary School (BPES). I am submitting written testimony to Chairperson Lance Mizumoto and Superintendent Matayoshi in regards to the agenda item, Update on Heat Abatement Program, for the Board of Education (BOE) meeting scheduled on November 3, 2015.

As a teacher I have experienced extreme heat and humidity in my classroom that has affected my students ability to focus on learning. For preschool there is a lot of active and hands on learning taking place. When it is hot and humid my students are listless and lack attention enthusiasm during lessons, especially towards the middle of the day and in the afternoon. When my students perspire it attracts flies and other bugs that land on their body and face. This is a health concern and is also are very distracting. Barbers Point Elementary is surrounded by acres of dry grassy land. There are lots of wasps and stinging insects that fly in and out of the open windows and doors during the school day. That also creates a distraction and children feel unsafe and afraid of getting stung. The wasps build nests in corners or in our electrical outlets of our room. Mosquitos are always present and as soon as our students arrive for the day they are getting bitten. The bites raise large welts and very itchy bites. These bites are a distraction because they focus on scratching their itch instead of instruction. Mosquito bites are also a health concern because they scratch them until they bleed it can become infected or transmit bodily fluids to other students through contact and play. My assistant and I interrupt lessons to slap/chase mosquitos that have landed on our students. Students have slapped mosquitos on other students during lessons causing disruption and angry feelings (from the student not knowing why he was slapped) Having air conditioning (closed windows and doors) would help alleviate all these issues, at least while students are in the classroom, and allow them to better fulfill their purpose of attending school, which is to learn! One other issue that may be alleviated by having air conditioning is relief from dust. There is a construction site across the train tracks from the school. They have a very large (probably as big if not bigger than one wing of our school) pile of white coral like dirt. The fine grit from this construction site continuously comes into the classroom covering everything with a fine gritty layer of dust. On breezy days we wipe the tabletops and 10 minutes later it's back. It gets into our hair, our eyes, our lungs, our electronic equipment, everything! I would think this must be bad for our health, too. And when we are sweaty it sticks to our skin making us

all feel dirty and uncomfortable all day long. All the concerns listed above are not conducive to a healthy and productive learning environment.

In my classroom we have done as much as we can to make the best of it. We have 2 fans provided by DOE and 4 fans we brought in ourselves. When it is hot the fans just blow hot air around and are not any relief from the heat at all. I know of teachers who bring spray bottles of water to help cool their students. As for myself, I am also uncomfortable all day in damp clothes, sticky and dusty, chasing flies and slapping mosquitos. It may sound humorous to read this, but please put yourself if our shoes for a day (this past August and September, right now it is not even half as bad) and I'm sure you would be far from amused. I ask the BOE and the DOE to reexamine the Heat Abatement Priority list and place BPES high on the list. I believe that air-conditioning will improve the quality of the learning environment for my students and create a more positive and productive work environment for all.

Sincerely,
Lisa Kanayama



Alicia Jacobson/HAIKU/HIDOE

11/01/2015 06:47 PM

To BOE Hawaii/BOE/HIDOE@HIDOE
cc
Subject Testimony for BOE Meeting Tuesday
Nov. 3, 2015

1 attachment



Testimony.docx

Please see attached document.

Alicia S. Jacobson MAED
Grade 3 Teacher
Haiku Elementary School
(808) 727-3757

- Alicia S. Jacobson, Haiku Elementary, Grade 3 Teacher
- Meeting Infrastructure
- Item V. A. Heat Abatement
- Support

As a teacher for the DOE for over 15 years, I want to submit testimony regarding the issue of heat abatement. While this issue has existed for years, it is now a major concern with the recent record-breaking temperatures. World temperatures are rising and will continue to do so according to the data. We must address this issue in regard to our public school buildings in Hawaii.

Source: <http://data.giss.nasa.gov/gistemp/2011/>

We need to focus on getting A/C units into classrooms that show excessive heat according to specific standards, regardless of the school. There must be a state wide organized heat assessment that will provide quantitative data to assess the true needs of individual classrooms. Classrooms exceeding specified heat standards should get immediate funding for heat abatement regardless of specific school or placement on the priority list. All donations could go into a dedicated non-profit fund as a move towards providing relief for any room found to have excessive heat. According to the DOE, there has been a heat assessment conducted although the data has not been easily accessible nor did I personally see any evidence of the heat being monitored.

There must be an equitable heat assessment of each classroom in order to provide the adequate cooling system for each room. Just as we use student monitoring systems to measure a percentage of progress, we need to measure the average temperatures and humidity levels in each classroom on a consistent methodical basis to present viable data. The DOE should provide funding to cool rooms with excessive heat in order to provide the most effective learning environment. Heat monitoring can be easily done with thermometers or heat guns purchased at a minimal cost. True equity will come when every child in Hawaii has a comfortable learning environment. The current situation where some schools are fully air-conditioned and others are not is unfair.

The current priority list is not data based and there are classrooms in areas that have cooler temperatures receiving A/C units. One teacher from a high priority school commented that he does not use his ac. I would gladly use the unit on days where my portable reaches over 85 degrees. The purchase of fans and A/C units has come at a high cost to the DOE and lacks true efficiency. Let us learn for this lack of foresight and make improvements now to avoid future inefficiencies.

The DOE needs to make supporting our school's infrastructure a priority. In

IV. Reports of Board Committees, Board Members, and Superintendent

A. Audit Committee Report on: (1) Update on Department of Education's Internal Audit Plan, First Quarter (July 1, 2015 – September 30, 2015); (2) Presentation on Department of Education's Procurement and Contracting Process Follow-Up Review

the public should see audit results and be given input. Efficient use of public tax dollars is at the core of improving our system.

Improving electrical and other systems should be a top DOE priority for our aging buildings, so that we are not presented with emergency situations that can endanger our students and staff. Additionally, a long-term plan to build permanent structures that are properly insulated should be high on the agenda.

NOAA provides guidelines for heat safety. The guidelines refer to Heat Advisory where individuals are advised to take action. The temperatures indicated are 105 degrees F on the heat index, which would be 90 degrees F with a relative humidity of 70%. My average August temperature of 90 degrees F with a relative humidity of 74% average for the month of August would fall into the "take action" category.

Source: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/heat/index.shtml>

With evidence to support the fact that our children and staff are being subjected to excessive heat, I urge the DOE to involve parents, teachers, and school staff in decisions. My hope is that we can work together to find a solution for the long term.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia S. Jacobson MAED



Renee Kaneshiro <rkanehiro68@gmail.com>

11/01/2015 09:15 PM

To boe_hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us
cc
Subject Testimony: GBM Agenda Item V.B
Heat Abatement Update (Nov 3, 2015)

1 attachment



BOE testimony for Nov3.docx

Thank you,
Renee Kaneshiro

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October 30, 2015

Hawaii State Board of Education
P.O. Box 2360
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GBM Agenda Item Update on the DOE Heat Abatement Program progress since October 20, 2015

Dear Chair Lance Mizumoto and Members of the Hawaii State Board of Education,

My name is Renee Kaneshiro and I am a STEM resource teacher at Barbers Point Elementary School (BPES). This is my second year teaching at this school, but have been teaching a total of 20 years. I am submitting written testimony to Chairperson Lance Mizumoto and Superintendent Matayoshi in regards to the agenda item, Update on Heat Abatement Program, for the Board of Education (BOE) meeting scheduled on November 3, 2015.

As a teacher, I have experienced extreme heat, bugs, insects, and noise issues that have affected my teaching and also my students' ability to concentrate. Since I've begun working at Barbers Point Elementary, I have had an increase in migraines, which I used to have only sporadically. I now have them a few times a month. I have gone to the doctor numerous times and sometimes am unable to function because it is so hot that the migraines get worse.

As for the students, the temperature gets so hot that even with 3 fans blowing in the classroom, the students (and teachers) are sweating (dripping) by 9:00 in the morning. Can you imagine what it is like for the classes that are after lunch? The temperature sometimes reaches the mid 90's and with the humidity factor, it is extremely difficult to concentrate and not be irritable. We highly encourage everyone to bring water bottles to stay hydrated throughout the day, but those are gone by midday.

Due to the fact that all of the windows are open, there have also been a large amount of flies and bugs that enter the classroom. While the students are trying to work, flies are landing on their bodies and faces and we are constantly swatting them away. Flies easily carry germs and bacteria and we do not want our students to get sick due to this. The students have been noticing the flies and are disgusted by how many there are. There are no food in the trash cans in the STEM rooms, and we wish that we could just close the windows and doors to keep them out but we would roast in the classroom if we did that!

Lastly, our school is located next to Kalaeloa Airport (see Image 1) and the planes and jets that fly overhead have greatly affected the learning that goes on in the classroom. We often need to stop the lesson because the students are unable to hear what we are saying. We need to wait until the plane or jet passes, and then continue on with the

lesson. This is very disruptive, especially when we need to stop 7-10 times during a time block. The students try their best but it is a huge distraction

I am humbly asking the BOE and the DOE to reexamine the Heat Abatement Priority list and place BPES high on the list. I believe that air-conditioning will make my STEM rooms a quality- learning environment. Thank you.

Regards,
Renee Kaneshiro

Image 1: Barbers Point Elementary and Kalaeloa Airport
From Google Maps



Kalaeloa Airport



Rose Reyes <rreyes@barberspt.k12.hi.us>
11/02/2015 08:02 AM

To boe_hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us
cc
Subject Testimony: GBM Agenda Item V.B
Heat Abatement Update (Nov. 3,
2015)

1 attachment



RReyes_BOE_testimony_Nov3.docx

Hello,

Attached is my testimony for the GBM Agenda Item V.B Heat Abatement Update (Nov. 3, 2015.)

Thank you for your time,

Rosemarie Reyes

--

Rose Reyes
Fifth Grade Teacher
Barbers Point Elementary School

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October 30, 2015

Hawaii State Board of Education
P.O. Box 2360
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GBM Agenda Item Update on the DOE Heat Abatement Program progress since
October 20, 2015

Dear Chair Lance Mizumoto and Members of the Hawaii State Board of Education,

My name is Rosemarie Reyes and I am a teacher at Barbers Point Elementary School (BPES). I am submitting written testimony to Chairperson Lance Mizumoto and Superintendent Matayoshi in regards to the agenda item, Update on Heat Abatement Program, for the Board of Education (BOE) meeting scheduled on November 3, 2015.

As a teacher I have experienced several things such as, heat, insects, and noise issues that have affected my teaching and my students' health. Just recently, we counted eight interruptions in day from jets flying above our school. We have also experienced lawn mowing during class time, and even birds flying in our classroom. My fifth grade students have asked if we could close the doors to lessen the noise level and distractions from outside, however with the heat level above 90 degrees on a regular basis at BPES, closing the doors would not be feasible. Please understand that in my classroom, many parents have also contributed to the heat issue by donating several fans (9 to be exact), but students still feel dehydrated, tired and disengaged.

I ask the BOE and the DOE to reexamine the Heat Abatement Priority list and place BPES high on the list. I believe that air-conditioning will make my classroom a quality-learning environment. Thank you.

Regards,

Miss Rosemarie Reyes, Teacher



Jaimi Dennis <jdennis@barberspt.k12.hi.us>
11/02/2015 08:44 AM

To boe_hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us
cc
Subject Heat Abatement Student Testimony

3 attachments



K Frazier Heat Letter.docx Riley Heat Letter.docx S Cachuela Heat Letter.docx

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October 30, 2015

Dear Board of Education,

My name is Katelyn Frazier and I am a student at Barbers Point Elementary School. I am submitting written testimony to Lance Mizumoto and Superintendent Matayoshi in regards to the agenda item on heat abatement.

As a student I have experienced the heat affect me in many ways. First, when I get in the class after recess I fele like I'm gonna faint. I drink lots of water so that's not my problem. It's just that it's so hot outside and inside. Second, in my class we get distracted by many different things, first is bugs. The flies are always in the classroom. The second thing is airplanes; they always fly over the classroom and that makes us have to wait for us to learn. The last thing is the lawnmowers. They always mow behind our classrooms. It sucks because we get distracted from the noise. We have to wait until it's done to learn. Finally, it makes that awful smell which causes people to sneeze due to their allergies. Also, don't tell us to just shut the doors and windows because we have tried. It still makes noise and it just makes us more hot!

So those are some ways you can help our school out. Oh, and my teacher said that when government air conditioners went out, you got the day off because it was too hot to work. Well, we would be out of school every day! But you should be glad we like learning! Well, I hope you love my letter and help this school by adding an air conditioner in every class.

Sincerely,

Katelyn Frazier

October 30, 2015

Dear Board of Education,

My name is Riley Calimlim and I am a student at Barbers Point Elementary School. I am submitting written testimony to Lance Mizumoto and Superintendent Matayoshi in regards to the agenda item on heat abatement. We would like air conditioning. Did you know all the offices of the Department of Education have AC and the schools don't?!

As a student I have experienced the heat affect me in many ways. First, it affects our learning. I know it cools you down if we drink water, but if we drink too much water we will have to use the bathroom. That takes time away from learning. If our water bottles are empty we will have to go to the cafeteria, which is far away and fill it up. That also will affect grades. The grades are what make you pass your grade, like 5th grade.

Second, the noise is making us wait to talk when the planes and lawnmowers come, we will have to wait. If you want to tell us to shut the windows or the doors we will be trapped in heat. Like in a heat box. The noise pauses our learning throughout the day. We don't like waiting to learn, you know!

Third, the bugs annoy us. First comes the flies, they keep coming to us. We shoo them away but they don't go away. Second flies in the wasps. They can sting you and build nests in your class. Last comes the mosquitos that suck your blood. It itches after they suck it.

Last, we would like solar panels to reduce energy. We need to reduce energy to save money. We need to reduce energy to save money. We can build it in the back of Challenger Center. Also, a wind turbine would be good too.

Thank you for reading this letter and I hope you give Barbers Point Elementary A/C, including the solar panels and wind turbines.

Sincerely,
Riley Calimlim

October 30, 2015

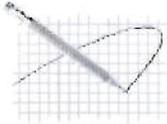
Dear Board of Education,

My name is Shyson Cachuela and I am a student at Barbers Point Elementary School. I am submitting written testimony to Lance Mizumoto and Superintendent Matayoshi in regards to the agenda item on heat abatement.

As a student, I have experienced the heat affect me in many ways. First, the airplanes make a lot of noise and sometimes people don't pay attention to the work. Also the lawn mowers always come by and make noise and some people could get allergies and we always have to stop what we're doing and wait for it to pass by. All the bugs, like wasps can make their nest and could sting us when we're working. Also the mosquitos and flies make us not focus. The heat makes us want to not learn or do anything and some people just want to go home and take a cold shower.

Some ways you can help us is to get air conditioning for our school so every day we don't feel like we want to go home and take a cold, nice shower and we don't feel like we want to go to sleep in class. And that's why I think our school should have a/c.

Thank you,
Shyson Cachuela



Cortney Nadig <cnadig@barberspt.k12.hi.us>
11/02/2015 08:51 AM

To boe_hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us
cc
Subject Testimony: GBM Agenda Item V.B
Heat Abatement Update (Nov 3, 2015)

1 attachment



My testimony, Cortney Nadig.docx

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November 2, 2015

Hawaii State Board of Education
P.O. Box 2360
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GBM Agenda Item Update on the DOE Heat Abatement Program progress since October 20, 2015

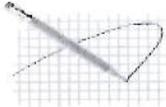
Dear Chair Lance Mizumoto and Members of the Hawaii State Board of Education,

My name is Cortney Nadig and I am a teacher at Barbers Point Elementary School (BPES). I am submitting written testimony to Chairperson Lance Mizumoto and Superintendent Matayoshi in regards to the agenda item, Update on Heat Abatement Program, for the Board of Education (BOE) meeting scheduled on November 3, 2015.

As a teacher, I have experienced unbearable heat, wasps, scorpions, flies, mosquitos, dirt covering everything you touch, noise from lawn mowers, jets, large work trucks, and construction work, as well as sewage smells, garbage dumping in the area and brush fires nearby. All of these distractions have affected my ability to instruct my students in an optimal learning environment. I, as well as the students, am unable to concentrate due to severe heat, even with six fans in the room. Several students have had nosebleeds, headaches, and fallen asleep in class. There are so many flies within the classroom that my students spend more time swatting at flies than they do learning. The dirt that coats everything within the classroom causes my students to sneeze, get dirt blown into their eyes, and severe allergies. The noise from the lawn mowers and jets can get so loud that I have to stop instruction for minutes at a time, causing my students to lose focus.

I ask the BOE and the DOE to reexamine the Heat Abatement Priority list and place BPES high on the list. I believe that air-conditioning will make my classroom a quality-learning environment. Thank you.

Regards,
Cortney Nadig



Jaimi Dennis <jdennis@barberspt.k12.hi.us>
11/02/2015 09:14 AM

To boe_hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us
cc
Subject Heat abatement letters

3 attachments



Genesis Heat Letter.docx Olivia Heat Letter.docx Tavanni Heat Letter.docx

My students were unable to send these from their school e-mail due to restrictions, but they would like to share their feelings with you about the heat in our school.

Thank you,
Jaimi Dennis

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October 30, 2015

Dear Board of Education,

My name is Genesis Kalopodes and I am a student at Barbers Point Elementary School. I am submitting written testimony to Lance Mizumoto and Superintendent Matayoshi in regards to the agenda item on heat abatement.

As a student I have experienced the heat affect me in many ways. First, the heat is affecting our learning because we cannot listen because we are so tired. People in my class feel dizzy, sticky, and sometimes feel like fainting. Don't say drink more water because that doesn't help. It just makes us use the bathroom more and miss out on learning. Next are the airplanes that make so much noise that I can't hear my wonderful teacher. I can't focus because the airplanes fly over so much. Also, when the lawnmowers come to visit us and cut the grass we have to close our windows because it is so loud, and then we are really hot! Last, the most annoying thing in the entire world is BUGS! They are always flying in our room and some of them sting us.

You can help us by getting us air conditioning. We could get solar panels so it won't cost as much money. I think you should turn off the air conditioning in your office for a day so you can see how we feel without it. It's miserable! Please help the students at our school.

Thank you,
Genesis Kalopodes

October 30, 2015

Dear Board of Education,

My name is Olivia Apo and I am a student at Barbers Point Elementary School. I am submitting written testimony to Lance Mizumoto and Superintendent Matayoshi in regards to the agenda item on heat abatement.

As a student, I have experienced the heat affect me in many ways. First, the heat can affect my learning because it is hard to focus. I am all sticky and it is humid. The airplanes can also affect my learning because we have to stop when someone is talking. And, the lawn mowers do the same thing. But we close the doors and sometimes we close the windows and it feels like we are in an oven. And the bugs, like flies, cockroaches, wasps, and mosquitoes, and centipedes make it difficult to concentrate. The flies fly all around you and distract us from learning. The cockroaches also distract us from learning and the wasps can sting really bad. The mosquitoes bite us and then we are itchy and we can't focus. The centipedes are scary and also distract me from learning.

Some ways you can help our school is you can get us solar panels. You could also use the wind to cut the costs of air conditioning. Or you could just buy air conditioners for us. We would like that and it would help us learn.

Thank you,
Olivia Apo

October 30, 2015

Dear Board of Education,

My name is Tavanni Tafisi and I am a student at Barbers Point Elementary School. I am submitting written testimony to Lance Mizumoto and Superintendent Matayoshi in regards to the agenda item on heat abatement.

As a student, I have experienced the heat affect me in many ways. First, the heat affects my thinking, learning, and focusing. Second, the airplanes affect us by the loud noises that they make disturbs us by making noise when we are having a conversation. Third, the lawn mowers make noises, too. Also, they don't pick up the cut grass and kids that have allergies are affected. Last, the bugs like mosquitoes, wasps, bees, and centipedes bite us students.

Some ways you can help is by giving us air conditioning so we don't hear the airplanes and lawnmowers, and feel the heat. If you don't help us, I think you should turn off your air conditioning and go to work and feel how it is.

Thank you,
Tavanni Tafisi