



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony for Oct. 20 Meeting, Agenda Items VI.D and VI.E

1 message

Hale Hawaii <hale808hawaii@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov
Cc: keith.hayashi@k12.hi.us, curt.otaguro@k12.hi.us

Mon, Oct 17, 2022 at 2:46 PM

Aloha, Chair Voss and Board Members.

I am writing again on behalf of HALE Hawai'i to comment on items VI.D and VI.E on your agenda for October 20.

With regard to **agenda item VI.D**, we want to express our **support** for the "**Virtual School**" program mentioned on page 10 of the memo from Superintendent Hayashi attached to this item (see screenshot below).

VIRTUAL SCHOOL	7849	<p>This request is to make virtual schooling a permanent option within the Department for both English and Hawaiian Language students.</p> <p>A virtual option provides flexibility for both students and parents to learn in a location and at a time that best fit their needs. Virtual options also provide students from smaller rural schools with equitable access to content that may not otherwise be available to them. Lastly, the virtual programs serve as a laboratory of virtual curriculum development with the goal of providing any student with any class at any time.</p> <p>The student count for this 2022-23 school year is 255 students with 25 of the 255 students enrolled in the Kaiapuni Distance Learning program. The program's capacity is up to 400 students and 130 Kaiapuni students for a total of 530 students.</p>	43.00	43.00
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Contrary to popular belief, the COVID-19 pandemic is **not** over, and another surge may be coming as the winter season closes in and new variants arise. (See, e.g., [this NPR story from October 7.](#)) During any infectious disease outbreak, Virtual School is a critically necessary option, particularly for students who are medically vulnerable or have medically vulnerable household members. We strongly support maintaining and expanding the availability of Virtual School as a voluntary option for all households. In addition, we urge the Board to direct DOE to design the Virtual School program so as to **encourage flexibility** to add students, teachers, and entire classrooms, as needed, in the event of a public health or other emergency.

With regard to **agenda item VI.D**, we also note with some dismay that apparently DOE is having difficulty paying its electrical supply bills (see screenshot below, from page 12 of Superintendent Hayashi's memo on this item):

UTILITIES	5354	<p>This request is needed to pay for the Department's electricity bills.</p> <p>The Department has already experienced increased electricity bills due to 1) higher energy cost adjustment charges that have changed monthly due to higher fuel oil prices for the past two years, 2) the Russia-Ukraine war, and 3) increased consumption of new schools, new buildings, and air conditioning of existing classrooms.</p> <p>The Department anticipates difficulties in meeting its May and June electricity bills with current-year fiscal funds. As a result, the Department expects to use FY 2023-24 funds to pay for these FY 2022-23 year bills, subjecting the Department to potential late fees.</p>
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To mitigate this problem on a long term basis, we encourage the Board to direct DOE to explore the technical and financial feasibility of installing **rooftop photovoltaic systems at all schools**, in order to help support the expanding electrical needs of modern classrooms and facilities. Schools are particularly well suited to use solar energy to supplement their electrical grid supply, because their greatest electricity consumption occurs during daylight hours. Adding rooftop solar as a supplemental source of electricity for our schools is also aligned with our state's overall policy of

reducing our dependence on fossil fuels for electricity generation. In addition to putting solar panels on existing roofs, building outdoor pavilions shaded by solar panel equipped roofs would also provide an option for a safer place for students to eat lunch during infectious disease outbreaks. Federal clean energy infrastructure funding may well be available to help finance an investment by DOE in solar energy, which will pay off over time in the form of permanently reduced electrical bills. We hope the Board will direct Deputy Superintendent Otaguro to investigate and pursue this possibility, in conjunction with the new School Facilities Authority as that agency becomes increasingly operational.

With regard to **agenda item VI.E**, we note that once again, DOE has **totally ignored** the critical issue of **classroom ventilation and air filtration** in describing the scope of its Health and Safety program, as shown by the screenshot below (from page 3 of Superintendent Hayashi's memo attached to this agenda item):

Under the Health and Safety program, heat abatement, safety and security vulnerability upgrades, and traffic and pedestrian safety are acknowledged needs at schools across the state. The Department is requesting \$10 million for each year of the fiscal biennium. The requests fund assessments and address health and safety needs on an on-going basis.

We respectfully submit that \$10 million is not an adequate amount to cover all of the needs in the Health and Safety area, particularly if classroom ventilation and air filtration is added to the mix (not to mention construction of the mandated and still critically needed grade-separated highway crossing for Kūlanihāko'i High School in Kihei, Maui). We urge the Board to continue pressing DOE to include funding in its capital improvement budget for **professional assessments of the adequacy of ventilation and air filtration** in all DOE classrooms. Without such assessments, DOE is operating in an information vacuum regarding the potential for infectious disease transmission in poorly ventilated classrooms. DOE's capital improvement budget should also include funding for **upgrades** at all schools where they are needed, as identified by professional assessments.

Mahalo,
HALE Hawai'i
www.HALEHawaii.cc
[Facebook.com/HALEHawaii808/](https://www.facebook.com/HALEHawaii808/)



October 20, 2022
General Business Meeting

Dear Chair Voss and Members of the Board,

We would like to comment on Action Items VI. D. and E., Board Action on the Department of Education's initial operating budget submission for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium focused on maintaining existing and required services and Board Action on the Department's Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) budget for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium.

It is difficult to make sense of the two budget requests without a clear strategic plan. For both the operating and CIP budget, we cannot know whether budgeted items are worthwhile because we do not have a plan to which we can align. We are hopeful that the BOE's new strategic plan will have clear objectives, progress indicators, and a review process where we can align the plan and the expenditures to the progress indicators.

We go back to our September 1, 2022 Finance and Infrastructure testimony where we highlight Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) strategic plan and budgeting process.

FCPS' budget is built off its Strategic Plan, which includes community agreed upon goals and strategies to achieve the attributes of a "Portrait of a Graduate." There are four goal areas of its Strategic Plan. Within each goal, the district sets clear targets and provides strategies on how to meet the targets. FCPS uses a Theory of Action model to achieve its strategic aims, setting clear expectations for instruction and operations.

The component we are most impressed with is the Budget Process Overview, which aligns the budget to the goal areas of its Strategic Plan using its Strategic Decision-Making Cycle for Resource Allocation (SDMC) and Return on Investment (ROI) analysis. This allows the community to see how all school operating funds are allocated across goal areas, as well as which funds are allocated in support of strategic efforts.

FCPS also creates annual strategic reports to the School Board that present SDMC data in relation to intended performance levels, descriptions of actions undertaken in support of improved performance, ROI results, and conclusions about which actions should be taken next to meet goals.

We like that the district has a process that allows the public to know how resources are used to achieve (or not) its goals. If we do not know how progress is being made (or not), the community is at loss as to how it can help.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

HE'E Coalition Members and Participants

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| Academy 21 | *INPEACE |
| Alliance for Place Based Learning | Joint Venture Education Forum |
| American Civil Liberties Union | Junior Achievement of Hawaii |
| Atherton YMCA | Kamehameha Schools |
| Castle Complex Community Council | Kanu Hawai'i |
| Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS | Kaua'i Ho'okele Council |
| Education Institute of Hawai'i | Keiki to Career Kaua'i |
| *Faith Action for Community Equity | Kupu A'e |
| Fresh Leadership LLC | *Leaders for the Next Generation |
| Girl Scouts Hawai'i | Learning First |
| Harold K.L. Castle Foundation | McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds |
| *HawaiiKidsCAN | Native Hawaiian Education Council |
| *Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance | Our Public School |
| *Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice | *Pacific Resources for Education and Learning |
| *Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists | *Parents and Children Together |
| Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars | *Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i |
| *Hawai'i Children's Action Network | Special Education Provider Alliance |
| Hawai'i Education Association | *Teach for America |
| Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition | The Learning Coalition |
| * Hawai'i State PTSA | US PACOM |
| Hawai'i State Student Council | University of Hawai'i College of Education |
| Hawai'i State Teachers Association | * Youth Service Hawai'i |
| Hawai'i P-20 | <i>Voting Members (*) Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.</i> |
| Hawai'i 3Rs | |
| Head Start Collaboration Office | |
| It's All About Kids | |



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony for General Business Meeting items VI.D. and VI.E., Thursday, October 20, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

1 message

Lynn Otaguro <lmotaguro@yahoo.com>
To: Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Tue, Oct 18, 2022 at 8:45 AM

October 18, 2022

Regarding Items VI.D. Board Action on the Department of Education's initial operating budget submission for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium focused on maintaining existing and required services and VI.E. Board Action on the Department's Capital Improvement Projects budget for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium.

Honorable Chair Voss and members of the Board of Education,

I am writing to ask that you ensure that the issues regarding ventilation and the training for properly implementing measures to improve ventilation and air quality are addressed in the Department of Education's budgets and capital improvement plans. I, along with others, have written to you in previous testimony about the importance and need for working on these issues in order for schools to be able to operate and provide consistent, sound instruction and programs. (I say this because we have seen what happens when something like COVID results in conditions where staff and student absences means classroom instruction and school operations are disrupted, as happened last school year.)

It is essential that each school is checked and all staff are properly trained; not doing so becomes an issue of equity as every student is entitled to a safe and healthy school environment. It also makes for sound planning and operation of our schools.

Thank you for your work on behalf of our schools and communities.

Mahalo,
Lynn Otaguro