



Testimony

1 message

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Sun, Dec 3, 2023 at 4:04 PM

Anika Agerlie, Teacher
Finance & Infrastructure Meeting
Update on status of schools' fire alarm systems
Position: Comment

Mahalo Chair Kuraya and fellow Board of Education members for addressing the status of school fire alarms across the state. When 10% of our public schools cannot pass a fire inspection due to non-operational alarm systems, there is a clear need for change. As stated at the November General Board meeting, the department is looking into "wireless alarms", so that schools may be taken off fire watch. While this is a positive step to address the issue, it also raises some questions:

- How is a wireless alarm different from a smoke detector? Would schools need to remain on fire watch, even with wireless alarms, as the alarms would not be connected across multiple buildings on a school campus?
- If the department chooses to install wireless alarms on school campuses, would they still repair/replace any non-operational alarm systems? How would this change the timeline for repair/replacement of non-operational systems?
- If the department does not have the necessary funding to repair/replace the current alarm systems, how will they pay for these wireless alarms?
- Why has the department not prioritized repairing and/or replacing non-operational fire alarm systems statewide? Konawaena Elementary is not the only school that has been left on fire watch for an extended amount of time. King Intermediate School in Kāne'ohe had to wait seven years for a repair to their system.
- How will the department prioritize these projects in the future, so that schools do not need to wait an extended period of time before having a working alarm system?

Our students and educators deserve a safe teaching and learning environment. Mahalo for your commitment to ensuring our schools are the best they can be.



December 7, 2023
Finance and Infrastructure Committee Meeting

Dear Chair Kuraya Members of the Committee,

Update on the Department of Education's Supplemental Operating Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25)

We are grateful to the Governor's Budget and Finance team for allocating funds for essential items such as food service, bus contracts, energy costs, and workers compensation benefits.

We have advocated for the school-based funding of Weighted Student Formula (WSF) and the small school supplemental funds and will continue to do so at the upcoming legislative session.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

HE'E Coalition Members and Participants

Academy 21
Alliance for Place Based Learning
American Civil Liberties Union
Atherton YMCA
Education Institute of Hawai'i
*Faith Action for Community Equity
Fresh Leadership LLC
Girl Scouts Hawai'i
*HawaiiKidsCAN
*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance
*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
*Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars
*Hawai'i Children's Action Network
Hawai'i Education Association
Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition
* Hawai'i State PTSA
Hawai'i State Student Council
Hawai'i State Teachers Association
Head Start Collaboration Office
It's All About Kids
*INPEACE
Joint Venture Education Forum
Junior Achievement of Hawaii
Kamehameha Schools
Kanu Hawai'i
Kaua'i Ho'okele Council
Keiki to Career Kaua'i
Kupu A'e
*Leaders for the Next Generation
Learning First

McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds
Native Hawaiian Education Council
Our Public School
*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning
*Parents and Children Together
*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i
Special Education Provider Alliance
*Teach for America
The Learning Coalition
US PACOM
University of Hawai'i College of Education
* Youth Service Hawai'i

Voting Members () Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*