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## Testimony

1 message

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**Courtney D'Agostino** <courtney.d'agostino@k12.hi.us>  
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 5:33 PM

Aloha,

My name is Courtney D'Agostino, and I am a first grade teacher at Holualoa Elementary School.

I am submitting testimony for the upcoming Finance & Infrastructure Committee meeting taking place tomorrow, 12/7/23.

I am writing to support the completion of our campus gang bathroom project, our access road, ceiling fan installation, and future new buildings.

Projects for our school are often approved - However, project dates are continuously pushed back and projects remain incomplete.

Last school year, Superintendent Hyashi stated at the Town Hall Zoom Meeting that our gang bathroom would be repaired by December 2023.

It still has exposed rebar and has not been repaired to date.

Ceiling fans for certain rooms/buildings were to be installed Summer 2023. The PO **finally** dropped on 11/9/23 - approximately 6 months past the expected completion date.

There has still yet to be a pre-con meeting scheduled. **How many times can a project continue to be pushed back?**

**Do our children and school employees not deserve better?**

**In addition, how is it that the DOE is surrendering \$465 million in school improvements and upgrades? This money was earmarked for specific projects that now our students, OUR FUTURE LEADERS, will lose out on. How is this possible? And more importantly so, WHY is this acceptable?**

These types of issues are out of our administrations' hands and are repeatedly being dropped by the DOE.

I am bringing these issues to your attention so you are fully aware of our needs. Our schools need to be a safe and healthy place for ALL.

Please keep our keiki safe and healthy. Please help us move forward and better prepare our students for their future.

These Capital Improvement Plans were submitted for a reason.

The reason is clear - there is a NEED for these improvements. Please help make them happen. Our childrens' future literally depends upon it.

Sincerely,

Courtney D'Agostino

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**Hannah Hokenson** <hhoke479@gmail.com>  
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 7:41 PM

Hannah Hokenson, Special Education 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.