




STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
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OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF OPERATIONS

December 7, 2023

TO: The Honorable Ken Kuraya
Chairperson, Finance and Infrastructure Committee

FROM: Curt T. Otaguro
Deputy Superintendent of Operations 

SUBJECT: Update on Schools Fire Alarm Systems

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the Hawaii State Department of Education's (Department) efforts to ensure the safety of students, teachers, parents, and staff through the maintenance and improvement of fire alarm systems in schools. While prioritizing school safety, the Department addresses existing systems' repairs, seeks campus upgrades, and utilizes annual funding for deferred maintenance. Notably, 90% of schools passed fire inspections in the 2022-23 school year.

2. DESCRIPTION

As of November 28, 2023, this memorandum serves as an update on the status of Schools Fire Alarm Systems, emphasizing the Department's commitment to enhancing safety measures.

3. UPDATE

The Department, with an average annual budget of \$98 million, received a \$70 million allocation for repair and maintenance projects this year. There has been \$67 million designated for critical infrastructure repairs targeting air conditioning systems, roofs, electrical upgrades, sewer systems, and water systems.

During the transition from the previous school year to the current one, the Department has successfully completed 27 projects, totaling \$6 million. There are currently 11 projects in construction. To date, \$7,106,164 has been encumbered, leaving an encumbrance balance of \$3,782,785 or 47% complete.

The Department collaborates with consultants to execute design work for the fire alarm systems categorized as critical, poor, and fair conditions. The anticipated cost for repair and/or replacement is estimated at \$41 million.

- There are 15 critical projects and their anticipated cost is \$36.1 million. The bid date for all projects is targeted for 2024.

Project Stage	Number of Projects	Anticipated Cost
Pending Design	5	\$10.6 million
Final Design Stage	8	\$21.5 million
Design Completed	2	\$4 million

- There are nine projects, of which one project has been identified in poor condition and eight projects in fair condition. The anticipated cost for these projects is \$4.8 million.

Project Stage	Number of Projects	Anticipated Cost
Pending Review	4	\$880,300
Pre-Design	1	\$2.6 million
In Design	1	\$311,300
Design Completed	1	\$429,000
Permit Submitted	1	\$247,500
Permit In-Review	1	\$286,000

While we have schools in various stages, insufficient funding prevents concurrent execution of all projects. The Department is actively seeking legislative funding of \$10 million annually for the next five years, specifically designated for statewide fire alarm repairs.

Thank you for your continued support of public education.

CTO:jk

c: Randall M. Tanaka, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Facilities and Operations
Facilities Development Branch