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President
Osa Tui, Jr.
Vice President
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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FINANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

RE: AGENDA ITEM IV, B: Committee Action on a work plan and timeline to ensure Board of Education policies and structures enable the Department of Education to complete all facilities projects at its schools with the greatest socioeconomic and academic needs as determined by an equity priority order (FIC Strategic Priority 2)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Dear Chair Uemura and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly urges** the Board of Education to consult HSTA as they go forward with their work plan and timeline on the BOE and DOE policies and priorities for the HIDEOE school facilities.

According to a study from Penn State University's Center for Evaluation and Education Policy Analysis entitled *The Importance of School Facilities in Improving Student Outcomes*, "A growing body of research has found that school facilities can have a profound impact on both teacher and student outcomes. With respect to students, school facilities affect health, behavior, engagement, learning, and growth in achievement. Thus, researchers generally conclude that without adequate facilities and resources, it is extremely difficult to serve large numbers of children with complex needs." HSTA's involvement in this work plan and timeline will help to give insight into this connection between facilities and learning in our public schools.

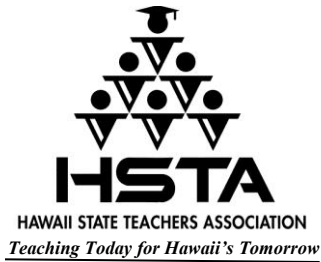
Currently, as you know, Hawaii's public school buildings are approximately 65-years-old on average. Facilities are damaged, restrooms and water foundations are in disrepair, classroom windows are broken, and campuses are plagued by rat and insect infestations, and students continue to swelter in classrooms who do not have air-conditioning yet. Our students, many of whom have "complex needs," are not benefiting from dilapidated infrastructure. Though our state's repair and maintenance backlog has declined, the total cost of lingering projects runs into the

hundreds of millions of dollars. Maintenance and capacity problems are particularly painful for developing communities, like the Ewa Plain, which will welcome 28,000 more buildings by the year 2021, and Kaka'ako, in which roughly 5,000 new condominium units will be built by 2018 and the population is will double to 30,000 people in the next fifteen years, the Honolulu Community Development Authority reports. Our public school facilities will need to keep up with this population expansion in these areas as well.

HSTA has continued to advocate at the legislature to provide funding for our public school facilities and wishes to partner on this advocacy with the BOE and HODOE through input on the work plan and the timeline for facilities.

A quality education is priceless. To advance the quality of our school facilities, we ask the Board of Education to please include consultation and input from the Hawaii State Teachers Association as the HODOE moves forward through this process.

Thank you for your time.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FINANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

RE: AGENDA ITEM IV, A: Committee Action on identification and selection of individuals for a working group tasked with work ensuring Board of Education policies and structures establish a transparent, accessible, and credible budgeting and financial reporting process (FIC Strategy Priority 1)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Dear Chair Uemura and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly urges** the Board of Education to **add HSTA to the working group tasked with working to ensure the Board of Education policies and structures establish a transparent, accessible, and credible budgeting and financial reporting process.**

HSTA has been heavily involved in advocating for more funding for our public schools. We have also heavily researched school funding models in other states and what worked to improve the quality of education provided in those states. In recent years, state legislatures, state education departments and advocacy groups in more than 30 states have sponsored education adequacy studies to objectively determine the funding levels needed to educate all children to high standards. These professional studies have introduced transparency and rigor to a previously opaque and often arbitrary process.

HSTA will help provide input to this working group, drawing on the expertise from within our own public schools and the state to help to ensure we come up with the very best, most accurate and most reliable data as an imperative step to help them plan for funding allocations that will concentrate efforts to improve the quality of education our students deserve.

Being a part of this working group will help support identifying where more supports are needed and where more funding is needed to ensure that all public school students in Hawai'i, regardless of income, ethnicity, location, learning

challenges or other circumstances, have a quality education in each of their public schools.

We need to come together to lay the groundwork for long-term, meaningful school improvement by determining where resources should be allocated, based on the best educational research, that will help all students achieve and succeed, whether that means college, technical training, apprenticeships or jobs right after graduation.

The working group needs to take into consideration what budgeting is needed at a school based on poverty, districts of varying sizes, types of schools (elementary, middle, high school), plus the size of the school, and whether it is in a geographically isolated district such as Lanai and Hana. The group should also consider what resources, including certified teachers and support staff, are needed, to help focus on all students including those with special needs, English Language Learners, and at-risk students. This working group can help provide policymakers with the foundation for any potential school funding allocations, and best budgeting practices, to get the most bang for the buck, so to speak. We have studied what works in other states, such as Washington, recently, along with what works in Hawaii, and it is time for this working group take a closer look at our funding for our public schools, especially when it comes to resource allocations, so we can all advocate for more school funding, where needed, together.

A quality education is priceless. To advance the quality of our public schools, **we ask the Board of Education to please include HSTA on this working group to move forward with providing input to ensure that structures are established that are transparent, accessible, and provide a credible budgeting and financial reporting process.**

Thank you for your time.