



To: Michelle Kidani, Senate Education Committee
Re: HB 636
From: Deborah Bond-Upson, HE'E Interim Director
Date: February 26, 2025

Hui for Excellence in Education, or "HE'E," is a statewide coalition of diverse stakeholders committed to working collaboratively to identify opportunities to improve public education. We work to provide Hawai'i families and organizations with a resource for educational policy.

We understand that SB 449 will not be heard, yet HB 636 may be heard by your committee. As you and your committee know, over the past years there has been great concern that given the primacy of educational challenges, complexities and expenses, HI DOE facilities have not been constructed or maintained with the speed and efficiency that would best support our students, staff and families. The overwhelming challenges that confront our DOE and BOE to best serve the educational needs of our keiki have prompted the legislature to establish the SFA to focus on strategic, efficient, accelerated development of needed school facilities and housing. We hope that the SFA will help to accelerate progress while collaborating with and closely supporting the DOE and the BOE.

Specifically, we support HB 636 which calls for and funds a planning database that can prioritize and inform spending on capital improvements on DOE facilities. We appreciate that it would be organized by legislative districts and complex areas so that families as well as legislators would understand their respective districts' facilities, conditions, and needs.

We urge SFA to work together with DOE to utilize this database. Clarity of priorities and progress enabled by this database can inform the DOE, BOE, and SFA to best manage and accelerate our facility advances.

Further, public transparency would help advocates understand what projects should be prioritized.

We thank you for this opportunity to share our thoughts.

HE'E Coalition Members and Participants

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