



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 22, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

By

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SB 826 – RELATING TO THE SCHOOL FACILITIES AUTHORITY

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure, which transfers \$200,000,000 of general funds previously appropriated to the School Facilities Authority of the Department of Education to the school facilities special fund. The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports recent efforts to expand access to affordable and quality early care and education opportunities throughout the State. In collaboration with key stakeholders, including the School Facilities Authority, UH is working on expanding its availability and offerings of early learning programs on a number of its campuses. And while we are still developing how these facilities and programs can be sustained, we believe that State support of early childhood programs and facilities – wherever they may be located – are valuable to advancing educational development and learning for Hawai'i keiki.

Providing additional flexibility in the timeline will allow the School Facilities Authority to continue the construction, renovation, improvement and expansion of prekindergarten classrooms across the State. The measure could also contemplate enabling the School Facilities Authority to either contract, or transfer to, other state agencies appropriation in order to further accelerate the development of new facilities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.