

FEBRUARY 2020

School Facilities Agency Initiative

Helping ALICE® Thrive

Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed

ALICE®⁵ individuals and families live in all of our communities. They are family members, neighbors, & co-workers.



1 OF EVERY 2

households in Hawai'i are struggling to pay for basic needs like housing, transportation and food.

This is more than just a piece of legislation. This is a movement to focus on our high cost of living and create a Hawai'i where every person has the opportunity to thrive.

THE FACTS

We must improve Hawai'i's aging school facilities

The Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE) conducted a comprehensive study on the status of its public school facilities and found:



61 YRS

Average school age, with 53 buildings over 100 years of age



11%

Schools with more than one-fifth of classrooms in portable structures¹



\$868 MIL

Backlog of repair and maintenance²

Leaky roofs, outdated electrical circuits, lack of air conditioning, and uninspiring facilities design are poor learning environments for Hawai'i's keiki. Studies show that school design and layout can influence a child's development. 21st century learning focuses on core competencies like rigorous academics, critical thinking and reasoning skills, collaborative skills and proficiency in technology.

New 21st century school facilities must include:



Flexible spaces



Furniture chosen for mobility and ergonomics



Sustainable design



Robust technology infrastructure



Safe and secure environment³

In addition, factors like natural light, temperature control and appropriate acoustics⁴ along with vertical school concepts that maximize land use, can inspire our keiki and provide them with a learning environment that promotes their academic and personal success.

1 Letter to Grant Chun from Kathryn Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education, Update on DOE's Jacob's Study, July 19, 2016.
2 Honolulu Star-Advertiser, Susan Essoyan, Repair and Maintenance Bill Pegged at \$868M for Hawai'i Public Schools, December 24, 2018.
3 Letter to Kenneth Uemura from Dr. Christina Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education, Update on DOE Status on Hawai'i's 21st Century Design Progress, August 15, 2017.
4 Wired.com, Ian Steadman, Study: School Design Can Significantly Affect Children's Grades, January 13, 2013.
5 ALICE: A Study of Financial Hardship in Hawaii, Aloha United Way, 2018

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THE PATH FORWARD

Creation of a school facilities agency

In an unprecedented show of unity, Governor David Ige and State Senate and House leaders, and dozens of community and business organizations have joined together in support of the establishment of a school facilities agency.

The agency, as outlined in SB3103, provides the new entity with the powers, authority and capacity to construct and renovate 21st century schools. The agency is required to work collaboratively with the DOE which will ensure that teaching and learning requirements are integrated in school design.

With a focus on 21st century school construction, it is the goal of the Governor and Legislature that public school students will have access to new and redesigned facilities that advance 21st century learning.



THE IMPACT



Access to modernized school facilities that provide learning environments for a student's academic and personal success.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit ChangeForHawaii.org