



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Legislative Director

**TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 237, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO
PUBLIC SCHOOL LANDS**

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hon. David Y. Ige, Chair
Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

**Thursday, February 21, 2013, 9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

Honorable Chair Ige and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 150 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of Senate Bill 237, relating to public school lands.

On average, Hawaii's public school buildings are over 65 years in age, with the state's per-capita capital improvement spending ranking last in the nation. No one should have been surprised, then, when the roof of Farrington High School's auditorium collapsed due to a combination of degradation and design flaws. Given the dearth of funds available for infrastructure improvements on public school campuses throughout the state, as well a relative lack of affordable and workforce housing, we support this initiative, which establishes a pilot program that seeks to generate revenue for school improvements through the leasing and optimization of unused public school lands, with development priority being given to workforce rental housing projects. Moreover, we note that this measure address concerns raised by the DOE in previous years with regard to similar proposals by decreasing the number of piloted leases from ten to two, while appropriating funds for necessary preparations, including feasibility studies and the evaluation of site-specific requests for proposals (though these two cost items are not specifically enumerated in the appropriation request).

That said, we also note, with prior City and County of Honolulu administrators, that the rental units foreseen by this bill revert back to the DOE after the lease term ends. If the DOE should continue to rent the units after this point, the respective counties in which the developments are built will not receive any further property taxes on the land. Both the truncation of property taxes to the counties and potential lack of expertise regarding building, and specifically workforce rental housing, management may need to be addressed as the measure moves forward during the legislative session. After all, no one wants to unnecessarily encumber management of the DOE's already strained infrastructure portfolio or see the roofs of workforce rental housing collapse because of decades of neglected maintenance.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director
IMUAlliance

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB237 on Feb 21, 2013 09:00AM*
Date: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 10:38:40 AM

SB237

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 21, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB237 on Feb 21, 2013 09:00AM*
Date: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 9:28:50 AM

SB237

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 21, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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