LEGISLATIVE REPORT

SUBJECT: Renovate and Build Twenty-first Century Schools

REFERENCE: SCR 190 (2013)

ACTION REQUESTED: Report to the 2014 Legislature

DOE REPORT:
Introduction: SCR 190 (2013) requires the Board of Education to review Board Policy no. 6701 and Section 302A-1602, HRS in light of the state's effort to renovate and build twenty-first century schools. Refer to the attachment entitled "Review of Board of Education's Policy No. 6701 and Section 302A-1602, HRS to Renovate and Build Twenty-first Century Schools".

Findings: See attached

Recommendations: None
Review of Board of Education's Policy No. 6701 to Renovate and Build Twenty-first Century Schools

BOE Policy No. 6701 establishes guidelines for the enrollment size of new schools and the size of new school campuses. The policy presents a range of campus sizes to accommodate the physical characteristics of potential new school sites. The acreage given, allows for adjustments in the placement of school facilities to take advantage of open ventilation within the site, to accommodate education-based recreation and athletic activities, and to provide adequate parking, etc. Act 155 SLH 2013, will be considering existing school sites that may be currently underutilized (i.e., areas where the parking requirement may be less due to mass transit or where athletic facilities have been consolidated due to the close proximity of schools, etc.). Policy No. 6701 would not limit exceptions made to facilitate new program requirements on existing school sites. Therefore, the Department of Education and Board of Education believe changes are not needed to Policy No. 6701.

Section 302A-1602, HRS is part of the School Impact Fee law, and is the "Definitions" section of the law. Pertinent to the objective of this report is the definition of “Recent school site area averages”. In understanding the definition, the campus sizes listed represent the actual average of new campuses built from 1997 to 2007. These averages are listed for the purpose of setting the initial formula for the amount of school land required for impact fees when new housing development creates greater student enrollments in a specific area. This definition does not set the size of a campus. It establishes the basis for impact assessments, based on historic averages. Therefore, the Department of Education and Board of Education believe changes are not needed to Section 302A-1602, HRS.