

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

SUBJECT: Relating to Early Learning

REFERENCE: SB 2878
Act 14
(SLH 2008, Special Session)

ACTION REQUESTED: Annual report to Legislature and Early Learning Council on number of classrooms suitable for programs and services in the early learning system and cost of renovating those classrooms to meet standards.

DOE REPORT:

Introduction:

Act 14, SLH 2008, Section 6, requires the Department of Education (Department) to identify unused public school facilities to be used for early learning programs and services.

Act 14, SLH 2008, Section 3, requires the Early Learning Council to submit an annual report to the Legislature, outlining its progress and the status of the early learning system in Hawaii.

Findings:

The Department has identified 80 classrooms that are vacant and have potential use for early learning programs.

These include 11 classrooms in the Honolulu District, 23 in the Central District, 12 in the Leeward District, 10 in the Windward District, 14.5 on the Big Island, 5.5 on Maui, and 4 on Kauai. (See attached list.)

In general, all of the classrooms identified as vacant are approximately 900 square feet in size, are of fire resistive construction and are located on the ground level. In addition, about 25 percent have bathrooms.

Based on previous experience with the conversion of existing elementary classrooms to early learning use, we estimate that, on average, the cost to convert one of these classrooms is to be \$92,500. This figure includes the provision of an enclosed playground area, the cost of providing restrooms to the 75 percent of the classrooms that currently lack a restroom, as well as painting and other minor renovations that may be required.

Total Estimated Cost

Based on the figures and assumptions above, we estimate that the costs to convert the classrooms identified in the list of vacant classrooms are:

Honolulu:	11 classrooms x \$80,000 = \$880,000
Central:	23 classrooms x \$84,000* = \$1,932,000
Leeward:	12 classrooms x \$88,000* = \$1,056,000
Windward:	10 classrooms x \$92,000* = \$920,000
Hawaii:	14.5 classrooms x \$100,000* = \$1,450,000
Maui:	5.5 classrooms x \$100,000* = \$550,000
Kauai:	4 classrooms x \$104,000* = \$416,000

Total cost to convert 80 classrooms = \$7,204,000

**Cost adjusted to account for geographic factors.*

The Early Learning Council has met monthly through the past year and is currently in the process of summarizing its progress, given the reports from the work-groups and sub-committees. Reports are being collected to summarize the status of the early learning system. The report will be finalized and transmitted to the Department of Education, via its Superintendent, on or before November 25, 2009, for subsequent transmission to the Board of Education and the Legislature.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The following actions are planned for:

1. Work with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to determine which classrooms are located in areas of demand.
2. Consult with school administrators to make sure that the classrooms are available for a long-term commitment that warrants the renovation investment.
3. Work within DHS budget constraints to prioritize prospective renovation sites.
4. Implement renovation as funds permit.

ATTACHMENT

DISTRICT	School	Vacant	
HONOLULU	Aliiolani	2.0	
	Hokulani	1.5	
	Jarrett MS	3.0	
	Kalihi-Kai	1.0	
	Kamiloiki	1.0	
	Kauluwela	0.5	
	Koko Head	2.0	
	CENTRAL	Haleiwa	4.0
Makalapa		10.0	
Nimitz		2.0	
Red Hill		3.0	
Shafter		3.0	
Wahiawa MS		1.0	
LEEWARD		Ewa Beach	8.0
	Manana	2.0	
	Waianae IS	2.0	
WINDWARD	Kapunahala	1.0	
	Mokapu	1.0	
	Kailua IS	2.0	
	King IS	2.0	
	Puohala	4.0	
	HAWAII	Hookena	4.0
Waimea		3.0	
Keaau MS		2.0	
Kapiolani		2.0	
Laupahoehoe		1.0	
Kaumana		1.0	
Hilo Union		1.0	
Kealakehe		0.5	
MAUI		Haiku	3.0
		Kamehameha III	1.0
	Pomaikai	1.0	
	Wailuku	0.5	
KAUAI	Waimea Canyon	3.0	
	Kapaa MS	1.0	
	Total State	80.0	