Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the committee:

My name is Richard Rocheleau, Director of the Hawai‘i Natural Energy Institute at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (HNEI). I support SB 2424 SD2, which requires the Department of Education (DOE) and the Department of Accounting and General Services, in consultation with the Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism and HNEI, to develop a master strategy for cooling all public school facilities, conduct a comprehensive study and report their findings and recommendations to the 2015 Legislature.

HNEI is currently partnering with the DOE to develop a facility assessment protocol to guide the design of comfortable learning environments with reduced energy consumption, with the ultimate objective of producing design guidelines that would be applicable to DOE facilities statewide. This project is funded by the DOE, barrel tax funds and federal funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.