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Contact@HEECoalition.org

William Kaneko, President  
Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs  
1003 Bishop Street, Suite 765  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Kaneko,

On behalf of the Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) Coalition, we strongly support the Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs' (HIPA) grant application, which will help to redefine how Hawaii will approach 21st century learning by redeveloping our underutilized school property.

This grant, along with funds dedicated by the state and other private funders, will implement a pilot project to demonstrate how this model can lead the way to rebuild our aging schools and provide needed community benefits such as workforce housing, support services and commercial activities on underutilized school lands. Working closely with school communities and other stakeholders, the project will include community visioning, asset mapping of the pilot area, 21st school facilities planning, and compatible uses for the redeveloped property.

HE'E is a statewide coalition of diverse stakeholders committed to working collaboratively to identify opportunities to improve public education in Hawai'i. HE'E seeks to be the focal point for community and parent engagement while serving as a public resource for educational policy.

This project is important to us because our schools are aging and cannot accommodate the education needs of our students. We are particularly pleased about families and the community being included in the visioning and planning process, as we believe our voices are critical to the success of the project. We would also advocate that student voices be included as well. We believe that schools should be the focal point of the community and therefore, we are excited to be involved in the process.

We fully support HIPA's efforts to partner with our state government to support Hawaii's effort to rebuild our public schools and redevelop underutilized school lands that could provide housing, support services, urban gardens, and needed commercial uses for our communities. In addition, the revenue generated from the appropriate redevelopment activities will fund school construction in other areas of the state.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [cheri@heecoalition.org](mailto:cheri@heecoalition.org).

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura  
HE'E Coalition Director