



Last week Governor David Ige signed [SB1345](#) into law (now known as Act 116). Act 116 requires the Hawaii Department of Education to develop a transition plan to end multi-track school calendar schedules. The plan shall include detailing the needs of each school



currently on a multi-track schedule, a timeline for the transition, and list any costs necessary to implement the transition plan.

More than ten years ago the Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) adopted the multi-track system to help alleviate overcrowding at the following campuses: Holomua Elementary, Kapolei Elementary, Kapolei Middle, and Mililani Middle.

There have been mixed feelings regarding the multi-track calendar. In some ways it benefits families financially with shorter summer vacation breaks. On the other hand, families with children at different age groups find it difficult to balance their work schedule with one child in school and the other out on break.

In addition, students on the multi-track calendar are losing critical instruction time compared to those on the single track calendar. For example, the upcoming projected School Year (SY) instructional time will decrease in the following years:

- SY 2015-16 – Loss of 102 hours (17 student days)
- SY 2016-17 – Loss of 192 hours (32 student days)
- SY 2017-18 – Loss of 192 hours (32 student days)
- SY 2018-19 – Loss of 252 hours (42 student days)

Mililani Middle was designed for only 1,300 students however enrollment is nearly at 1,800

students and the campus capacity only accommodates two-thirds of those students per day.

To address these challenges, I worked with Education Committee Chairwoman Senator Michelle Kidani and co-sponsored [SB1345](#). The purpose of this bill is to work with the DOE and transition multi-track schedule campuses to a single-track by building additional classrooms and give these overpopulated schools priority for capital improvement project funding in order to develop facilities to accommodate the student population.

In addition to the bill, both the Senate and House included in the state budget bill \$1.5 million dollars to plan and design fifteen additional classrooms at Mililani Middle School. Senator Kidani and I presented a [transition plan and process timeline](#) to the Mililani Mauka Neighborhood Board and the Mililani-Waipio Neighborhood Board earlier this year.

I am hopeful that we can address the multi-track challenges sooner than later and will continue to work with both the principal and staff at Mililani Middle School and the Department of Education.

Mahalo,



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