

JAN 18 2006

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL REDESIGN.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. There is compelling evidence, both locally and
2 nationally, that high school students who are in a small school
3 setting tend to reach higher levels of achievement, are more
4 likely to form personal relationships, be more engaged in school
5 activities, and are more likely to attend college or have post-
6 secondary plans after graduation. Hawaii's high schools counter
7 that finding, as they tend to be very large and are among the
8 largest in the United States.

9 Today's high schools were designed over sixty years ago to
10 meet the needs of another age. Even if these schools work
11 exactly as designed, our schools cannot teach our students what
12 they need to know. We need schools that can meet the needs of
13 the 21st century learner. Learners today depend on their
14 ability to work with others, to problem solve, and to apply
15 academic learning to real problems.

16 There is a direct connection between school size and how a
17 student views the learning experience. If our high schools are
18 to provide the best educational opportunities possible for all



1 students, Hawaii's high schools must create smaller learning
2 communities within the larger school setting. Small learning
3 communities can be designed to help students feel that they are
4 part of a defined group, that they are connected to caring and
5 supportive adults, that they are allowed to explore their
6 interests, and that their individual learning styles are being
7 addressed.

8 The purpose of this Act is to create an office of school
9 redesign within the department of education. This office will
10 provide technical support to public high schools and help
11 develop and implement small learning communities within large
12 high schools throughout the State.

13 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended by adding two new sections to part II to be
15 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

16 **"§302A- Office of school redesign; functions. (a)**
17 There is established, in the department of education, the office
18 of school redesign. The office is to be administratively
19 attached to the college of education at the University of Hawaii
20 at Manoa pursuant to a memorandum of agreement between the
21 department of education and the college of education. The
22 office shall be administered by a coordinator appointed by and



1 responsible to the dean of the college of education. When
2 possible, the office shall use existing personnel within state
3 government for necessary supplementation. Chapter 76 or section
4 304-13 shall apply to permanent staff, as appropriate.

5 (b) The office shall:

6 (1) Maintain a research database on the creation and
7 effectiveness of small redesigned high schools;

8 (2) Lead state advocacy efforts for the creation of small
9 redesigned high schools;

10 (3) Provide technical assistance to schools engaging in
11 redesign through professional development institutes,
12 facilitated visitations to exemplary or emerging sites
13 in Hawaii and elsewhere, and preparation and support
14 of a cadre of on-site coaches;

15 (4) Develop and promote connections and professional
16 development opportunities for learning and sharing
17 among local change agents involved in school redesign;

18 (5) Participate with national networks of practitioners
19 and researchers involved in launching or redesigning
20 schools and school systems;

21 (6) Promote the concept of a research cadre that will
22 develop, document, and disseminate understandings



1 about school redesign, and contribute to a research
2 database;

3 (7) Promote and facilitate dialogue among various school
4 shareholders on the most current research and
5 understandings about school redesign;

6 (8) Foster communication among educators, decision-makers,
7 and the community to advance high school redesign; and

8 (9) Assist schools in preparing grant applications to
9 advance redesign activities.

10 (c) The office coordinator and dean of the college of
11 education shall report annually to the legislature, the board of
12 regents, and the board of education on the office's progress in
13 facilitating the development and implementation of small
14 learning communities within Hawaii's public high schools.

15 **§302A- Office of school redesign; advisory board.** (a)

16 The coordinator of the office of school redesign shall convene
17 an advisory board consisting of:

18 (1) The superintendent of education;

19 (2) The dean of the college of education of the University
20 of Hawaii;

21 (3) The director of the curriculum research development
22 group of the University of Hawaii;



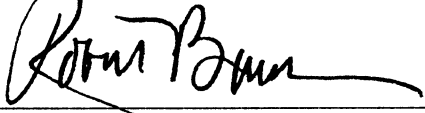
- 1 (4) Two members from the community at large;
- 2 (5) A National School Reform representative;
- 3 (6) An active or retired high school principal; and
- 4 (7) Other major stakeholders.
- 5 (b) The purpose of the advisory board shall be to:
- 6 (1) Provide feedback and direction to the overall
- 7 operation of the office of school redesign;
- 8 (2) Assist in communicating with constituents within and
- 9 outside the department of education and the college of
- 10 education; and
- 11 (3) Assist in obtaining financial and other support for
- 12 the office."

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000, or so much
 15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, to
 16 establish the office of school redesign within the department of
 17 education.

18 SECTION 4. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the
 19 department of education for the purposes of this Act, including
 20 the hiring of staff.

1 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

2 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

3 INTRODUCED BY: 



SB 2032

Report Title:

Education; University of Hawaii; Office of School Redesign

Description:

Establishes the office of school redesign as part of the department of education. Appropriates \$500,000 for the office of school redesign.

