
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STUDENTS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there are many
2 benefits to a reduction in the student-teacher ratio. There are
3 approximately 12,000 teachers and 183,000 students in the public
4 school system, which translates to a student-teacher ratio of
5 15.25-to-one.

6 The legislature finds that both teachers and students
7 benefit from smaller class sizes, as well as having support from
8 other teachers in specialty areas such as art, music, physical
9 education, gifted and talented, technology, and others, and
10 support from tutors, counselors, librarians, and other staff
11 members.

12 In order to lower the student-teacher ratio of 15.25 to a
13 target 14.75, an additional 406 teachers would need to be hired.
14 The result would be an average increase of one teacher per
15 school of 450 students, or four additional teachers per school
16 of 1,800 students.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 **"§302A- Reduction of student-teacher ratio. (a)**

5 Subject to the availability of funds appropriated by the
6 legislature and allotted by the governor, the department:

7 (1) Shall reduce the ratio of students to teachers in
8 elementary school grades one to five to not more than
9 students to one teacher;

10 (2) Shall reduce the ratio of students to teachers in
11 middle school grades six to eight to not more than
12 students to one teacher; and

13 (3) Shall reduce the ratio of students to teachers in high
14 schools grades nine to twelve to not more than
15 students to one teacher.

16 (b) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated by
17 the legislature and allotted by the governor, the department
18 shall support class size reduction by providing additional staff
19 as necessary, including teachers from art, music, physical
20 education, gifted and talented, technology, and other specialty
21 areas, tutors, counselors, librarians, and other staff as
22 appropriate."



1 SECTION 3. The department of education shall plan and
2 budget for future staffing needs and construction to accommodate
3 the reduction of the student-teacher ratio at all grade levels.
4 The department shall report to the legislature no later than
5 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
6 2007, on its plan, timetable, and budgetary projects to
7 accomplish the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$27,202,000, or so
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, to
11 phase in the reduction of class size in all public elementary,
12 middle, and high school grades over the next three years
13 beginning with school year 2006-2007, including the hiring of
14 additional teachers, tutors, counselors, librarians, resource
15 teachers, and other staff as necessary for the purposes of this
16 Act.

17 SECTION 5. The sums appropriated shall be expended by the
18 department of education for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

20 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.



Report Title:

DOE; Teachers; Class Size; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the reduction of the student to teacher ratio for elementary, middle, and high school grades. Appropriates funds for initiatives and for staff needed to support the reduction.
(SD1)

