
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is compelling
2 evidence, both locally and nationally, that high school students
3 who are in a small school setting tend to reach higher levels of
4 achievement, are more likely to form personal relationships, are
5 more engaged in school activities, and are more likely to attend
6 college or have post secondary plans after graduation. The
7 legislature finds that there is a direct connection between how
8 a student views the learning experience and school size. The
9 legislature declares that if our high schools are to provide the
10 best educational opportunities possible for all students, the
11 size issue must be addressed.

12 The legislature further finds that today's high schools
13 were designed over sixty years ago to meet the needs of another
14 age. Even if they work exactly as designed, these schools
15 cannot teach Hawaii's students what they need to know. The
16 legislature further finds that schools are needed that can meet
17 the needs of the twenty-first century learner. Learners today
18 will have to depend on their ability to work with others, to



1 problem solve, to apply academic learning to realistic problems,
2 and engage in learning experiences that will have an impact on
3 their lives.

4 The legislature declares that it is imperative that the
5 large high schools create smaller learning communities within
6 the larger setting. Small learning communities must be designed
7 to help students feel that they are part of a defined group,
8 they are connected to a caring and supportive adult, their
9 individual learning style is being addressed, and they are
10 allowed to explore their interests.

11 The purpose of this Act is to create an office of school
12 redesign at the college of education at the University of Hawaii
13 at Manoa. The office of school redesign shall provide technical
14 support to secondary schools as they engage themselves in
15 redesign efforts to create more personalized learning
16 environments as well as rigorous and relevant curriculum and
17 instruction with a focus on supporting transitions to post
18 secondary education and careers. The legislature finds that a
19 clear link shall exist between the school redesign initiatives
20 sponsored and supported by the office of school redesign and the
21 three goals in the department of education strategic plan. The
22 goals play a critical role in providing the system with common



1 understandings and clearly identifies what the department of
2 education considers important. The three goals are:

3 (1) Improve student achievement through standards-based
4 education;

5 (2) Provide comprehensive support for all students; and

6 (3) Continuously improve performance and quality.

7 The office of school redesign shall be engaged in a
8 comprehensive effort to provide redesign support, technical
9 assistance, research-based information, and both financial and
10 human resources to all public secondary schools, public charter
11 schools, and independent secondary schools in Hawaii.

12 SECTION 2. Office of school redesign; functions. (a)

13 There shall be established at the University of Hawaii at Manoa
14 the office of school redesign, to be administratively attached
15 to the college of education. The affairs and operations of the
16 office shall be administered by a coordinator appointed by and
17 responsible to the dean of the college of education at the
18 University of Hawaii at Manoa. The office coordinator shall
19 provide quarterly progress reports on the scope of services
20 being offered by the office of school redesign to an executive
21 committee, consisting of the dean of the college of education of
22 the University of Hawaii at Manoa, the superintendent of



1 education, the assistant superintendent of the office of
2 curriculum, instruction and student support of the department of
3 education, and the director of the curriculum research and
4 development group at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

5 The executive committee shall establish an advisory board
6 to the office of school redesign. The advisory board shall
7 represent the various stakeholders in the redesign process,
8 including but not limited to representatives of the public
9 school system, charter and private schools students, parents,
10 community colleges, and business industry.

11 (b) The office shall:

12 (1) Provide services as requested by educational
13 organizations for the planning and development of
14 redesign plans, utilizing the most recent research and
15 practices, and serve and support collaborative
16 communication efforts on school redesign;

17 (2) Serve as a "clearinghouse" for the identification and
18 distribution of national and international "promising
19 practices" to secondary schools through a coordinated
20 communication system and data warehouse;



1 (3) Coordinate professional development activities such as
2 the high school middle school institutes to facilitate
3 secondary school redesign;

4 (4) Develop partnerships with educational departments and
5 organizations engaged in high school redesign to
6 provide supplemental and support services; and serve
7 as a consultant to schools on their redesign efforts;
8 and

9 (5) Coordinate the development of a high school and middle
10 school compact in partnership with the department of
11 education state student activities program.

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for the
15 University of Hawaii to establish the office of school redesign
16 as part of the college of education at the University of Hawaii
17 at Manoa.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
19 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

21

INTRODUCED BY:

Report Title:

University of Hawaii; Office of School Redesign

Description:

Appropriates funds for an office of school redesign in the college of education at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

