

JAN 18 2008

S.B. NO. 2670

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. School closures and consolidations are driven
2 by scales of economy but are always accompanied by school and
3 community resistance based on assorted legitimate concerns.
4 School closures or consolidations can be best accomplished
5 effectively if the benefits to the system are balanced with
6 benefits to the individual schools and communities.

7 The purpose of this Act is to establish a task force to
8 conduct a cost-benefit analysis to determine the expected cost
9 savings, recommend procedures, and provide compensation options
10 for the closure or consolidation of schools.

11 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
12 of education the school closure or consolidation task force,
13 which shall consist of five members to be appointed by the
14 superintendent of education.

15 (b) The school closure or consolidation task force shall
16 select a chairperson from among its members. The number of
17 members necessary to constitute a quorum to do business shall



1 consist of a majority of all members of the school closure or
2 consolidation task force. When a quorum is in attendance, the
3 concurrence of a majority of the members in attendance shall
4 make any action of the school closure or consolidation task
5 force valid. The members of the task force shall not be subject
6 to section 26-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

7 (c) The school closure or consolidation task force shall
8 conduct a study on school closures or consolidations, which
9 shall include but not be limited to the following:

10 (1) A cost-benefit analysis to determine the expected cost
11 savings of each school closure or consolidation
12 examined; provided that the analysis shall consider
13 both economic and non-economic benefits and costs to
14 the students, families, and community of the
15 surrounding areas associated with a school closure or
16 consolidation;

17 (2) Recommendations for provisions to ensure that affected
18 students shall be appropriately compensated, including
19 through receiving access to additional programs or
20 services as a result of a school closure or
21 consolidation; and



1 (3) Recommendations for a permanent process or procedures
2 for evaluating and determining whether a school or
3 schools are appropriate for closure or consolidation,
4 including recommendations for criteria, timelines, and
5 who should conduct the evaluations.

6 (d) The school closure or consolidation task force shall
7 submit a report on its analysis, findings, and recommendations
8 on each proposed school closure or school consolidation,
9 provisions for compensation to affected students, and processes
10 or procedures for evaluating whether a school or schools are
11 appropriate for closure or consolidation to the legislature no
12 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
13 session of 2009, and shall cease to exist on June 30, 2009.

14 (e) Members of the school closure or consolidation task
15 force shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed
16 for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary for the
17 performance of their duties.

18 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 to
21 support the operations of the school closure or consolidation
22 task force.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 education for the purposes of this Act.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: Norman Sakemoff



Report Title:

DOE; School Closures or Consolidations; Task Force;
Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a task force to conduct a cost-benefit analysis to determine the cost savings, compensation, and a process for school closures or consolidations. Appropriates funds for the task force.

