

JAN 18 2008

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's high
2 schools' average enrollment is the nation's second largest.
3 Evidence is now extensive, indicating that small schools have
4 major benefits over larger schools, including higher attendance
5 and graduation rates, higher levels of academic achievement,
6 fewer students dropping out, a stronger sense of connectedness
7 on the part of students and higher levels of participation in
8 extracurricular activities, greater parental involvement, and
9 better student behavior and fewer disciplinary incidents.

10 The legislature further finds that students from minority
11 and low-income families are particularly handicapped by large
12 schools and greatly benefited by small schools. Research
13 strongly indicates the need to downsize Hawaii's high schools.
14 However, the weighted student formula method of school
15 financing, to which we are committed, either penalizes small
16 schools or makes necessary supplementary funding not covered by



1 the approach, which, ironically, seeks explicitly to aid those
2 students who would benefit most from the smaller schools.

3 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding for the
4 establishment of smaller schools within large high schools, in
5 the form of academies, schools within schools, or smaller
6 learning communities.

7 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for
10 the awarding of grants for establishing smaller schools within
11 public high schools, in the form of schools within schools,
12 academies, or smaller learning communities; provided that:

13 (1) Priority for funding shall be provided to high schools
14 with total enrollment of one thousand eight hundred
15 students or more;

16 (2) The curriculum, organization, and schedule for the
17 smaller school are planned by its teachers;

18 (3) The plan for the smaller school contemplates
19 establishment extending over a several-year period to
20 allow students to graduate therefrom;

21 (4) The smaller school has a theme on the basis of which
22 it can be chosen by students sharing similar



- 1 interests; provided that the themes may represent
2 prospective careers or interests, such as sports,
3 drama, or writing, but not academic disciplines;
- 4 (5) The theme of the smaller school permeates all classes,
5 to the greatest extent possible;
- 6 (6) Students and teachers of the smaller school take and
7 teach, respectively, all of their classes within the
8 smaller school, to the extent possible; provided that
9 at least seventy-five per cent of the courses are
10 taken and taught in the smaller school each semester;
- 11 (7) The teachers of the smaller school endeavor to meet
12 weekly to analyze progress and necessary change;
- 13 (8) The smaller school be fully committed to the academic,
14 social, emotional, physical, and moral development of
15 each of its students;
- 16 (9) The smaller school provides each student with an
17 advisor who shall meet regularly with the student in a
18 group that may include the advisor and other advisees
19 for the duration of the student's time at the school;
- 20 (10) The smaller school provides weekly school wide
21 governance at which deliberate efforts at community
22 building are made;



1 (11) Enrollment in the smaller school shall not exceed four
2 hundred students;

3 (12) The smaller school shall maintain its own separate,
4 contiguous assigned space;

5 (13) The smaller school shall select a teacher leader for a
6 term of three to four years, who shall be responsible
7 for staffing, calling and chairing staff meetings, and
8 scheduling; and

9 (14) The smaller school may receive a start-up grant in an
10 amount not to exceed \$110,000 to recompense teachers
11 for the planning time involved in designing the
12 smaller school prior to opening and to pay for any
13 special equipment necessary for the school's theme.

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

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

Norman Sakamoto

Erzanne Chun Alaliland

Jim

Christina K. Siskily

James Donald K.

Ray Hoan

David J. J.

Wm. H.



Report Title:

DOE; Schools Within Schools; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for grants by the department of education for the establishment of schools within schools on certain high school campuses.

