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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL CLOSURES OR CONSOLIDATIONS.

**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.

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 2008, and shall cease to exist on June 30, 2008.

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 2007-2008, 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, 2007.



**Report Title:**

DOE; School Closure or Consolidation; 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. (SD1)

