
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCILS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Act 51, the Reinventing Education Act of 2004
2 (Act 51), states: "One of the most important means of improving
3 educational outcomes and public confidence in those outcomes in
4 schools is by enhancing community involvement." To that end,
5 Act 51 mandates that school community councils be established in
6 all public schools by the 2005-2006 school year. Each school
7 community council is composed of a principal and at least one
8 member representing teachers, non-certificated personnel,
9 students, community members, and parents.

10 The legislature envisions each school community council as
11 a vehicle for shared decision making. In practice, each school
12 community council is advisory, with a primary purpose of
13 evaluating the school's academic and financial plan. Each
14 school community council may offer recommendations and then
15 forward its plan to the complex area superintendent for
16 adoption. Each plan becomes the blueprint for that school's
17 goals, priorities, programs, and activities, and is used as a



1 guide for academic and financial decisions made at the school
2 level.

3 To ensure that each school community council can
4 effectively perform its responsibilities and incorporate
5 workforce priorities, it is important to provide council members
6 with:

- 7 (1) Adequate and appropriate training; and
- 8 (2) Clearly stated additional workforce-related
9 responsibilities.

10 The purpose of this Act is to provide a training program
11 for each school community council located within the elementary,
12 middle, and high schools under the department of education.

13 SECTION 2. The department of education shall establish a
14 training program for school community councils within each
15 complex located within the elementary, middle, and high schools
16 under the department of education. School community councils
17 within a complex shall be provided training collectively. The
18 training program shall encourage school community councils to
19 work collaboratively within each complex; include instruction on
20 the basics of the operations of the department of education
21 including department of education terminology, procedures, and
22 priorities; and include instruction on reform and redesign



1 initiatives for all public schools. The training program shall
2 also incorporate each school community council's goals,
3 priorities, and programs, including the oversight of the
4 school's activities related to:

5 (1) Incorporation of career pathways into the school,
6 including clear, understandable information on
7 occupations needed by the State for economic
8 development;

9 (2) Provision of information and counseling to each
10 student and guardian or parent regarding the student's
11 career pathways and significance to the student's
12 future in the workforce; and

13 (3) Retention and transition strategies to assist students
14 through secondary and post-secondary institutions.

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, to
18 the department of education to develop school community council
19 training programs; provided that the department shall expend \$
20 in each of the elementary, middle, and high schools in the
21 State.



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:

School Community Councils; Training Program; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the department of education to establish a community council training program. Appropriates funds for this purpose.
(SD1)

