

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2321

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 2008

RE: S.B. No. 2690

S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2008  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred S.B.  
No. 2690 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to provide funding for grants  
by the Department of Education for the establishment of schools  
within schools, academies, or smaller learning communities on  
certain high school campuses.

Testimony in support of the measure was submitted by  
Department of Education, the Hawai'i Educational Policy Center, and  
the League of Women Voters of Hawaii.

Your Committee finds that Hawaii's high schools are  
overcrowded. The Department of Education must explore innovative  
solutions to ensuring appropriate facilities, school environments,  
and proper education for our public school students. Your  
Committee further finds that smaller schools provide great  
benefits to teachers, students, and parents, including allowing  
teachers to establish more personalized relationships with  
students, which in turn fosters increased academic success. The  
establishment of smaller schools, including schools within  
schools, academies, and smaller learning communities, as  
alternatives to current larger school environments, is a positive  
policy that can allow existing schools and school facilities to be  
utilized more effectively and efficiently.



This measure provides funding for grants for the establishment of smaller schools within public high schools in the State. Your Committee determines that this funding is appropriate and the inclusion of specific criteria for the establishment of such smaller schools should provide guidelines to help to assure that the smaller learning communities will provide a successful approach to high student achievement.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the requirement that all smaller schools awarded grants satisfy the specified criteria to requiring that priority for grants be provided to those smaller schools that demonstrate the specified criteria; and
- (2) Changing the specified criteria by:
  - (A) Reflecting that teachers in smaller schools have the ability to choose their smaller schools;
  - (B) Specifying that smaller schools should provide each student with an advisor who shall meet regularly with the student in a group that includes the advisor and other advisors; and
  - (C) Specifying that smaller schools should provide weekly school wide governance and other meetings at which deliberate efforts at community building are made.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2690, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2690, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Education,

*Norman Sakamoto*

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NORMAN SAKAMOTO, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
 State of Hawaii

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Education**  
**EDU**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB209D</b>	Committee Referral: <b>EDU, WAM</b>	Date: <b>2/11/08</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAKAMOTO, Norman (C)	X			
TOKUDA, Jill N. (VC)	X			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne	X			
GABBARD, Mike	X			
HEE, Clayton				X
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	X			
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.	X			
SLOM, Sam				X
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
Distribution:                    Original                      Yellow                      Pink                      Goldenrod File with Committee Report    Clerk's Office            Drafting Agency        Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes