

Date: 01/28/2008

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2670 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: 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.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (DOE) does not believe it is necessary that the legislature establish a task force for the closure or consolidation of schools.

The DOE agrees it is appropriate to undertake a cost benefit analysis to determine the expected cost savings of school closure or consolidation and recognizes the potential benefits to be realized by consolidating certain schools. We are continuing with this process, which is set forth in Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), Chapter 8-38. The scope of work proposed for the legislatively-mandated task force, including a cost-benefit analysis and recommendations for providing affected students with appropriate program alternatives, is also a part of the DOE's process described in HAR Chapter 8-38. As such, we believe that the proposed task force will duplicate the existing process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.