
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 reductions and
2 restrictions to the department of education's operating budget
3 of over \$49,000,000 for the 2009-2010 fiscal year and over
4 \$226,000,000 for the 2010-2011 fiscal year have resulted in the
5 scheduled loss of seventeen instructional days for ten-month
6 non-charter public school students and twenty-one instructional
7 days for twelve-month non-charter public school students during
8 the 2009-2010 school year and the same number of lost
9 instructional days during the 2010-2011 school year. The
10 legislature further finds that if nothing is done to prevent the
11 loss of these instructional days, Hawaii will become the state
12 with the fewest number of instructional days in a school year.
13 The State has received much criticism for responding to budget
14 shortfalls in a manner that decreases learning opportunities and
15 quality instructional time for students. On a national level,
16 the United States Secretary of Education has strongly criticized
17 the decision to decrease instructional days, especially since



1 Hawaii is scheduled to receive approximately \$500,000,000 from
2 the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, part of
3 which is intended to avoid significant cuts to education and
4 advance school reform. The Secretary has also indicated that
5 the loss of instructional days has weakened the State's
6 competitiveness for additional federal education grants. For
7 these reasons, the legislature finds that the loss of
8 instructional days for Hawaii's students is a short-sighted
9 solution that will have detrimental long-term effects on
10 Hawaii's students, reputation, and future.

11 Despite the great need for additional resources in many
12 areas that would benefit the public, the legislature finds that
13 providing a quality education for Hawaii's students is an
14 overriding state priority with far-reaching effects on the
15 prosperity, health, and growth of local communities and that
16 ensuring adequate resources for education reflects a commitment
17 and investment toward that priority. According to the
18 department of education, it costs approximately \$6,600,000 per
19 day to run Hawaii's public schools. To meet this fiscal need,
20 the legislature finds that an appropriation of Hawaii hurricane
21 relief funds is necessary to maintain an essential level of



1 programs and resources to provide Hawaii's students with a
2 quality education.

3 The legislature declares that the appropriation made under
4 this Act shall not be construed to mean that the legislature, in
5 any way, intends to interfere with the processes of public
6 sector collective bargaining as authorized under the state
7 constitution and chapter 89, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

8 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate \$75,000,000 in
9 Hawaii hurricane relief funds to restore as many instructional
10 days scheduled to be lost during the 2010-2011 school year as
11 possible, with any remaining funds to be used to restore as many
12 remaining lost instructional days during the 2009-2010 school
13 year as possible.

14 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding provisions of chapter 431P,
15 Hawaii Revised Statutes, to the contrary, there is appropriated
16 out of the Hawaii hurricane relief fund the sum of \$75,000,000
17 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011
18 to restore as many instructional days during the 2010-2011
19 school year as possible; provided that any remaining funds shall
20 be used to restore as many instructional days during the
21 2009-2010 school year as possible.



Report Title:

Restoration of Instructional Days; Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund; Appropriation

Description:

Makes an appropriation from the Hawaii hurricane relief fund to restore as many instructional days during the 2010-2011 school year as possible, with any remaining funds to be used to restore as many instructional days during the 2009-2010 school year as possible. (SD1)

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