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# 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 the Reinventing  
2 Education Act of 2004 (Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004)  
3 established a weighted student formula to allocate moneys to  
4 schools according to the different costs of educating students  
5 with different needs. Despite the intended equitable  
6 distribution of funds, the legislature finds that the weighted  
7 student formula has placed small, remote schools at a  
8 disadvantage. In the case of Hana high school and elementary,  
9 the budgetary shortfall has resulted in the loss of several  
10 well-qualified teachers and threatened the school's ability to  
11 offer minimum course requirements for students to earn high  
12 school diplomas in 2010. If Hana high school is unable to offer  
13 its students the requisite courses for graduation, those  
14 students' next closest public high school, King Kekaulike high  
15 school, is a nearly forty-mile, two-hour drive away.

16           The legislature finds that despite the current economic  
17 situation, remote schools should be funded to retain the minimal

1 personnel and resources necessary to graduate students. As of  
2 2005, six schools were excepted from weighted student formula  
3 allocations, receiving instead categorical allotments that  
4 guarantee the minimum number of positions and amount of  
5 resources to ensure that school operations can continue.

6 The purpose of this Act is to require that funding  
7 allocations for remote schools be determined by categorical  
8 allotments rather than through the weighted student formula.

9 SECTION 2. Section 302A-1303.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
10 is amended to read as follows:

11 **"§302A-1303.6 Weighted student formula.** (a) Based upon  
12 recommendations from the committee on weights, the board of  
13 education, not less than annually, shall adopt a weighted  
14 student formula for the allocation of moneys to public schools  
15 that takes into account the educational needs of each student.  
16 The department, upon the receipt of appropriated moneys, shall  
17 use the weighted student formula to allocate funds to public  
18 schools~~[ ]~~; provided that a remote school, as defined in  
19 subsection (b), and other schools designated by the committee on  
20 weights shall not be allocated operating funds using the  
21 weighted student formula and shall instead be allocated  
22 operating funds by categorical allotments that guarantee the

1 funding of a minimum number of instructional positions to ensure  
2 at least minimum course requirements are maintained. Principals  
3 shall expend moneys provided to the principals' schools. This  
4 section shall only apply to charter schools for fiscal years in  
5 which the charter schools elect pursuant to section 302B-13 to  
6 receive allocations according to the weighted student formula.

7 (b) For purposes of this section, "remote school" means  
8 any public school, as defined in section 302A-101, that is a  
9 high school:

10 (1) Located at least a one-hour drive away from the next  
11 nearest public high school; or

12 (2) Located on the island of Lanai, Molokai, or Niihau;  
13 provided that if a high school is combined with an elementary,  
14 middle, intermediate, or other lower level of schooling, that  
15 entire school shall be deemed a high school for the purposes of  
16 this subsection."

17 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
18 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

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**Report Title:**

Weighted Student Formula; Exception; Remote Schools

**Description:**

Requires remote schools to be allocated funds using categorical allotments, rather than through the weighted student formula. Defines a remote school as any public school that is a high school located at least a one-hour drive away from the next nearest high school or a high school located on the island of Lanai, Molokai, or Niihau. Takes effect 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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