
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 has threatened the school's ability
11 to 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 will have to endure a nearly forty-mile, two-hour drive
15 away, to the next closest public high school, King Kekaulike
16 high school.



1 The legislature finds that despite the current economic
2 situation, remote schools should be funded to retain the minimal
3 personnel and resources necessary to graduate students. As of
4 2005, six schools were excepted from weighted student formula
5 allocations, receiving instead categorical allotments that
6 guarantee the minimum number of positions and amount of
7 resources to ensure that school operations can continue.

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

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

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



1 weighted student formula and shall instead be allocated
2 operating funds by categorical allotments that guarantee the
3 funding of a minimum number of instructional positions to ensure
4 that at least minimum course requirements are maintained.

5 Principals shall expend moneys provided to the principals'
6 schools. This section shall only apply to charter schools for
7 fiscal years in which the charter schools elect to receive
8 pursuant to section 302B-13 [~~to receive~~] allocations according
9 to the weighted student formula.

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

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

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

20 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
21 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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



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. Effective 7/1/2050.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

