

Date of Hearing: March 20, 2009

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. 746, S.D. 1 (SSCR644) Relating to Education

Purpose: Establishes a two-year project within a designated complex area, authorizes the complex area superintendent to reallocate resources with the schools in the complex

Department's Position: The Department opposes SB 746, S.D. 1 (SSCR644). The Hawaii Revised Statutes already charges principals, HRS302A-1103, and Complex Area Superintendents, HRS302A-1124, to work together within their complex area to achieve greater efficiencies and cost effectiveness in the operation of schools and the delivery of instruction and instructional supports. The most effective means to determine which resources could be reallocated is through consultation and collaboration with affected school communities. That is precisely the means used by the Complex Area Superintendents today. Discussions regarding the reallocation of resources within complex areas to achieve greater fiscal and instructional efficiencies are already occurring. Exempting a complex area from department-wide budget cuts during this fiscal climate will increase the negative effect of

those budget cuts and restrictions on the rest of the complex areas and schools. Exempting a pilot complex area from department-wide budget cuts and restrictions will remove the urgency to find greater efficiencies and cost effectiveness due to reduced budgets. Furthermore, no complex area or school can be exempted from negative impact of department-wide budget cuts or restrictions because most of the budget cuts to date are borne by complex area and state office providing support to all schools.

The Department in SY09-10 will be allocating funds to the Complex Area Superintendents based on the measureable organizational needs within their complex area. Complex Area Superintendents have flexibility in using this budget to support schools in a manner consistent with the school's identified needs and academic plans. Exempting a complex area from budget restrictions would potentially cause some complex areas not to receive the full allocation amount, prevent the Department from streamlining and realigning its available resources to support its administrators and teachers in improving student achievement.

Because this bill does not exempt the pilot complex area superintendent, or the department, from existing collective bargaining agreements any significant reallocation of resources

between schools would still require lengthy negotiations with the affected unions.