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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 Seattle public  
2 schools have undergone school closings and consolidations  
3 starting in October 2008, with the goal of cutting costs. The  
4 Seattle public school districts experienced a revenue shortfall  
5 of at least \$24,000,000 for the 2009-2010 school year, and it  
6 feared the amount would be higher given the state and national  
7 economic climate. In addition, all Seattle school districts  
8 faced increased expenses related to fuel, electricity, and food.  
9 Seattle found that the issue of public school closures and  
10 consolidations had been subject to the political will of the  
11 various local boards.

12           It is the intent of the legislature to move away from  
13 subjective judgment and toward better utilization of public  
14 school facilities within communities and school complexes. The  
15 legislature encourages schools and communities to consider  
16 multi- and income-producing uses for their facilities, the  
17 consolidation of administration and other non-teaching staff,



1 and program sharing within a complex to provide a reduction in  
2 costs and greater efficiency.

3 The purpose of this Act is to establish an orderly and  
4 objective process for the closing and consolidation of public  
5 schools, while allowing schools that are subject to closure or  
6 consolidation to present a plan to the department of education  
7 demonstrating ways to increase enrollment, raise additional  
8 revenue, or make additional cost reductions to avoid closure or  
9 consolidation.

10 SECTION 2. Section 302A-1129, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
11 amended to read as follows:

12 "[+]§302A-1129[+] Schools; opening and closing[-];  
13 consolidation. (a) The [board] department may open new schools  
14 or close or consolidate existing schools.

15 (b) The department shall close or consolidate schools  
16 according to applicable administrative rules adopted pursuant to  
17 chapter 91.

18 (c) Should the department decide to close or consolidate  
19 any school pursuant to subsection (b), it shall provide notice  
20 to the affected school. The affected school and its school  
21 community council shall propose a plan, along with the  
22 notification of closure and consolidation, for the affected



1 school to avoid closure or consolidation. The plan shall  
2 include target goals to increase enrollment, raise additional  
3 revenue, or make additional cost reductions from administrative  
4 complex consolidations. The affected school shall have a period  
5 of not more than one year to come into compliance with the plan  
6 and avoid closure or consolidation; provided that if a school  
7 achieves \_\_\_\_\_ per cent of its target goal within one year, that  
8 school shall be allowed to remain open for twelve months on a  
9 probationary status.

10 (d) In determining whether to close or consolidate  
11 schools, the department shall strongly consider the effects of  
12 the closure, or consolidation on geographically isolated  
13 schools, including the availability of suitable alternative  
14 schools for displaced students and teachers.

15 (e) For the purposes of this section, "consolidation"  
16 means the closing of one or more existing schools and the  
17 transfer of all the students at the closed school to another  
18 school. It shall not mean the transfer of one or more grade  
19 levels to another school."

20 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed

21



1 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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**Report Title:**

Education; School Closures

**Description:**

Authorizes the department of education to close or consolidate existing schools in conformance with applicable administrative rules adopted pursuant to chapter 91, HRS. Requires the department of education to give notice to affected schools of closure or consolidation; provided that an affected school may remain open if it meets certain requirements within one year of the notice of closure or consolidation. Effective 7/1/2050.  
(SD1)

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