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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 weighted student  
2 formula was established in 2004 to allocate funds to schools  
3 based on a formula that provides a basic per capita allocation  
4 for every student and additional funds based on various student  
5 characteristics, one of which is geographic isolation. The  
6 legislature's intent in enacting the weighted student formula is  
7 to ensure that funding goes to schools with the greatest need  
8 based on various student characteristics and that the funding is  
9 used at the discretion of the individual schools. However,  
10 because the weighted student formula allocates resources in the  
11 form of funding rather than positions, geographically remote  
12 schools and small schools lost several well-qualified teachers  
13 and thousands of dollars in funding, resulting in the loss of  
14 many courses necessary for graduation.

15           The legislature also finds that online learning provides an  
16 opportunity to address the shortcomings of the weighted student  
17 formula and alleviate the loss of funding for well-qualified  
18 teachers and lack of available courses in geographically remote



1 schools and small schools. The online learning task force,  
2 established by the legislature by Act 275, Session Laws of  
3 Hawaii 2007, reported that online learning has the potential to  
4 provide choices for students and educators in "remote areas with  
5 no teacher or highly qualified teacher available." The task  
6 force found that in 2007, school infrastructure plans were  
7 adequate with over 54,000 networked computers in over 15,000  
8 classrooms. The task force created the Hawaii virtual learning  
9 network to expand and systematize online courses to offer Hawaii  
10 students a wide array of online courses. In addition, in 2010,  
11 the federal government announced a two-year, \$47,000,000 project  
12 to improve educational opportunities and bolster distance  
13 learning capabilities, which will include the installation of  
14 fiber-optic cable to sites on Molokai and Lanai.

15 The purpose of this Act is to establish a pilot project on  
16 the island of Lanai to expand the Hawaii virtual learning  
17 network e-school program to offer online courses and provide  
18 students access to requisite courses for graduation that are  
19 currently unavailable under the weighted student formula.

20 SECTION 2. (a) The department of education shall  
21 establish a pilot project for Lanai high and elementary school  
22 to expand the Hawaii virtual learning network e-school program.



1 The objective of the pilot project shall be to provide high  
2 school students on the island of Lanai access to the selection  
3 of basic elective courses required for graduation.

4 (b) Under the pilot project established pursuant to  
5 subsection (a), the department of education shall:

6 (1) Provide training and mentoring for teachers to become  
7 online instructors;

8 (2) Develop supporting infrastructure and resources for  
9 students to allow them to benefit from online courses  
10 and activities;

11 (3) Provide online tutoring and mentoring programs for  
12 students through partnerships that include the  
13 University of Hawaii;

14 (4) Work with the University of Hawaii to optimize the  
15 utilization of the distance-learning capabilities  
16 being funded by the federal government; and

17 (5) Evaluate and determine the appropriate funding  
18 mechanism for online learning programs for  
19 geographically remote schools, whether through the  
20 weighted student formula, categorical allocation, or  
21 other funding mechanisms.



1 (c) The department of education shall allow all interested  
2 online education curriculum providers to become a partner of the  
3 Hawaii virtual learning network e-school program; provided that  
4 the curriculum providers comply with all applicable federal and  
5 state education standards.

6 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 to  
9 expand the Hawaii virtual learning network e-school program to  
10 provide online courses that are currently unavailable.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
12 education for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. The department of education shall submit a  
14 progress report to the legislature on the status of the  
15 implementation of the pilot project no later than twenty days  
16 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2012, and a  
17 final report no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
18 the regular session of 2013.

19 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Education; Virtual Learning Pilot Program; Lanai; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a pilot project that expands the e-school program offered by the Hawaii virtual learning network and DOE to Lanai high and elementary school. Requires DOE to allow qualified online education providers to partner with the Hawaii virtual learning network. Appropriates funds. Effective 07/01/2050.  
(SD1)

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