

**Date:** 03/30/2011

**Committee:** House Finance

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 1281,SD1,HD1 (HSCR1026) RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Amends Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to require the Committee on Weights to meet not less than once every odd-numbered year, rather than annually. Effective July 1, 2011. (SB1281 HD1)

**Department's Position:** The Department **supports** this bill. This bill amends the requirement that the Committee on Weights (Committee) meet from annually to every odd-numbered year.

The Committee on Weights has been convened six times since it was established by Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, and the Department is planning to convene the Committee for a seventh time this spring. Not requiring the re-opening of the weighted student formula (WSF) to revisions every year would provide greater stability and predictability for principals and school community councils in developing academic and financial plans. In addition, meeting every other year would reduce the amount of time that Committee members (who in recent years have primarily been school staff including teachers, principals, and classified staff) are away from work, as well as workload demands on Department staff to support the work of the Committee. The number of meetings has ranged from six to thirteen and each meeting has typically run for six hours. Committee meetings have generally been held on Oahu, as the greatest numbers of members have been from Oahu. When the Committee on Weights was established no additional staff were appropriated to support this activity.

This change would not preclude meetings from being scheduled in any even-numbered year if conditions warranted the convening of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this measure.