

Date: 02/02/2011

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0340 RELATING TO SCHOOLS.

Purpose of Bill: Requires DOE to conduct a cost-benefit analysis and determine the cost savings of school closures or consolidations. Requires fifty per cent of the actual fiscal savings to be retained by the new configuration of affected schools for a period of not less than five years.

Department's Position: DOE already determines the potential savings of a possible school consolidation. It is one of the requirements of a school consolidation study, set forth in Chapter 8-38, Hawaii Administrative Rules ("Consolidation of Public Schools").

In the consolidation of Wailupe Valley Elementary School, DOE provided additional funds to the complex area superintendent for the two schools involved in the consolidation – Wailupe Valley, the to-be-closed school, and Aina Haina Elementary, the receiving school, to ensure a smooth transition. DOE already has the ability to direct additional funds to the schools involved in a consolidation and does not believe this bill is necessary.